

# REPORT 2023



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



# REPORT 2023



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**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

## **CREDITS**

### **Prepared by**

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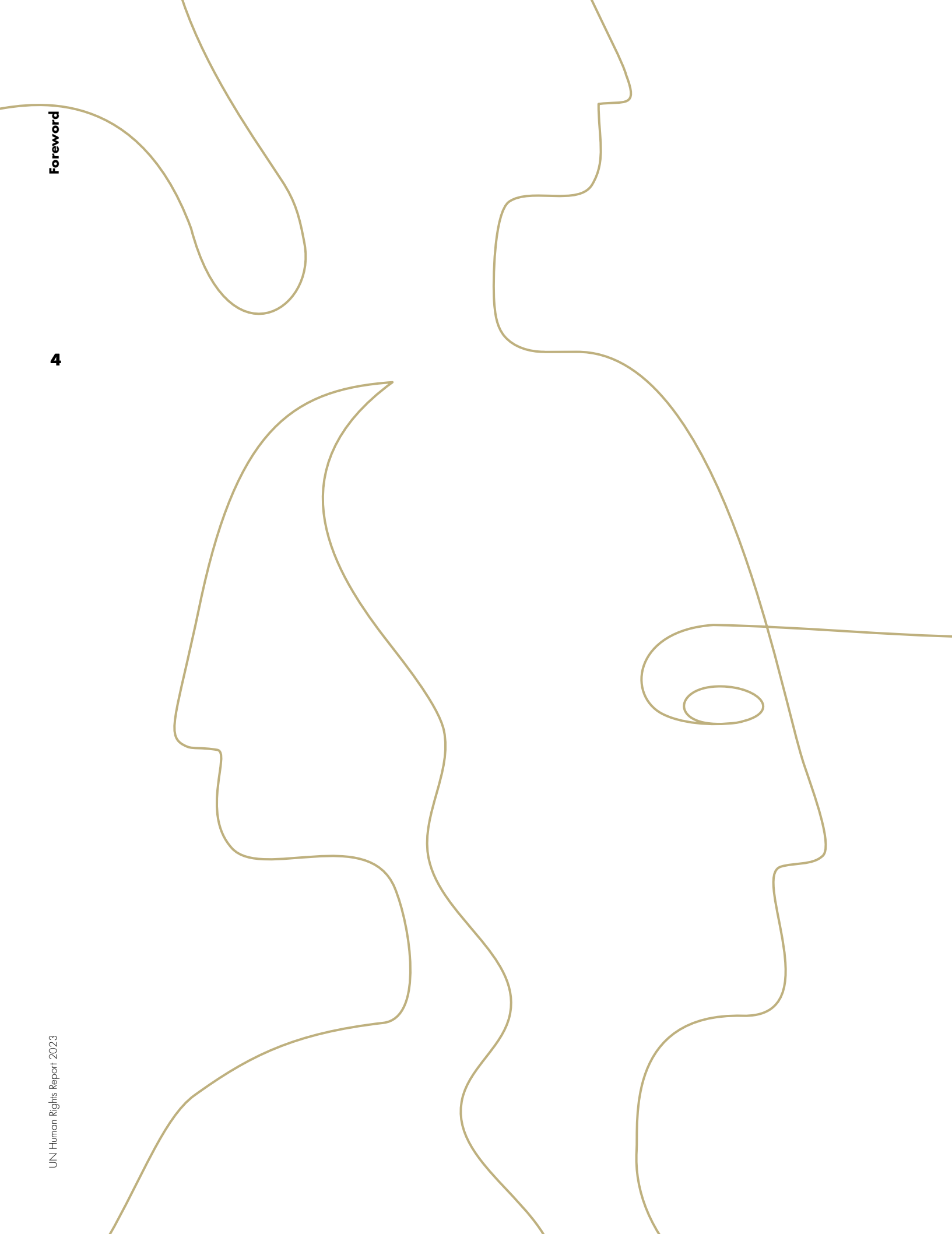
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## FOREWORD BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Crises often stem from a failure to protect our human rights. And human rights provide a blueprint for alternatives.

As I reflect on 2023, a milestone anniversary year for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the impression remains of a year battered by multiple, intersecting crises, refusing to release their grip. The triple planetary crisis, shocking inequalities, corrosive polarization, the increasing risks posed by the ungoverned frontiers of digital technology, and a merciless wave of new and worsening conflicts. None of this, in any way, inevitable, and often the result of choices, made in the interests of the short term, or with a catastrophic failure of empathy.

But in the midst of this were many glimmers of hope. Less visible, but advances nevertheless on human rights, that were achieved in this inhospitable context. Each representing lives transformed, and a reminder that the foundational importance of human rights is never more apparent than in times of stress and uncertainty.

And so, I continue to be immensely proud of and inspired by the dedication of our 1,963 staff across 95 field presences and at headquarters who work tirelessly towards the goal of a fairer, more peaceful and sustainable world, often alongside the most vulnerable and marginalized, as well as human rights defenders of great courage. This annual report sets out our achievements. I highlight a few as an illustration of my Office's impact.

Last year, OHCHR's advocacy contributed to the release of over 13,000 detainees. Our two humanitarian funds provided assistance and rehabilitation support to 59,500 survivors of torture and 12,100 survivors of contemporary forms of slavery.

In places devastated by conflict and insecurity, from Haiti to the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>1</sup> Sudan, and Ukraine, our human rights monitoring shed much needed light on the true scale and nature of human suffering. This painstaking work of investigating and documenting, often carried out under extremely difficult conditions, supported humanitarian and peace efforts. It also contributed to advocacy and interventions aimed at ending the increasingly prevalent violations of

<sup>1</sup> All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

international human rights and humanitarian law, while laying the necessary groundwork for accountability.

In Colombia, a society all too familiar with the journey required to heal decades of conflict, my Office continued its critical support for implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement, ensuring integration of the human rights dimension. This included technical assistance on a key policy directed at dismantling criminal organizations, as well as support for transitional justice institutions.

With millions still trapped by deep inequalities and extreme poverty, we scaled up our engagement on the human rights economy. In Kenya, for example, our training on human rights budgeting equipped communities with the tools to participate in national processes, which ultimately determine the provision of basic social services.

In tackling discrimination, the global UN “Free and Equal Campaign” that we support, attracted an impressive 41.5 million social media engagements and 46.1 million video views in an increasingly regressive environment for the rights of LGBTI people. Our advocacy contributed to criminal law reform in North Macedonia and Uzbekistan on, respectively, rape and domestic violence. And in Chad, we helped facilitate the establishment of the Observatory for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity, which includes a centre on gender-related data analysis. Data availability for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator on discrimination, one of the four indicators under our custodianship, has multiplied five-fold since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 62 countries now collecting at least one data point.

In the 2022 Annual Report, I noted how the climate emergency and unprecedented technologies factor into the increasing complexity of human rights challenges. In the last year, our engagement on the right to a healthy environment included key international processes, such as the Bonn Climate Change Conference, where we helped to ensure outcomes that integrated human rights considerations. In the digital sphere, our report on the human rights impacts of new technologies on civic space in South-East Asia issued clear recommendations on how to tackle concerning trends in the

use of digital technologies to surveil and harass dissenting voices.

These highlights underscore the enormous potential, still largely untapped, of human rights to deliver profound change for governments, individuals, and communities everywhere. I am more convinced of this, than ever, looking back now at our Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative. This ambitious and dynamic programme of engagement with States and an incredibly diverse array of stakeholders, along with the general public, made the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UDHR a remarkable moment of collective recommitment to human rights.

Alongside the powerful call to action issued by the Youth Declaration, facilitated by our HR75 Youth Advisory Group, we welcomed almost 800 pledges of action. Nearly eighty percent of countries made concrete promises on climate, universal health care, ending extreme poverty, strengthening access to justice, the rights of women, people with disabilities, children and young people, and so much more, including pledges from 23 States to ratify core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, the very foundations of systemic change.

The eight standout messages from HR75 - including the strength and ingenuity of our global movement for rights - informed my Vision Statement on the way forward, embracing human rights as a path for solutions to even the most daunting of our challenges, anchored as they are in what unites rather than divides - our deepest values and our shared humanity.

Crises often stem from a failure to protect our human rights. And human rights provide a blueprint for alternatives. As I look ahead, the pledges and other momentum generated by HR75 provide us with a necessary direction of travel - bolder investments by States and other actors in human rights.

The upcoming Summit of the Future, a once in a generation opportunity to reshape multilateral cooperation, may act as a catalyst and I would urge that it includes a long overdue uplift in support for the human rights system, in recognition of its vital role as a pillar of the United Nations.

As a global community, we find ourselves still in crisis management mode. Yet, this does not remove the urgency with which we must address the defining issues of our time. My Office remains dedicated to playing our part, knowing the impact we have is only possible thanks to the generosity of our funding partners.

Your support resulted in our highest funding ever last year, US\$281.5 million. Nevertheless, the breadth of our mandate, coupled with intensifying human rights challenges, leaves us still significantly under-resourced. Achieving our 2024 appeal target of US\$500 million would be a game changer in our efforts to work with States, civil society, communities, and many other partners, to deliver on the promise of human rights for people everywhere.

I am deeply grateful for your continued support.



**Volker Türk**

United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights



# LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ ET JUSTICE POUR TOUS

8

## FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

le droit  
de l'égalité

le droit  
de dire  
son opinion

le droit à l'éducation

le droit



droit  
être comme  
les autres est. ♥ ★

le droit d'apprendre

## OVERVIEW

Children learn about human rights and the work of the Office on Open Day at Palais Wilson, UN Human Rights' headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.  
© OHCHR/ Pierre Albouy

# MANDATE



Mandated by General Assembly resolution 48/141, UN Human Rights is a department of the United Nations Secretariat, directly accountable to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly.

UN Human Rights' responsibilities include the promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights; and taking an active role in addressing challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world. To this end, UN Human Rights engages in a dialogue with all governments in the implementation of their mandate with a view to securing respect for all human rights; provides advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, to support actions and programmes in the field of human rights; strengthens international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights; and coordinates human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system, including education and public information programmes in the field of human rights.

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



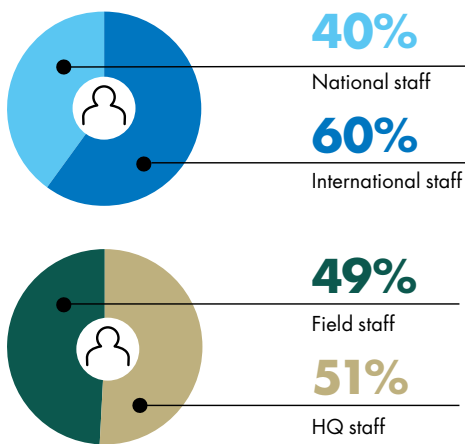


Candlelight vigil in commemoration of human rights defenders on Human Rights Day in Bridgetown, organized by OHCHR, together with Canada and the Resident Coordinator's Office. © UN in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean/ Java Sealy



# GLOBAL WORKFORCE IN 2023

## STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY



 **1,963** staff

 **147** nationalities

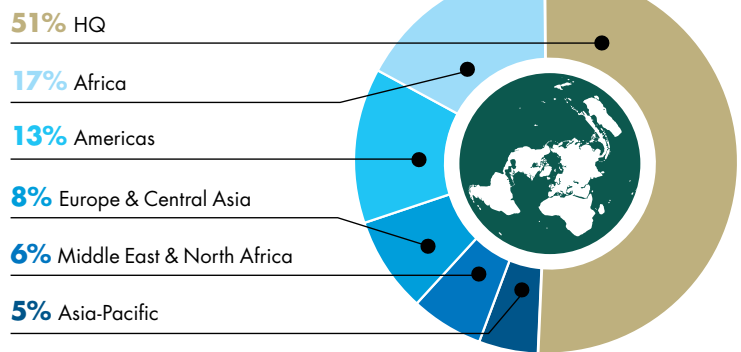
 **680** staff in peace missions

 **44** JPOs sponsored by  
**17** Member States

 **26** UNVs sponsored by  
**8** Member States

Notes: Data as of 31 December 2023. UNV figures represent those fully funded in 2023. Data include all UN Human Rights and UNDP-administered staff in the General Service, National Officer, Professional and higher categories on temporary, permanent, continuing and fixed-term appointments. Locally recruited staff in the General Service category are considered as national staff. Staff on loan have been excluded. HQ includes staff at the Geneva and New York locations.

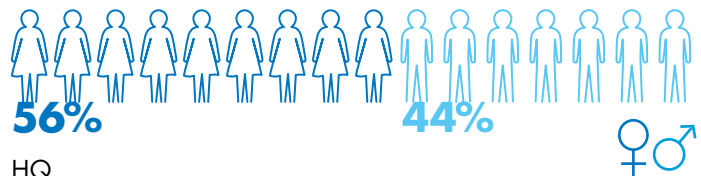
## STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY LOCATION AT HQ AND IN THE FIELD



13

## STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

All UN Human Rights



HQ



Field



General service



Professional and above

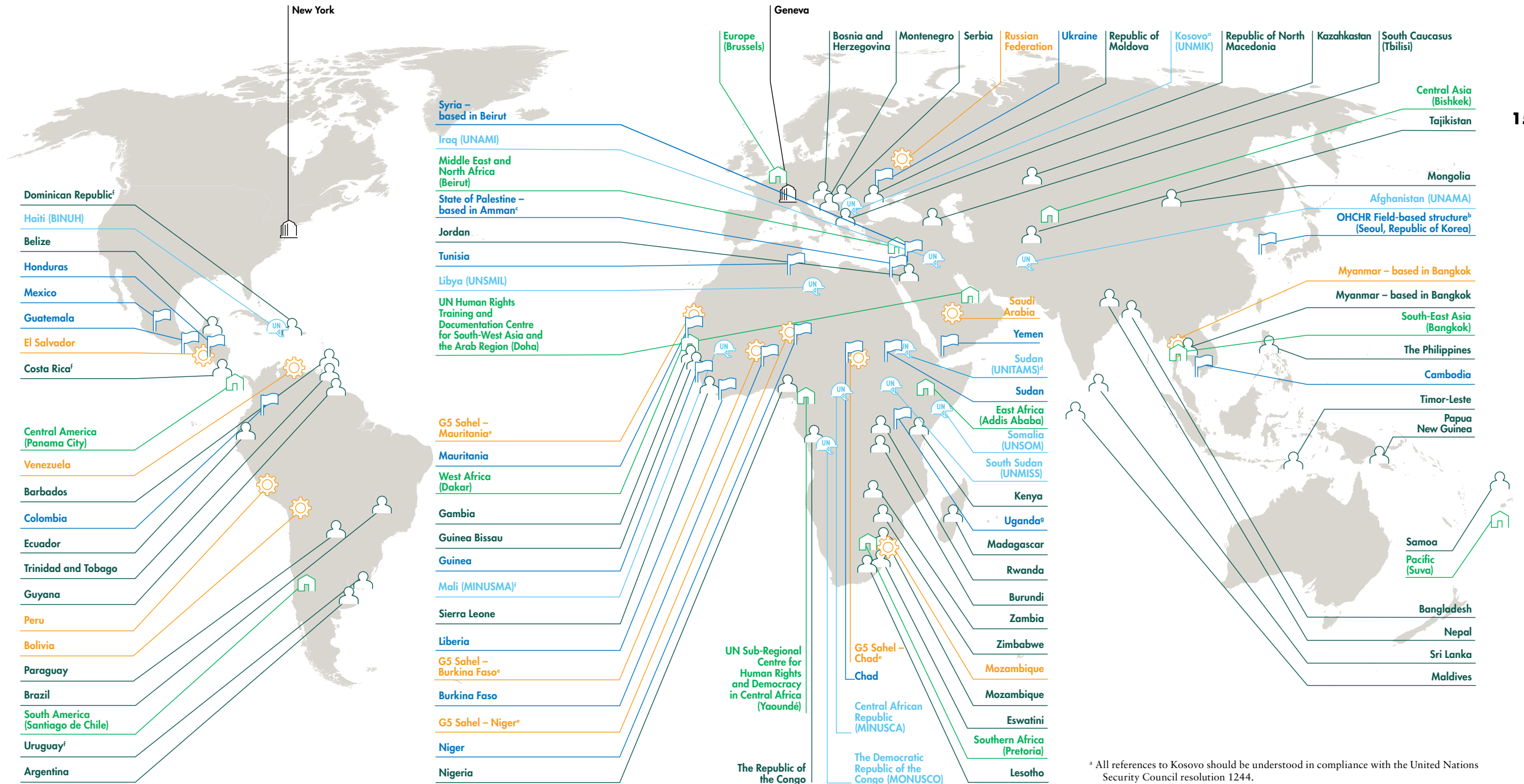


P1	63%	37%
P2	64%	36%
P3	60%	40%
P4	53%	47%
P5	51%	49%
D1	44%	56%
D2	33%	67%
ASG	100%	
USG	100%	

# GLOBAL PRESENCE IN 2023

**2 + 95**  
HQ locations field presences

-  **2** Headquarters
-  **19** Country Offices
-  **12** Regional Offices/Centres
-  **11** Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions
-  **44** Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs
-  **9** Other types of field presences



<sup>a</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.  
<sup>b</sup> Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.  
<sup>c</sup> Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.  
<sup>d</sup> Will be discontinued in 2024.  
<sup>e</sup> G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania until end of project on 31 August 2023. Mali until its withdrawal on 30 June 2022 and Niger until July 2023).  
<sup>f</sup> Discontinued in December 2023.  
<sup>g</sup> Discontinued in August 2023.  
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.





# HIGHLIGHTS

of results



# 2023 SNAPSHOTS



## 18 MEMBER STATES COOPERATION

### Human Rights Council (HRC)

**154** resolutions, decisions and President's statements adopted

### Special Procedures

**82** visits (hosted by 55 governments)

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

**41** UPR outcomes adopted  
**42** national reports submitted and reviewed (with 100 per cent participation of States)

### Documentation

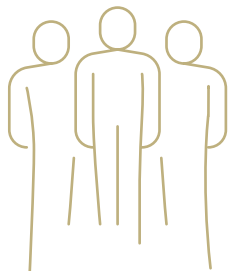
**2,798** official documents (submitted for meetings of the GA, ECOSOC, and international human rights mechanisms)

### Treaty Bodies

**16** treaty actions (ratifications and accessions) bringing the total number of ratifications to **120** for the 2018-2023 period

**98** media statements, press releases, and media advisories

## PEOPLE-CENTRED



### Humanitarian Funds

Direct assistance and rehabilitation provided to:

**59,500** survivors of torture (in 92 countries) and

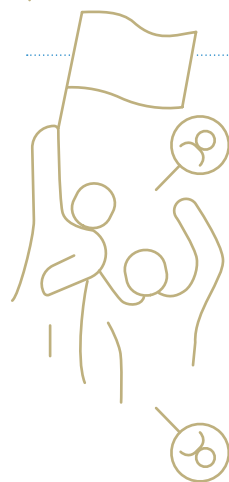
**12,100** survivors of contemporary forms of slavery (in 36 countries)

### Fellowship Programmes

**82** persons with enhanced capacities (**47** women and **35** men from communities of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and minorities)

### Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

**99** new urgent actions registered



## CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Participation in Human Rights Council sessions

**2,452** oral statements by CSOs

**108** statements

by national human rights institutions (NHRIs)

**1,014** civil society written statements

**240** side events facilitated

### Engagement in the field

More than **4,600** partnerships established/enhanced (including with CSOs and human rights defenders)

### Submissions to reviews by treaty bodies

**1,281\*** received from CSOs, NHRIs, and UN entities

## UN PARTNER COLLABORATION

### UN Country Teams

**44** human rights advisers in UNCTs

### UN Peace Missions

**11** human rights components (**680** staff supported by UN Human Rights)



\*Excluding confidential reports.



“Nothing about us without us,” five-day walkathon of persons with disabilities in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. © OHCHR/ Bektursun Kagastiev

# HUMAN RIGHTS 75

The Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative was launched on 10 December 2022 to commemorate 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) throughout 2023. This also coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, which proposed the creation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Amidst a challenging context of rising levels of conflicts, soaring inequalities, growing hate speech, shrinking civic space, ongoing geopolitical tensions and divisions, and the impacts of climate change increasingly being felt, the Initiative aimed at rejuvenating the spirit of the Universal Declaration, recalling its enduring relevance, and advancing its promise of freedom, equality, and justice for all.

Over 160 national, regional, and global engagements were undertaken with Member States and other actors. The Initiative culminated in a high-level event hosted in Geneva, connected to virtual hubs in Bangkok, Nairobi, and Panama, marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UDHR on 10 December 2023.

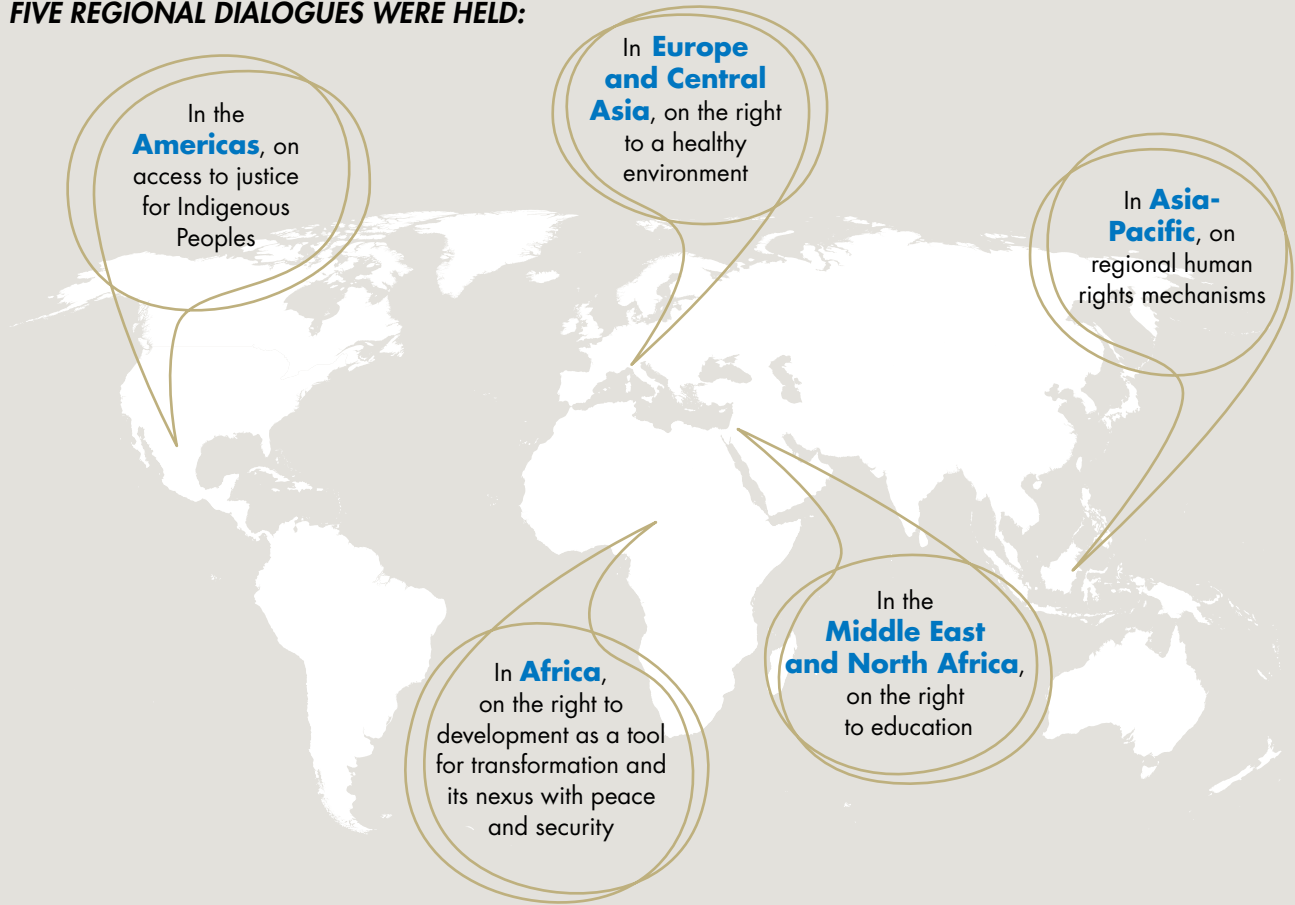


Communication materials used as part of the HR75 Initiative. © OHCHR



# Key events

## FIVE REGIONAL DIALOGUES WERE HELD:



**TWELVE THEMATIC SPOTLIGHTS WERE SELECTED**, one for each month, highlighting specific human rights issues in need of urgent action from duty bearers, with global, regional, and national events organized and videos produced on the themes:

- |   |   |                                 |                                   |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Arbitrary detention for exercising human rights                          | 2. Care and support systems                           | 3. Racial justice               | 4. Human rights enhancing economy |
| 5. Offline and online civic space and human rights defenders (HRDs)         | 6. Women’s participation in public and political life | 7. Prevention and peace         | 8. Justice                        |
| 9. Social protection, sustainable development, and the right to development | 10. Business and human rights                         | 11. Climate change/ environment | 12. Human rights education        |



**THE “VIENNA WORLD CONFERENCE – 30 YEARS ON: OUR RIGHTS, OUR FUTURE”** symposium was organized in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, on 6 June, in Vienna, Austria. It focused on the promotion of universality and indivisibility of human rights, technology, and looking to the future.

**AN OPEN DAY WAS HELD AT PALAIS WILSON,** OHCHR’s headquarters, on 30 September. Approximately 3,000 visitors joined to learn about the history of the building, human rights, and the Office’s work.

22

**ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,** an umbrella organization for cities, local and regional governments, and municipal associations throughout the world, facilitated debates and awareness-raising among 130 cities committed to advancing human rights.



Visitors learn about human rights and the work of the Office on Open Day at Palais Wilson, UN Human Rights’ headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. © OHCHR/ Pierre Albouy





The Youth Advisory Group present the Youth Declaration at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. © OHCHR/ Irina Popa



The Youth Advisory Group with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. © OHCHR/ Irina Popa

**A ROUNDTABLE ORGANIZED BY THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION** led to the endorsement of HR75 pledges by parliamentarians on gender equality and women’s political participation.

**THIRTY-FIVE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES AND UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICES** participated through 80 activities in the official UN languages and 16 local languages. Activities included discussions on human rights issues, such as hate speech and violence against women and girls, and featuring of the UDHR.

**A YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP** was established, consisting of twelve young activists from around the world. The Group issued a Youth Declaration with the vision of building a world in which “human beings shall enjoy freedom from fear and want.” They committed to take action to advance human rights and speak up against violations.



**A HIGH-LEVEL EVENT** took place at Palais des Nations in Geneva on 11-12 December, with hubs in Bangkok, Nairobi, and Panama. Over 2,200 people participated in person at the four locations, with approximately 150 persons under 25. More than 1,600 persons joined the virtual conference room online and many more through UN Web TV. Representatives from over 130 countries and all regions were present, including 16 Heads of State or of government and 58 other high-level dignitaries, alongside civil society, HRDs, parliamentarians, international organizations, business, and national human rights institutions (NHRIs).



HR75 high-level event and distribution of publications and communications materials at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. © OHCHR/ Jean Marc Ferré and Pierre Albouy



# Pledges and the ratification campaign

## PLEDGES

A key outcome of the HR75 Initiative was to generate pledges that bring about concrete change that leads towards greater enjoyment of human rights for all. To this end, all actors including State institutions, NHRIs, international financial institutions, business, civil society, and young people, were invited to make pledges.

The uptake on HR75 pledges was strong, with almost 800 pledges, including: 520 from 142 States, in addition to 7 joint pledges; 111 from CSOs; 50 from UN entities; 44 from NHRIs; 25 from IGOs; 19 from businesses; and 6 from others.

**72 pledges** were made on **women's rights and gender equality**, including to increase women's participation in the labour market and leadership roles, to bridge the digital divide, increase funding on gender equality, and strengthen feminist foreign policies.

**52 pledges** were made on strengthening **economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs)**, including to ensure universal health care, and promote access to education and social protection, and eradicate extreme poverty.

**45 pledges** were made on **justice and the rule of law**, including access to justice and transitional justice.

**44 pledges** were made on **youth and children's rights**, including youth and child participation and engagement in policy-making.

**32 States pledged** in relation to the **rights of persons with disabilities**, committing to amend legislation on disabilities, establish ombudspersons, improve representation in the labour market, and protect their rights in armed conflict.

**32 pledges** were made in relevance to the **environment and climate change**, including to promote the right to a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment, to mitigate risks generated by climate change, and ensure climate justice.

**18 States pledged** to either engage with or provide **financial support to OHCHR**.

**17 pledges** were made on **business and human rights**, including to adopt national strategies or legislation on due diligence.

**16 States pledged** to **establish or strengthen NHRIs**.

**14 pledges** were made in relation to the **rights of Indigenous Peoples**.

**12 States pledged** to take action to protect the rights of **elderly people**, including through open negotiations for a binding treaty and adoption of national plans.

**9 pledges** were made in relation to **combatting racism**, including through the development of national plans and establishing institutions to address legacies of the past.

Other **pledges** related to the promotion and protection of **civic space, digital rights, the rights of migrants, combating hate speech, protecting human rights during situations of conflict and insecurity, and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.





## 26 RATIFICATIONS

Promoting ratification of international human rights instruments was an integral component of HR75, with ratification being a building block to achieving universality of human rights. This resulted in 16 new ratifications in 2023, as well as pledges from 23 States for an additional 43 ratifications, including:



The Eiffel Tower illuminated to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. © OHCHR Regional Office for Europe

**5 pledges** on the **abolition of the death penalty** and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on **Civil and Political Rights**.

**5 pledges** for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the **Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure**.

**4 pledges** for the ratification of the Convention on the **Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families**.

**4 pledges** for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention **against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**.

**3 pledges** for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the **Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography**.

**3 pledges** for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on **Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**.

**3 pledges** for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

Moving forward, OHCHR will resolutely support partners and monitor their progress in honoring their pledges.

# What next: An agenda for human rights

What emerged from the year was a clear message of renewed and reinvigorated commitment to the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The need for more dialogue, creative solutions and wider partnerships was echoed, with young people demanding meaningful participation in decision-making.

The High Commissioner’s Vision Statement, entitled “Human rights: a path for solutions,” was informed by the rich engagement with a diverse set of actors throughout the Initiative. It sets out eight recommendations to guide OHCHR’s future work, as outlined below.

These recommendations are also informing the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) 2024-2027, the Office’s strategic direction and priorities, which will be finalized and launched in July 2024. The Vision Statement of the High Commissioner is also being offered as a contribution to the upcoming UN Summit of the Future in September 2024.

HR75 helped confirm the value of placing human rights at the centre of national and international governance systems, and the importance of a robust human rights system, including the need for a strengthened human rights pillar.



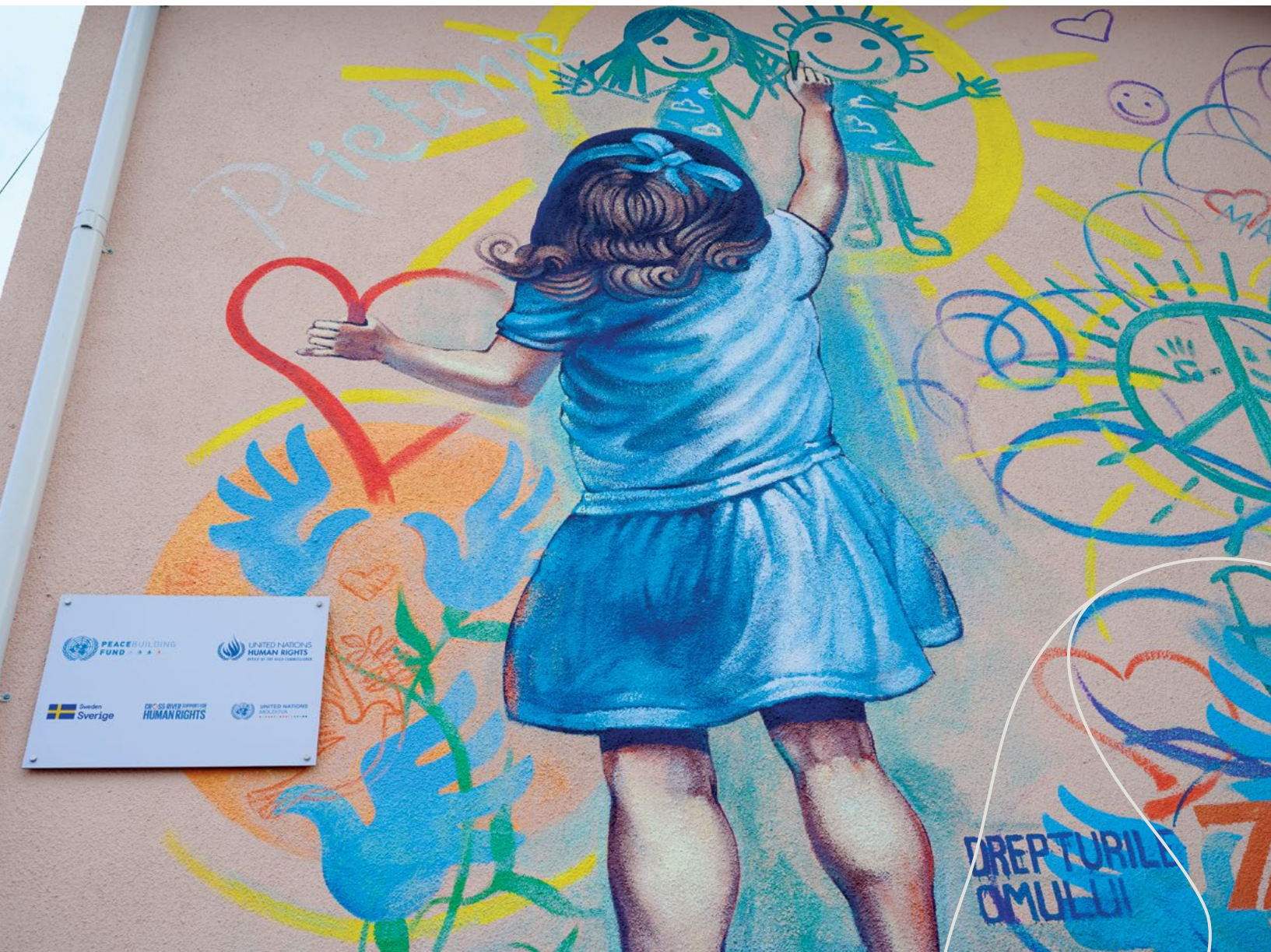
# ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 2.0

**28** The Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0) is the High Commissioner's change management programme seeking to ensure that OHCHR is fit for the future, in particular to lead the United Nations' human rights pillar, and uphold the mandate to promote and protect human rights for all. It encompasses OHCHR's global operations with a priority on organizational structure, as well as with respect to organizational vision, culture, frameworks for leadership, and approaches to resource mobilization and partnerships. It further encompasses UN Human Rights' commitment to integrating the Secretary-General's United Nations 2.0 Quintet of Change.

The programme was launched in March 2023 with the support of consulting firms, for the first scoping, analysis, and proposal development phase. A global review of all aspects of OHCHR's work was carried out through an extensive desk review and all-staff surveys, which were completed by over 1,000 staff, and a workload analysis survey. In addition, over six hundred stakeholders were consulted in one-on-one interviews, focus groups, workshops, and through visits to a variety of field presences.

Alternative propositions were made on how OHCHR can move forward with regards to its organizational structures and processes, leadership frameworks, decision-making advisory structures, resource mobilization, knowledge and information management, and on how to improve the overall office culture, staff welfare, and mobility policies. The proposals reflect a comprehensive amount of detail and forward-thinking around the challenges and opportunities that have been collectively identified, and OHCHR's senior management is considering them as blueprints for the way forward.





Mural painted by local artists as part of the HR75 Initiative in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. © OHCHR

# IMPLEMENTING THE OHCHR MANAGEMENT PLAN (OMP) IN 2023

## 30

The priorities, strategies, and targets of UN Human Rights are set out in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP). The OMP usually covers a four-year period, but in the aftermath of COVID-19, the 2018-2021 OMP was extended through 2023. The OMP results framework, based on six pillars, six shifts, and four spotlights, remained relevant and provided the flexibility that was needed to respond to changing circumstances. The extended OMP retains the six thematic pillars that underpin OHCHR's global efforts to ensure the enjoyment by all of their civil, cultural, economic, political,

and social rights, and to combat all forms of discrimination. The extended OMP continued to put emphasis on spotlight populations and shifts (focused thematic challenges addressed within each pillar), and bolstered OHCHR's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principles of a human rights-based approach (HRBA), Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE).



# OMP at a glance



# Overview of progress made towards achieving OMP results in 2023

**32** In 2023, millions of people across the world were affected by a multitude of human rights issues, including continuing and emerging conflicts, with a direct impact on OHCHR’s programming. UN Human Rights focused its efforts on preventing, reporting on, protecting from, and responding to human rights violations.

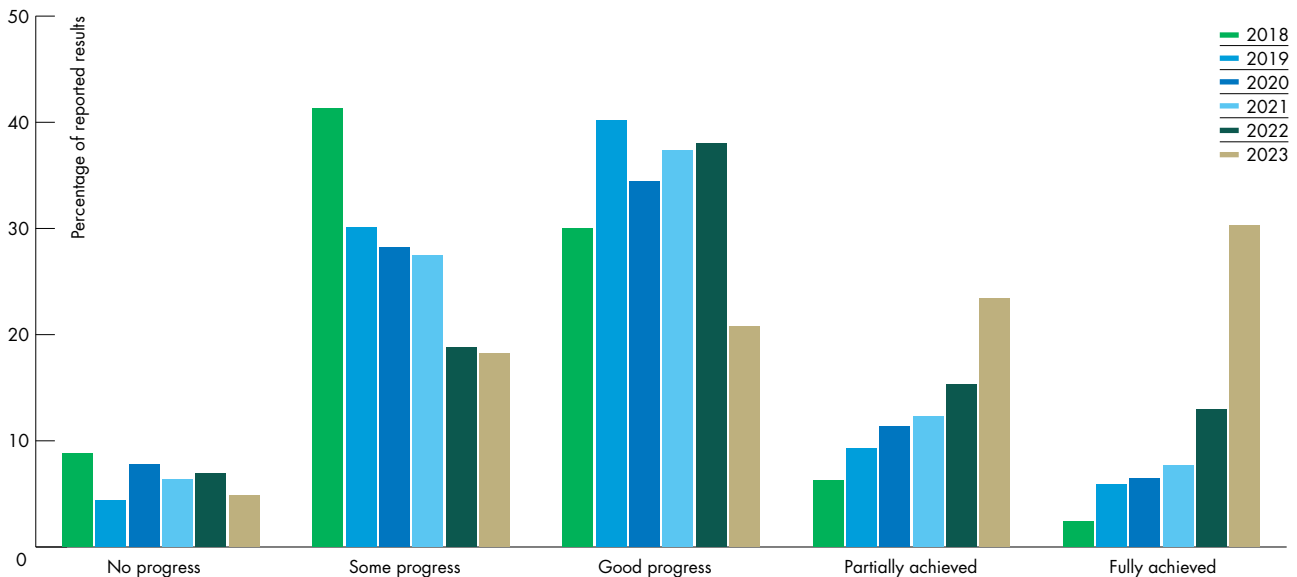
The data that follows is based on the self-assessments undertaken by 115 reporting entities on their level of progress in achieving targets established in the OMP in relation to pillar and country results, often in complex contexts as described above.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNTRY RESULTS

Throughout the 2018-2023 cycle, progress towards country results has steadily advanced. Compared to 2018 when only 9 per cent of results were reported as having been partially or fully achieved, this number rose to 54 per cent in 2023.

Additionally, 9 out of 10 results in 2023 were reported as having been partially or fully achieved, or attained some or good progress. This reflects OHCHR’s success in managing to progress towards its targets despite challenging operational scenarios and in the face of difficult externalities impacting its operations.

## LEVEL OF PROGRESS REPORTED TOWARDS COUNTRY RESULTS 2018-2023

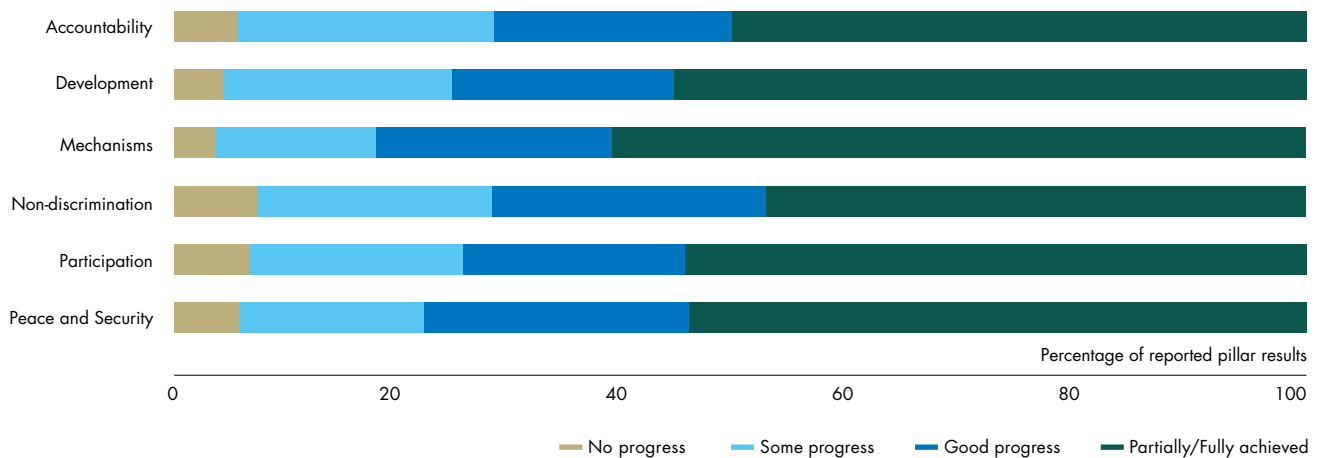


Steady progress was made from 2018 to 2023 with the percentage of results reported as having been partially or fully achieved. In 2023, all pillars were reported to have attained a level of achievement higher than 40 per cent.

Throughout the 2018-2023 cycle, the average rate for results reported as having attained no progress was around 6 per cent. In 2023, the rate of no progress was 4.9 per cent.

Offices reported that in cases where no progress was registered, it was primarily due to operational challenges. For instance, insufficient funding and staffing constraints required prioritizing among different needs and activities. Other obstacles arose from complex political contexts and/or difficulties with guaranteeing buy-in to activities at the national level. In some cases, delays in government policymaking resulted in processes that did not move as quickly as anticipated.

**LEVEL OF PROGRESS REPORTED UNDER PILLAR RESULTS IN 2023**

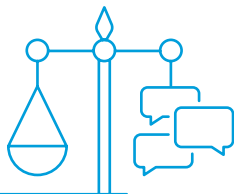


# PILLAR RESULTS



## Mechanisms (M)

Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms



### TREATY BODIES

#### Experts

Support to the work of **172** treaty body experts during **29** sessions

#### General comments

**2** new comments adopted (CRC on children's rights and the environment; and CED on enforced disappearances in the context of migration)

#### Recommendations

Adoption of **139** sets of concluding observations

#### Jurisprudence

Adoption of **282** decisions on individual complaints

#### Capacity-building

**185** activities (attended by more than **5,300** participants, including **1,700** women, to support engagement with the human rights treaty bodies, efforts towards ratification of treaties, implementation of recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, establishment/strengthening of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up)

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



#### Resolutions

**154** adopted by the HRC

#### Sessions

**82** UPR pre-session reports, **41** Working Group reports and **3** HRC reports (covering summaries of the UPR outcomes of 41 States)

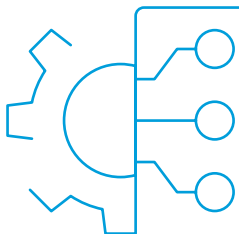
### REPORTING AND FOLLOWING UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS

#### National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up

**23** established and/or strengthened



### SPECIAL PROCEDURES



#### Special procedures mandates

**45** thematic and **14** country-specific

#### Standing invitations

extended by **128** States and **1** non-member Observer State

#### Reports

**174** presented to the General Assembly/HRC (**56** on country visits)

#### Communications

**723** communications sent (to **126** States and **163** non-State actors)  
**341** replies received (of which **312** substantive)

# In Tunisia, sign language leads to inclusion

Mohamed Ben Smida, 22, knows well the hardships of growing up deaf and poor in a suburb of Tunisia's capital.

Not being able to communicate with the bus driver. A visit to the doctor where a family member had to be always present, even for confidential matters. The stubborn silence in the classroom.

*"I had trouble fitting in and succeeding in my studies. At 15, I left high school because I was old compared to my classmates and I could no longer keep up,"* he said, speaking through a sign language interpreter.

Like Ben Smida, persons with disabilities in Tunisia face discrimination and barriers every day, restricting access to rights.

## "No place for girls like me"

A disproportionate number of people with disabilities live in developing countries, where they remain largely invisible and marginalized. Women and girls with disabilities in particular face increased vulnerability and trauma.

Salma Saied, 19, opened-up about her experience navigating life as a young deaf girl.

*"I was not a happy teenager. I was looking for myself in a society where there was no place for girls like me,"* she said.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities calls for the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities across the human rights, development, and humanitarian agendas.

According to WHO, persons with disabilities number some 1 billion or 16 per cent of the world's population. The definition of disability under the Convention encompasses a wide range of impairments – physical, sensory, intellectual, and mental health – but with a common experience of stigma and exclusion.

In Tunisia, UN Human Rights is working with the Government and civil society to eliminate barriers and promote full inclusion of persons with disabilities, including through the recognition of sign

language and Braille for deaf people. The Office is supporting the Government in its efforts to harmonize national laws and policies with the Convention and the broader human rights framework.

*"The barriers that people with disabilities face aren't only physical ones,"* said Elodie Cantier-Aristide, former Head of the UN Human Rights Office in Tunisia. *"Communication can also be an enormous barrier for people who want to go to school, have a job, live independently, open a bank account, or have access to justice."*

For the past twelve years, OHCHR has prioritized inclusion and representation of all people in the country.

In 2022, the Office provided academic institutions with Braille versions of a report by Tunisia's Truth and Dignity Commission, a body set up to seek justice for families of victims of torture and other rights abuses, during decades of authoritarian rule.

More recently, the Office organized a public screening of [Tunisia's Universal Periodic Review](#). The screening, with sign language interpretation, was attended by some 100 civil society participants.

*"I really appreciated the initiative,"* said Iadh Ben Mrabet, 19, who is deaf. *"I did not know that Tunisia is accountable for the rights of its citizens."*

Ben Smida, Salma Saied and Ben Mrabet agreed the screening was an important opportunity for persons with disabilities to better understand their rights and the obligations of States.

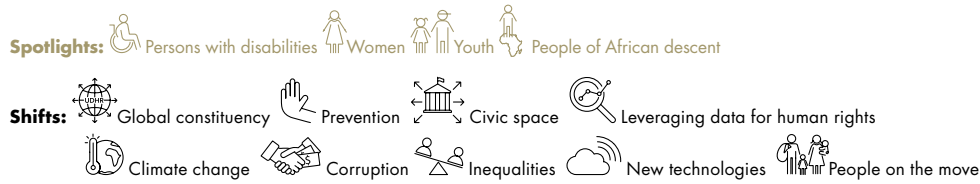


A group of young people communicate through sign language. © OHCHR Tunisia

# Highlights of Pillar Results

## 36 Mechanisms (M)

The international human rights mechanisms – composed of the Human Rights Council (HRC), with its special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the human rights treaty bodies – are the backbone of UN Human Rights’ work. Their analyses, monitoring, and interactions with States and stakeholders help to identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and opportunities in relation to all rights. Through their actions and recommendations, they provide the basis for engagement with States and other actors, support duty bearers to comply with their obligations, and assist rights holders to claim their rights. UN Human Rights provides secretariat support to these mechanisms and supports States in honouring their obligations. Through their procedures and country visits, the international human rights mechanisms give a voice to persons and groups in vulnerable situations whose human rights are affected at the national level.



### RESULTS

As a result of OHCHR support, **National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRFs) were created or strengthened in 23 States** during 2023. For instance, in South-East Asia and Portuguese speaking countries, informal networks of NMIRFs were established, facilitating regular exchange on experiences, challenges, and good practices. Notably, NMIRFs were established by **Ecuador, Guinea, India, Mozambique, and Zambia**. In **Seychelles**, the Cabinet approved the formal establishment of a Human Rights Treaty Reporting Committee, to serve as a NMIRF. In **Honduras**, the Office’s technical assistance to the Coalition against Impunity (CCI), a network of more than 50 CSOs, formed in 2020,


contributed to the creation of the National System for Follow-up on Recommendations of Honduras (SINSERHO) in 2023. Montenegro, through the President, pledged to establish a NMIRF following recommendations from the international human rights bodies at the SDG summit in New York in September. OHCHR also supported Mozambique with the establishment and training of its NMIRF to strengthen engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and implementation of recommendations.


The number of States interested in the **National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)** increased. The Database was rolled out in



Botswana, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lesotho, the Philippines, Serbia, and Uzbekistan. In the Philippines, OHCHR provided support for the implementation of the Database, contributing to the launch of a network of 19 departmental focal points to populate the database, enabling a more systematic and timely monitoring of implementation of recommendations.


OHCHR provided support to diverse stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights by building national capacities, and enhancing collaboration with the international human rights mechanisms. In Eswatini, a UPR implementation plan was developed for the first time with the support of OHCHR and its Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. In Central African Republic (CAR), OHCHR supported the development of a National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan, which was adopted on 18 August 2023.

 With OHCHR's support, there were 16 additional ratifications/accessions to human rights instruments in 2023, bringing the total to 120 for the 2018-2023 period. OHCHR contributed to increasing the knowledge and skills of State officials including through the publication of ratification toolkits in different languages; co-publishing the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol: Handbook for parliamentarians* with the IPU; publication of the *Implementing the rights of persons with disabilities – the role of independent monitoring frameworks: Practical guide*; and organizing sub-regional events to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol.

 In the Pacific, OHCHR provided capacity-building for over 100 government officials and CSOs to facilitate increased engagement with the treaty bodies. Advocacy and technical support were also provided toward treaty ratification and reporting. This contributed to Kiribati

submitting its initial report to the Committee Against Torture (CAT), and participation in the review by the Committee in 2023, becoming the first Pacific Island Country to do so; and Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Through the continuous advocacy and technical support by civil society and OHCHR, the Republic of Serbia ratified, in September, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, related to the communication procedures.

 Advocacy and high-level engagement with representatives of the Government, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, and CSOs contributed to the signing of three bills of accession to international human rights treaties by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, on 24 February: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; and one Regional Treaty: the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). The instruments of accession to the UN treaties are pending deposit.



Participants to the training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities organized in Timor-Leste by OHCHR, UNICEF, and UN women. © UN Women



Following OHCHR's advocacy, awareness-raising, and capacity-building support, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire ratified the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** on 1 May and the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families** on 27 September. OHCHR is assisting the Government to put in place a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

OHCHR supported the **adoption of 282 decisions on individual complaints and registered 408 new individual communications**. This is the highest number ever of new cases registered, bringing the number of active cases managed by OHCHR to 1,700.

OHCHR engaged with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and NGOs, and facilitated the submission of more than **1,200 reports from NHRIs and NGOs**, and **60 pre-recorded video statements presented by NHRIs**, the **Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** and its regional networks.



Following the fourth cycle UPR, the **Kingdom of the Netherlands adopted a new Gender and LGBTI Equality Policy Plan 2022-2025**, and **Ghana adopted a new bill abolishing the death penalty**.



In the **Republic of Moldova**, OHCHR provided support in the development of a **new National Human Rights Programme 2024-2027**, based on recommendations received by regional and international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR also assisted in the development of the **National Programme on Inclusive Education 2024-2027**, following recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Equality Council of Moldova.

Following OHCHR's technical advice for the incorporation of human rights towards enhanced compliance with international human rights and standards, including recommendations by the international human rights mechanisms, the Government of the **Dominican Republic adopted the National Policy to Mainstream Human Rights**, agreeing to a set of measurable objectives, whose progress will be reported through a public platform, the Performance Monitoring System of the Public Administration (SISMAP).

After extensive advocacy by OHCHR, **Mexico** officially acknowledged the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) to handle individual complaints in 2020. Subsequently, in 2023, the Committee **adopted its inaugural decision, the *Barrospe Case*, in which it determined the international responsibility of the State**. OHCHR accompanied victims and representatives in the public presentation of the decision and is promoting its implementation.

In **Mexico**, OHCHR has progressively executed an advocacy strategy promoting integration of international standards into Supreme Court analyses. In 2023, the Supreme Court adopted **two landmark decisions that restrict the competence of the Armed Forces**, addressing military jurisdiction and their role in security tasks. These decisions marked a significant shift and served as a crucial check on the trend promoted by the Federal Executive, to expand the responsibilities of the Armed Forces.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in **Ukraine (HRMMU)** actively engaged with the **UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**, referring over 200 relatives of prisoners of war (POWs) and civilians subjected to enforced disappearance, for further assistance in determining the fate or whereabouts of their family members.

After many years of advocacy and capacity-building by UN Human Rights, **the Palestinian Authority published three human rights treaties** – the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;



the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – **in the Official Gazette, bringing them into force** and obliging the Government to align national laws.

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As a result of OHCHR’s support for **increased engagement by the UN system in the UPR** reporting cycle, 16 agencies contributed to the UN Country team’s (UNCT) submission on **Jordan**. This represented an increase of seven additional UN agencies since the last review in 2018. Further, the number of reports submitted by CSOs more than doubled from the last cycle, from 30 to 63.

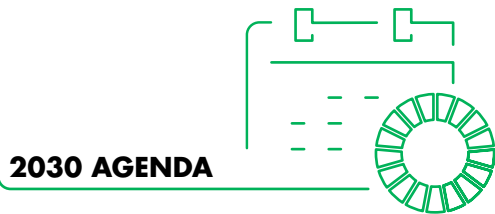
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# Development (D)

Advancing sustainable development through human rights



40



## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Data analysis on **4** SDG indicators (under OHCHR custodianship, was included in various reports. The 2023 SDGs report reached **64.8** million users)

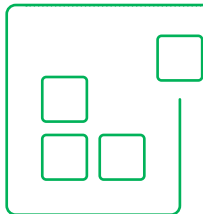
Training in **56** countries and for **400** national statisticians (45% women, on SDG indicators under OHCHR custodianship and a human rights-based approach to data)

## High-level Political Forum

**15** Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes supported (with guidance on integrating human rights data and analysis)

## Right to development and SDGs

Over **251** persons completed a UN Human Rights e-course (from **132** countries)



## HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

**29** Common Country Analysis/UNSDCF processes supported (integration of human rights analysis and recommendations)

## UN Country Teams

**44** Human Rights Advisers (in Resident Coordinator's Offices)

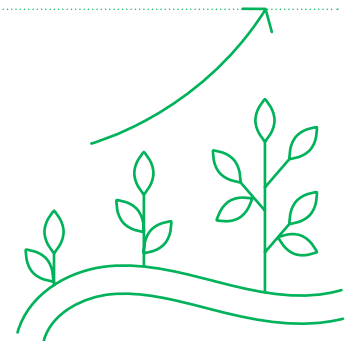
## ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Climate change, environment, toxics, and human rights

**46** special procedures communications (sent and made publicly available)

### Business and human rights

Over **3,900** participants in the 12th Forum on Business and Human Rights (from **144** countries, with **219** speakers in **39** sessions, under the theme "Towards effective change in implementing obligations, responsibilities and remedies")



# Supporting a human rights economy in Kenya

Giving people a role in budgetary decision-making processes is key to an effective allocation of public resources, which meets community priorities, improves lives, and makes SDGs a reality.

A new initiative being piloted in Kenya by UN Human Rights is doing just that: training communities on the relationship between human rights and budget processes, and equipping them to engage in county-level budgeting processes that determine allocations for basic social services.

*“Citizens, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, need to know about the budget process to hold governments accountable,”* said Li Fung, Senior Human Rights Adviser to the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya. *“It’s about strengthening grassroots engagement in claiming rights and supporting governments to be able to deliver on these.”*

The initiative is being carried out by Fung and her team, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and the support of the UN Human Rights Surge Initiative.

Public participation is one of the national values and principles of governance enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya.

*“Empowering people to know what their economic, social, and cultural rights are and accompanying their participation in the budget process can facilitate change in the provision of government services,”* said Todd Howland, UN Human Rights Chief of Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch. *“It demonstrates how the exercise and realization of all rights are truly interdependent.”*

## STEPPING UP ENGAGEMENT

In 2019, UN Human Rights created the [Surge Initiative](#) in response to rising inequalities, slow implementation of the SDGs, and increasing social unrest. The Initiative aims to step up engagement at country and regional levels on economic, social, and cultural rights, and strengthen the link between human rights and economics.



Makueni county government officers responsible for organizing public participation at the community level at a meeting organized by UN Human Rights. © OHCHR

The Initiative’s multidisciplinary team works with the Office’s field presences, UNCTs, States, CSOs, international financial institutions, and other key stakeholders.

The UN Human Rights team in Kenya received technical support from the Surge Initiative for a pilot initiative in Makueni and Marsabit counties.

The team consulted with county governments, local parliamentarians, communities, and CSOs already engaged in human rights and governance issues in these counties.

The team also identified grassroots human rights budget champions who can be trained and equipped to lead participatory human rights-based budget engagement and expenditure tracking at community level.

*“It will be great to see budgets coming out of these counties that have allocations that better reflect the priorities of civil society and communities,”* Fung said. *“It’s part of a long-term commitment to including participation by communities often left behind in governance processes. This is a powerful motor for change, inclusive governance, and sustainable development,”* she added.

*“This human rights economy will build greater social harmony,”* said UN Human Rights Chief, Volker Türk. *“For example, when people are able to follow the money through transparent and accountable budget decision-making, their scrutiny – and the resulting dialogue – generates more effective policies and greater trust in government.”*

# Highlights of Pillar Results

## 42 Development (D)


UN Human Rights supports efforts to advance economic, social, and cultural rights, the right to development, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. It helps to address human rights gaps in policies and regulations related to, inter alia, development, the environment, and the economy. It takes steps to strengthen the accountability of duty bearers in the public and private sectors, and the participation of rights holders, including those left furthest behind. The Office promotes the achievement of the SDGs through rights-based action and the overall integration of human rights into the work of the UN Development System.


**Spotlights:**  Persons with disabilities  Women  Youth  People of African descent

**Shifts:**  Global constituency  Prevention  Civic space  Leveraging data for human rights


 Climate change  Corruption  Inequalities  New technologies  People on the move


### RESULTS


 The newly developed **Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) online checklists** were rolled out in five regions, in collaboration with the inter-agency network on human rights, LNOB, and Sustainable Development, which OHCHR co-chairs jointly with the ILO. The checklists are tools for the UNCTs to use to enhance integration of the three guiding principles of LNOB, GEWE, and a HRBA. Training of trainers is also being organized to establish a pool of resource persons from various entities.

 Since 2019, the Working Group on business and human rights coordinates the project on **“Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean,”** together with the ILO and the OECD. This has enabled governments in the region to exchange on good practices and receive support to develop and implement National Action Plans (NAPs) on Business and Human Rights. As a result, the first NAPs for Argentina and Uruguay were adopted in November and December 2023, respectively; national baseline assessments for business and human rights were developed in Argentina, Colombia, and Ecuador; and the Peru NAP implementation was accelerated through a decentralization strategy and capacity-building of


stakeholders. In Colombia, support was provided for the development of a bill on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (HRDDP) and the update of the human rights policy and human rights impact mapping tool in the mining and energy sectors. Finally, through support to the UN Global Compact, 100 businesses in the region committed to translate their human rights commitments into practice through the implementation of the Global Compact tool on corporate respect for human rights.


 UN Human Rights supported the governments of Mongolia, Nigeria, and Thailand in the development of their NAPs on business and human rights. For instance, **Thailand** launched its **Second NAP** with a focus on labour protection, fair working conditions, land community rights, natural resources and environmental protections, cross-border investment and multinational enterprises, and protection of HRDs. It includes legislative amendment to address Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs). In **Nigeria**, the Government developed and adopted its **NAP**, and the Office is developing a joint programme with ILO and UNDP to support the implementation of the NAP. Following UPR recommendations and with OHCHR’s support, **Mongolia enacted its NAP in June**. The NAP is aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and underscores the State’s duty to protect human rights in business operations, businesses’ responsibility to respect human rights, and both duty bearers to provide remedies when violations occur.


 OHCHR engaged with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and agreed to collaborate through specialized technical assistance towards **implementing business and human rights standards in CABEI’s norms, practices, and procedures**. This is a significant achievement as CABEI is the primary international financial institution in Central America.

 In March, **Belize** and **Grenada** became the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> countries, respectively, to **ratify the Escazú Agreement**, the first environmental treaty


of Latin America and the Caribbean. OHCHR continued its advocacy with authorities in Barbados, Dominica, and Trinidad and Tobago, for ratification in 2024.


 The **Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility** was endorsed by leaders at the **fifty-second Pacific Islands Forum** in November. The Framework represents a proactive approach to addressing the challenges associated with climate change and human mobility. It is the culmination of a four-year consultative process and deliberations of an inter-governmental joint working group, and reflects efforts made under the “Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security” joint programme implemented by ESCAP, ILO, IOM, and OHCHR, together with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). The joint programme aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of Pacific Islanders in the context of climate change and disasters, ensuring that migration and relocation remains a choice, and displacement is averted, minimized, and addressed. OHCHR will continue to assist through the development of an implementation plan for the Framework.


 In partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), OHCHR supported the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender of **Burundi** in expediting the **adoption of the National Strategy for the Socio-Economic Inclusion of the Batwa 2023-2027**. The Batwa are recognized as Burundian Indigenous Peoples, and face dire economic and social conditions. This Strategy can serve as a basis for further interventions.


 After several years of providing technical assistance to the La Colorada community, in the State of Zacatecas, **Mexico**, and to a Canadian mining company operating there, an agreement for reparation was reached. The community and company agreed on **comprehensive reparation measures specific to each family affected by the mining company’s activities**. The case is an


example of successful dialogue and reparation, which can serve as a model for similar situations elsewhere.


 **Human rights data partnership was strengthened with 14 countries** (Albania, Cameroon, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo,<sup>2</sup> Liberia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, the State of Palestine,<sup>3</sup> the Philippines, and Uganda), with NHRIs, and national statistical offices formalizing their collaboration to operationalize a HRBA to data, with regard to LNOB and population of human rights indicators, including the four SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship (16.a.1 on NHRI accreditation, 16.1.2 on conflict-related deaths, 16.10.1 on HRDs, and 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination). Further, the Government of Brazil established a Human Rights Observatory to make publicly available human rights indicators on vulnerable populations.

 **Data availability for the four SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship has significantly improved.** A new module to measure the prevalence of discrimination aligned with OHCHR's methodology for SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 was integrated in the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), one of the main data sources for SDG indicators. In 2023, the number of countries reporting data on this indicator multiplied by five since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, with 62 countries collecting at least one data point for this indicator, compared to only a dozen in 2015. Further, OHCHR was able to collect data for 70 per cent of the 10 deadliest conflicts in 2023, compared to 2015 when no global figures were available on the number of civilians killed during armed conflicts. The total number of countries for which OHCHR has documented killings of HRDs has more than doubled since 2015, from 41 to 94 in 2023.

 Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 and renewed in 2023, between the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the Office continued to support the integration of a HRBA to data collection. In 2023, with the technical support of OHCHR, KNCHR and KNBS completed the **collection and verification of data for SDG indicator 16.10.1**, on the number of verified cases of killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists, and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months. Significantly, the methodology for data collection incorporates citizen-generated data from civil society and others. This milestone means that **Kenya is likely to be one of the first countries globally to contribute to this indicator.**

 OHCHR's long-term efforts to assist **Kazakhstan in adopting human rights indicators** showed visible results in 2023. An agreement with the Ministry of Justice and other relevant State bodies included a list of indicators covering the right to education, participation in public affairs, adequate housing, fair trial, freedom from torture, and prevention of violence against women. OHCHR has been requested to continue its support to incorporate the indicators in the work of different ministries and the Bureau of Statistics in 2024.

 In the **Republic of Moldova**, a set of **indicators on the right to health was finalized** in 2023, following the 2021 signing of the MoU between the National Statistics Office, the People's Advocate Office, and the Equality Council, and the approval of a national methodology for developing and contextualizing indicators from the perspective of human rights. With the support of OHCHR, the elaboration of a second set of indicators on the right to protection against torture has begun and will be finalized in 2024.


 As a result of consultations and capacity-building related to an OHCHR study on advancing the right to food and education in **Zambia**, the Government expressed interest in universal school


2 All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.


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




feeding and has requested an **impact evaluation of the “Home-grown school feeding programme.”** This development sets the stage for OHCHR’s further substantive and financial collaboration with the Government, the WFP, World Bank, and other stakeholders on the evaluation, which is expected to generate evidence supporting the expanded roll-out of the programme from 70 to 116 districts by 2026.


 OHCHR ensured the **integration of human rights and recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms in the new UNSDCFs 2024-2028 of Angola, Haiti, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, and Seychelles.** The new UNSDCFs of Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, and Mauritius, refer to the enhancement of human rights under the prosperity pillar, thus contributing to the advancement of a human rights economy.


 In **Bangladesh**, OHCHR supported the **establishment of a UNCT-wide disability inclusion team** and worked towards a comprehensive UN disability inclusion strategy, which is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2024.

 In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the Office conducted an **assessment on the rights of persons with disabilities**, which will be published in the first half of 2024. This work will assist the UNCT to improve data collection and analysis regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, and will feed into preparations for the UPR, provide information to treaty bodies including the CRPD in March 2024, and will help to inform the development of the next CCA and UNSDCF 2026-2030.

 Together with the Government of Colombia, CSOs, and peasants’ organizations, OHCHR contributed to the organization of the **first regional consultation on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) for the Latin America and the Caribbean region**, in Bogota, Colombia, in December. Participants were able to take stock of challenges and achievements including on the rights to food, land, seeds, water, livelihoods, as well as engage on climate change and environ-

ment related issues. The consultation will inform future work.

 In the **Dominican Republic**, the HRA chaired the inter-agency Task Force on minorities and hate speech comprising representatives of 11 UN agencies. The Task Force played a key role in crafting the **UNCT Plan of Action on Hate Speech, adopted in May.** The Plan implements the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, providing a framework for UN collaboration with partners to address hate speech while upholding freedom of expression. It aims to leverage the UNCT’s collective resources and ensure a coordinated approach, outlined within the new UNSDCF 2023-2027. The Plan focuses on seven key areas including monitoring and analysing hate speech, supporting State institutions in hate speech prevention, and assisting victims of hate speech.

 With OHCHR’s support, the UNCT entered a new partnership with the **Jordan Economic and Social Council**, and in March, launched a **policy brief on a HRBA to revenue collection.** The brief benefitted from inputs received from relevant governmental departments, national, and academic institutions, and contributed to introducing a human rights dimension to the national discussion on taxation, particularly in assessing the impact of national policies on equality and non-discrimination.

# **Peace and security (PS)**

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



46

## **CONFLICT PREVENTION, EARLY WARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Emergency deployments**

**42** staff deployed  
(in **20** countries with deteriorating human rights situations)

### **Emergency Response Teams (ERTs)**

**7** teams (to work on risk analysis, early warning and response coordination in Central Africa, South Africa, West Africa, Central America, South America, South-East Asia and the Pacific)

### **Investigations**

**14** investigative and accountability mandates supported

(including **2** new mandates operationalized for Iran and Sudan through the identification of experts, deployment of a start-up team, and recruitment of Secretariat staff)

**11** investigative bodies strengthened

(including in data management and digital forensics, reaching **110** Relativity users)

## **PEACE OPERATIONS**

### **Role of human rights components**

**11** UN peace operations mandate renewals  
(Member States supported in integrating human rights)

### **Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)**

implementation supported in **14** UN peace operations

### **Guidance and technical support**

Human rights integrated into **17** DPPA-DPO-DOS policy and guidance documents for UN peace operations



# A war victim's search for peace, reconciliation in Colombia

Leyner Palacios' life was split in two on early morning of 2 May 2002.

As fighting raged between rival armed groups in Bojayá, a hamlet in Colombia's Pacific jungle, terrified residents including elderly men, children, and women – some of them pregnant – sought refuge in the local church.

*"Bullets were coming from all directions, we had to hide under the mattresses in our homes. At 10 a.m., we heard a loud explosion and saw that the roof of the church was gone,"* Leyner Palacios, a local leader from the Afro-Colombian community, recalled.

*"I can still see all the dead among the ruins of the church. It's a memory that brings a lot of pain and anger,"* Palacios said, recounting how he fled and crossed the river while carrying his two-year-old daughter.

At least 81 people (46 children) died after a cylinder bomb fired by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebel group attacked the church in what became known as the Bojayá massacre, one of the worst killings of civilians in Colombia's decades-old war.

Despite losing relatives and friends in Bojayá, Palacios did not dwell on those memories. He played a prominent role in the negotiations leading to the historic 2016 peace agreement between the FARC and the Government, and went on to become a member of the country's Truth Commission.



Former Truth Commissioner and community leader, Leyner Palacios.  
©EPA-EFE/ Carlos Ortega

*"I saw the peace process as an opportunity to improve the human rights situation of my community and country, and to contribute to the silencing of guns,"* he said. *"When you have lived through conflict and have suffered discrimination and poverty like I did, you do anything to end it."*

## RIGHT TO TRUTH AND JUSTICE

A central pillar of Colombia's peace agreement has been the effort to address victims' right to truth, justice, and reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition, through a comprehensive process of transitional justice.

UN Human Rights has been present in Colombia since 1997, serving as a bridge among all actors, advancing the rights of victims, and supporting efforts to integrate international human rights norms and standards into the 2016 peace agreement.

The Office also supports the promotion of justice for grave human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law by strengthening the capacities of transitional justice mechanisms, including the Special Jurisdiction for Peace tribunal, and the Search Unit for Disappeared People.

*"The participation of victims in the peace process and in transitional justice has been something unprecedented in Colombia and in the world,"* said Juliette de Rivero, Head of the UN Human Rights Office in Colombia, adding that the peace process could be a model to end other conflicts.

*"The commitment announced by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Truth Commission is highly significant to tackling root causes of violence and conflict, and as part of the healing process."*  
- UN Human Rights Chief, Volker Türk.


The 11-member Truth Commission spent four years holding country-wide public hearings to collect testimony from victims and perpetrators, and expose the truth behind rights abuses, including massacres, kidnappings, displacement, and sexual and gender-based violence.

*"If we want to rescue ourselves, we have to be able to face our history and talk about the human tragedy of war,"* said Francisco de Roux, a Jesuit priest and Head of the Truth Commission.



## Highlights of Pillar Results

### 48 Peace and security (PS)



Maintaining international peace and security is one of the fundamental purposes of the UN Charter. Situations of conflict and insecurity invariably result in violations of human rights, which are often among the root causes of conflict and insecurity. UN Human Rights has a global mandate to promote and protect human rights, and a specific responsibility to mainstream human rights throughout the work of the UN. When violence and conflict occur, the promotion and protection of human rights is not only essential for the protection of rights holders, especially civilians, it also holds the key to rebuilding peace under the rule of law and preventing reoccurrence. Human rights are a powerful tool for conflict prevention. They provide a sound basis for addressing issues of concern, which, if left unaddressed, can lead to conflict. As a result, international human rights mechanisms can support early warning and accountability, and inform UN peace and security efforts.

**Spotlights:**  Persons with disabilities  Women  Youth  People of African descent


**Shifts:**  Global constituency  Prevention  Civic space  Leveraging data for human rights



 Climate change  Corruption  Inequalities  New technologies  People on the move

### RESULTS

  In line with the 2019 Road Map on children and armed conflict, UN Human Rights carried out advocacy efforts resulting in the **endorsement of the Age Assessment Guidelines and its Standardized Checklist**, on 31 July, by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in **Somalia**. The Guidelines aim to protect children from underage recruitment and from being tried under the adult justice system.

tutes a significant step towards addressing the violence that affects the country and the civilian population, and complying with one of the most sensitive points of the Peace Agreement. The Office played a critical role in this process by providing technical assistance to the CNGS on public policy formulation and the incorporation of human rights standards.

 On 7 September, the National Security Guarantees Commission (CNGS) in **Colombia** approved the **public policy on dismantlement of criminal organizations** and issued a decree granting legal status to the policy. This consti-

  In March, thanks to OHCHR's engagement and advocacy, the Government of **Iraq** signed the **Action Plan for prevention of the recruitment and use of children** by the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). The Action Plan includes measures to: identify and ensure the immediate release of

children; cease further detention or prosecutions of children formerly associated or allegedly associated with the PMF; and promote awareness-raising campaigns to prevent child recruitment. The Plan also supports the adoption of necessary legislation and administrative measures to prevent the recruitment and use of children, and promptly investigate any allegation of recruitment and use of children by the PMF. OHCHR also supported PMF in the implementation of the Action Plan through various activities aimed at institutionalizing child protection in the armed forces. In addition, following a dedicated training on child protection organized by OHCHR and UNICEF in June, the Directorate of Human Rights was established at the PMF Commission, with the mandate to develop a human rights curriculum, and train and raise awareness on human rights principles within the PMF.



The international community has come to count on OHCHR for **reliable data regarding the human cost of the conflict in Ukraine**. For example, this information was used by the UNCT and the UN system more widely for the 2023 Humanitarian Programme Cycle and in Security Council briefings. By providing in-depth information about the human rights situation in Ukraine to the Protection Cluster, the Office contributed to the adoption of human rights sensitive approaches in the humanitarian response, and inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities and older persons. The monitoring and advocacy efforts of OHCHR also yielded concrete improvements in the treatment of POWs under the control of Ukraine. The Office observed marked enhancements at the POWs camp in the Lviv region in response to its concerns, including improved food portions, cessation of punitive measures, and the discontinuation of some coercive practices.



To facilitate the development of well-informed situation analysis reports on the **dynamics of gang violence and its impact on human rights in Haiti**, OHCHR established an information gathering mechanism to collect and verify, in a systematic manner, accurate and updated data on human rights abuses and violations. The mechanism is



OHCHR Palestine staff member conducting a monitoring field visit in a residential area in Al Fara'a refugee camp in Tubas, in the occupied West Bank. © OHCHR

built on a network of local monitors and other key actors, and has allowed OHCHR to monitor the use of sexual violence as a weapon of gangs, and to identify reporting and response challenges. It also contributed to strengthening the referral pathways of cases among national and international actors. In 2023, OHCHR was able to monitor and refer 3,952 protection cases (889 men, 1,468 women, 699 boys, and 896 girls) to protection partners, enabling victims, including survivors of sexual violence, to receive holistic protection assistance (medical, psychosocial, legal assistance, relocation, family reunion, and livelihood support).

In the **State of Palestine**, to facilitate coordination of protection needs analysis, the Office held consultations with partners and drafted the **2023 Protection Analysis Update**, to contribute to the Humanitarian Needs Overview. Furthermore, a pilot information management matrix has been launched and is enabling the collection of information on priority protection needs – including in the context of Gaza escalations, West Bank opera-

tions involving military tactics, and in response to massive increases in settler violence and displacement in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

In **Burundi**, the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) benefited from OHCHR's capacity-building for members and staff, as well as advice and technical support to undertake its protection work, increase monitoring, and raise awareness of State authorities on human rights issues of concern. This contributed to the INHRC facilitating the **release of at least 1,200 people** that were arbitrarily detained.



In **Libya**, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance on accountability, documentation, vetting, and the inclusion of the specific needs of women, victims, marginalized groups, youths, and persons with disabilities in transitional justice. To this end, OHCHR organized grassroots consultations, reaching over 350 victims, whose findings fed into an **advocacy paper on future transitional justice mechanisms**, and dedicated reports on human rights violations in Murzuq and Tarhuna. In addition, training delivered by UN Human Rights to the judiciary contributed to the adoption, in June, of a set of recommendations on investigations and accountability for mass grave victims in Tarhuna.



With UN Human Rights support, the **African Union (AU) and the UN signed a joint Framework for Human Rights**, which completes the existing partnership frameworks on peace and security and development. The joint Framework for Human Rights will facilitate a coordinated and streamlined UN system-wide approach in the engagement with the AU, on human rights matters.



In collaboration with the Mounted Police Service, Corrections Service, Defense Force, and National Security Service in **Lesotho**, OHCHR developed a **human rights curriculum** that has been endorsed and will be used in all training colleges of the respective security institutions.



In **Niger**, OHCHR set up a **pool of 14 regional focal points**, including six women, to facilitate the **monitoring of human rights on the ground**. This resulted from training facilitated by the Office for 40 HRDs (12 women) to improve their skills in monitoring, documentation, analysis, and reporting on cases of human rights violations and abuses in their respective regions.

OHCHR and the United Nations Assistance Mission in **Afghanistan** (UNAMA) continued to **document civilian casualties**, predominantly as a result of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosive remnants of war. The UNAMA report, *The impact of improvised explosive devices on civilians in Afghanistan*, released in May 2023, found that between 15 August 2021 and 30 May 2023, three quarters of the 2,814 civilian casualties documented (701 killed, 2,113 wounded), were caused by IED attacks. The report also highlighted the **specific impact of IED attacks on ethnic and religious minorities**, in particular attacks on places of worship, and made recommendations to the de facto authorities to increase measures for the prevention of such attacks and holding perpetrators accountable.

UN Human Rights submitted **three reports** to the HRC and one to the General Assembly on the **human rights situation in Myanmar**, focusing on issues such as enforced disappearances, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, and violations of economic and social rights. Through these reports, OHCHR advocated for an immediate end to violence and accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations and violations of international law.



UN Human Rights, jointly with UNODC and UNDP, released the **first global SDG16 indicator report**, *A wake-up call for action on peace, justice, and inclusion*, which urges policymakers to increase the pace of SDG16 implementation. According to the report, close to 17,000 civilians were killed in war operations in 2022; a 53 per cent increase compared to 2021. There was a 40 per cent increase in killings and nearly 300 per cent increase in enforced disappearances of HRDs and



journalists in 2022 compared to 2021. The report findings were used to inform debates at the UN Security Council.

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The Office provided support and **guidance to UN peace missions** on the integration of international human rights and humanitarian law, and built human rights capacity of national and regional defence, and security forces under the UN policy frameworks for the protection of civilians and the HRDDP. This contributed to the **adoption of a Human Rights Directive**, in March, by the Office of Military Affairs of the UN Department of Peace Operations.

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OHCHR supported the finalization and launch of the *Guidance note of the Secretary General on transitional justice: A strategic tool for people, prevention, and peace*, together with the thematic working papers, in June. The Guidance Note seeks to ensure a rights-based, innovative, and practical as well as a coordinated approach to transitional justice across the UN system and beyond.

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Resolution 2699 (2023) adopted by the UN Security Council in October, decided the deployment of a **Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti** and called for the establishment of an oversight mechanism to **prevent human rights violations or abuses**, in particular sexual exploitation, as well as to ensure that the planning and conduct of the Mission's operations will be in accordance with applicable international law. OHCHR provided technical support in the preparation of the Resolution.

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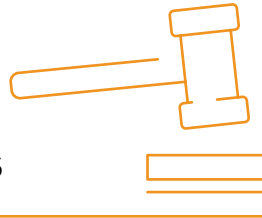


# Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination



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## LAWS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES

### Combating discrimination in all its forms

**570** participants from **74** countries in the 16th session of the Forum on Minority Issues (under the theme “Minorities and cohesive societies: Equality, social inclusion and socio-economic participation”)

**900** participants from **85** countries attended the 2nd session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (under the theme “Realizing the dream: A UN Declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent”)

**62** countries reported data on **SDG indicator 10.3.1** (under OHCHR custodianship, on the prevalence of discrimination)

### Acting upon complaints

**Women – 86** communications (sent by the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls)

**People of African descent – 16** communications (sent by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent)

## CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Pursuant to Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 47/21

Consultations held with **124** persons (63% women, 95% people of African descent)



## CAPACITY-BUILDING

**Fellowship Programmes: Training provided to**

**10** persons of African descent (7 women and 3 men from 10 countries)

**47** Indigenous Persons (26 women and 21 men from 30 countries)

**25** persons from minority groups (14 women and 11 men from 22 countries)

# “Everyone has a migration story” - building positive narratives on migration in Malaysia

Every recipe has a story. Each of the seven episodes of the “Dari Dapur” campaign brings a recipe to life, representing the rich diversity of food and culture that migrants have brought with them to Malaysia.

The campaign was launched by UN Human Rights in December 2022, in partnership with Untitled Kompeni, the Kuala Lumpur-based social impact production team, aiming to place human rights and human stories at the heart of public narratives on migration, through storytelling. Videos and other media were disseminated through dedicated social media accounts, with the active support of civil society including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Parliamentarians for Human Rights. Within four months from its launch, the campaign had reached nearly 1 million people on social media.

“Dari Dapur” brings migrants and Malaysians together to bond over their love of good food. Through seven short films, celebrities from different walks of life are brought into the kitchens of migrant workers and refugees, to enjoy a home-cooked meal, and share life experiences.

“Anytime you cook and bring people together, everyone smiles. Regardless of which culture you come from, everybody needs to eat,” said Malaysian celebrity Chef Wan in an episode where he meets Pakistani home cook Hameed, and his family.

“I learned to not let what you do not know of others affect how you treat them. No matter who it is, our actions should be rooted in kindness,” said Malaysian actress Lisa Surihani, in an episode where she meets an Indonesian plantation worker Suha, and her family.

“To have someone come here to visit, to see me and my friends, I’m so happy,” said Cambodian plantation worker Liza, while treating comedian Kavin Jay and food instagrammer Elvi to a dish of *Nom Banh Chok*.

Praising Liza’s cooking, Kavin Jay observed, “Everyone has a migration story. It doesn’t matter what your race is, if you look back far enough, you will find your migration story.”

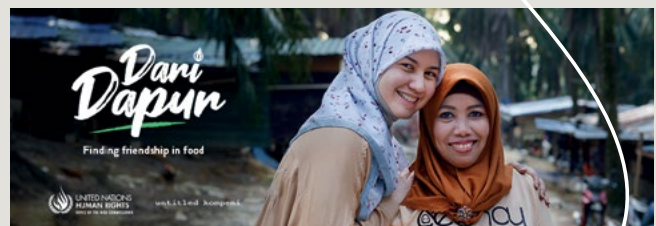
According to research commissioned by OHCHR, Malaysians largely see the benefits that migration brings, yet are daunted by

some of the complex challenges such as integration. Research showed that Malaysians agree everyone deserves equal rights. Some 63 per cent felt that communities are stronger when everyone is supported, while more than half believed in helping others no matter who they are or where they come from. Around 35 per cent believed that people fleeing persecution or war should be welcomed, while the same percentage welcomed those unable to obtain health care, education, food, or decent work in their home country.

The campaign is the second edition of the “#StandUp4Migrants” regional campaign, an initiative by OHCHR to build human rights-based narratives around migrants and migration. The first edition, “MyGreat Story” was launched in Australia in 2022.



Chef Wan with social justice influencer Hartini Zainudin enjoying Ayam Korma, a traditional Pakistani dish, and conversations with Hameed and his family. © OHCHR



Actress Lisa Surihani with Suha after sharing a meal of Kaldu Kokot, a Cow’s feet soup. © OHCHR



Comedian Kavin Jay and food instagrammer Elvi with Liza during their visit to her plantation. © OHCHR

# Highlights of Pillar Results

## 54 Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and non-discrimination for all is at the core of international human rights law. With a call to Leave No One Behind, the 2030 Agenda has created an “equality” momentum. Taking advantage of this opportunity, UN Human Rights seeks to remove structural barriers that exacerbate and perpetuate discrimination, exclusion, and inequalities. The Office supports efforts aimed at strengthening laws, policies, institutions, practices, and attitudes, conducive to equality and non-discrimination. It strives to increase public support for diverse and inclusive societies, and enhance coherent and rights-based UN responses to end exclusion and discrimination. The SDGs provide a common reference for this work, including through linkages with economic, social, and cultural rights.

**Spotlights:** Persons with disabilities Women Youth People of African descent

**Shifts:** Global constituency Prevention Civic space Leveraging data for human rights

Climate change Corruption Inequalities New technologies People on the move

### RESULTS

OHCHR dedicated efforts for the roll-out of the *Protecting minority rights – A practical guide to developing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation*. Targeted missions facilitated engagement with lawmakers and HRDs, while over 20 online roll-out events were undertaken in Arabic, English, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The Guide is currently being translated into Chinese and Korean.

City Council added **prohibition of caste-based discrimination to the City’s anti-discrimination law**. These changes made Seattle the first United States city to prohibit caste-based discrimination, improving protection within the city, and setting a precedent within the country.

Following a communication by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, as well as advocacy by the Special Rapporteur and civil society groups, the **Seattle**

The Office supported 16 national “UN Free & Equal” **campaigns** for LGBTI persons across four regions, including through: the training of senior police commissioners on the marginalization of LGBTI persons in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); sensitizing of media representatives in Liberia; partnerships with private sector to reduce discrimination in the workplace in Albania;

and partnerships with three universities to reduce bullying in educational settings in Timor-Leste. The global campaign achieved 121.6 million impressions and 41.5 million engagements, 46.1 million video views and over 228,000 followers, through social media channels.



Support provided by OHCHR, UNFPA, and WFP to the Government of **Chad**, facilitated the **establishment of the Observatory for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (OPEG)** in 2023. The Office further contributed to OPEG capacity-building by organizing a site visit to the National Observatory for Equity and Gender in Côte d'Ivoire (ONEG-CI) for senior OPEG members. The Chadian delegation, led by the Minister of Gender and National Solidarity, developed observatory policies based on ONEG-CI good practices. The Chadian Observatory subsequently **established its own centre of gender-related data analysis**, in December 2023.



In November, OHCHR and the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the **Horn of Africa** launched the **UN Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech**, a concerted effort to address the rise in hate speech using a HRBA, and with a focus on prevention and monitoring. In line with the strategy, OHCHR supported **HRDs to establish an East Africa network**, which meets every two months as of January 2024, to strengthen cooperation and solidarity, and enhance joint advocacy efforts.



In **Eswatini**, a multimedia campaign was undertaken to encourage women's participation in public processes. The campaign informed on the importance of women's inclusion in leadership, and as advocates for the electorate. It complemented other activities by various actors aiming to strengthen women's participation in the elections. **Over 30 women were nominated as parliamentary candidates** following the primary elections. The impact of this increase in the number of women in office can be seen in current legislative initiatives. Newly appointed women parliamentarians and senators recently denounced high-profile cases of femicide in November and advocated for immediate action to declare gender-based violence (GBV) a national

emergency. The Deputy Prime Minister indicated that she would consult with stakeholders, address underlying root causes, and develop an action plan to address the issue.



In **Mauritania**, OHCHR supported journalist networks in raising awareness on the issue of hate speech, including through the production of a video on how to address fake news. A technical training session was organized for 90 participants including bloggers, influencers on social media, and members of civil society. Following the training, a **network of bloggers and young activists on social media was created** – 72 members (25 women) – to raise awareness and counter hate speech in the media.



In **Niger**, OHCHR provided capacity-building, technical assistance, and advocacy for the integration of a HRBA in the process of amending legislation to comply with international human rights norms and standards, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. On 15 June, the Council of Ministers **adopted the draft amendment to Law no. 2015-36 relating to the smuggling of migrants**, which aims to foster greater protection for migrants' rights.




In **Botswana**, OHCHR continued to support the domestication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through awareness-raising and capacity-building assistance to the Government and CSOs representing persons with disabilities. In November, the Office co-organized a workshop focused primarily on raising awareness on the Convention, and promoting its domestication and implementation. The workshop brought together key stakeholders including Government, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), civil society, and a member of the CRPD. The **Persons with Disability Bill was adopted** by Parliament in December 2023.





The Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of the UN Assistance Mission in **Somalia** (UNSOM) provided technical guidance and policy advice to the National Disability Agency, which


released the **first ever nationwide survey conducted in consultation with persons with disabilities** on their needs and perceptions of political, social, and economic participation. The report maps available services for persons with disabilities in Somalia, and makes recommendations, establishing a baseline for the work of the Agency, and provides entry points for collaboration with civil society to strengthen awareness and response.


 In **Mongolia**, the OHCHR Surge Initiative and the HRA provided technical support to the Government, and advocated for the improvement of housing conditions and accessibility to housing of persons with disabilities. CSOs working for persons with disabilities were also supported to build their capacity to prepare a shadow report for the review of Mongolia by the CRPD. These efforts contributed to the approval of the **programme to support the housing of persons with disabilities** in July, jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development. The programme aims to include as many persons with disabilities and their families as possible in housing projects implemented by the Government, and to improve their living conditions and quality of life.


In **Sudan**, the Office ensured the **documentation of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) cases and the referral of survivors** to appropriate, multisectoral assistance. Survivors of 56 incidents of sexual violence linked to the hostilities, which had been documented since April, were referred to relevant services.

 With the support of OHCHR and its Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR, the **Dominican Republic** adopted and published, both in digital and paper formats, a **revised National Plan on Human Rights** in May 2023. The Plan identifies seven groups in focus, recognizing their situations of vulnerabilities and requiring specific attention. It outlines actions to promote and protect the rights of individuals facing discrimination.

 In **Paraguay**, following the evaluation of five indicators of the Disability, Youth, and Gender Scorecards, OHCHR led the implementation of recommendations from the 2021 Disability Scorecard evaluations and as a result, achieved **improvement in four out of the five evaluated indicators**.


 In **Central America**, OHCHR has been advocating and providing technical support to ensure that the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations are incorporated in migration governance measures. This contributed to the setting up of a **regional training** course on human rights at international borders for migration officials, by Member States of the Regional Conference on Migration.


 OHCHR engaged with Cuban experts on the National Programme for the Advancement of Women (PAM) and the Comprehensive Strategy for the Prevention and Attention to Gender-based Violence in the Family Setting. Following the Office's advocacy on the importance of public data, the **Cuban Observatory on Gender Equality was inaugurated** in June, as a mechanism to give visibility to socio-economic indicators related to women in Cuba.


 After much advocacy effort, on 17 January, **Timor-Leste** acceded to the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, and on 7 February, to its **Optional Protocol**. The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion requested support from OHCHR in further advancing implementation of the Convention. Following support provided by OHCHR, the Government made a pledge at the high-level event of the HR75 Initiative, to establish the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), which will be responsible for coordinating Government action in implementing the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention, and national laws and policies.

In **Serbia**, the HRA provided advisory support for the development of the **Strategy for Active and Healthy Aging for the period 2024-2030**, adopted in September.





 In **Montenegro**, the Protector for Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, the NHRI, established an **Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM)** jointly with ten OPDs. OHCHR provided support in the process of setting up the Mechanism and provided inputs to its rules of procedure and 2024 workplan. The IMM started operating on 31 May and conducted various field visits, focusing on monitoring social and economic rights of persons with disabilities. A report on its findings is due in 2024.

 In the **Republic of North Macedonia**, OHCHR provided technical advice on drafting and reviewing selected legislation in line with international standards. Subsequently, the **Law on Civil Registry** and the **Law on Identity Documents** were amended in June and October, respectively, ensuring immediate birth registration for every child, and issuance of personal documents. Additionally, the HRA's inputs to the review of the Criminal Code and specifically, providing a detailed assessment of the definition of rape, in accordance with the recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention, were integrated into the **revised criminal code**, which was adopted in February 2023. Further, the HRA coordinated the UNCT support and technical advice on mainstreaming a HRBA to disability inclusion. The Government adopted the **National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, developed through an inclusive and participatory process in December 2023.

 In **Syria**, a new Gender focal Team has been set up, contributing to the Office receiving the highest level of accreditation by the OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme, in June. The new Team served to also inform the Office's work on the adoption of an inclusive approach *vis-à-vis* persons living with a disability. The Office published a legal note on ***Using individual communications to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support accountability in Syria***. The note was presented to partners during a roundtable on the right to health in Istanbul, and included in a workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Dis-

abilities and its Optional protocol, in December, to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

 In 2023, the **OHCHR Fellowship Programme for people of African descent** welcomed 10 fellows (seven women) from 10 countries (Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Panama, Portugal, and the United States of America). The Fellowship Programme for people of African descent aims to empower activists, enhance their capacity as rights holders, and further strengthen the existing global network of OHCHR former fellows of African descent. For the first time since the establishment of the programme, young female activists from Bolivia, Lebanon, and Portugal benefited from training.

 The second session of the **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent** took place from 30 May to 2 June, under the theme “Realizing the dream: a UN declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.” The event was attended by approximately 900 participants including Member States, United Nations entities and civil society representatives from more than 85 countries, as well as additional participants online. The Forum concluded with recommendations including on global reparatory justice, transnational migration, an evidence-based approach to addressing systemic and structural racism, the need for an informal Pan-African Group of States to build solidarity between Africa and the diaspora, and the issue of health and intergenerational trauma.

## Stories on racial justice give power of memory to the slain



© Léonard Cortana

“The UN and human rights language. It is a toolbox, you can use it, you can expand it, and it opened new possibilities for me,” said Léonard Cortana.

*“In French schools, we do not learn anything about the French Caribbean, and the history and culture of slavery, nor do we learn anything on black figures of resistance,”* said Léonard Cortana, a former UN Human Rights Fellow of African descent whose familial roots are in Guadeloupe. *“I have always had one foot in the post-colonial context and the other still, somehow, in a European country.”*

For the past decade, Cortana has been on a quest to know more about his own history. That pursuit led him to the United States where he applied for a PhD in cinema studies, with a focus on race theory, postcolonial theory, and human rights, at New York University. He is also an Affiliate Researcher at the Berkman Klein Center, Internet and Society at Harvard University, and has written articles in publications such as *Jeune Afrique* and the online presence of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

Cortana’s research examines discourse around racial justice in the African diaspora as well as anti-racist activist movements in different countries, putting a particular emphasis on the memorialization of assassinated human rights defenders and the continuation of their legacies.

In 2022, at the end of his PhD, he applied for and was accepted into the UN Human Rights Fellowship Programme for people of African descent. The Fellowship Programme is an intensive human rights training for people of African descent living in the diaspora, who work to promote the rights of people of African descent. It enables participants to deepen their understanding on international human rights law and the UN human rights system, the international legal framework to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and intersecting issues with a focus on people of African descent.

## **DISCOVERING A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS LANGUAGE**

Cortana said that when he joined the Fellowship, he discovered a new language.

*“The UN and human rights language. It is a toolbox, you can use it, you can expand it, and it opened new possibilities for me,”* he said.

The Fellowship also allowed Cortana to meet other people of African descent from different regions who live their blackness in different ways but share some of the same struggles. Black people from the Francophone Caribbean are often made invisible, he said, and he was happy to highlight the issues around their unequal access to human rights, as well as participating in UN fora such as the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

Cortana currently coordinates the “September in March” project, where he runs workshops with high schoolers from the periphery of Paris to create media around the legacy of Dulcie September. The DILCRAH (a French governmental delegation that defends human rights and combats racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-LGBTI hate) selected Cortana’s project to be featured in France’s week against discrimination, 20-26 March 2023.

# Accountability (A)

Strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations



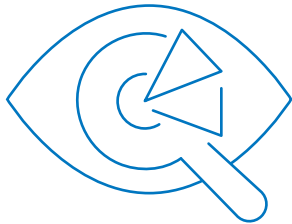
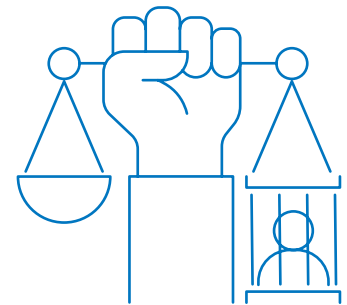
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## JUSTICE SYSTEMS, TRIALS, AND PRISON CONDITIONS

**Trials**  
**1,093**  
 court cases monitored

**Places of detention**  
**1,801**  
 visits undertaken

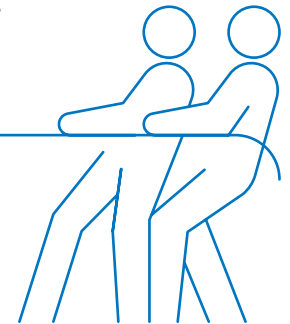
**Detainees**  
 More than **13,000**  
 persons released



## MONITORING

**Missions**  
 Over **3,600** monitoring  
 missions undertaken

**Reporting**  
 More than **27,000** situations  
 of human rights violations  
 documented



## NON-JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

**Human rights mechanisms**  
**77** opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (71 urgent appeals, 99 allegation letters and 12 other letters initiated or joined)

**79** communications sent by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (27 urgent appeals, 49 allegation letters and 3 other letters initiated or joined)

**203** communications sent by the Working Group on business and human rights (37 urgent appeals, 165 allegation letters and 1 other letter initiated or joined)

**Paris Principles-compliant NHRIs**  
**117** countries with established/enhanced NHRIs (including 88 accredited with "A" Status, 32 with "B" Status)

**Regional cooperation**  
**4** regional human rights mechanisms (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe)

**Human rights-based approach to data and indicators**  
 Operationalized in **14** countries (between NHRIs and national statistical offices and other government agencies)



# Behind the data: Recording civilian casualties in Syria

Over the past ten years, an average of 84 civilians have been killed daily in direct connection to the war in Syria, according to UN Human Rights.

Compiling such data requires a team of human rights and statistics experts, monitoring and reporting on the situation in various conflict-affected countries. This reporting aims to highlight emerging human rights concerns and provide early warning analysis.

In many conflict-affected countries, OHCHR reporting includes civilian casualties. This systematic collection of data on conflict-related deaths, enables the identification of human rights concerns such as the impact of highly explosive weapons in urban areas, or the potential disproportionate character of certain attacks.

The UN Human Rights team works with CSOs on the ground in carrying out the grueling work of documenting and reporting on deaths of civilians during active hostilities.

## GETTING THE DATA RIGHT

While every effort is made to ensure that information on civilian casualties is as comprehensive as possible, active hostilities or the displacement of people present major challenges.

To address these barriers, UN Human Rights is connecting innovative statistical and data science techniques with human rights monitoring, in a partnership with the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG). The project integrates information collected from multiple sources, bringing additional value to independent research efforts.

More than one million reports from eight sources were processed to ensure relevance, identify duplications, and estimate the total number of civilian deaths.

The combination of casualty recording work with advanced statistical methods is powerful, creating an accurate picture of how violence changes over time, and how different groups, such as women and children, are affected. The estimates build on individually documented information, but also reveal gaps in documentation by the sources used.



Destroyed buildings in central Raqqa city, Syria.  
© EPA-EFE/ Ahmed Mardnli

The data can be used to advance human rights objectives and inform policy and decision-making, according to Radwan Ziadeh, Executive Director of the Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies (DCHRS), an organization contributing to the project.

*“First, it can be used to ensure the right to truth, so victims and their families can get recognition by giving a human face to statistics,”* Ziadeh said. *“Second it is important for justice and accountability, as the results can be used in future in court proceedings.”*

The growing interest in and recognition of the value of casualty recording is evidenced by the HRC mandate for OHCHR to produce a report on the impact of casualty recording on promotion and protection of human rights.

The project will continue its work on estimating indirect deaths, from a loss of access to essential goods and services in connection with the conflict, and on identifying new questions to further the analysis.


*“The work on the ground continues, producing a better picture of how the lives of Syrians are impacted by the conflict,”* said Dimiter Chalev, Head of the UN Human Rights Office for Syria. *“Data becomes a new ally in the path to victim-centred and gender-responsive efforts to bring justice, accountability, and hopefully, sustainably peace.”*


# Highlights of Pillar Results

## 62 Accountability (A)


The legal protection of all human rights requires various actors to fully assume their obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights. This includes States as the primary duty bearers, as well as private actors, armed groups, other non-State actors, and individuals who, under certain circumstances, can be held criminally accountable for their actions. To enhance accountability and promote peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive societies, UN Human Rights helps to build human rights-compliant institutional frameworks. It supports the adoption of regulations that domesticate international human rights law, and promotes policies and practices that guard against transgressions (i.e., the misuse of criminal law, arbitrary detention, torture, gender-based violence, and censorship). UN Human Rights also supports the establishment of independent, impartial, and fair courts and non-judicial mechanisms that address claims and grant remedies, including commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions, and other investigations.

**Spotlights:**  Persons with disabilities  Women  Youth  People of African descent


**Shifts:**  Global constituency  Prevention  Civic space  Leveraging data for human rights


 Climate change  Corruption  Inequalities  New technologies  People on the move


### RESULTS


 In **Malaysia**, the **Abolition of Mandatory Death Penalty Bill** and the **Revision of Sentence of Death and Imprisonment for Natural Life – Temporary Jurisdiction of The Federal Court**, came into effect on 4 July and 12 September 2023, respectively. The legislation abolished the mandatory death penalty in full for eleven offences, and introduced sentencing discretion for all offences where it was applicable.


Government also established a committee under the Act to provide remedy to victims and affected persons.


 In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR advocated for the inclusion of guarantees for youth participation and the principle of disability inclusion in the **Law on Youth**, which was adopted in 2023.

 In **Thailand**, after more than a decade of advocacy by UN Human Rights and the human rights community, the **Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance**, was enacted and came into force in 2023. The

 In **Uzbekistan**, an amended criminal code was adopted in April, criminalizing domestic violence. The move followed advocacy from the Office, as well as strong messages from the High Commissioner during his visit in March.

 In **Bangladesh**, following two years of advocacy on the Digital Security Act, the Government adopted a **new Cyber Security Law** providing alternatives to imprisonment. Despite improvements, some concerns remain. OHCHR reiterated offers to provide technical advice to improve the Act and bring it in line with international standards.

 UN Human Rights raised concerns with the Attorney General of the new Government of **Fiji** on the need for legislative and institutional reforms, including of restrictive legislation impacting civic space and freedom of expression, such as the Media Industry Development Act 2010 (MIDA). The Office consolidated comments from Pacific UN agencies and prepared a formal submission to the Office of the Solicitor General, seeking a repeal of the MIDA as per the recommendation made by the treaty bodies and UPR. **The MIDA was repealed** by the Fiji Parliament in April and no new bill regulating the media has been introduced.


 In December, the **Ukrainian Parliament adopted amendments to several legislative acts concerning rights of national minorities**, implementing some of the recommendations jointly advocated for by the Office and its partners. These amendments address the linguistic rights of national minorities in the areas of education, advertising, distribution of election campaign materials, and holding public or artistic events in minority languages. They also address language provisions for bookstores, publishing, and media.

UN Human Rights supported the Government of the **Central African Republic (CAR)** in developing a **National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan**, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 18 August, and decreed by the President later the same month. In June, the Office provided technical and financial support for a government-led high-level dialogue on the draft national policy on human rights. The dialogue benefitted from the participation of 196 representatives including government, national institutions, local authorities, CSOs, youths, and other stakeholders. A majority of the recommendations flowing from the dialogue, including better integration of

gender perspectives, were reflected in the ensuing National Policy.

UN Human Rights assisted authorities in Georgia and Mauritania in the development of their national human rights strategy. In **Georgia**, the **second National Human Rights Strategy** was approved in March, following which the Government also developed in December, with OHCHR assistance, the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2024-2026. In **Mauritania**, OHCHR supported the Government in the drafting of a **new National Human Rights Strategy**, which was adopted on 27 December by the Council of Ministers.

On 29 June, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 77/301, establishing the **Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria (IIMP)**, which is mandated to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in Syria and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors, and the families of those missing. The Office was instrumental in this process.

 In **Chad**, through monitoring of cases and advocacy with judicial authorities, UN Human Rights contributed to the **release of over 600 individuals** in 2023, who were arrested in the context of the 2022 demonstrations. Furthermore, in **Mozambique**, OHCHR supported the organization of field missions and mobile courts to address cases of alleged arbitrary detention in Cabo Delgado to review the legality of detentions, which resulted in **releases as well as the identification of children** in situations of vulnerability who were registered in the database of the Public Prosecutor's Office for family tracking and reunification purposes. Additionally, in **South Sudan**, UN Human Rights played a key role in advocating for mobile court deployment to alleviate case backlogs and prison congestion. This led to a mobile court being deployed in Malaka, in August, which delivered verdicts resulting in **convictions and prison sentences as well as orders of payment of compensation** to survivors and their families.

Following advocacy and engagement by the High Commissioner during his visit to **Iraq** in August, the Government **lifted the suspension of detention monitoring activities** enacted in July 2022. As a result, OHCHR was able to conduct monitoring missions to places of detention, interviews with detainees, and monitoring of conditions of prisons in both Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

UN Human Rights monitored the conditions of detention in prisons and advocated for the respect of detainees' rights. In **Haiti**, following these visits, the Office provided technical and material support to judicial actors to organize habeas corpus sessions and special hearings. These efforts contributed to the **release of people held in prolonged pretrial detention for minor offences** in the prisons of Cap Haitian and Gonaïves. In **Honduras**, OHCHR undertook a **comprehensive assessment of the penitentiary's main human rights issues** and produced key recommendations. These were reflected by the Government in the "Ten-step programme to address the prison system crisis," presented publicly in April. The programme included measures to resolve structural problems, such as the necessary classification of persons deprived of liberty. In **Venezuela**, following visits to detention centres, OHCHR presented **confidential reports** to relevant authorities in charge of managing the centres and advocated for the release of persons unlawfully or arbitrarily detained.

Following ongoing Office advocacy since 2021, a **National Reparations Fund** was established by the Council of Ministers in the **DRC**, and its administrators were nominated in July 2023. The Fund is part of the implementation of the law establishing fundamental principles for the protection and reparation of victims of CRSV, crimes against humanity and the safety of humanity, promulgated in December 2022. Similarly, in **Mali**, the President of the transitional Government signed an ordinance establishing the **National Agency for Reparations to Victims of Crises**, and its decree of application, in March. OHCHR advocated with the Government to ensure international human rights and standards for the protection of victims are mainstreamed in the ordinance and its implementing decree.



Starting at the end of 2022, **Peru** saw several months of country-wide protests. OHCHR documented civilian deaths, injuries, and detentions in the context of the protests, and prioritized technical assistance to strengthen access to justice, truth, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence of violations. In early January 2024, a historic **first detention order** was made against a police officer allegedly involved in the killing of a protester.



In **Burkina Faso**, following OHCHR's advocacy in the aftermath of the alleged extrajudicial execution of more than 136 civilians by State actors in the village of Karma on 24 April, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights **operationalized an inter-ministerial Working Group tasked with early warning** and follow-up on allegations of human rights violations in the context of counter-terrorism efforts. The mechanism complements the Human Rights Consultation and Early Warning Framework, and assists authorities in a coordinated response.

OHCHR provided **legal advice on draft laws to establish NHRIs**, ensuring Paris Principles compliance, in 10 countries: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Eswatini, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Namibia, Suriname, Sweden, and Uganda. Also, OHCHR strengthened **Liberia's Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR)**, providing technical advice, training, mentoring, and support in monitoring, documenting, and reporting on the human rights situation, conducting advocacy, and adjudicating on cases of human rights violations. In October, the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation, re-accredited the INCHR and designated the institution with an "**A**" Status. Moreover, in **Papua New Guinea**, OHCHR was invited to take part in the technical working group comprised of relevant Government and development partners to establish the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In partnership with the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Office co-chaired the Human Rights Forum, bringing together CSOs, government, and UN agencies, to discuss several important topics such as the establishment of the NHRC. Following this and other efforts, the Government **established**



a human rights secretariat within the Department of Justice in January 2023.



In Colombia, the Office helped to enhance the capacity of Indigenous authorities and leaders, and through this support, **the Hitnü People were accredited by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace** in two macro-cases. The support resulted in the presentation of an annex for a report by the Hitnü, containing cases of sexual violence against Indigenous women. This annex was delivered to the magistrate's team for subsequent inclusion in a macro-case.

Public reporting remains an important tool to provide visibility on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) human rights issues, advocate with Member States and the DPRK on issues of concern, and provide a platform for victims, escapees, and other stakeholders to engage and better inform public discourse on human rights in DPRK. In March, the Office issued the report, ***These wounds do not heal – enforced disappearance and abductions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea***, documenting crimes of enforced disappearances in and by DPRK. The report was translated into Korean and Japanese, and provoked extensive media coverage.

Following the **7 October attacks and escalation**, the Office initiated **assessments on violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law** committed during Palestinian armed groups' attack in southern Israel and Israel's attack and siege on Gaza. The findings and analysis have been included in the High Commissioner's and Office's statements, as well as mandated reports, which have been picked up extensively in media and its key messaging is used by the Office to advocate with States to ensure that their interventions are in line with international humanitarian law, and to call for accountability, equality, and security for all Palestinians and Israelis.

In October, the Human Rights Council established the **Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan** through resolution A/HRC/RES/54/2, following which OHCHR established a start-up team to opera-

tionalize the new investigative body. In addition, the Office established a start-up team to operationalize the mandate received for the **Fact-Finding Mission for Iran** and provided operational and substantive support for the undertaking of investigations. The Office also made significant progress in the roll-out of new information management and e-discovery tools to investigative bodies, as well as in addressing the communications needs of all investigative bodies through the recruitment of a new Public Information Officer. In 2023, the Public Information Officer drafted and issued 24 press releases, organized eight press conferences, arranged interviews for experts and commissioners of all investigative bodies, and developed a media strategy for the Fact-Finding Mission for Iran, among other tasks.

# Participation (P)

Enhancing participation and protecting civic space



## PUBLIC MOBILIZATION

### Global campaigns

**11.9 million** followers on social media (across all UN Human Rights platforms, 3.5% increase over 2022)

Over **3,800** persons from more than **130 countries** attended the **Human Rights 75 High-level event** (in-person and online, on 11-12 December, and engaged in a multi-stakeholder dialogue to place human rights at the centre of solutions to current and future challenges)

More than **3,000** persons visited Palais Wilson, the UN Human Rights' headquarters (on its Open Day, on 30 September, and learned about human rights and the work of the Office)

**42 video stories** (to raise awareness on human rights in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

**75 stories** (on UN Human Rights' website and social media, to inspire people to take action to promote human rights)



### In the field

**762** advocacy campaigns  
**4,965** press releases/statements

Over **240,000** publications/promotional materials distributed



## INFORMATION AND OUTREACH MATERIALS



### Publications

**125,597** publications downloaded from the UN Human Rights website (in various official UN languages)

**95,802** print publications and advocacy materials distributed (in various official UN languages)

## ENGAGEMENT WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

### HRC and UPR Voluntary Trust Funds

**13** delegates of 13 States supported to attend UPR reviews and/or HRC outcome adoptions (including **9** women)

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

### Intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN

New cases/developments from **40** countries

### Social Forum

**692** participants attended online and in person (from **102** countries, including **167** CSO representatives and **36%** under the age of 30, focusing on the contribution of science, technology and innovation to the promotion of human rights)

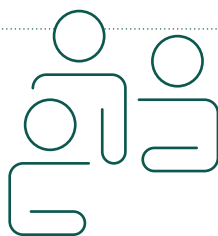
## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

### With CSOs

**1,894** women's rights organizations

**3,530** youth-led organizations

**692** organizations of persons with disabilities



# Reuniting trafficked children with families

*“You saved me!”*

Five-year-old Aruna Candé threw himself into the arms of Khady Florence Dabo, President of the Institute for Women and Children of Guinea Bissau and the boy’s godmother.

Since the age of three, Aruna had lived on the streets of Dakar, Senegal, begging to survive. He was able to return to his village and family in rural Guinea Bissau thanks to the “Project to Protect Child Victims of Rights Violations” (PAPEV), implemented by the UN Human Rights West Africa Regional Office (WARO).

Aruna’s case is not isolated. In West African countries, many children are taken away from their parents at a very young age to beg in the capitals of neighbouring countries. Aruna, along with 23 other children who were begging on the streets of Dakar, was able to return to his family, equipped with identification documents and other necessities.

Children are returned to their families and a stable environment where conditions allow, and are enrolled in school. Where this is not possible, PAPEV provides a life kit with materials for children to start learning a trade so they can earn income.

## **CHILDREN TAKEN ACROSS BORDERS**

According to the latest mapping by the African Committee of Experts on Children’s Rights and Welfare, between 2015 and 2018, more than 600,000 children in West Africa were victims of cross-border trafficking. Informal projections show this number increased due to security contexts, precarious living conditions, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating already difficult socio-economic conditions.

Nevertheless, access to support has remained static. In 2023, there were 137 childcare residential centres across four countries (the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, and Niger), with an average of 30 places per centre.

PAPEV is implemented jointly with the Gender and Development Centre of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is implemented in six countries: the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

WARO supports reforms in favour of child protection and capacity-building for residential centre managers. It also

provides bedding materials to childcare and protection structures.

*“The children trafficking victims we find have experienced so much maltreatment that we have to help them overcome post-traumatic stress, relational disorders, and sometimes multiple addictions,”* said Professor Serigne Mor Mbaye, a participant in the regional psychosocial care training. *“But that is the easier part, the more difficult is to rehabilitate them so they can continue their development and pursue social adaptation,”* he said.

Thanks to the project, the children are now receiving support and benefiting from courses and training workshops, such as in sewing, art, cooking, and entrepreneurship. At the end of the courses, the children receive a reintegration kit, and with the income from these activities, they are able to support their reintegration process with their families in a sustainable way.

The second phase of the project runs through 2023-2025 and will strengthen community prevention mechanisms against child trafficking and commitment of States to implement children’s rights.



Professor Serigne Mor Mbaye during a regional training session on psychosocial care for reception center staff in Guinea Bissau. © OHCHR West Africa Regional Office/ Habibou Dia

# Highlights of Pillar Results

## 68 Participation (P)


The participation of rights holders and their representative organizations, reflecting the diversity of society, and ensuring those most underrepresented are involved, is key to realizing the promise of human rights for all people. When civil society engages freely and actively in policy development and implementation, policies are more informed, effective, efficient, and sustainable. Furthermore, civil society is generally the closest point of assistance for victims of human rights violations, and provides legal, medical, social, and financial support. Major obstacles to civil society participation exist at all levels, including within UN forums, and shrinking civic space creates a major gap in the promotion and protection of human rights. While new technologies facilitate the expansion of civil society networks, they also create new avenues for control of civil society movements and speech, often under the pretext of security. UN Human Rights is uniquely placed to monitor and protect civil society space, and the international human rights mechanisms rely heavily on civil society to collect information and support the implementation of their recommendations.


**Spotlights:**  Persons with disabilities  Women  Youth  People of African descent

**Shifts:**  Global constituency  Prevention  Civic space  Leveraging data for human rights


 Climate change  Corruption  Inequalities  New technologies  People on the move

### RESULTS

 Advocacy and technical support by UN Human Rights contributed to strengthening the legal framework in the DRC. Notably in June, the **Law on the Protection and the Responsibility of the Human Rights Defender** was adopted.

 In Kenya, the **Public Participation Policy** was approved by Cabinet and formally adopted by the National Assembly. The Policy provides a framework for implementing constitutional provisions on public participation and serves to guide processes towards meaningful participation. OHCHR contributed to the development of the


Policy, providing inputs and integrating findings from stakeholder consultations.

 In Georgia, OHCHR contributed to ensuring that persons with disabilities have greater access to national protection systems. In particular, with OHCHR technical assistance, the Special Investigative Service (SIS) developed and **adopted the Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2023-2024**. The process was preceded by extensive consultations with OPDs in the country's two largest cities. Moreover, with support from OHCHR, several guidelines for the SIS were developed and finalized in December, such as




on effective inclusion of all actors with disability (including children) – witness, victim, and accused – in investigative processes, and on the rules for effective interview/interrogation of persons with disabilities.


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 The Office, through the Resident Coordinator (RC) and other stakeholders, facilitated advocacy with the Government of **Zimbabwe**, members of the legislature, and influential personalities, to ensure that provisions in the **Private Voluntary Organizations Amendment Bill**, likely to limit civic space and adversely impact on freedom of association and of assembly, are abandoned. The amendments were approved by the legislature and were subsequently transmitted to the President for approval. As a result of concerted advocacy efforts including by the RC, relevant special procedures mandate holders, CSOs, development partners, and various stakeholders, **the President referred the amendment back to Parliament for reconsideration.**

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 UN Human Rights was part of the Technical Committee in **Colombia** to operationalize the Public Policy on Reconciliation, Coexistence, and Non-Stigmatization of HRDs. As a result of the work of the Committee, a Presidential Directive was issued in December that compels all authorities of the Executive Branch and urges all other public institutions, to **recognize the work of HRDs and combat stigmatization of their work.** The Office also shared its recommendations for the reform of the National Protection Unit. A notable development was the adoption of Decree 1235 of 2023, which includes **economic support for protected persons** to be allocated for transportation, which is critical for their safe transit in rural areas affected by violence.

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 In partnership with UNDP and UNAIDS, OHCHR promoted the adoption of more inclusive legislation and public policies in **Panama** through strengthening the advocacy capacity of LGBTI groups. This support culminated in the **establishment of a National Observatory on LGBTI Rights** in February. This groundbreaking development marks the first time that the Office of the Ombudsperson has set up such an institutional

framework. The Observatory serves as a unique platform to assess the human rights situation of LGBTI people, and facilitates stakeholder participation in advocating for inclusive legislation and public policies.


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 The Office co-chaired six technical working groups, which served as platforms for strengthening engagement between the Government and civil society actors in the **Philippines** on core human rights topics. OHCHR advocated for the protection of HRDs, which contributed to the cities of Digos, Isabela, and Puerto Princesa, adopting **city level ordinances on the protection of HRDs.**

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  OHCHR provided technical and financial support to three Haitian CSOs in organizing twelve community talks in the Centre, North, South, and West Departments. These talks engaged almost 700 participants (237 women) in discussion with local authorities on the impact of corrupt practices on daily life, and their economic and social rights. These talks led to the **establishment of four local networks**, which can play a key role in the **fight against corruption in Haiti.** Also, the Office together with UNDP organized “Youth Forums for Peace and Sustainable Development” in all ten departments of the country, mobilizing over 600 youths and strengthening discussion with local authorities on promoting peace, respect for human rights, and social cohesion. As a result, **18 networks of young peacemakers and human rights activists were formed**, made up of 500 youth organizations. The networks will serve as platforms for increasing the participation and commitment of Haitian youth vis-à-vis the SDGs and Security Council Resolution 2250.

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 To strengthen the capacity of the national protection system and CSOs in **Honduras**, OHCHR undertook an in-depth analysis of the national protection system in 2021-2022. The findings of this analysis served as a basis for development of an **institutional strengthening plan for the national protection system**, including a total of 125 recommendations addressed to relevant State institutions. Some of the recommendations have been implemented with OHCHR support, such as regarding capacity-building for risk analysis, and

incorporating an intersectional perspective in implementing the national protection system. Also, OHCHR provided technical support to investigative authorities to promote accountability, which led to the establishment of inter-institutional spaces for the roll-out and dissemination of the **Due Diligence Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes against Human Rights Defenders**.



In **Sudan**, the Office stepped up its efforts towards the protection of HRDs and journalists. The Office continued to invest in the network of protection service providers, set up in 2022 to facilitate protection of HRDs and to optimize swift, adapted services for HRDs under threat. In this context, the Office supported and referred individual cases or accompanied individual organizations in obtaining redress. In total, **54 HRDs (4 women) who were under threat were referred to receive protection and assistance**.



Ahead of national elections in **South Sudan** in 2024, UN Human Rights, in collaboration with the Union of Journalists of South Sudan and the South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network, conducted tailored trainings in four States, equipping more than 180 journalists and HRDs (58 women), strengthening their skills on monitoring and reporting on fundamental freedoms, and digital data protection. This contributed to the **establishment of protection networks** in Bor, Juba, Rumbek, Torit, and Yambio. These are informal collaborative networks to pool knowledge and resources for protection and advocacy, and share information to offer support, personal security, and solidarity among members, as well as to contribute through analysis and reporting on civic and political environment, and citizen participation in the electoral processes at subnational level.



In the **Republic of Moldova**, OHCHR provided technical advice to the **draft temporary protection regime directive**, granting legal status for refugees from Ukraine, contributed to a UN advocacy letter to the Ministry of Internal Affairs requesting simplification of the registration process, and ensured the temporary protection monitoring tool was in line with human rights standards. Through surveys with refugees from

Ukrainian and Moldovan host communities, OHCHR was also able to systematically **identify individuals with specific needs**, such as persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and older persons, and to **refer them to service providers to receive tailored assistance**, relying on the inter-agency referral pathways.



OHCHR provided support towards the first round and run-off elections in **Liberia**. Trainings, implemented in collaboration with the National Elections Commission, the Peacebuilding Office, and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), targeted County Peace Committees and Early Warning Committees, and aimed to strengthen **monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and abuses during the electoral process**. A total of 183 participants (78 women) from all 15 counties were trained including on preventive action to deter electoral violence and reporting mechanisms. OHCHR also trained 116 CSO and INCHR monitors on human rights issues relevant to elections, and on hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. The monitors used a common checklist as a guide to gather information and fed information to the INCHR and Peacebuilding Office situation rooms.



OHCHR revived its **youth network in the Middle East**, which has increased its membership to more than 600 young people. Recognizing that young people account for some 25 per cent of the Arab Region's population, the youth network aims to **engage, support, and amplify their participation in human rights discussions** at the national, regional, and global level.



In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, under the Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists, OHCHR developed **guidance for the media, lawyers, and the judiciary on the issue of defamation**, referring to domestic legislation and international standards and jurisprudence, and proposing possible amendments on SLAPPs given increasing reports of such cases across the country. OHCHR also developed generic **guidelines for media outlets** to enhance the protection of media workers from external threats.



In collaboration with National Statistical Offices, National Human Rights Institutions, and NGOs in **Kenya** and the **Philippines**, a **systematic data collection process on attacks against HRDs and journalists** has been established, in line with SDG 16.10.1 and following OHCHR methodology. OHCHR is advocating with other NHRIs to do the same.



As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR established a **HR75 Youth Advisory Group** to ensure meaningful engagement with young people in the Initiative. Twelve young human rights advocates from different regions were selected and involved in the development of the **HR75 Youth Declaration**, which was developed based on wider consultations with young people. The Declaration was presented at the high-level event in December.



In **Kyrgyzstan**, 60 lessons were introduced into the country's secondary school curriculum in 2023 following OHCHR's extensive support in 2022 to the Ministry of Education and Science, for the development of **educational modules on human rights, non-discrimination, diversity, and tolerance**.



In **Jordan**, OHCHR supported a group of international partners and CSOs in strengthening coordination and joint advocacy on issues of accountable institutions, empowering people, and the rule of law. This platform was important in facilitating the **first UPR submission prepared by youth representatives** on issues they face.



OHCHR advocated for stronger legislation for the participation of people of African descent through the development of the guidance note on ***How to effectively implement the right to participate in public affairs: a spotlight on people of African descent***. The note outlines recommendations for States to fulfil their obligation to facilitate meaningful, inclusive, and safe participation of people of African descent.



The **Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes** resumed in person gathering in Geneva, with the participation of 47 Indigenous representatives from 30 countries (26 women) and 25 minority representatives from 22 countries (14 women) belonging to either national, ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities. OHCHR stepped up action to address acts of intimidation and reprisals against Indigenous HRDs cooperating with the UN and **added a module on reprisals and intimidations** in the curriculum of the Fellowship Programmes.

# ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS RESULTS SUMMARY

**72** UN Human Rights defined ten interrelated Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs) in the extended OMP. These plans outline the necessary changes to internal work processes and operating systems to enhance operational relevance and efficiency, and to improve programme delivery. The following highlights progress made in their implementation during the year. More examples can be found on pages 330-348 of the online report.

## ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS ACTION PLANS (OEAPS)







### STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION

- OHCHR established a project management support team that provides substantive support, guidance, and quality assurance for project management proposals, project implementation, monitoring, and reporting.
- To strengthen results-based management (RBM) capacity, training of trainers was provided to 23 participants, equipping them to deliver RBM training to more than 20 field presences in 2024.



### DYNAMIC KNOWLEDGE

- OHCHR launched a challenge to increase the number of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) translations, reaching 562 translations in 2023.
- A new Sanctions Research Platform was set up, providing a comprehensive repository of resources and research related to unilateral sanctions and their impact on human rights.



### INNOVATION

- The use of AI for automatically processing open-source information increased the capacity to gather information, leading to the number of leads on attacks on human rights defenders (HRDs) to augment from on average several hundred per year to 450 per day.



### SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- In-country presences reporting of real carbon footprint data increased to 37 locations compared to 25 in 2022.
- Two Green Fund projects were supported to lower electricity costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality in Ukraine and Venezuela.



### EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Interest in OHCHR’s social media channels increased with nearly 12 million followers compared to 10.5 million in 2020.



### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- The Office is approaching gender parity at all levels in the Professional and higher categories, with notable improvement at the D1 level from 36 to 44 per cent.
- The University United Nations Volunteers (UUNV) programme for young people from developing economies was expanded, enabling 17 UUNVs to learn about and contribute to OHCHR’s work in 2023.



### MANAGING TALENT

- Over 3,100 individual and 71 team consultations were provided including on stress management, trauma and prevention, and well-being activities such as Yoga and Art Therapy were organized.



### RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The highest level of voluntary contributions received to date was secured in 2023, amounting to US\$281.5 million – up from US\$240.8 million in 2022 and US\$227.7 million in 2021.
- Financial support from non-traditional donors more than tripled compared to 2022, from US\$2 million to US\$6.7 million.



### OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

- As part of the delegation of authority project, 16 enterprise roles were deployed to field offices facilitating decentralization of key operations such as travel, procurement, consultants, and individual contractors, implementing partners, and asset management.



### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- An online submission portal enabling victims of human rights violations and their representative to securely lodge individual complaints to the treaty bodies and Human Rights Council (HRC) has been publicly released.

# UN Human Rights Gender Accreditation Programme



OHCHR continued its implementation of the Human Rights Gender Accreditation Programme in its Country Offices in Guatemala and Syria (based in Beirut). Since the pilot was initiated in 2019, six presences, including in Cambodia, Colombia, the State of Palestine,<sup>4</sup> and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, have participated in the programme.

During assessments by independent evaluators in June and July, both Guatemala and Syria received the highest accreditation (Level 3). In June, OHCHR Palestine underwent its first re-assessment to renew its accreditation. Despite working in an increasingly challenging context, the Office improved its accreditation level from 2 to 3. According to assessments, the Offices significantly strengthened the integration of a gender perspective into their monitoring, reporting, advocacy, and communication work. Further, Offices' efforts and the strong role in women's human rights and gender were confirmed and highly regarded by all partners the evaluators met with.

The programme has been shortlisted for the annual Secretary-General's Award 2023 under the category of "Staff Recognition and Rewards."

The programme has been shortlisted for the annual Secretary-General's Award 2023 under the category of "Staff Recognition and Rewards."

In partnership with UNWOMEN, the European Union, and the non-profit organization Flow Accelerator, OHCHR Palestine celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) in March by launching a hackathon involving 40 young entrepreneurs from Gaza and the West Bank. Five teams shared first place for innovative solutions on gender equality, such as platforms to enhance market access for women's cooperatives, and scientific education for women with disabilities; a

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

mobile app for services for women with hearing disabilities; psychological and legal services; and capacity-building for GBV survivors.

In Guatemala, OHCHR continued its social media campaign “*Cambia la historia*” (Change the history), aiming to deepen public understanding on women’s human rights, focusing notably on the right to a life free from violence.

On IWD, OHCHR Syria organized "Gender Integration in Emergency Response: Case of Türkiye and Syria Earthquake," providing a platform for Syrian civil society to discuss issues related to the integration of gender considerations in emergency responses.



Social media campaign “*Cambia la historia*” (Change the history) and capacity-building activities conducted in Guatemala. © UNAIDS



Palestinian young entrepreneurs participating in discussions during the International Women’s Day Hackathon, in March, in Ramallah. © OHCHR





# FUNDING

Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) staff members visiting a damaged home in Posad-Pokrovske village, Kherson Oblast. © OHCHR/ Yevhen Nosenko



# FUNDING OVERVIEW IN 2023

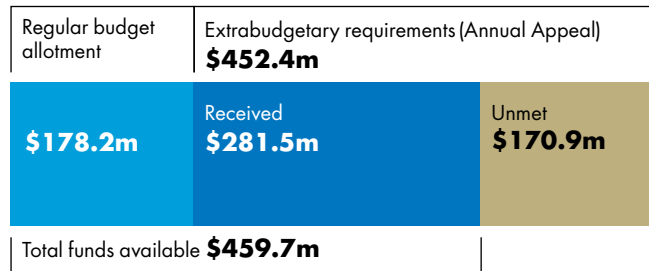
This chapter presents an overview of UN Human Rights funding in 2023 and of funding trends identified since 2015.

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

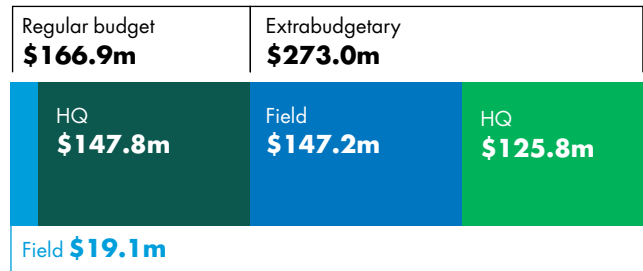
78

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

### Income

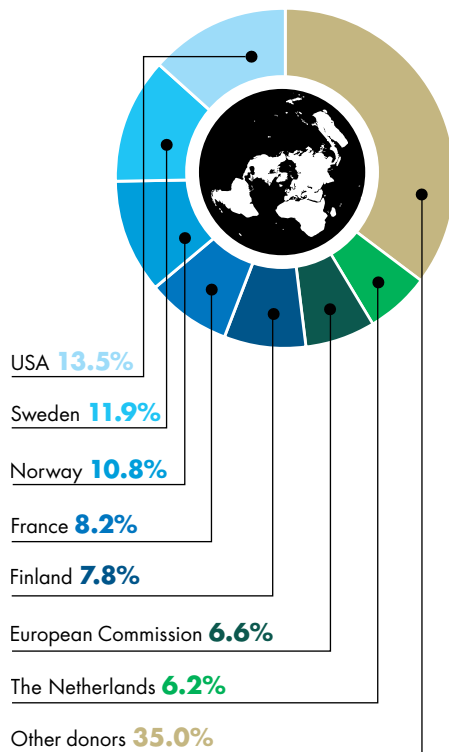


### Expenditure

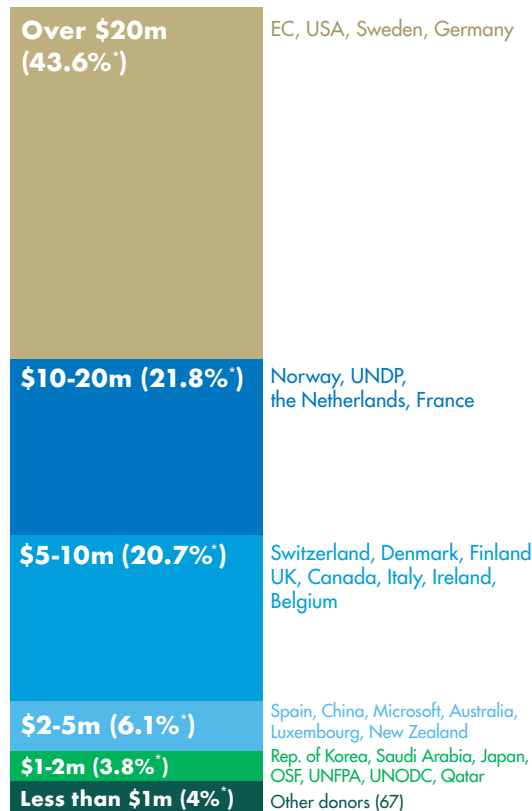


## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

### Top sources of unarmarked contributions



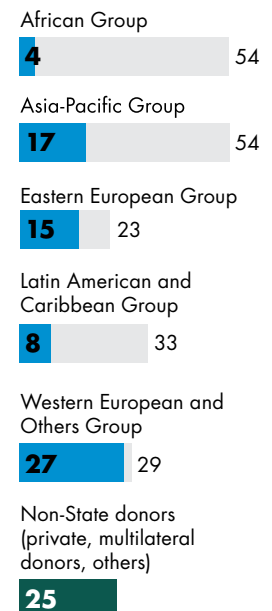
### Breakdown of donors by brackets of contributions



## DONORS

 **96** funding partners of which 71 are Member States

### Breakdown of donors by geographic group



\* Of total amount of voluntary contributions.

# Income

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

In 2023, UN Human Rights' total income was US\$459.7 million. Of this total, 61.2 per cent came from voluntary contributions and 38.8 per cent came from the United Nations regular budget.

## **REGULAR BUDGET**

The total regular budget allotment received for 2023 was capped at US\$178.2 million. This includes the appropriation amount of US\$175.5 million for human rights alone, and US\$2.7 million in funds received for the regular programme for technical cooperation.

While this represents an increase from the appropriation of US\$133.9 million received in 2022, it only accounts for approximately 5 per cent of the total UN regular budget.

The regular budget should finance all activities that are mandated by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, including by the Human Rights Council (HRC). However, the regular budget allocation does not keep pace with the growth in the number and scope of General Assembly human rights mandates. During the year, the HRC adopted 98 resolutions with programme budget implications. These new mandates were presented to the General Assembly at the end of the year in the summary of all resolutions adopted by the Council.

Further, due to the liquidity crisis, temporary restrictions were imposed on the regular budget spending with suspension of hiring for positions funded from these resources for Secretariat entities, including OHCHR, effective July 2023, with a direct impact on mandated activities. As of beginning of 2024, the hiring restrictions were no longer in place, but Secretariat entities are only able to hire staff if they remain within their reduced staffing allotments.

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2023, UN Human Rights received the highest level of contributions to date, totalling US\$281.5 million. Nevertheless, this fell far short of the US\$452.4 million in extrabudgetary requirements that were outlined in the 2023 Annual Appeal. These extrabudgetary requirements are the funds that UN Human Rights requires, in addition to its regular budget allocation, to positively respond to all the requests for assistance it receives in a given year. Furthermore, the level of earmarking further increased from 67 per cent in 2022 to 70 percent in 2023, and over 60 per cent of the voluntary contributions were received during the latter half of 2023.

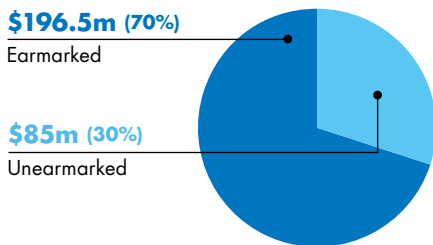
### FUNDING PARTNERS/DONOR BASE

In 2023, UN Human Rights received funding from a total of 96 funding partners, compared to 87 in 2022.

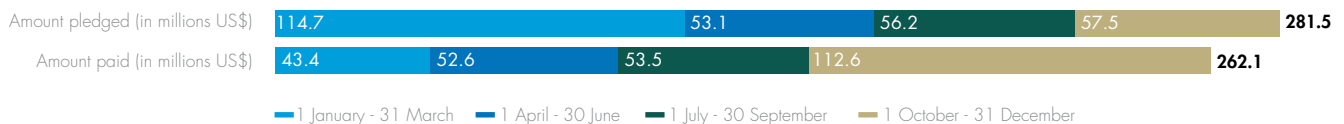
Contributions from multilateral organizations, including the European Commission and UN partners, increased to US\$54.6 million, compared to US\$50.3 million in 2022.

In line with the Funding Compact that was established in 2019 between Member States and members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), including UN Human Rights, to align funding more closely with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the

### EARMARKED VERSUS UNEARMARKED FUNDING 2023



### 2023 - TREND IN PLEDGES AND PAYMENTS

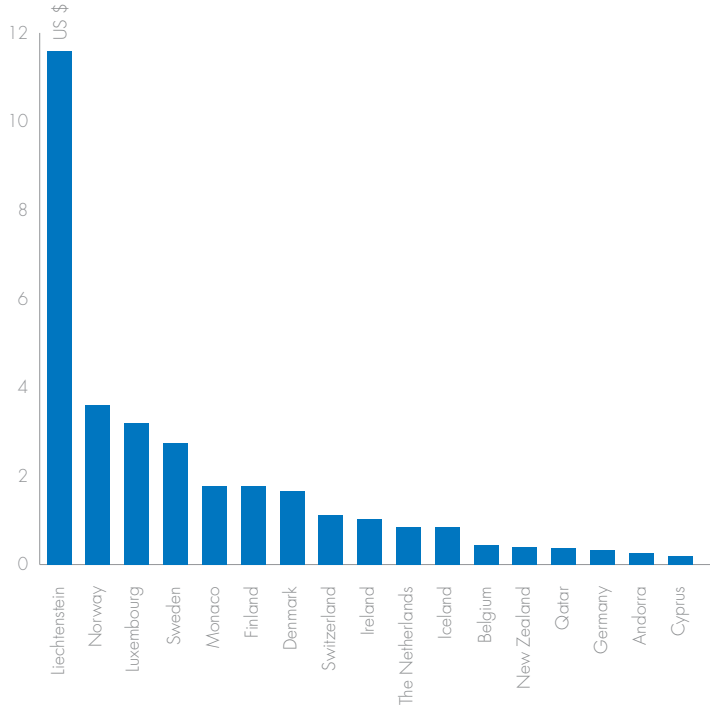


contributions received by UN Human Rights through the inter-agency pooled funds and trust funds in 2023 amounted to US\$15.2 million.

The Funding Compact calls for Member States to increase their multi-year commitments. UN Human Rights began 2023 with only US\$88.6 million of predictable and sustainable income in pledged contributions that were annual instalments of multi-year funding agreements. During the year, UN Human Rights had such agreements with 21 donors, including 16 Member States (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Ireland, and the United States of America), the European Commission, and four other donors (the Christian Blind Mission, Ford Foundation, UNODC, and the World Bank). Further, eleven donors pledged through new multi-year agreements. As of the beginning of January 2024, US\$66.3 million from 20 donors had been registered as part of multi-year agreements.

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TOP 20 DONORS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS PER CAPITA IN 2023**



Source: Based on 2023 voluntary contributions from OHCHR's donors (Member States) and 2022 population figures from the World Bank data profiles.

**UNDP AND UN MANAGED POOLED AND TRUST FUNDS FUNDING RECEIVED BY OHCHR IN 2023 THROUGH UNDP**

DONOR	US\$
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	291,975
Joint Programmes (Georgia, the Philippines)	1,014,131
Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund (Fiji)	207,928
The Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership	137,017
Peacebuilding Fund (Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, the Republic of Moldova, Peru)	7,629,702
UNDG-Human Rights Mainstreaming Trust Fund	5,000,000
UNNRPD - Disability Fund (Mozambique, global and interregional)	882,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,162,959</b>



## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OHCHR IN 2023

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DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED	DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED
1 European Commission	34,180,523	17%	29 Qatar	1,000,000	0%
2 United States of America	32,937,654	35%	30 OCHA/CERF	799,341	0%
3 Sweden	28,688,927	35%	31 ILO	717,618	0%
4 Germany	26,790,473	19%	32 Ford Foundation	684,637	0%
5 Norway	19,777,215	46%	33 Fondation Botnar	669,643	0%
6 UNDP (UN pooled and trust funds funding)	15,162,959	0%	34 Türkiye	600,000	0%
7 The Netherlands	15,083,141	35%	35 Kuwait	510,000	98%
8 France	11,429,965	61%	36 UNESCO	488,652	0%
9 Switzerland	9,818,863	35%	37 Austria	486,780	22%
10 Denmark	9,814,762	40%	38 Liechtenstein	456,621	13%
11 Finland	9,786,307	67%	39 India	450,000	0%
12 United Kingdom	6,830,527	56%	40 Portugal	445,200	59%
13 Canada	5,947,066	21%	41 World Bank	403,065	0%
14 Italy	5,612,253	10%	42 Iceland	325,398	69%
15 Ireland	5,306,471	66%	43 The Schmidt Family Foundation	325,000	0%
16 Belgium	5,162,709	58%	44 UNTFHS	259,127	0%
17 Spain*	4,277,422	0%	45 Cyprus	246,575	89%
18 China	4,000,000	0%	46 IOM	234,281	0%
19 Microsoft	2,400,000	0%	47 Czech Republic	199,443	51%
20 Australia	2,345,835	0%	48 UN Women	165,056	0%
21 Luxembourg	2,112,077	10%	49 Morocco	150,000	0%
22 New Zealand	2,018,974	99%	50 Norwegian Refugee Council/NORCAP	118,894	0%
23 Republic of Korea	1,995,000	39%	51 Kazakhstan	115,000	87%
24 Saudi Arabia	1,927,722	0%	52 Poland	112,375	0%
25 Japan	1,763,471	0%	53 Christian Blind Mission	110,963	0%
26 Open Society Foundations	1,756,000	0%	54 Save the Children International in Yemen	108,000	0%
27 UNFPA	1,166,813	0%	55 Greece	107,875	50%
28 UNODC	1,016,165	0%	56 Belgique/Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles	100,301	0%

\* Includes a contribution of EUR 20,000 from the Basque Government and contributions totalling EUR 400,000 from the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation.

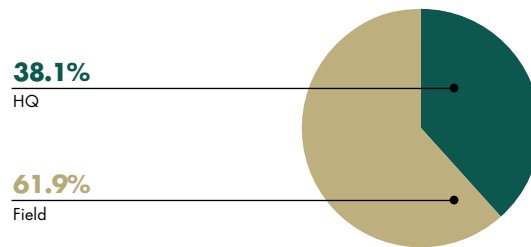
DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED	DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED
57 Algeria	100,000	100%	86 Latvia	15,940	100%
- Côte d'Ivoire	100,000	100%	87 Salesforce	15,000	0%
- The Philippines	100,000	0%	- Singapore	15,000	0%
- United Arab Emirates	100,000	0%	89 Montenegro	11,940	86%
- Uzbekistan	100,000	0%	90 Costa Rica	11,791	100%
62 Pakistan	99,492	70%	91 Croatia	10,787	100%
63 Estonia	82,237	47%	92 Brazil	10,000	0%
64 Monaco	64,711	51%	93 Albania	5,459	50%
65 Indonesia	60,000	100%	94 Nicaragua	2,500	100%
66 République et Canton de Genève	57,143	0%	95 Cuba	2,000	100%
67 Slovakia	53,937	0%	96 Mauritius	1,461	100%
68 Lithuania	52,169	58%	Individual donors/ miscellaneous	367,860	11%
69 David Clark Cause	50,000	0%	<b>Total</b>	<b>281,471,206</b>	<b>30%</b>
- UNOPS	50,000	0%			
71 Mexico	49,358	0%			
72 Romania	38,419	0%			
73 Slovenia	32,362	100%			
74 Azerbaijan	31,000	0%			
75 Bulgaria	30,000	100%			
- Chile	30,000	67%			
- Malaysia	30,000	0%			
- Uruguay	30,000	100%			
79 Ville de Genève	27,975	0%			
80 Peru	27,070	74%			
81 Armenia	27,000	100%			
82 Georgia	22,000	68%			
83 Andorra	21,345	0%			
84 Thailand	20,000	100%			
85 Malta	16,112	100%			

# Expenditure

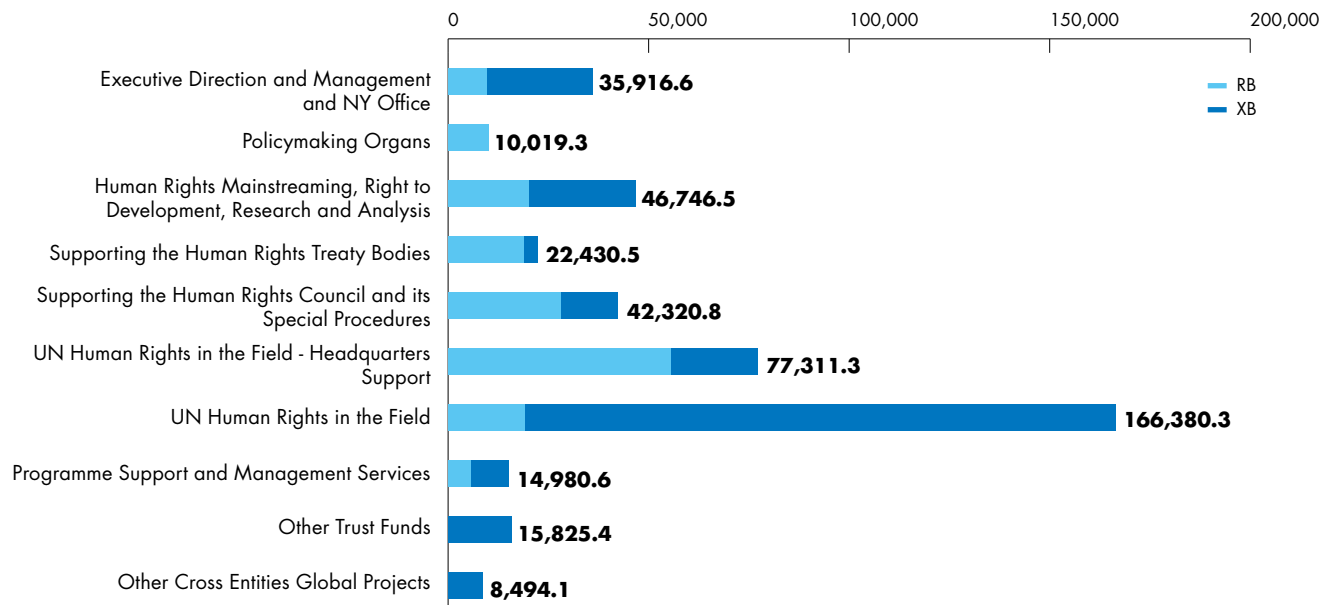
**84** In 2023, 55.4 per cent of total expenditures (US\$439.9 million), including regular budget and voluntary contributions, were devoted to fieldwork and headquarters support for the field, in particular for capacity-strengthening projects and human rights monitoring, which were predominantly financed through voluntary contributions.

Approximately 61.9 per cent of all extrabudgetary funding was used to support work in the field, which receives minimal support from the regular budget. The remainder of the voluntary funding was distributed between other areas of UN Human Rights' work and often had to supplement the limited resources that were available from the regular budget.

## EXTRABUDGETARY EXPENDITURE



## COMBINED REGULAR BUDGET (RB) AND EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME (XB) EXPENDITURE BY MAIN ACTIVITY IN 2023 (IN THOUSANDS US\$)



**RB EXPENDITURE BY MAIN ACTIVITY IN 2023 (IN THOUSANDS US\$)**

<b>9,483.7</b> (5.68%)	Executive Direction and Management
<b>10,019.3</b> (6.00%)	Policymaking Organs
<b>20,151.7</b> (12.08%)	Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis
<b>18,773.2</b> (11.25%)	Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies
<b>28,113.4</b> (16.85%)	Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures
<b>55,522.5</b> (33.27%)	UN Human Rights in the Field - Headquarters Support
<b>19,143.2</b> (11.47%)	UN Human Rights in the Field
<b>5,671.5</b> (3.40%)	Programme Support and Management Services

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**XB EXPENDITURE BY MAIN ACTIVITY IN 2023 (IN THOUSANDS US\$)**

<b>26,432.9</b> (13.04%)	Executive Direction and Management
<b>26,594.8</b> (13.12%)	Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis
<b>3,657.3</b> (1.80%)	Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies
<b>14,207.4</b> (7.01%)	Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures
<b>21,788.8</b> (10.75%)	UN Human Rights in the Field - Headquarters Support
<b>147,237.1</b> (72.65%)	UN Human Rights in the Field
<b>9,309.1</b> (4.59%)	Programme Support and Management Services
<b>15,825.4</b> (7.81%)	Other Trust Funds
<b>8,494.1</b> (4.19%)	Other Cross Entities Global Projects



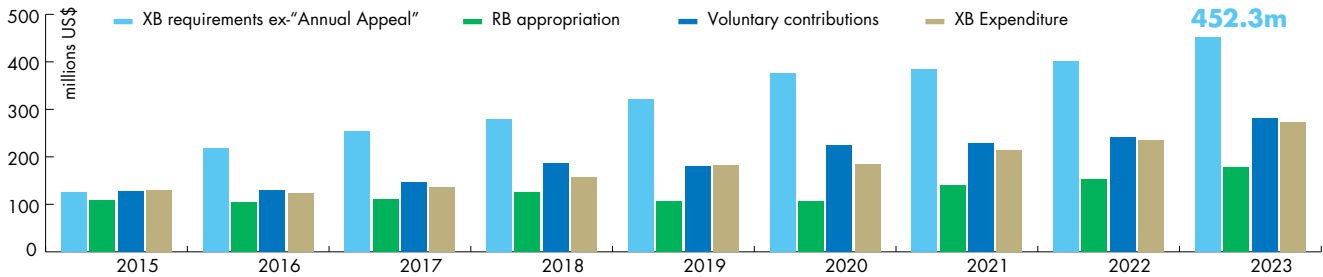
# FUNDING TRENDS

## 2015-2023

### FUNDING NEEDS, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Extrabudgetary (XB) requirements, regular budget (RB) appropriation, voluntary contributions and expenditure evolution 2015-2023 (in millions of US\$)

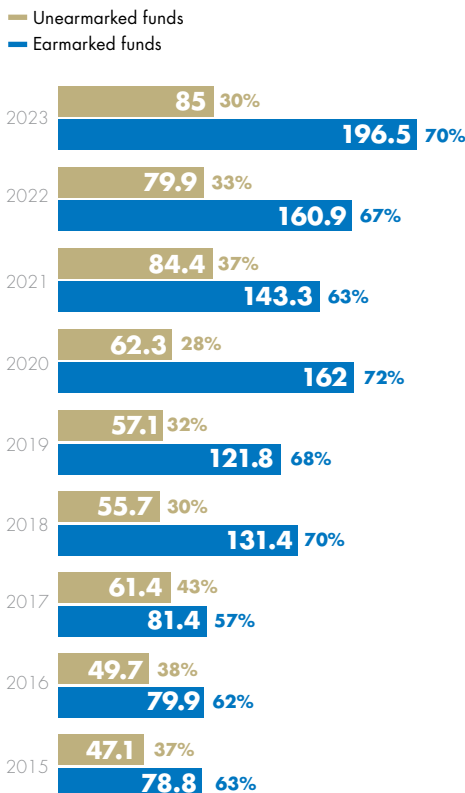
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Until 2015, the extrabudgetary requirements (Annual Appeal) consisted of mere cost plans based on projected income. As of 2016, UN Human Rights introduced a new approach to demonstrate its true requirements, i.e., a needs-based budget of all the funds the Office would need if it were to respond to all requests of assistance it received that could realistically be implemented within a single year.

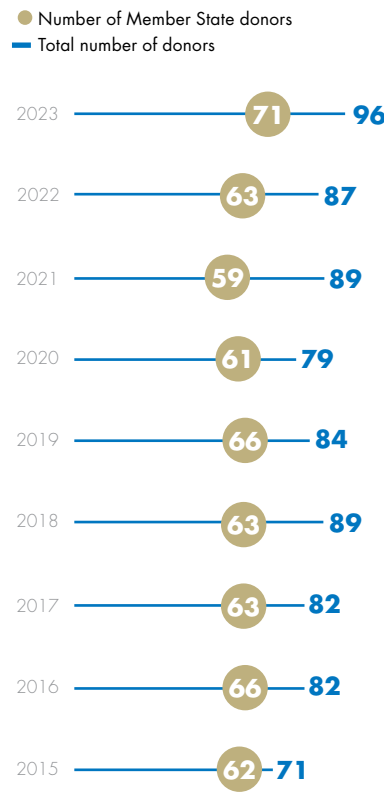
### FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDING

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

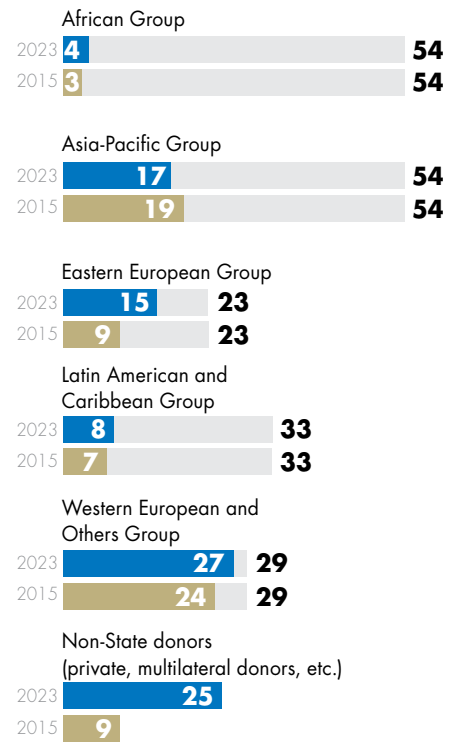


### DONORS

Number of donors (including Member States)



Breakdown of donors by geographic group



### REGULAR BUDGET AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the last ten years, an average of approximately 40 per cent and 60 per cent of the funding for UN Human Rights came from the United Nations regular budget and from voluntary contributions, respectively.

The increased share of the United Nations regular budget for UN Human Rights activities in the past few years, came from additional resources that were allocated to cover the human rights treaty body strengthening process based on entitlements of the resource formula of General Assembly resolution 68/268 and additional mandates, including the commissions of inquiry established by the HRC.

Despite continued increase in voluntary contributions since 2015, this has not kept pace with the extrabudgetary requirements to positively respond to all the requests for assistance.

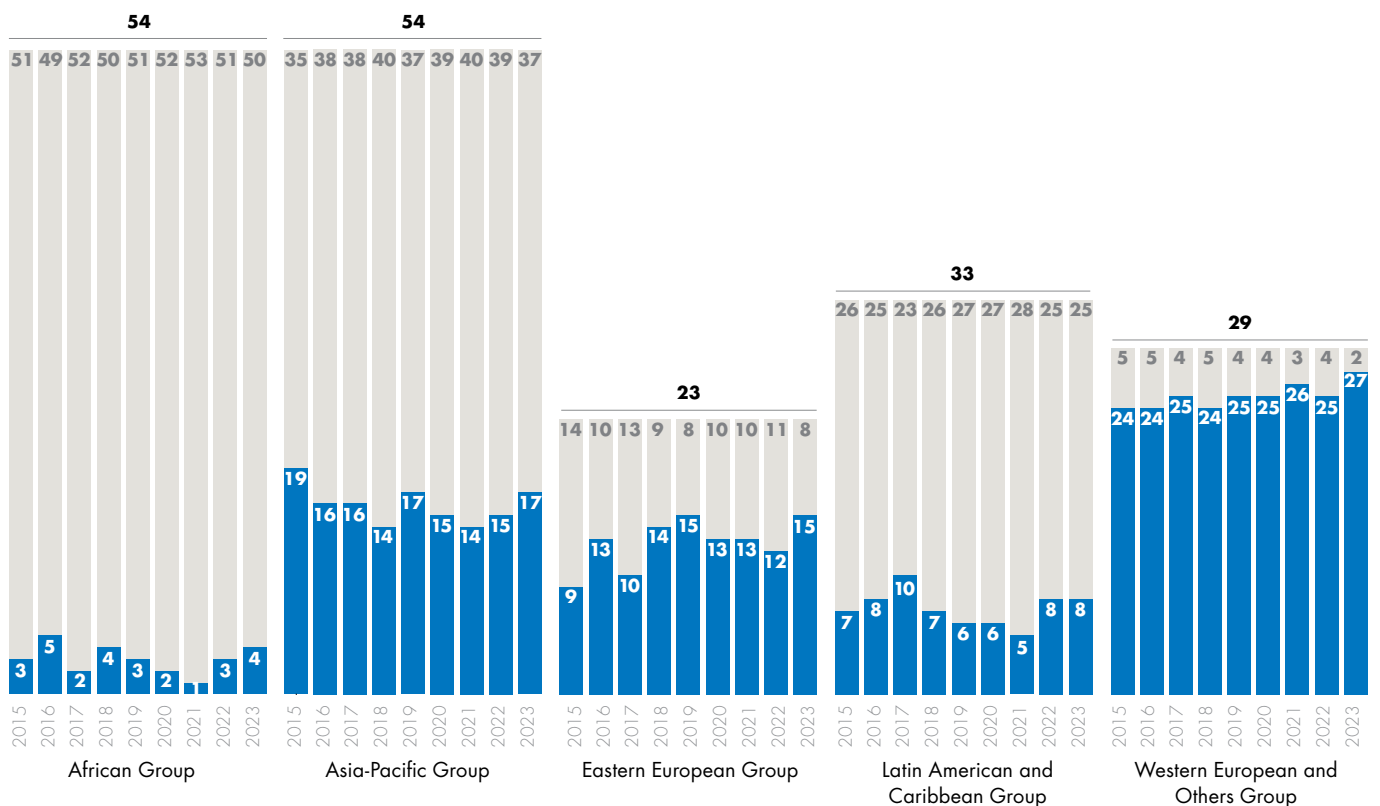
### NUMBER AND TYPOLOGY OF FUNDING PARTNERS/DONORS

In 2023, the overall number of funding partners increased to 96, and the number of Member States that contributed to UN Human Rights increased to 71, compared to 2022.

Among the 71 Member States that contributed in 2023, 1 contributed for the first time, and 9 renewed their support after at least one year of financial inactivity. Another two Member States left the list of funding partners, despite the High Commissioner’s repeated appeals to broaden the UN Human Rights donor base. Over the last four years, only 49 Member States provided a contribution every year and 30 others contributed at least once in the same four-year period.

### UN HUMAN RIGHTS DONOR BASE IN 2015-2023, BROKEN DOWN BY REGIONAL GROUP

● Number of donors by regional group    ● Number of non-donors by regional group



## EARMARKED VS UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2023, UN Human Rights received US\$85 million in unearmarked funds from 51 donors. The continuous increase in the level of earmarking, reaching 70 per cent in 2023, makes it difficult for the Office to efficiently implement the OMP. It also means reduced flexibility, higher transactional costs, and constraints on OHCHR's ability to effectively respond to emerging needs.

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

## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

## JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS AND UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Some Member States provided UN Human Rights with additional, indirect financial support by contributing to the United Nations Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme, which is administered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in New York. In 2023, 44 JPOs (34 women, 10 men) were working at UN Human Rights and were supported by 17 governments, namely: Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America (see table at right). Belgium and the Netherlands also funded JPOs who were nationals of developing countries. Three of the 44 JPOs were non-nationals. In terms of location, 28 JPOs were deployed to headquarters and 16 were deployed to the field (2 in the Africa region and 14 in the Asia-Pacific region).

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2023

MEMBER STATE	NATURE OF IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION	ESTIMATED FAIR VALUE US\$
Colombia	Rental of premises	298,638
	Provision of armoured vehicle and running costs	55,664
Senegal	Rental of premises	99,005
Qatar	Rental of premises and running costs	171,676

## JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS 2019-2023

SPONSOR	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2019	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2020	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2021	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2022	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2023
Austria					1
Bahrain				1	1
Belgium	1	1	(+1)	1(+1)	(+1)
People's Republic of China			1	3	5
Denmark	4	4(+1)	1(+1)	3	3
Finland	1	2	1	1	1
Germany	1	1		3	4
Hungary	1	1	1		
Iceland			1	1	
Italy	1	3	1	3	3
Japan	2	1	1	1	1
The Netherlands	3(+5)	3(+4)	2(+2)	5(+1)	4 (+2)
Norway	2	2	2	3	1
Republic of Korea	2	1	1	2	2
Saudi Arabia		1	1	3	4
Spain					1
Sweden	3	2	3	2	1
Switzerland	5(+1)	4(+1)	6	9	8
United States of America					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>

In addition, UN Human Rights benefited from indirect financial support through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme, which is administered by UNDP. In 2023, a total of 269 UNVs served with UN Human Rights. A total of 240 UNVs were funded by OHCHR and three were funded by the UNV Special Volunteer Fund. A total of 26 UNVs were fully funded by eight governments, of which four were non-nationals.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Due to changes in the UNV database system, further information could not be provided on 2023.



# FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

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

90 Additional financial information related to these funds can be found in the extrabudgetary income and expenditure report for 2023 (on pages 108-109).

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

In 1993, the United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General to supplement regular budgetary resources as a general funding pool. It is the largest fund administered by UN Human Rights, through which 80.5 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds, were managed in 2023. Detailed information on the implemented activities and the voluntary contributions managed through the Trust Fund is shared in this report.

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

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

Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, which is appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational guidance. In recent years, its role has evolved to include the provision

of advice on policy orientation, strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level, and a global vision of the work of the Fund. In 2013, the Secretary-General entrusted the Board to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In 2023, the terms of Mr. Morten Kjaerum (Denmark) and Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine) ended, and two new board members, Ms. Maggie Nicholson (UK) and Mr. Danius Puras (Lithuania) joined. Other members remained the same: Ms. Azita Berar Awad (Iran)(Chair); Mr. Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico); and Ms. Nozipho January-Bardill (South Africa).

As of 31 December, the total income of the Fund amounted to US\$31,974,505. Contributions in 2023 were higher than in previous years, enabling to compensate some of the funding shortfall of the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund. In previous years, the Fund had built up reserves to ensure greater stability for the programmes requiring support. Given those reserves, a more ambitious budget of US\$34.4 million was prepared for 2023. In 2023, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$28,327,452. The cautious management of expenditures enabled OHCHR to secure an adequate balance to ensure the continuity of work in 2024, also considering the need to stabilize the human rights adviser (HRA) programme. As of 31 December, the reserve balance of the Fund amounted to US\$24,972,181.

In 2023, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 59 regions, countries, and territories, compared to 69 in 2022. The Fund, which had enabled the expansion of in-country human rights expertise through the joint United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) framework for the deployment of HRAs and by responding to increased demands for in-country presence until now, saw for the first time, a decrease in the number of countries supported. Nevertheless, funding allowed to facilitate significant national efforts to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies, and practices in the countries covered, with a particular emphasis on the human rights dimensions of the global crisis, including inequalities, climate change, and global pandemics, providing much needed technical support on integrating human rights into policies and practices aimed at addressing these and other challenges.

The Fund also contributed to the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions, and capacities, to ensure adherence to international human rights standards. For instance:

- In Chad, technical advice was provided to the Government, facilitating the establishment of the Observatory for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity. The Office also published a report on the right to food based on a study of the conflict between farmers and herders.
- In Jordan, the HRA integrated recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. The HRA mainstreamed human rights into the National Nutrition Strategy 2023-2030 and policy briefs on the right to food, electricity tariffs, and revenue collection. The Office assisted the UNCT in publishing several papers to support Jordan's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.
- In Mongolia, technical support, and advocacy for the improvement of housing conditions and accessibility to housing of persons with disabilities contributed to the approval of the programme to support the housing of

persons with disabilities in July, jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development.

## UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

## Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

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DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Denmark	3,744,240	VFTC
Finland	2,439,024	VFTC
India	200,000	VFTC
Luxembourg	1,096,491	VFTC
The Philippines	50,000	VFTC
Republic of Korea	500,000	VFTC
United States of America	1,150,000	VFTC
<b>(a) Total contributions earmarked to VFTC</b>	<b>9,179,755</b>	
Australia	130,378	Papua New Guinea
	593,940	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Human Rights Advisers)
Austria	31,646	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Belgium	548,246	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	305,344	Chad
	327,154	Georgia
France	109,051	Haiti
	218,103	Mauritania
	130,854	Advancing the human right to a healthy environment (allocated to Kenya and Mexico)
	219,539	Afghanistan
	53,706	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Germany	596,357	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
	164,474	Haiti
	82,237	Kenya
	219,298	Mexico
	107,411	Myanmar
Greece	53,937	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Ireland	110,011	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	2,023,783	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
Italy	85,016	Libya
Japan	925,925	Sri Lanka
Luxembourg	440,044	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
The Netherlands	2,105,263	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers

	297,039	Haiti
	46,412	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Burkina Faso)
Norway	510,536	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Chad)
	371,299	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Mauritania)
	324,886	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Niger)
	417,711	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Norwegian Refugee Council / NORCAP	118,894	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Portugal	32,362	Guinea-Bissau
	26,969	Timor-Leste
Saudi Arabia	300,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Spain	164,474	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	109,649	Technical cooperation in Small Island Developing States
Sweden	654,829	Burkina Faso
	715,768	Burkina Faso
Switzerland	1,093,638	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	180,000	Rwanda
Türkiye	150,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
United States of America	1,000,000	Mexico
	5,000,000	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
UNDP	93,000	Kenya (counter hate speech and incitement ahead of 2022 elections)
	350,000	Kenya (promoting peace)
UN Women	113,680	Kenya (strengthening access to justice for gender-based violence survivors)
	51,376	Kenya (increasing the role of women leaders)
<b>(b) Total contributions earmarked to specific projects</b>	<b>21,704,237</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	1,090,513	Unearmarked
<b>(c) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>1,090,513</b>	
<b>Total (a) + (b) + (c)</b>	<b>31,974,505</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>28,327,452</b>	

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

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

In 1992, the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia was established by the Secretary-General. The original aim of the Trust Fund was to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme that would promote the understanding of and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Since then, it has been used to implement the activities of the Office in Cambodia. In 2023, the Trust Fund received US\$1,010,715 in voluntary contributions. For more information, see pages 227 of the online report.

#### UN TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

##### Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

Donor	US\$
Australia*	66,094
Sweden	944,622
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,010,715</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>553,510</b>

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

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

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism was established in 2007, pursuant to HRC resolution 6/17, and was further strengthened in 2022 by HRC resolution 51/30. The Voluntary Fund facilitates the participation of developing States, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the UPR process. Under its terms of reference (ToRs), the Fund secures funding for a delegate to present the national report from her/his country and participate in the interactive dialogue at the Working Group session during which their country is being considered. The delegate also attends the HRC's plenary session when the UPR outcome is adopted. This support for their participation enables States to contribute to a universal and interactive dialogue, with recommendations that are constructive, specific, and action-oriented. It also contributes to raising awareness among delegations about the need for close coordination of implementation efforts at the national level.

Since its establishment, 118 States have benefited from the travel assistance of the Fund. In 2023, the Fund facilitated the travel of 13 State delegates, including 9 women, from Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Cuba, Djibouti, Ghana, Guatemala, Pakistan, Peru, Tonga, and Sri Lanka, to attend the proceedings of three UPR Working Group sessions.

The Voluntary Fund supports information briefings prior to the sessions of the Working Group to assist countries with the preparatory process. During these briefings, the policies, procedures, and modalities of the UPR are examined. Information is exchanged and good practices and lessons learned are discussed concerning the organization of national consultations, the establishment of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs), the drafting of national reports, and participation in the interactive dialogues that are held during the sessions of the Working Group and the HRC.

Further, the Fund contributes to promoting the engagement of parliaments and parliamentary



human rights committees in the UPR process, focusing on the role that parliaments play in translating international commitments into national policies and laws, in line with HRC resolution 35/29 and the *Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review: Report of the Office of the Human Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/38/25)*. In October, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a workshop was organized to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians from 30 States to be reviewed at the forty-fourth, forty-fifth, and forty-sixth Working Group sessions. In 2023, 17 delegations out of 41 States under review included parliamentarians in their delegations for the reviews in Geneva.

In 2023, the Fund received a total of US\$373,833 in pledges and contributions, compared to US\$89,239 in 2022. An average of annual voluntary contributions of US\$ 300,000 is needed to enable the Fund to enable the active engagement of LDCs/SIDS and other developing States in the UPR process; respond to requests for training by eligible States on the preparation of national reports for the UPR; establish and support a network of UPR focal points in the regions of delegates that participated in UPR proceedings; organize trainings and workshops with partners to share good practices of linking the outcomes of the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**JEWEL MAJOR**  
Assistant Director of Legal Affairs of Bahamas



**LATOYA ARCHER**  
Foreign Service Officer,  
Permanent Mission of Barbados



**LAURA LAULAUPEA'ALU**  
Legal Officer at Tonga's Ministry of Justice

Government representatives of the Bahamas, Barbados, and Tonga, who participated at the forty-third UPR session. © OHCHR

**UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM:**

**Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023**

Donor	US\$
Albania	2,729
China	300,000
Poland	11,238
Saudi Arabia	59,866
<b>Total</b>	<b>373,833</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>116,640</b>

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

The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established in 2007, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. It was further strengthened by resolution 16/21 in 2011. This mechanism was created to provide a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, to implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, with the consent of and in consultation with the countries concerned.

Since its establishment, the Fund has supported projects in 86 countries in all regions of the world. Technical assistance has focused on five priority areas, namely: implementing key recommendations emanating from the UPR; strengthening the institutional capacities of governments to ensure comprehensive follow-up to and reporting on progress achieved, including support to NMIRFs; enhancing the role of parliaments; and strengthening the UNCTs to support national efforts to integrate the recommendations issued by the UPR into the UNSDCFs and the SDGs. Policy guidance on the operationalization of the Fund is provided by the Board of Trustees, which is composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

Throughout 2023, the Fund provided vital technical support to 10 States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, the Gambia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Niger, Tajikistan, and Togo) to support their implementation of UPR recommendations.

In 2023, the Fund received a total of US\$703,232 in pledges and contributions. Requests received for support in 2024 would have amounted to US\$1,400,000, twice the amount of contributions received.



With the support of the Fund, OHCHR assisted the Parliament of Tajikistan in the revision of the draft law on persons with disabilities, with inputs of experts and in consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, in November. © OHCHR

### UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW:

#### Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

Donor	US\$
Brazil	10,000
China	300,000
France	21,810
India	100,000
Kazakhstan	15,000
Pakistan	9,492
The Philippines	25,000
Saudi Arabia	90,000
Singapore	10,000
Spain	21,930
United Arab Emirates	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>703,232</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>509,603</b>

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

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council was established under HRC resolution 19/26 in 2012. The Fund became operational in 2014. The objective of the Fund is to enhance the institutional and human rights capacities of LDCs and SIDS through tailored training courses and travel assistance for delegates attending regular sessions of the HRC and participating in the fellowship programmes. The Fund also provides training sessions for government officials, in accordance with the HRC mandate outlined in resolution 19/26.

In 2023, the LDCs/SIDs Trust Fund supported 41 government officials, including 27 women, to participate in the Council’s regular sessions, representing the largest cohort of beneficiary delegates since 27 participated in 2019. Of these, 36 received the necessary support for their participation through the Trust Fund’s delegates programme. The other five were granted fellowships under the Trust Fund’s fellowship programme. This included delegates from Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mozambique, Nauru, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

In 2023, the Trust Fund received US\$302,757 in voluntary contributions, compared to US\$341,959 in 2022. Fourteen countries contributed to the Trust Fund in 2023.

**VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF LEAST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IN THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL:**

**Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023**

Donor	US\$
Australia	33,047
Azerbaijan	5,000
Cyprus	16,438
Denmark	6,402
France	32,715
Georgia	7,000
India	50,000
Italy	10,741
The Netherlands	40,000
Pakistan	10,000
Poland	22,475
Portugal	53,937
Singapore	5,000
Switzerland	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>302,757</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>1,015,884</b>



The Human Rights Council President with delegates and fellows of the Trust Fund at the fifty-fourth HRC regular session. © OHCHR

## UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In 1985, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples was established by General Assembly resolution 40/131 to provide Indigenous Peoples with opportunities to raise issues faced by their communities in the UN's mechanisms, meetings, and processes.

The Fund provides support to the representatives of Indigenous Peoples to participate in the sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the sessions of the HRC, including its UPR, and the human rights treaty bodies. With the expansion of the Fund's mandate in 2019, it now enables Indigenous Peoples to participate in the Forum on Business and Human Rights (FBHR), and meetings of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC).

In addition, the Fund acts as a mechanism to assist in building the expertise and capacities of Indigenous representatives to ensure their meaningful and effective participation in UN meetings and processes. In 2023, the fund provided 14 online trainings and 5 in-person trainings, in four UN languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) and in Portuguese, as part of preparatory trainings for grantees, and opened the online trainings to interested individuals as well. Over 2,000 participants benefited from the trainings.

In 2023, the Fund supported the participation of 115 Indigenous representatives, including 66 women, 51 youths, 5 persons with disabilities, and 5 LGBTI persons, in 14 UN meetings and processes that were specific or relevant to Indigenous issues. For the first time, the Fund facilitated the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the regional forums of the FBHR and the regional meetings of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

In 2023, the Fund received a total of US\$353,313 in voluntary contributions, compared to US\$800,892 in 2022. The total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$1,081,926 in 2023, compared to US\$895,106 in 2022.

## UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

### Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

Donor	US\$
Australia	33,047
Canada	164,567
Estonia	10,965
Mexico	9,586
New Zealand	12,285
Norway	92,825
Peru	5,039
The Philippines	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>353,313</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>1,081,926</b>



## Supporting meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples

Asami Segundo is a member of the Ikalahan-Kalanguya Indigenous community in northern Philippines. She holds a degree in forestry with specialization in social forestry from the University of the Philippines Los Baños. As a licensed forester, she has competent experience in community forestry, forest protection, and Indigenous community mapping. Currently, she serves as the focal person for climate financing at the Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF), an Indigenous Peoples' organization that has been measuring their territory's carbon stock since 1994. She also contributes her expertise in spatial data gathering, mapping, and resource inventory to PAFID, a NGO that has been mapping ancestral lands and waters since 1964. As an Indigenous youth leader, she has organized IKAYO, the Indigenous youth organization in their territory.



© Asami Segundo

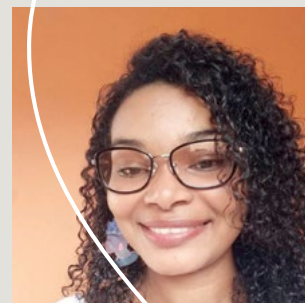
In November, Asami was among the 15 grantees of the Fund to the tenth meeting of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and subsequently to the twenty-eighth Conference of Parties (COP 28) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. During the COP, Asami served as organizer and facilitator to five side events and as panelist to seven other events. Moreover, she was also elected as co-convenor and Asia region representative of the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change, a space created for Indigenous youth that was recently launched during COP 28. Following her participation at COP 28, she was tasked to be a resource person for a committee hearing of the proposed provincial ordinance, on the recognition of Indigenous and community conservation areas in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines. Once approved, this ordinance will contribute to the Philippines' National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

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## Senior Indigenous and minorities fellowship programme

In 2023, 25 senior fellows from 22 countries were deployed at OHCHR regional and country offices to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteurs on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and on minority issues.

Julienne Pereira dos Santos participated in the Portuguese speaking component of the fellowship programme, as a member of the Quilombola Peoples of Brazil. Following her participation in the programme, she conducted three training workshops on the international human rights mechanisms, on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Pereira said she found the programme helpful in learning to articulate the intrinsic nuances of the Quilombola peoples' struggles, and will use her newly gained skills to construct an autonomous political and social consciousness in her community.



© Julienne Pereira dos Santos



# United Nations Humanitarian Funds

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UN Human Rights provides joint secretariat support to two grant-making funds, namely, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Together, they are known as the UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds. They were established by the General Assembly, with the purpose of providing direct assistance and rehabilitation to individuals whose rights have been violated in the context of contemporary forms of slavery and of torture, respectively. This support translates into yearly grants that are primarily awarded to CSOs that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, social, and legal assistance to victims. They are financed through voluntary contributions and are formally administered by the Secretary-General, who acts on the advice of their Boards of Trustees.

In 2023, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received a total of US\$1,229,947 in contributions, compared to US\$878,893 in 2022. In 2023, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture received a total of US\$10,543,906 in contributions, compared to US\$10,011,671 in 2022.

## UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established by General Assembly resolution 46/122 in 1991, with the mandate of providing direct assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. It awards annual grants to CSOs, including rehabilitation centres, trade unions, shelters for victims, and legal redress programmes. Contemporary forms of slavery are brought to light on a regular basis, including serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, traditional slavery, trafficking in persons, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour,

early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives, and other forms of slavery.

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded 38 annual direct assistance grants in 32 countries, in all of the world's five regions, thereby assisting more than 7,700 survivors of slavery in 2023. The Fund's Board of Trustees recommended 45 annual grants for CSOs to assist approximately 10,800 slavery survivors in 35 countries in 2024.

During its annual session, the Board of Trustees convened a remote meeting with four grantees to explore the topic of technology's role in both facilitating and preventing contemporary forms of slavery, by learning about their work in supporting survivors of slavery, including achievements and challenges in project implementation, as well as recommendations for the Fund.

### UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

#### Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,672
Australia	460,075
France	37,116
Germany	578,903
Luxembourg	16,429
Portugal	10,787
Qatar	20,000
Saudi Arabia	85,000
Spain	10,965
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,229,947</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>1,360,211</b>

## Access to identity documents and basic services for women and girls and their children in Niger

The UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded nine additional grants under a Special Call for the Sahel region to address the needs of survivors of traditional/descent-based slavery, under which nine grants were awarded in four countries to assist more than 4,400 slavery survivors.

Under the Special Call, the Fund supported the *Ecole-Parrainage et Actions de Développement de base* (EPAD). EPAD was founded in 2006 and provides holistic assistance to victims of slavery. The organization is aiding women who are victims of the Wahaya practice, whereby girls and women of “slave caste” are bought and used for free labour and for the sexual gratification of their master, as well their children.

In 2023, the EPAD delivered birth certificates to children born under this practice in Niger, which will allow them to obtain a citizenship certificate and access services, including free health care, and enrolment in schools.

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### **UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE**

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by General Assembly resolution 36/151 in 1981, is mandated to provide direct assistance to victims of torture and their families. The Fund awards annual and emergency grants to CSOs, including to support rehabilitation centres, survivor-led and community-based organizations, and legal aid programmes.

In 2023, the Fund awarded 184 annual direct assistance grants, 6 capacity-building grants, and 9 emergency grants in 92 countries, in all five of the world’s regions, thereby assisting an estimated 59,500 survivors of torture and their family members. The Fund’s Board of Trustees recommended 183 annual direct assistance grants and 7 capacity-building grants for CSOs to assist approximately 48,900 torture survivors in 93 countries in 2024.

The Fund held an expert workshop focused on the intersection between torture and disability with the objective of improving how the Fund and other stakeholders can better respond to this overlooked issue. Participants included victims of torture and persons with disabilities, CSO representatives, including grantees of the Fund and the International Disability Alliance, and UN experts. The event took place in parallel to the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which sponsored a side-event along with Mexico and other members of the Group of Friends to the Fund.

## UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

### Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,672
Austria	52,743
Canada	43,700
Czech Republic	9,276
Denmark	288,018
France	54,526
Germany	271,885
India	50,000
Ireland	163,577
Italy	10,741
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	57,078
Luxembourg	16,429
Montenegro	1,652
Norway	185,649
Pakistan	10,000
Peru	1,873
Portugal	10,787
Qatar	30,000
Saudi Arabia	65,000
Switzerland	200,000
United States of America	9,000,000
Private donors	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,543,906</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>11,741,108</b>

## Supporting justice for survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

TRIAL International, a grantee of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, has been supporting survivors of sexual violence amounting to torture through strategic litigation and by building the capacity of local actors to seek accountability for international crimes with financial support from the Fund since 2016.

As a result of this support, for the first time-ever, a national criminal court handed down a conviction for forced pregnancy as an international crime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), thanks to a project implemented by the Fund's grantee TRIAL International. The perpetrator, a warlord, was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity, including torture, rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy, and ordered to provide financial compensation to survivors. The grant supported efforts to document the crimes and provided free legal assistance to victims in the judicial procedure that led to this verdict.

**SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED BY THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT**

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) was adopted by the General Assembly in 2002 and entered into force in 2006. The Special Fund, established by article 26 of the OPCAT, is a unique mechanism established for the prevention of torture and the only operational fund established by an international human rights treaty. Its support for national preventive mechanisms (NPMs), the establishment of which is a core obligation under the OPCAT, has been crucial in preventing torture at the national level. It helps to finance the implementation of recommendations issued by the Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) after a visit to a State Party and supports training programmes for NPMs.

The OPCAT Special Fund awarded a total of 14 grants to projects aimed at implementing recommendations issued by the SPT, with an emphasis on establishing or strengthening NPMs or to support training programmes for NPMs in 12 eligible States (Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Gabon, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico, Togo, Turkey, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Uruguay) for a total of US\$388,251.

**OPCAT SPECIAL FUND**

**Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023**

Donor	US\$
Czech Republic	9,276
Denmark	143,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,563</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>593,418</b>

**CONTINGENCY FUND**

The Contingency Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that was established in 2006 to carry out activities and implement the priorities and strategies of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, particularly in response to human rights and humanitarian emergencies. This was primarily achieved through the rapid deployment of human rights staff and the provision of necessary logistical support.

The Fund, which is financed through voluntary contributions, aims to maintain a balance of approximately US\$1 million at all times. Cash advances are withdrawn from the Fund to enable the implementation of emergency response activities without administrative delays. When additional funding is received from other sources, the Fund is reimbursed. Since the inception of the Fund, the capacity of UN Human Rights to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring rapid response has significantly increased.

In 2023, OHCHR implemented 21 emergency deployments in response to human rights and humanitarian crisis and in support of investigative bodies covering 20 different countries or regions. In total, 44 staff members, including 23 women, were deployed.

In response to the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)<sup>6</sup>/Israel crisis, OHCHR deployed 14 staff members to the Commission of inquiry on oPt/Israel, the OHCHR Office in oPt and the OHCHR Contingency oPt Task Force to increase their capacity to monitor, investigate and report on alleged violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict.

Following a nine-month period of tension over the blockade of the Lachin corridor and a brief military offensive by Azerbaijan, which resulted in the displacement of approximately 100,000 ethnic Armenians to Armenia, OHCHR deployed two teams to Armenia to collect information about their situation and inform OHCHR’s and the UN response in the short and mid-term.

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

OHCHR implemented emergency deployments in response to internal disturbances and tension in Haiti, Myanmar, and Peru, which contributed to monitor, report, and investigate alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Further, the Contingency Fund provided critical support in the context of elections in Cambodia, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Peru, and Sierra Leone. The different Surge teams deployed undertook monitoring and reporting activities, produced regular human rights early warning analysis of key developments in the context of elections, and strengthened the integration of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into election monitoring and capacity-building activities by national authorities and CSOs.

OHCHR carried out an emergency deployment in response to the humanitarian emergency in North-West Syria due to multiple earthquakes in Türkiye and northern Syria in February. The OHCHR Surge team worked closely with humanitarian actors in Gaziantep to enhance the integration of human rights in their work. The team engaged with the protection cluster in the identification of protection gaps and raised awareness about recurrent protection risks affecting vulnerable groups in the camps.

In Tunisia, a Surge capacity team was deployed to strengthen the OHCHR Country Office's human rights monitoring and reporting capacity about the situation of migrants and refugees. The deployment focused on monitoring and analysis to support timely reporting and advocacy about migrants and refugees for the purpose of early warning, prevention, and protection.

In 2023, the Fund received a total of US\$448,957 in pledges and contributions to enable these deployments. The total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$285,132. As of 31 December, the remaining balance of the Fund was US\$ 682,750, well below the reserve target of US\$1 million, thereby negatively impacting on OHCHR's capacity to implement rapid response deployments.

## CONTINGENCY FUND

### Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2023

Donor	US\$
Germany	87,719
Poland	11,238
Türkiye	350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>448,957</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>285,132</b>



***SPECIAL FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL FORUM, THE FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES, AND THE FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS***

The Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues, and the Forum on Business and Human Rights was established by HRC decision 24/118 in 2013. The goal of the Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three forums. **In 2023, the Special Fund didn't receive any financial support.**

The sixteenth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues took place from 30 November to 1 December, under the theme “Minorities and cohesive societies: Equality, social inclusion, and socio-economic participation.” Approximately 570 participants from 74 countries registered for the session, including representatives of Member States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other national bodies, academics and experts on minority issues, representatives of minorities and NGOs.

The twelfth Forum on Business and Human Rights (FBHR) was held from 27 to 29 November under the theme “Towards effective change in implementing obligations, responsibilities, and remedies.” Over 3,900 participants from more than 144 countries registered to participate in the Forum. The FBHR's agenda included 219 speakers over 39 sessions. The Forum provides a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss good practices and challenges in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the authoritative global framework for States and businesses in relation to preventing the adverse impacts on human rights arising from business activities.

The Human Rights Council convenes the Social Forum on an annual basis. The 2023 Forum took place on 2-3 November, and gathered over 690 participants from 102 countries, including representatives from 167 CSOs and an unprecedented

250 participants under the age of 30. The Forum enabled forward-looking discussions on the contribution of science, technology, and innovation to the promotion of human rights. Nearly 50 invited panellists representing all regions engaged. Several dignitaries, a renowned Astrophysicist, Author and Science Communicator, and the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology were among the speakers.

## Social Forum

As the President of the World Federation of Science Journalists and Editor in the Science Program at Radio/Television of Serbia, Milica Momčilović, emerged as a vital contributor during the 2023 Social Forum. Her insightful exploration of challenges faced by journalists, especially in the ever-evolving landscape of technological advancements, added a critical dimension to the discussions. By addressing the regulatory uncertainties between social media and traditional outlets, she underscored emerging threats to freedom of expression. The Social Forum enabled Ms. Momčilović to voice concerns about the potential automation of science reporting and the growing influence of artificial intelligence-generated content. Her emphasis on the ethical and human rights implications of these trends illuminated the urgency for research and discussions on the future of journalism.



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Roberto Bissio, the founder of the Third World Institute and Coordinator of Social Watch, made a valuable contribution to the 2023 Social Forum. His insights and advocacy for human rights and sustainable development found resonance in the objectives of the Social Forum, which provides a global platform for diverse voices worldwide, especially those from civil society. By addressing the risks associated with emerging technologies, particularly the contested nature of data, he inspired conversations of growing contemporary relevance. The Social Forum provided a stage to amplify his urgent call for data sovereignty, challenging corporate dominance in pivotal debates on privacy and human rights. Mr. Bissio's impactful presence underscored the vital role of the Forum as a unique space for dialogue, bringing together diverse stakeholders supported by OHCHR.



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# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

### SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2023 (IN US\$)

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This summary financial report indicates total funds available for activities in 2023, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during the period and total funds balance at the end of the fiscal year 2023.

	EXTRABUDGETARY	REGULAR BUDGET	TOTAL
<b>SUMMARY</b>			
Opening balance <sup>a</sup>	175,148,552	n/a	175,148,552
Adjustment <sup>b</sup>	(3,544,184)	n/a	(3,544,184)
Income from contributions/allotments <sup>c</sup>	281,471,206	178,167,194	459,638,400
Other income <sup>d</sup>	6,406,935	n/a	6,406,935
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>459,482,509</b>	<b>178,167,194</b>	<b>637,649,703</b>
Expenditure <sup>e</sup>	273,024,451	166,878,475	439,902,926
<b>Closing balance<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>186,458,058</b>	<b>11,288,719</b>	<b>197,746,777</b>

Notes:

- a Corresponds to the final fiscal year 2022 closing balance, as reported in the UN Human Rights Annual Report 2022.
- b Includes adjustments of income, refunds to donors, and write-off of unpaid pledges from past period.
- c Extrabudgetary includes all donor contributions and pledges received in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts for fiscal year 2023; excludes future donor pledges and commitments. Regular Budget corresponds to the amount allotted to OHCHR for 2023.
- d Gain/(Loss) on exchange from contributions received, and interest income.
- e Includes disbursements and commitments for fiscal year 2023; excludes future commitments and liabilities.
- f The extrabudgetary amount corresponds to all funds held in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts at the end of the fiscal year 2023.

The above summary financial report of income and expenditure in 2023 is materially correct and expenditures were incurred in connection with the purpose of the extrabudgetary contributions received and the regular budget amount allotted to OHCHR for 2023.

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT OF EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2023 (TRUST FUNDS, IN US\$)**

This summary financial report indicates total funds available for activities in 2023, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during the period and total funds balance at the end of the fiscal year 2023.

	VF for Victims of Torture	VTF for Contemporary Forms of Slavery	VF for Indigenous Peoples	VF for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism	VF for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review	TF to Support the Participation of IDCs and SIDS in the Work of the Human Rights Council	VF for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights	TF for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia	TF for the Support of the Activities of OHCHR	Total OHCHR Trust Funds
SUMMARY	CHA	SHA	IHA	VPU	UPR	VTA	AHA	CIA	HCA	TOTAL
Opening balance <sup>a</sup>	13,395,824	1,585,241	1,834,226	453,809	1,086,342	1,937,861	20,362,071	1,017,942	133,475,236	175,148,552
<i>Fund balance</i>	<i>13,395,824</i>	<i>1,585,241</i>	<i>1,834,226</i>	<i>453,809</i>	<i>1,086,342</i>	<i>1,937,861</i>	<i>20,303,580</i>	<i>1,017,942</i>	<i>130,037,929</i>	<i>171,652,754</i>
<i>Unpaid pledges past period</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>58,491</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3,437,307</i>	<i>3,495,798</i>
Adjustment <sup>b</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	(23,387)	0	(1,725,630)	(1,749,017)
and write-off (unpaid pledges) <sup>b</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	(57,491)	0	(1,737,676)	(1,795,167)
Income from contributions <sup>c</sup>	10,543,906	1,229,947	353,313	373,833	703,232	302,757	31,974,505	1,010,715	234,978,998	281,471,206
<i>Paid contributions 2023</i>	<i>10,543,906</i>	<i>1,229,947</i>	<i>191,840</i>	<i>373,833</i>	<i>703,232</i>	<i>292,757</i>	<i>31,974,505</i>	<i>1,010,715</i>	<i>226,729,917</i>	<i>273,050,652</i>
<i>Unpaid pledges 2023</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>161,473</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>8,249,081</i>	<i>8,420,554</i>
Other income available <sup>d</sup>	466,245	60,419	79,110	26,004	75,269	83,909	1,043,935	(120,778)	4,692,822	6,406,935
<i>Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions</i>	<i>6,331</i>	<i>1,978</i>	<i>(3,247)</i>	<i>(34)</i>	<i>(1,463)</i>	<i>2,490</i>	<i>(112,222)</i>	<i>(176,051)</i>	<i>(2,310,633)</i>	<i>(2,592,851)</i>
<i>Interest income</i>	<i>459,914</i>	<i>58,441</i>	<i>82,357</i>	<i>26,038</i>	<i>76,732</i>	<i>81,419</i>	<i>1,156,157</i>	<i>55,273</i>	<i>7,003,455</i>	<i>8,999,786</i>
<b>Total funds available<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>24,405,975</b>	<b>2,875,607</b>	<b>2,266,649</b>	<b>853,646</b>	<b>1,864,843</b>	<b>2,324,527</b>	<b>53,299,633</b>	<b>1,907,879</b>	<b>369,683,750</b>	<b>459,482,509</b>
Expenditure <sup>f</sup>	11,741,108	1,360,211	1,081,926	116,640	509,603	1,015,884	28,327,452	553,510	228,318,117	273,024,451
<b>Closing balance<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>12,664,867</b>	<b>1,515,396</b>	<b>1,184,723</b>	<b>737,006</b>	<b>1,355,240</b>	<b>1,308,643</b>	<b>24,972,181</b>	<b>1,354,369</b>	<b>141,365,633</b>	<b>186,458,058</b>

a Corresponds to the final fiscal year 2022 closing balance, as reported in the UN Human Rights Annual Report 2022.

b Includes adjustments of income, transfer between trust funds, refunds to donors, and write-off of unpaid pledges from past period.

c Includes all contributions and pledges received in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts for activities in fiscal year 2023; excludes future donor pledges and commitments.

d Includes gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions and interest income.

e = opening balance + adjustment + income from contributions + other income available.

f Includes disbursements and commitments for fiscal year 2023; excludes future commitments and liabilities.

g Corresponds to all funds held in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts at the end of the fiscal year 2023.

The summary financial report of extrabudgetary income and expenditure for activities in 2023 is materially correct and expenditures were incurred in connection with the purpose of the trust funds for which contributions were received.

## REGULAR BUDGET ALLOTMENT AND EXPENDITURE IN 2023

(Summary by programme, in US\$)

	ALLOTMENT	EXPENDITURE
<b>HEADQUARTERS</b>		
Executive Direction and Management	10,473,540	9,483,684
Policymaking Organs	10,994,908	10,019,275
<b>Programme of Work</b>		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	21,064,375	20,151,750
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	18,005,110	18,773,207
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation <sup>a</sup>	63,472,137	55,522,491
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		
- Human Rights Council and the UPR	9,170,280	9,245,090
- Special Procedures	19,112,299	18,868,296
<b>Total programme of work: Headquarters</b>	<b>130,824,201</b>	<b>122,560,834</b>
Programme Support and Management Services	5,602,800	5,671,468
<b>Subtotal: Headquarters operating resources</b>	<b>157,895,449</b>	<b>147,735,261</b>
<b>FIELD PRESENCES</b>		
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities <sup>b</sup>		
- Africa	4,432,145	4,235,531
- Americas	2,350,451	2,286,705
- Asia and the Pacific	3,923,500	3,568,062
- Europe and Central Asia	2,193,900	2,079,221
- Middle East and North Africa	4,638,249	4,296,807
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Sec. 23)	2,733,500	2,676,888
<b>Subtotal: Field presences operating resources</b>	<b>20,271,745</b>	<b>19,143,214</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>178,167,194</b>	<b>166,878,475</b>

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a Includes allotments for mandated commissions of inquiry.

b Includes Cambodia, Sudan, the Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, the field-based structure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the presence in the State of Palestine, the Regional Offices in Bangkok, Bishkek, Brussels, Dakar, Panama, Qatar and Santiago de Chile.



## EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2023

(Summary by programme, in US\$)

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	REQUIREMENTS	EXPENDITURE
<b>HEADQUARTERS</b>		
Executive Direction and Management	29,707,960	26,432,915
<b>Programme of Work</b>		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	29,635,346	26,594,791
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	3,687,714	3,687,714
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation	23,692,911	21,788,772
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		
- Human Rights Council and the UPR	4,969,025	4,558,514
- Special Procedures	10,744,664	9,648,922
<b>Total programme of work: Headquarters</b>	<b>72,729,660</b>	<b>66,248,329</b>
Programme Support and Management Services	10,268,395	9,309,085
<b>Subtotal: Headquarters operating resources</b>	<b>112,706,015</b>	<b>101,990,329</b>
<b>FIELD PRESENCES</b>		
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities		
- Africa	76,725,318	61,731,108
- Americas	43,705,141	34,991,300
- Asia and the Pacific	17,367,406	12,659,988
- Europe and Central Asia	22,050,997	17,702,875
- Middle East and North Africa	27,791,179	19,866,655
Contingency Fund - Emergency Response Projects	269,762	285,132
<b>Subtotal: Field presences operating resources</b>	<b>187,909,803</b>	<b>147,237,058</b>

	REQUIREMENTS	EXPENDITURE
<b>CROSS ENTITIES GLOBAL PROJECTS</b>		
Cross Entities Global Projects (not reported above) <sup>a</sup>	9,381,186	8,494,088
<b>Total: Headquarters and field presences</b>	<b>309,997,004</b>	<b>257,721,475</b>
<b>OTHER TRUST FUNDS</b>		
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	12,127,765	11,741,108
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	1,035,210	1,081,926
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,085,661	1,360,210
Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review	512,530	509,603
Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism	161,463	116,640
Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council	1,133,058	1,015,884
<b>Total: Other trust funds</b>	<b>16,055,687</b>	<b>15,825,371</b>
Other expenditure and adjustments not reported above	-	(522,395)
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>326,052,691</b>	<b>273,024,451</b>

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a Includes the Human Rights Up Front Programme; support to the digital transformation of UN Human Rights; OHCHR's activities on freedom of religion and belief; OHCHR's Task Forces on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCRs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Prevention; and Action for Organizational Effectiveness.



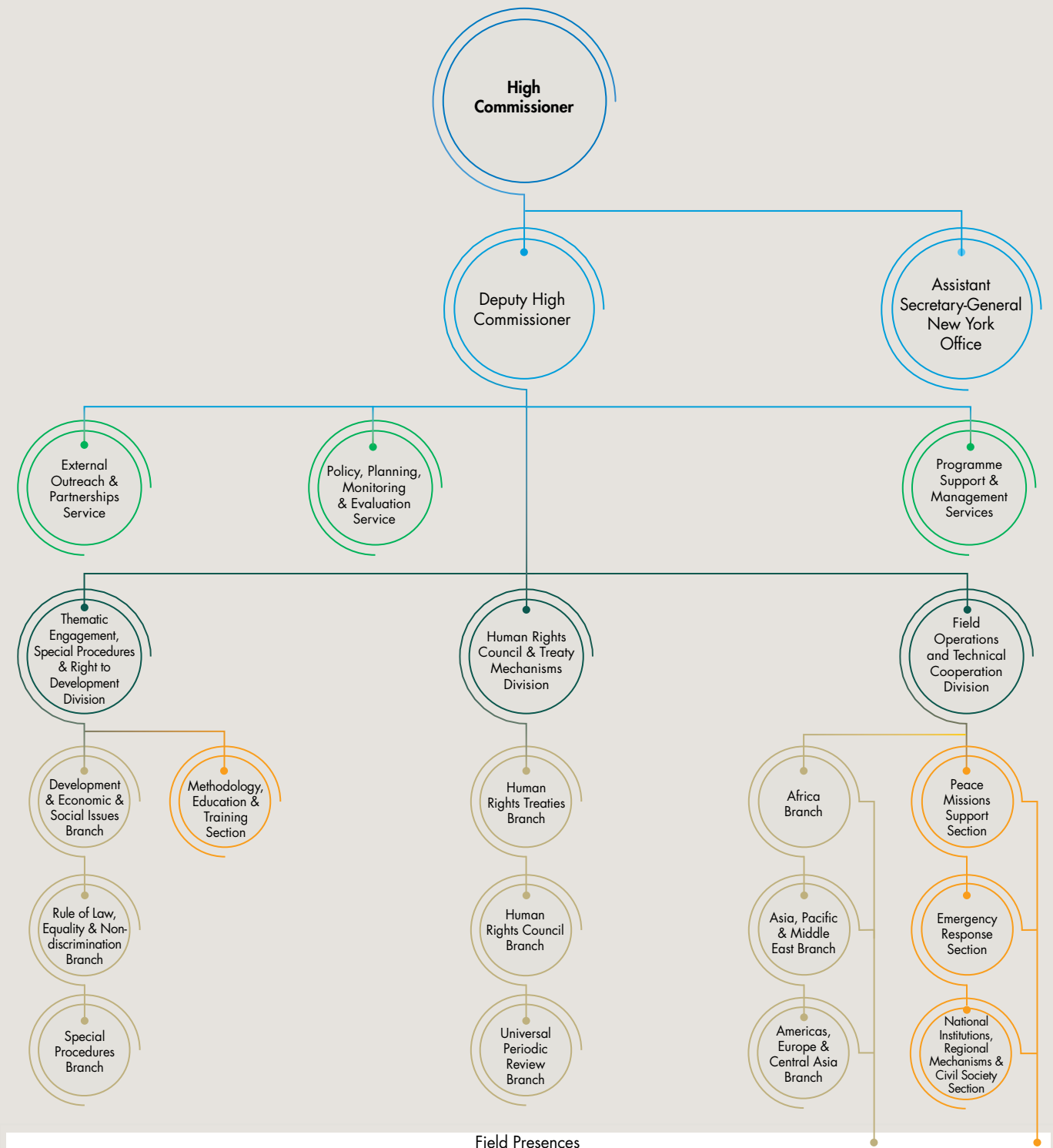


# ANNEXES

Participants upon completion of their five-day training on the fundamental principles of human rights, equality, and social inclusion, at the Human Rights Summer School 2023 in Georgia. © OHCHR/UNDP








# UN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION CHART



Field Presences

# PROGRESS IN 2023 TOWARDS OMP TARGETS FOR 2023

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RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO	UN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME INDICATORS <sup>a</sup>	WHAT WE EXPECT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BY 2023 IN COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERS	REPORTED PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT <sup>b</sup>	PILLARS
State laws and policies protect and promote human rights.	# of countries of engagement <sup>c</sup> where the level of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards in selected human rights areas has significantly improved.	In 83 countries,* laws and policies will have significantly increased promotion and protection of human rights in selected human rights areas. <sup>d</sup>	2023: 56 2022: 49	
	# of countries of engagement where national human rights institutions (NHRIs) have been established or have improved compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).	In 36 countries,* NHRIs will have been established or will have improved their compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).	2023: 21 2022: 17	
State institutions, non-State actors and the private sector promote, protect and respect human rights.	# of countries of engagement where the level of compliance of selected State institutions and programmes with international human rights standards has significantly improved.	In 66 countries,* State institutions, non-State actors and the private sector will have increased their contribution to the promotion, protection and respect for human rights.	2023: 44 2022: 40	
	# of countries of engagement where human rights trainings have been institutionalized in one or more selected human rights areas.	In 19 countries,* human rights education and training programmes will have been institutionalized.	2023: 9 2022: 8	
	# of countries of engagement where the use of international human rights law in court proceedings and decisions has increased to a significant extent.	In 16 countries,* the use of international human rights law and jurisprudence will have increased in court proceedings and decisions.	2023: 6 2022: 5	

a The programme indicators are the same as in previous programming and reporting cycles.

b Full or partial achievement of results or good progress made in achieving results.

c The use of \* after 'Countries' in the table indicates a reference to all countries in which the Office plans to undertake or implement activities towards a planned result. It is not limited to countries where UN Human Rights has a presence.

d Due to potentially shifting priorities, these targets should not be understood as the baselines for the upcoming programming cycle. Similarly, the achievements from the previous programme cycle cannot be understood as the baseline. Baselines have been provided for those targets that are cumulative, i.e., ratification.



Human Rights Mechanisms



Development



Peace and Security



Non-discrimination










Accountability























Participation



	# of countries of engagement where oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms have been established or have improved compliance with international human rights standards.	In <b>59</b> countries,* oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms will have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights standards.	2023: 46 2022: 41	
<b>State accountability mechanisms monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations.</b>	# of countries of engagement where transitional justice mechanisms, which conform to international human rights standards have been established or have improved their compliance with international human rights standards.	In <b>24</b> countries,* transitional justice mechanisms will have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights norms and standards.	2023: 14 2022: 15	
	# of countries of engagement where the proportion of human rights violation cases raised by UN Human Rights have been positively addressed by governments of concern has significantly increased.	In <b>35</b> countries,* an increased number of human rights violation cases raised by UN Human Rights will have been positively addressed. <sup>e</sup>	2023: 18 2022: 14	
<b>Public participation in policymaking processes grows, particularly by women and members of groups facing discrimination.</b>	# of countries of engagement demonstrating significant improvement in the level of meaningful participation in selected public processes.	In <b>45</b> countries,* the level of meaningful participation by selected groups in public processes will have improved significantly.	2023: 36 2022: 30	
	# of countries of engagement where the level of use of national protection systems has significantly increased.	In <b>23</b> countries,* the use of national protection systems will have increased significantly.	2023: 17 2022: 13	
<b>The international community effectively responds to critical human rights situations and issues.</b>	# of countries of engagement where the international community has engaged in an objective and constructive way on specific issues raised by UN Human Rights.	In <b>23</b> countries,* the international community will have engaged objectively and constructively on issues raised by UN Human Rights <sup>f</sup>	2023: 17 2022: 9	
<b>Human rights are effectively integrated into UN policies and programmes.</b>	# of countries of engagement with UN peace missions, which have integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work to a significant extent.	<b>16</b> UN peace and political missions will have integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work.	2023: 14 2022: 13	

e Based on national indicators 3.3. Extent to which the systems/procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations and 3.4. Proportion of human rights violations cases raised by OHCHR with relevant actors, which were positively addressed.

f Based on national indicators 5.1. Extent to which critical human rights issues/situations raised by OHCHR have been taken up in international fora in a timely manner and 5.2. Extent to which formal approaches have been made by the international community with the government in relation to specific human rights issues.







	# of countries of engagement with humanitarian operations, which have integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work to a significant extent.	12 humanitarian operations will have integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work.	2023: 8 2022: 5	 
<b>Human rights are effectively integrated into UN policies and programmes.</b>	# of UNCTs where human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, have been integrated to a significant extent.	73 UNCTs will have satisfactorily integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work. <sup>g</sup>	2023: 49 2022: 39	   
	# of UN policies and programmes at the global level, which integrate a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to a significant extent.	33 UN policies and programmes at global level will have significantly integrated an HRBA.	2022: 37 2021: 35	     
<b>Widespread public support for protection of human rights.</b>	# of countries of engagement where the narrative on selected human rights topics has significantly improved.	In 27 countries,* the narrative on selected human rights topics will have improved significantly. <sup>h</sup>	2023: 12 2022: 12	   
	# of countries of engagement where mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures or Human Rights Council are in place or increasingly functioning.	In 68 countries,* mechanisms for integrated reporting or implementation of recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms will have been put in place or have improved functioning.	2023: 43 2022: 38	
<b>Member States and other actors (regional organizations, NHRIs, civil society, UN entities) positively engage with international human rights mechanisms.</b>	Total number of international human rights treaties ratified.	100 additional ratifications of international human rights treaties. Baseline: 2,233	2023: 120 ratifications in 2018-2023 2022: 104 <sup>i</sup> ratifications in 2018-2022	
	Total number of reservations withdrawn from international human rights treaties.	10 reservations will have been withdrawn from international human rights treaties.	2023: 7 in 2018-2023 2022: 7 in 2018-2022	
	Percentage of countries that submit reports to human rights treaty bodies on time.	35% of countries will have submitted reports to the human rights treaty bodies in a timely manner. Baseline: 32%	2023: 37% of reports were submitted on time. 2022: 30%	

g Based on national indicators 6.3. Extent to which the UN guidelines on incorporating rights-based approaches have been applied by specific programmes of UN entities and 6.4. Extent to which UN common country programmes (i.e., UNSDCF) have satisfactorily integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms.

h Based on national indicators 7.2. Extent to which the narrative on selected human rights issues has significantly improved and 7.3. Level of engagement of selected groups (persuadables, youth) supporting human rights messages.

i Data for previous periods in the cycle have been updated.





**Member States and other actors (regional organizations, NHRIs, civil society, UN entities) positively engage with international human rights mechanisms.**

Number of countries that have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders.	130 countries will have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. Baseline: 118	2023: Standing invitation by 128 Member States and one non-Member Observer State 2022: Standing invitation by 128 Member States and two non-Member Observer States	
Number of countries for which requests for visits of thematic special procedures have resulted in at least one visit.	In 100 countries, requests for visits of thematic special procedures will have resulted in a visit.	2023: 314 visits to 135 countries (including Kosovo) <sup>j</sup> 2022: 232 visits to 121 countries (including Kosovo)	
Rate of responses from governments to special procedures communications.	60% of special procedures communications will have received a response from governments. Baseline: 57.6 %	2023: 43% 2022: 43%	
Percentage of reprisals raised by UN Human Rights, which are positively addressed by the government.	50% of the cases of reprisals against individuals for cooperation with international human rights mechanisms that are reported by UN Human Rights will have been addressed.	The 2023 report of the Secretary General (A/HRC/54/61) included public allegations pertaining to 40 States against 220 individuals and 25 organisations, including summaries of formal responses to UN Human Rights from 30% of the States concerned on new and ongoing cases during the reporting period (1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023). The 2022 report of the Secretary General (A/HRC/51/47) included public allegations pertaining to 42 States, including summaries of formal responses to UN Human Rights from nearly 40 per cent (16) of the States concerned on new and ongoing cases during the reporting period (1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022).	
# of countries of engagement with a significant number of substantive submissions or submitting actors to international human rights mechanisms.	In 53 countries* the number of submissions to the international human rights mechanisms will have increased significantly. <sup>k</sup>	2023: 45 2022: 30	
Total number of substantive submissions from NHRIs, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals to international human rights mechanisms.	27,000 substantive submissions to the international human rights mechanisms will have been received from NHRIs, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals.	2023: 26,860 <sup>l</sup> 2022: 23,938	

j All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

k Based on national indicators 8.9. Number of substantive submissions to: 1) treaty bodies; 2) special procedures; and 3) Human Rights Council (UPR) by: a) total; b) NHRI; c) civil society organizations; d) individuals; and e) UN entities; and 8.10. Number of NHRIs, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals that have made substantive submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council (UPR).

l The 2023 figures include 1,641 submissions to the Universal Periodic Review and 1,281 submissions to the human rights treaty bodies.

<b>International human rights laws and standards are elaborated.</b>	Number of thematic areas where international and/or regional human rights law or standards have been strengthened/developed.	In <b>16</b> areas, international/regional human rights law/standards will have been strengthened.	2023: 18 areas 2022: 18 areas	
	Number of countries that submitted or updated common core documents.	<b>85</b> countries will have submitted or updated their common core documents.	11 Common Core documents submitted in 2023. 8 in 2022.	
<b>International and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies effectively promote and protect human rights.</b>	Degree of progress made in improving the level of harmonization of the work of the human rights treaty bodies.	Harmonization of the work of the human rights treaty bodies (TBs) will have improved significantly.	2023 – The Chairs of TBs adopted key conclusions to enhance the harmonization of TBs’ working methods, including the establishment of a coordination mechanism for procedural and substantive harmonization.	
	Degree of coordination among the special procedures.	A high degree of coordination among the special procedures will have been achieved.	2023: 86% of communications were issued jointly by two or more mandate holders. 2022: 84%	

# UN HUMAN RIGHTS ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

120

**ASEAN**

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

**ASG**

Assistant Secretary-General

**AU**

African Union

**BINUH**

United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti

**CAAC**

Children and Armed Conflict

**CARICOM**

Caribbean Community

**CAT**

Committee Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

**CCA**

Common Country Analysis

**CED**

Committee on Enforced Disappearances

**CEDAW**

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

**CERD**

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**CESCR**

Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

**CMW**

Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

**COE**

Council of Europe

**COI**

Commission of inquiry

**CoPs**

Communities of Practice

**CRC**

Committee on the Rights of the Child

**CRPD**

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**CRSV**

Conflict-related sexual violence

**CSO**

Civil Society Organization

**CTMD**

Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division

**DDPA**

Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

**DESA**

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**ECHR**

European Convention on Human Rights

**ECLAC**

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

**ECOSOC**

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**ECOWAS**

Economic Community of West African States

**EMRIP**

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**EMS**

Environmental Management System

**EOSG**

Executive Office of the Secretary-General

**ePAG**

Extended Policy Advisory Group

**ERP**

Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning

**ESCAP**

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**ESCAW**

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

**ESCRs**

Economic, social, and cultural rights

**EU**

European Union

**FBHR**

Forum on Business and Human Rights

**FCCC**

Framework Convention on Climate Change

**FFM**

Fact-finding mission

**FOTCD**

Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

**GANHRI**

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

**GBV**

Gender-based violence

**GEWE**

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**HCT**

Humanitarian Country Team

**HPC**

Humanitarian programme cycle



**HR75**

Initiative to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**HRA**

Human Rights Adviser

**HRBA**

Human rights-based approach

**HRC**

Human Rights Council

**HRCB**

Human Rights Council Branch

**HRCG**

Human Rights Coordination Group

**HRDDP**

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces

**HRD**

Human rights defender

**HRMMU**

Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

**HRPG**

Human Rights and Protection Group

**HRTB**

Human Rights Treaties Branch

**HRTG**

Human Rights Theme Group

**IACHR**

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

**IAHE**

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations

**IASC**

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

**IBC-GE**

Issue-Based Coalitions on Gender Equality

**ICC**

International Criminal Court

**ICCPR**

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

**ICESCR**

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**ICMP**

International Commission on Missing Persons

**ICRC**

International Committee of the Red Cross

**ICRMW**

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

**IDPs**

Internally Displaced Persons

**IED**

Improvised explosive device

**IFAD**

International Fund for Agricultural Development

**IGO**

Intergovernmental Organization

**IGWG**

Intergovernmental Working Group

**IHL**

International Humanitarian Law

**IHRL**

International Human Rights Law

**IMM**

Independent Monitoring Mechanism

**INGO**

International non-governmental organization

**IPCC**

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**IPU**

Inter-Parliamentary Union

**IWD**

International Women's Day

**JPO**

Junior Professional Officer

**LDCs**

Least Developed Countries

**LGBTI**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex persons

**LMPDR**

Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience

**LNOB**

Leave/Leaving No One Behind

**LoI**

List of issues

**MENA**

Middle East and North Africa

**METS**

Methodology, Education, and Training Section

**MICS**

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

**MINUSCA**

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

**MINUSMA**

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

**MOPAN**

Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network

**MoU**

Memorandum of Understanding

**MPs**

Members of Parliament

**MPTF**

Multi-Partner Trust Fund

**NAP**

National Action Plan

**NHRAP**

National Human Rights Action Plan

**NHRI**

National human rights institution

**NMIRF**

National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up

**NPM**

National preventive mechanism

**NRTD**

National Recommendation Tracking Database

**OE 2.0**

Organizational Effectiveness 2.0

**OEAPs**

Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans

**OECD**

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

**OIOS**

Office of Internal Oversight Services

**OMP**

OHCHR Management Plan

**OPCAT**

Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

**OPDs**

Organizations of persons with disabilities

**OSCE**

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**PAG**

Policy Advisory Group

**PBRB**

Programme and Budget Review Board

**PDD**

Platform on Disaster Displacement

**PFI**

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**PIF**

Pacific Islands Forum

**POW**

Prisoner of War

**RB**

Regular budget

**RBM**

Results-based management

**RC**

United Nations Resident Coordinator

**RCO**

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office

**SDGs**

Sustainable Development Goals

**SEM**

Sustainable environmental management

**SG**

Secretary-General

**SGBV**

Sexual and gender-based violence

**SIDS**

Small Island Developing States

**SLAPPs**

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

**SPT**

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

**SRS**

Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General

**SWAP**

United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

**ToRs**

Terms of reference

**UDHR**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**UNAIDS**

United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS

**UNAMA**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

**UNAMI**

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

**UNCT**

United Nations Country Team

**UNDAF**

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

**UNDIS**

United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

**UNDP**

United Nations Development Programme

**UNDROP**

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas

**UNEG**

United Nations Evaluation Group

**UNEP**

United Nations Environment Programme

**UNESCO**

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

**UNFCCC**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**UNFPA**

United Nations Population Fund

**UNGPS**

United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

**UNHCR**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**UNICEF**

United Nations Children's Fund

**UNJHRO**

United Nations Joint Human Rights Office

**UNMISS**

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

**UNOAU**

United Nations Office to the African Union

**UNOCC**

United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre

**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UNOG**

United Nations Office at Geneva

**UNPRPD**

United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**UNSC**

United Nations Security Council

**UNSDCF**

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

**UNSDG**

United Nations Sustainable Development Group

**UNSMIL**

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

**UNSOM**

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

**UNV**

United Nations Volunteer

**UPR**

Universal Periodic Review

**UPRB**

Universal Periodic Review Branch

**UUNV**

University United Nations Volunteer

**VAW**

Violence Against Women

**VFTC**

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

**VNR**

Voluntary National Review

**WGEID**

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

**WHO**

World Health Organization

**XB**

Extrabudgetary

**ONLINE  
CONTENT**



**UN HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE FIELD**





# Introduction

The deployment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in countries and regions through field presences is central to implementing the High Commissioner’s global mandate, outlined in [General Assembly resolution 48/141](#), to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all human rights, everywhere. The impartial work of OHCHR’s field presences is critical to supporting the High Commissioner’s independent, objective voice in dialogues and advocacy on human rights with all counterparts.

UN Human Rights’ field engagement is based on interaction, dialogue and technical cooperation with a wide range of actors, such as governments, national institutions, civil society (including community and religious groups, the private sector and professional groups, such as journalists), non-State actors (including armed groups and de facto authorities), United Nations entities, international military coalitions, regional and subregional organizations, victims of human rights violations and abuses and other affected persons and communities, NGOs and human rights defenders. As impartial interlocutors, the Office’s field presences serve as conveners and foster dialogue among different stakeholders.

OHCHR field presences contribute to broader United Nations efforts on human rights, peace and security, and development (the three United Nations pillars), including through the integration of human rights across and within all pillars and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Secretary-General’s “Call to Action for Human Rights.” Moreover, OHCHR’s engagement in the field ensures the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to UN country programming and advocacy.

UN Human Rights operates through two main categories of field presences, namely, offices and collaborative arrangements. The first category consists of country and regional offices. The second category consists of human rights components of peace or political missions, human rights advisers (HRAs), programmes in UN Resident Coordinator’s Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

In 2023, OHCHR was operating in 95 field presences globally, consisting of 12 regional offices, 19 country offices, 44 HRAs, 11 human rights components in UN peace operations and 9 other types of field presences.

## TYPES OF FIELD PRESENCES



### Country and stand-alone offices

UN Human Rights country offices are established in accordance with an agreement between the High Commissioner and a host State. A mandate typically includes human rights monitoring and analysis, protection and the provision of technical assistance to host governments, national authorities, civil society, victims of human rights violations and other relevant counterparts through targeted technical cooperation activities, capacity-building support and public reporting. Country offices are primarily funded through voluntary contributions.

OHCHR's 19 country offices are in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, the State of Palestine,<sup>7</sup> Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut), Tunisia, Uganda<sup>8</sup> and Yemen; one field-based structure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea based in Seoul; and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.



### Regional offices and centres

Regional offices cover multiple countries and are instrumental in integrating human rights into the broader development, peacebuilding and humanitarian programming of the United Nations and Member States.

UN Human Rights maintains 12 regional presences, including 10 regional offices, one Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé) and one Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha). The regional offices are based in East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East and North Africa

(Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City), including the English-speaking Caribbean, and South America (Santiago de Chile). Regional offices are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

Regional offices focus on cross-cutting regional human rights issues, in close cooperation with UNCTs in the region, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, national authorities, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society and NGOs. In addition, they play an important role in supporting governments in their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, specifically the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council (HRC).

UN Human Rights strengthened its regional offices, with the deployment of five Anti-Racial Discrimination Advisors with thematic expertise on issues of racial discrimination and racial justice, to the regional offices in Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Pretoria and Santiago. In 2022, the HRC had decided to establish 11 new posts in regional offices, to increase the availability of technical cooperation services for the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Due to the critical funding situation impacting the liquidity of the UN regular budget since July 2023, only the position in the Regional Office in Central Africa was filled while the others remained vacant.

UN Human Rights is committed to strengthening its regional offices, tailoring their structures, and improving their capacities to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the changing global and regional environments. These efforts are consistent with the Secretary-General's plans to enhance the UN's engagement at the regional level and reinforce cooperation with regional organizations.

<sup>7</sup> All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

<sup>8</sup> Discontinued in August 2023.



## Human rights components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions

The promotion and protection of human rights is a core mandate and function of UN peace missions (peacekeeping operations and special political missions). UN Human Rights facilitates the political, strategic, and operational integration of human rights into the United Nations peace and security agenda and supports the implementation of Security Council mandates for UN peace missions.

The integration of human rights into peace operations is governed by a 2005 decision of the Secretary-General and the [2011 OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Policy on human rights in United Nations peace operations and political missions](#). The latter recognizes the centrality of human rights in integrated and multidimensional peace missions, outlines the roles and responsibilities of mission leadership and other components in promoting and protecting human rights, and assigns responsibilities to OHCHR.

In 2023, human rights components were integrated into 11 UN peace missions that are mandated by the Security Council to promote and protect human rights in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo,<sup>9</sup> Libya, Mali,<sup>10</sup> Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.<sup>11</sup> The Head of the human rights component serves as the representative of the High Commissioner, with dual reporting lines to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of Mission and the High Commissioner. At the request of the host governments, the Security Council terminated the mandates of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in June and December, respectively.

<sup>9</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

<sup>10</sup> Discontinued in December 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Will be discontinued in 2024.

Human rights components in peace missions document, prevent and address violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law through monitoring and investigations, early warning analysis for the protection of civilians, engaging with duty bearers and rights holders, advocacy, and public reporting. Human rights components conduct a wide range of activities, including building the capacity of civil society, NHRIs and national institutions, providing protection to victims of human rights violations and to human rights defenders, advocating for accountability, supporting transitional justice programmes, providing training for military, police, law enforcement and justice officials, advocating for legislative and rule of law reforms and supporting the implementation of peace agreements and the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy by peace operations.



### Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

HRAs are deployed at the request of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UNCTs under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

HRAs are essential catalysts for human rights mainstreaming. They support and assist the RCs, heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate human rights into UN programmes and activities at the country level. They also ensure coordinated UN responses to requests from State institutions for technical cooperation and advisory services.

HRAs provide human rights expertise in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which situates human rights at the core of the UN's development efforts. They play a critical early warning and prevention role within the UNCTs and, when applicable, provide advice on integrating human rights into humanitarian responses and post-crisis recovery processes.

HRAs provide technical advice and capacity-building support to State actors and NHRIs and offer practical assistance to civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights, including on engagement with the

international human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations. Requests for HRAs have grown in relation to the UN Development System reform and to support follow-up to recommendations issued by the UPR. Assistance was also requested on the national-level implementation of the SDGs, Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).

HRAs are funded by extrabudgetary contributions. Since 2012, all deployments have been operationalized under the UNSDG Strategy for the deployment of HRAs. The Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HRM Fund), established to support the deployment of human rights expertise to RCOs and UNCTs, was critical in ensuring the consolidation of in-country human rights support. Nevertheless, due to a funding shortfall, the HRM Fund steering committee decided to close the Fund in 2024. OHCHR will continue to implement the HRA programme independently of the HRM Fund, under agreed arrangements with the Development Coordination Office.

In 2023, the Office deployed HRAs in 44 countries, supporting RCs, UNCTs, State actors and civil society, through the enhanced integration of human rights into programmes in the following countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica,<sup>12</sup> the Dominican Republic,<sup>13</sup> Ecuador, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Maldives, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar (based in Bangkok), Nepal, Nigeria, the Republic of North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi), Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay,<sup>14</sup> Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Given the insufficient funding for the HRA programme in 2023, deployments in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Uruguay were discontinued at the end of December, while the recruitments for vacant HRA posts in Equatorial Guinea, Jamaica, Malawi, Malaysia and Suriname were put on hold. Of seven requests received for HRAs from RCs in Albania, Angola, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tanzania, OHCHR only received additional funding for the HRA in Tanzania. The deployment is scheduled for early 2024.



### Other types of field presences

OHCHR has staff members that were deployed to implement technical cooperation projects in Bolivia, El Salvador, Mozambique, Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand), Peru, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. The G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project ended in August 2023.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Discontinued in December 2023.

<sup>13</sup> Discontinued in December 2023.

<sup>14</sup> Discontinued in December 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania until end of project on 31 August 2023. Mali until its withdrawal on 30 June 2022 and Niger until July 2023.

## ENGAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2023, an estimated 363.2 million people were affected by humanitarian crises across the world, representing an increase by almost 27 per cent from the previous year. Complex and protracted conflicts, other situations of violence, natural hazards and health emergencies are causing, exacerbating, or entrenching crises.

UN Human Rights increased its engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field levels, strengthening efforts to respond to human rights violations and supporting efforts to mainstream human rights into preparedness, crisis response and protection environment-building, in light of the renewed, office-wide Humanitarian Action Strategy endorsed by the Senior Management Team in May 2023. OHCHR aims to step up support for Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs), as well as for protection clusters, delivery of protection services, and establishing accountability mechanisms, to ensure an adequate response for affected communities.

Since becoming a full member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in November 2022, UN Human Rights strengthened its engagement at global and field levels. OHCHR participated in IASC global level decision-making bodies including the Principals, the Deputies Group, the Emergency Directors Group and the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (including its Task Forces on accountability to affected populations, the centrality of protection, localisation and preserving humanitarian space). Since April, the Deputies Group has taken on a bigger role in addressing climate change, diversity, equity and inclusion, sexual exploitation and abuse, and the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs). OHCHR was engaged in the development of benchmarks for HCTs on centrality of protection as well as of an *aide-mémoire* to further understanding of protection commitments.

The Office participated in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle in 12 field presences and as part of the Global Humanitarian Overview. The [2024 Global Humanitarian Overview](#) highlights the work of OHCHR in Somalia in amplifying the voice and contribution of marginalized groups in

the humanitarian response and decision-making processes. At country level, OHCHR supported humanitarian response in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, the Republic of Moldova, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pacific Island countries, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen. OHCHR provided advice to the humanitarian leadership working on the Syria earthquake response, as well as the remote Surge capacity response to the Gaza crisis, and continued to lead Protection Clusters in Haiti and the State of Palestine, and co-lead subnational Protection Clusters in Colombia.

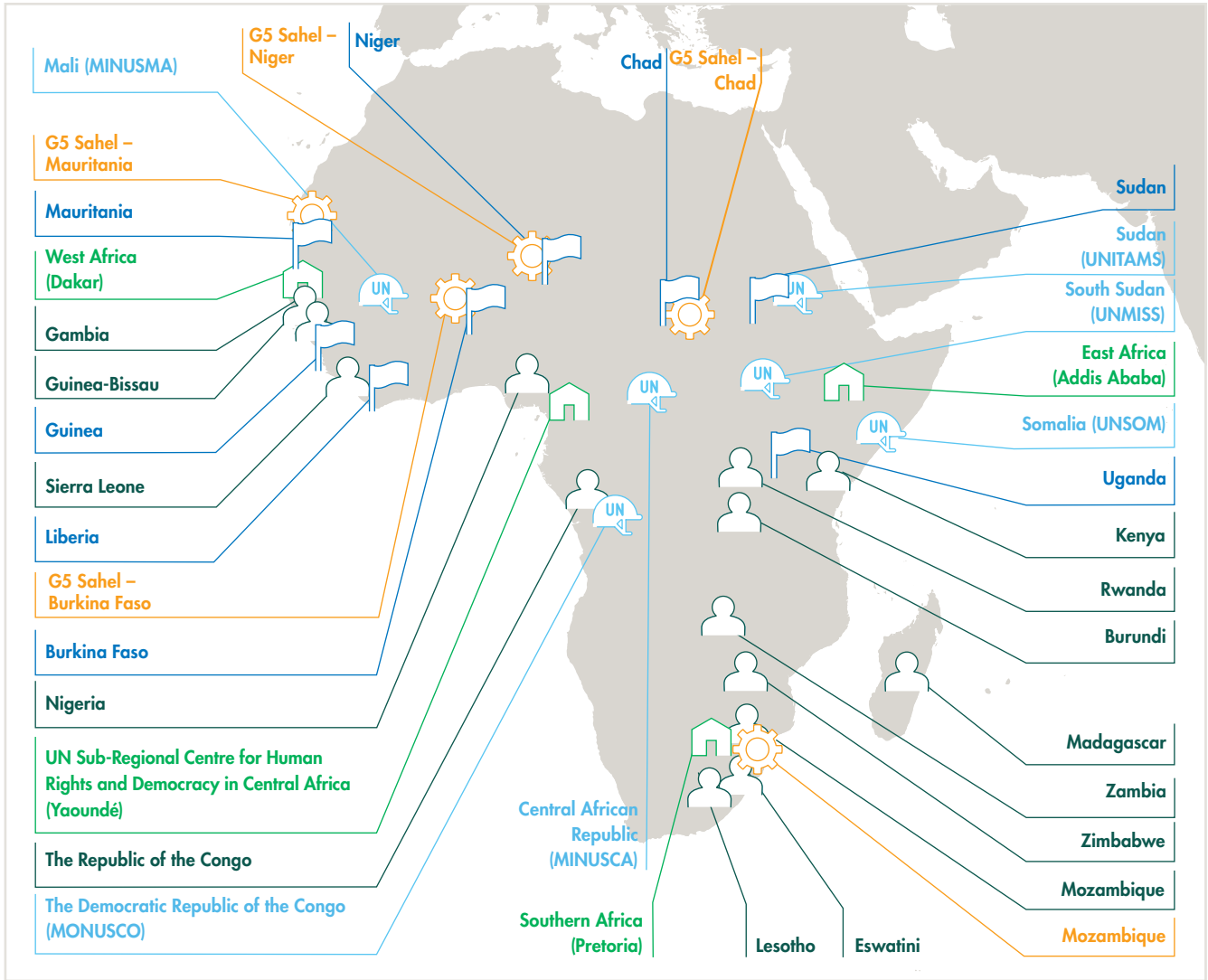
In 2023, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which recognizes key OHCHR human rights activities as saving lives, provided US\$300,000 in funding to the OHCHR presence in Haiti. Through the CERF grant, OHCHR strengthened its commitment to integrate human rights protection in response to gang violence in Haiti including facilitating life-saving referrals for victims of human rights abuses such as survivors of gunshot injury and gang-related sexual violence, and implementation of a community-based protection monitoring mechanism for information gathering on protection incidents in difficult to access gang-controlled areas.



# UN Human Rights in Africa



Human rights-based budgeting project in Marsabit County, Kenya. © OHCHR



**TYPE OF PRESENCE**

Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions

Regional Offices/Centres

Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions

Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs

Other types of field presences

**LOCATION**

Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Uganda<sup>a</sup>

East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa), UN Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon) and West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO/UNJHRO), Mali (MINUSMA),<sup>b</sup> Somalia (UNSOM), South Sudan (UNMISS) and Sudan (UNITAMS)<sup>c</sup>

Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe

G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project<sup>d</sup> and Mozambique

a Discontinued in August 2023.

b Discontinued in December 2023.

c Will be discontinued in 2024.

d G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania until end of project on 31 August 2023. Mali until its withdrawal on 30 June 2022 and Niger until July 2023).



The UN Human Rights Africa programme covers 50 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and consists of: four regional offices in Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa; eight country offices in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan, and Uganda;<sup>16</sup> 14 human rights advisers (HRAs) in UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe; six human rights components in UN peace missions in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mali,<sup>17</sup> Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan;<sup>18</sup> and two project teams – G5 Sahel<sup>19</sup> and Mozambique. Due to lack of funding, HRA positions in Equatorial Guinea and Malawi remained vacant, and OHCHR was unable to respond to a request for an HRA deployment to Gabon. Existing country offices in Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, and Sudan were strengthened to increase their monitoring, reporting, and capacity-building capabilities.

The UN Human Rights Africa programme provided support to: Human Rights Council (HRC) special procedures country mandate holders in Burundi, CAR, Eritrea, Mali, and Somalia; the Designated Expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan; the newly established Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan; the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan; the Team of International Experts on the situation in the DRC; and the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.<sup>20</sup>

The conflicts in the East and Horn of Africa continued to have a severe impact on civilians, resulting in internal displacement and refugee flows. In Sudan, the outbreak of the armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid

Support Forces in April 2023 had a devastating impact on the civilian population. Despite several mediation efforts no progress was made towards a cessation of the hostilities. The conflict in Sudan led to massive internal displacement and cross-border movements of more than 1 million refugees to neighbouring countries, such as CAR, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. In South Sudan, a general reduction in armed conflict-related violence against civilians has been observed throughout the country, whilst conflict persisted in different regions, such as between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces and the National Salvation Front in Central Equatoria State. Inter and intra-communal violence, including over access to natural resources, as well as land and border disputes and cattle-related attacks perpetrated by community-based militias and/or self-defence groups continued to pose significant risks to civilians. Although northern Ethiopia experienced a relative reduction in human rights violations and abuses since the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 2 November 2022, the expansion of conflict in the Oromia region continued to gravely impact civilians. This was exacerbated by a reported surge in drone attacks and indiscriminate artillery shelling by the Ethiopia National Defence Forces fighting armed militias in Amhara region.

Protracted conflicts and violence in Central and West Africa, and the Sahel, unconstitutional changes of government in Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Guinea, and Mali, and attempted *coups d'états* in Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone, negatively affected the human rights situation in the sub-region. This included a narrowing of civic space for journalists, CSOs, and human rights defenders (HRDs), an inability of democratic institutions to function effectively, a weakening of justice and accountability mechanisms, and extended transitional military rule. The activities of non-State armed groups became increasingly entwined with intercommunity conflicts, including tensions and clashes between farmers and herders over dwindling resources such as water and grazing lands (also due to climate change). This resulted in heightened insecurity and violence, compounding an acute humanitarian crisis in large parts of the Sahel region. Systematic attacks by violent non-State armed groups on civilian and military

<sup>16</sup> The Uganda Country Office was closed on 5 August 2023, after 18 years in country, following the Government's decision not to renew the Host Country Agreement.

<sup>17</sup> Following the request by the Malian Transition Government, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2690 (2023), terminating the Mission's mandate effective 30 June 2023.

<sup>18</sup> The UN Security Council terminated UNITAMS mandate on 1 December 2023.

<sup>19</sup> The G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania until end of project on 31 August 2023. Mali until its withdrawal on 30 June 2022 and Niger until July 2023).

<sup>20</sup> The mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia ended in October 2023.

targets, and at times heavy-handed responses by security forces and their auxiliaries, in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, posed serious threats to peace and security. The dissolution of the G5 Sahel and its Joint Force weakened prospects for collective responses to security challenges and terrorism-related threats in the Sahel. The human rights situation in eastern DRC deteriorated due to the activities of armed groups in the east, violent intercommunal conflicts in the west, heightened political tensions around the December 2023 elections, hate speech and harmful rhetoric. The situation in CAR remained tense with numerous human rights violations and abuses committed by State actors, other security personnel and armed groups. The fragile state of affairs was illustrated in the heightened political tensions surrounding the July 2023 constitutional referendum, hate speech and incitement to violence, intercommunal tensions, and continued displacement of civilians.

Several member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), particularly Angola, Comoros, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, continued struggling to improve the protection of social, economic, and political rights over the past year, including due to the adverse impacts of climate change and its humanitarian consequences.

In 2023, escalating instances of human rights violations and abuses, and statements issued by government representatives inciting violence and hatred against LGBTI persons in some countries in Central and East Africa, including in Burundi, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, were observed. Such harmful rhetoric fuelled threats and attacks against LGBTI persons, potentially leading to extreme consequences such as executions, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary arrests, and detention, as well as inciting popular hatred, persecution, and marginalization.

UN Human Rights continued working on governance, rule of law, peace and security, development, and accountability, both at the country and regional levels. In a significant development, in November, the African Union (AU) and the UN signed a Joint Framework for Human Rights, which completes the existing partnership frame-

works on peace and security, and on development. UN Human Rights continued supporting the AU to mainstream human rights into its continental early warning systems, integrate human rights and humanitarian law standards into AU peace operations, implement the “African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF) project,” strengthen the capacities of civil society and national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and advance the agendas related to women, peace and security, youth, and business and human rights.

OHCHR advocated for transparent, consultative, and inclusive political transition processes in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali, and Niger, and supported transitional justice and accountability efforts. In Ethiopia, in December, OHCHR issued a joint report with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on the findings of community consultations on transitional justice with victims and affected populations, underscoring criminal accountability as a central pillar of the transitional justice process.

During its five-year support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, OHCHR succeeded in placing international human rights law and international humanitarian law considerations at the centre of military operations and worked with national security forces in the Sahel on compliance frameworks. This work was complemented by OHCHR’s increasing operationalization of the “Internal Security Forces (ISF) project” in Chad, Mauritania, and Niger.

OHCHR’s study, *An intersectional approach to socio-economic data in Southern Africa: leveraging data to Leave No One Behind*, focused on three Southern African countries – Mauritius, Namibia, and South Africa. The study explored the relationship between economic, social and cultural rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) perspective, and using existing disaggregated socio-economic data to measure and monitor the extent to which groups in situations of marginalization and vulnerability are able to enjoy their socio-economic rights and sustainable development outcomes.

UN Human Rights provided support to diverse stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights by building national capacities and enhancing collaboration with the international human rights mechanisms, including in Rwanda and CAR. In Eswatini, a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) implementation plan was developed for the first time with the support of OHCHR and financial assistance through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. OHCHR also supported Mozambique with the establishment and training of its National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) to strengthen interaction with the international human rights mechanisms and implementation of recommendations. OHCHR support for the Government of CAR in developing a National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan, resulted in its adoption on 18 August 2023.

In response to humanitarian crises, in northern Mozambique, OHCHR continued to work closely with the Protection Cluster to incorporate human rights into the humanitarian response to the conflict. In Sudan, OHCHR strengthened its monitoring efforts following the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023, and continued to mainstream a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into humanitarian settings in Sudan by engaging in protection working groups, protection clusters and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs).

UN Human Rights supported a “Business and human rights Africa project” on a pilot basis in Liberia, Mozambique, Uganda, and the East Africa Regional Office, to strengthen strategic and impactful business engagement in the region, and build local expertise at the country level. It increased the capacities of UN entities to support the uptake and implementation of policies and processes to identify, prevent and mitigate human rights risks related to business.

UN Human Rights reinforced accountability processes and mechanisms in Africa, including by providing secretariat support to the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, the Team of International Experts on the situation in the DRC and the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, and the Fact-Finding Mission

on Sudan. It also supported the development of transitional justice processes in CAR and in Ethiopia.

The Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in the Regional Offices for Central Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa effectively linked prevention with the human rights framework to guide UN responses in relation to civil unrest, political protests, and other conflict triggers. OHCHR supported the integration of human rights into early warning and prevention efforts in the context of elections in Comoros, the Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, and Somalia.

As part of the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), OHCHR held national and regional consultations that enabled States to make pledges to improve human rights situations. In September, OHCHR in conjunction with the AU held Africa-wide consultations on the right to development as a tool for transformation and the triple nexus of human rights, peace, and security. In December, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon, commemorated its twentieth anniversary in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights and the respect for democratic norms in the sub-region.

OHCHR will seek to reinforce its institutional relations with the AU and steer efforts to implement the Joint AU-UN Framework on Human Rights, including reviving a high-level dialogue between the AU and OHCHR in 2024. UN Human Rights in Africa will support the full integration of human rights, accountability and transitional justice into political transitions and the implementation of peace agreements, including by promoting participatory, transparent, and meaningful consultative processes with all national actors. The presence of HRAs and regional/country representatives in UNCTs/HCTs, contributes towards the application of a HRBA to UN humanitarian and development programming, with a view to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Engagement with African youth leaders and organizations will be prioritized in human rights advocacy and protection efforts.



**BURKINA FASO**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2020
Field office(s)	Ouagadougou
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	17

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

In August, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights agreed to operationalize the Human Rights Consultation and Early Warning Framework, which brings together various State entities, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and UN bodies in charge of protection. Under the Framework, follow-up will be conducted on allegations of human rights violations and abuses, including by security and defence forces and their volunteer auxiliaries, known as volunteers for defending the homeland or *Volontaires pour la Défense de la Patrie* (VDPs). The Framework aims to improve prevention and early warning, and strengthen public communication on human rights incidents.

OHCHR provided technical and financial support for a workshop in September bringing together 19 participants (2 women) – including from the NHRC – and key actors in the protection against torture. The workshop included representatives from the police, prison security guards, and traditional and religious authorities, and aimed at fostering greater collaboration and awareness-raising on the National Mechanism for Torture Prevention.

Following OHCHR’s advocacy in the aftermath of the alleged extrajudicial execution of more than 136 civilians by State actors in the village of Karma on 24 April, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights operationalized an interministerial working group tasked with early warning and follow-up on allegations of human rights viola-

tions in the context of counter-terrorism efforts. The mechanism complements the Human Rights Consultation and Early Warning Framework, and assists authorities in a coordinated response.

In November, OHCHR provided technical assistance to organize a NHRC workshop in Ouagadougou for 15 members (3 women), to develop the 2024 Action Plan to strengthen implementation of the National Mechanism for the Protection of HRDs.

 **Peace and Security**

In November 2022, transitional authorities initiated the recruitment and deployment of an unprecedented 58,000 VDPs. Volunteers received rudimentary training and their deployment had a particularly detrimental impact on the protection of civilians, resulting in, among others: extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as stigmatization and ethnic targeting of members of the (semi) nomadic and minority Fulani community. In response, OHCHR provided technical assistance in March and April 2023 to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to develop a comprehensive capacity-building strategy and plan on international human rights and humanitarian law for the VDPs. With OHCHR’s advocacy, the Minister of Defence and Veterans’ Affairs also adopted a revision of the 2020 Code of Conduct for VDPs. The new Code is more aligned with international human rights and humanitarian norms. Further, in response to OHCHR recommendations, authorities operationalized a new brigade to improve supervision of volunteers and reduce the risk of human rights violations and abuses. OHCHR also carried out a training of trainers for approximately 250 individuals (3 women) from security and defence forces, on international human rights and humanitarian norms during military operations. According to the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, more than 15,000 VDPs have been sensitized as a result.



## Participation

OHCHR established a national consultation framework body on civic space in May, comprised of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Communication, the Ministry of Security and Territorial Administration, national media regulators, police, the NHRC, journalists, bloggers and CSOs. The body will meet twice a year to follow-up on the road map, including a set of 22 recommendations to expand civic space, adopted during consultations organized by OHCHR.

OHCHR held monthly meetings within its dialogue framework with human rights CSOs. Between 22 and 24 November, the 2024 Action Plan of this framework was finalized and agreed with partners on early warning tools. The Office also provided substantial capacity-building support for CSOs, particularly on human rights monitoring and reporting.

OHCHR also made progress in strengthening the capacity of State actors, the NHRC and CSOs to engage effectively with international human rights mechanisms, as the country prepared reporting for the UPR and the VNR on the SDGs.

Significant technical assistance was provided to the Government, the Transitional Legislative Assembly, the NHRI, and civil society to bolster their engagement with international human rights mechanisms such as the UPR, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In total, 129 individuals (36 women) benefited from this assistance. With OHCHR's support, the NHRI and CSOs submitted a report for the UPR.



## Development

OHCHR continued to support integration of a HRBA into UN programming through advocacy and technical assistance. Human rights were mainstreamed in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), the United Nations Interim Development Action Plan and a Programme Criticality Assessment. On the latter, human rights and the protection of civilians was put in the same category as lifesaving interventions, which will be maintained as Programme Criticality level 1 even if the risk level is deemed as “very high.”



## Mechanisms

OHCHR made significant progress in ensuring that national institutions facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting for the international human rights mechanisms, and implementation of recommendations. With OHCHR's support, national authorities finalized a draft decree on a NMIRF, which will replace the current committee that deals only with the UPR. The new NMIRF is expected to be operational during the first half of 2024, pending approval of the Council of Ministers.

**BURUNDI**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Bujumbura
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	4

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**

**Development**

In partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), OHCHR supported the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender in expediting adoption of the National Strategy for the Socio-Economic Inclusion of the Batwa 2023-2027. A joint mission to Burundi by these organizations in 2022, helped to advance the process for adoption of the Strategy being considered by the Prime Minister's Office and the Presidency. While the Batwa are recognized as Burundian Indigenous Peoples, and face dire economic and social conditions, the process is the first such strategy being developed, and can serve as a basis for further interventions.

In September, the HRA assisted 134 Batwa youths (66 women) with capacity-building to enhance their skills and knowledge on entrepreneurship and leadership. Such skills represent essential tools for Batwa youth to contribute to tackling extreme poverty intrinsically associated with the community, and which has been a barrier to inclusive development. Participants were assisted in developing a road map with concrete actions to undertake towards the effective exercise and enjoyment of their rights.

The HRA also led the mainstreaming of human rights in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027. Among the five outcomes of the UNSDCF, one has been devoted to the governance system with a stand-alone output on ensuring accountability, and access to rights and services, without discrimination. In addition, human rights were comprehensively mainstreamed across the other outputs and adequately reflected in the joint UN workplan for 2023-2024. The human rights dimension in the UNSDCF has also served as a basis for the Joint Human Rights Programme for 2024-2028, "Strengthening human rights architecture and response in Burundi," developed by the HRA with the contribution of UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UN Women.

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Participation**

In a context of shrinking civic space, OHCHR was at the forefront of advocacy that led to the release on 28 April of five HRDs, arrested on politically motivated charges of rebellion, undermining State security and national economy. They remained, however, at risk of re-arrest following an appeal by the General Prosecutor and decided to flee Burundi, following the path of many HRDs currently outside the country.

The HRA continued to advocate for the establishment of a legal framework for the protection of HRDs. The Government has indicated it may open discussion on the matter in light of Burundi's accepting a recommendation from the UPR fourth cycle, on 2 October, calling for the adoption of a law protecting HRDs and in compliance with international human rights law. However, this appears a remote possibility.


**Peace and Security**

The Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) benefited from OHCHR's capacity-building for members and staff, as well as advice and technical support to undertake its protection work, increase monitoring, and raise awareness of State authorities on human rights issues of concern. Increased capacity and awareness, and engagement and advocacy, contributed in 2023 to the INHRC facilitating the release of at least 1,200 people that were arbitrarily detained.

## SUB-REGIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.
Year established	2001
Field office(s)	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Staff as of 31 December 2023	23

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Peace and Security

In November, UN Human Rights organized a workshop in **Burundi**, for NHRIs in the sub-region to promote the integration of early warning and prevention mechanisms within these institutions. The workshop gathered 20 participants from the eleven countries of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), representing NHRIs and State organs in charge of human rights where NHRIs do not yet exist (**Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Sao tome and Principe**). At the conclusion of the workshop, participants pledged to incorporate early warning units in their NHRIs and to put in place systems to facilitate information sharing, including with regional human rights institutions. The workshop closed with the Bujumbura Declaration, where participants reaffirmed commitments and encouraged the States of the sub-region to strengthen existing NHRIs and to create these where none exist. The Declaration also invites OHCHR's Regional Office and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, to organize an annual sub-regional workshop to monitor implementation of its action points. A workshop is scheduled for June 2024.

#### Accountability

OHCHR collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in **Gabon** on the process of establishing a NHRI. Following several years of advocacy efforts and capacity-building, a draft revision of the NHRI law, aligning it with the Paris Principles, was prepared and submitted to the Parliament. It is expected to be debated in the Senate in the next session scheduled for March 2024.

#### Participation

OHCHR supported ELECAM, the body in charge of elections in **Cameroon**, in promoting the participation of groups in vulnerable situations, especially women and persons living with disabilities, in electoral processes. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed and shared with ELECAM for the Office's support in integrating a HRBA in advance of the 2025 national elections. The same action was implemented with the **Gabon** Electoral Commission. Following the 2022 capacity-building activities facilitated by the Office on the rights of vulnerable groups in the electoral process, there was an increase in participation of women candidates and voters in the context of the 2023 presidential elections.

#### Non-discrimination

Through a project supported by the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), OHCHR trained 123 CSO leaders and legal practitioners (42 women) in **Cameroon** on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including on how to use national protection mechanisms to seek redress. Following the training, the President of Maroua University exempted ten students with disability from the mandatory age restriction and reintegrated them into the student body.

In March, OHCHR facilitated the establishment of a platform for organizations of persons living with disabilities in Cameroon. The platform, con-

sisting of 20 CSOs, will assist in the coordination of advocacy activities.

The Office also contributed to building the capacity of the National Committee for the Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities. Activities included presentation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and on how to use Convention indicators to help mainstream and monitor the inclusion of disability. The Committee, which was established in 2018 to assist the Government in improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities, assists projects at the sub-national level in Littoral, North-West, and South-West regions. It is a consultative body that facilitates coordination amongst authorities, CSOs, and the private sector. The Committee has drafted a one-year Action Plan ensuring disability-inclusive programme development in the three regions. The Action Plan seeks to promote the increased knowledge and application of the Convention by all sectoral ministries; the training of staff in key ministries at regional level on disability-inclusive programming; and the development of a coordinated platform for reporting on actions taken by all stakeholders to implement the Convention, among other activities.

60 participants (20 women), including representatives of government, business enterprises, CSOs, NHRIs, and other ECCAS stakeholders. Member States **Cameroon, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the DRC, and Rwanda**, discussed the development, adoption and implementation of NAPs on business and human rights in the Central African sub-region. The sub-regional workshop was followed in June, by national dialogues in Cameroon, Chad, and the DRC on the adoption of NAPs on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

## Development

OHCHR regularly advocated for the end of child labor in mines in **Cameroon**. The Office, in partnership with the Cameroon mining company, Société Nationale des Mines (SONAMINES), supported the “Zero Children in Mining” campaign at the request of the Government. As part of the campaign, a video documentary was produced highlighting the situation of children in the mines and the importance of their right to education, and advocating for their return to school.

On 22 June, OHCHR, UNDP, the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the AU, organized a Dialogue on National Action Plans (NAPs) on Business and Human Rights in the Central African sub-region. The hybrid event with a physical gathering in Douala, brought together



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

Type of engagement	Peace Mission
Year established	2000
Field office(s)	Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Berberati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Ndele, Obo, and Paoua
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	68

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

The Human Rights Division (HRDiv) of MINUSCA supported the Government in developing a National Human Rights Policy and Action Plan, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers, on 18 August, and decreed by the President later the same month. In June, the HRDiv provided technical and financial support for a Government-led high-level dialogue on the draft national policy on human rights. The dialogue benefited from the participation of 196 representatives (47 women) including Government, national institutions, local authorities, CSOs, youths and other stakeholders. A majority of the recommendations flowing from the dialogue, including better integration of gender perspectives, were reflected in the ensuing National Policy.

To facilitate accountability, the HRDiv advocated for inclusion of language ensuring investigation and documentation of alleged human rights violations and abuses. In 2023, 125 investigation and monitoring missions were conducted by the HRDiv, with the aim to strengthen or establish local protection networks to better protect civilians. During the year, 19 new networks were established in four prefectures. The example of Haut Mbomou prefecture is illustrative. Several missions were conducted from September to December with the HRDiv initiating discussion with partners to create local protection networks in Zemio and Mboki, where networks were estab-

lished in October and December, respectively. The next step will be to strengthen support for CSOs and HRDs and to create human rights forums in both localities. The Division also activated its early warning function to prevent human rights violations and abuses and protect civilians through the dispatching of military patrols and the establishment of a temporary operational base in the Bamingui-Bangoran prefecture.

The HRDiv also advocated with relevant counterparts for the building and rehabilitation of detention centres in compliance with international standards. Following the HRDiv's monitoring visits and advocacy, several detainees who had been arbitrarily arrested or detained, were released.

#### Peace and Security

The HRDiv continued providing protection measures for individuals in a number of cases. From January to December, the Division received nine requests for individual protection, including two journalists, two victims of death threats by regular armed forces, and two high political profiles. Following assessment of the requests, five cases were deemed relevant and offered protection measures, including relocation within the country with OHCHR financial support.

#### Mechanisms

The Office provided capacity-building support to the National Committee in charge of reporting to the international human rights mechanisms, including 12 workshops in 2023. Following this support, CAR submitted reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Committee on Economic Cultural and Social Rights (CESCR) and is preparing its response to the list of issues and questions raised on the sixth report submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Additionally, the Government has submitted its first report to the UPR, which will be reviewed by the HRC in 2024. Further, three workshops facilitated by the HRDiv to train 23 CSOs, resulted in the submission of a shadow report to the UPR for the first time.

**CHAD**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	N'Djamena
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2021 (extended to 2023)
Staff as of 31 December 2023	25

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Non-discrimination**

Support provided by OHCHR, UNFPA, and the FAO to the Government facilitated the establishment of the Observatory for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity (OPEG) in 2023. The Office further contributed to OPEG capacity-building by organizing a site visit to the National Observatory for Equity and Gender in Côte d'Ivoire (ONEG-CI) for senior OPEG members. The Chadian delegation, led by the Minister of State in charge of Gender and National Solidarity, developed observatory policies based on ONEG-CI good practices. The Chadian Observatory subsequently established its own centre of gender related data analysis, in December 2023.

 **Accountability**

OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in mapping human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, and verification of illegal prison detentions throughout the country, over the period 2005-2021. The outcome reports of these investigations were finalized in December 2023 and will contribute to efforts to mainstream a HRBA in policies and practices aimed at preventing and reducing human rights violations.

OHCHR supported a coalition of some 20 CSOs in developing an evaluation on the extent to which the right to participation and individual and collective freedoms were being respected by national authorities during the government transition.

This social audit took place from March 2022 to November 2023. OHCHR trained the members of the CSO coalition on human rights monitoring techniques and financed the deployment of the coalition's monitoring teams, as well as technically and financially supporting elaboration of a report on the audit. The outcome report will also be used as an advocacy tool with national authorities.

With the technical guidance of OHCHR, the NHRC researched and published a report, in February, on violent repression of demonstrations organized by CSOs in October 2022. The report of the NHRC identified human rights violations committed by defence and security forces. Significantly, the report illustrated the professionalism and the independency of the NHRC. Additionally, through monitoring of cases and advocacy with judicial authorities, OHCHR contributed to the release of at 656 individuals in 2023, who were arrested in the context of the 2022 demonstrations.

 **Development**

OHCHR integrated human rights analysis into the 2023 CCA and contributed to the development of the UNSDCF 2024-2026, which was signed with the Government in December.

In January, the Office published a report following its investigation on the right to food and the farmers-herders conflict in Chad. The report findings were presented in May at a meeting with 53 participants, including the Human Rights Advisor to the Presidency, the Deputy President of the Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Council, the NHRC, the diplomatic corps, international organizations and CSOs. In September, the Office conducted an advocacy workshop with government officials, parliamentarians and the NHRC in order to raise awareness on and advocate for the implementation of the recommendations from the report. Approximately, 100 participants (38 women) including 42 parliamentarians, 58 actors from sectoral ministries and the NHRC attended the workshop. Parliamentarians and government officials committed to increase the budget for the agricultural and livestock sector in 2024. The Vice President of the National Transition Council subsequently confirmed to OHCHR that resources had been increased.

In November, OHCHR launched a study on the extractive sector and its impact on human rights in Chad. The study focused specifically on economic, social and cultural rights, analysing the various legal texts relating to the mining sector to determine whether Chad is fulfilling its national and international obligations in this context. A report on the study will serve as a tool for the Government and the NHRC to advance legislative reforms in relation to the extractive industries, and ensure respect for economic, social and cultural rights.



### Mechanisms

In 2023, OHCHR provided support to the Interministerial Committee for Monitoring International Human Rights Instruments, contributing to the preparation and submission of Chad's initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the third report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the fourth report on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the report on the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The Office additionally provided technical guidance to a coalition of CSOs, which then submitted an alternative report for the UPR review in June. OHCHR also supported the UNCT to finalize and submit a contribution to the UPR.

## THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2022
Field office(s)	Brazzaville
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Accountability

OHCHR supported the development of a revised NHRI law, in compliance with the Paris Principles, in 2023. The HRA advocated at the January 2024 UPR review of the Republic of the Congo, for the law to be approved by Parliament during the year. It is hoped that, once the law is approved, the NHRI will be able to start investigating human rights violations and producing reports with its findings.

The HRA also facilitated a series of awareness-raising sessions on evaluating public policies through a human rights lens with, for example, the National Assembly, the Court of Audit and Budgetary Discipline, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, and the Consultative Council for Women. Following the session with the National Assembly, the legislative body adopted a resolution establishing a parliamentary commission of inquiry for the management of the University Medical Centre of Brazzaville. The National Assembly also deployed fact-finding missions to public offices regarding identification documents, public transportation and household purchasing power. Furthermore, a guide is being finalized for the Court of Audit and Budgetary Discipline to use when evaluating public policies. It is expected to be adopted during the first semester of 2024. Further sessions in 2024 will focus on enhancing a culture of evaluation in government, and reviewing international human rights mechanisms' recommendations to the Republic of the Congo.



## Development

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2020-2024 was revised to align with the new National Development Plan 2022-2026. In this context, the HRA attended key meetings organized by the UNCT and provided inputs ensuring that human rights were mainstreamed in the revised UNDAF. It was endorsed by the UNCT in 2022 and validated by the Government in January 2023.



## Non-discrimination

The Republic of the Congo adopted a specific law on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2011 with corresponding implementation decrees in 2019, however, the Law has yet to be operationalized. OHCHR continued to advocate for full implementation of the law through training on the rights of Indigenous Peoples including for 25 staff (6 women) from the Ministry of Human Rights, in July. The Office also organized consultations with 70 stakeholders (32 women), including 30 government officials, 20 CSO representatives, 7 lawyers, and 10 Indigenous persons, on Indigenous Peoples' rights, in the Department of Kouilou. Discussions covered access to remedies, and the need to establish a network of CSOs and lawyers to support Indigenous Peoples facing violence, discrimination, and economic exploitation. At the end of the event, participants agreed an urgent need for operationalizing the Law on Indigenous Peoples' rights. Advocacy will continue in 2024.



## Mechanisms

Following the HRA's advocacy with the Government, a workshop was organized in November on reporting to the CESC. Since ratification of the CESC in 1983, the Republic of the Congo has never submitted a report to the Committee. As a result of the workshop, a very first draft report was developed and will be submitted by December 2024 in line with Government pledges made under the HR75 Initiative.

The HRA met with the Ministry of Human Rights and the NHRI focal point for human rights mechanisms to advocate for the establishment of a NMIRF. A draft NMIRF decree, which incorporates OHCHR's comments, is ready for signature by the Government. The commitment to establish a NMIRF was included in the Government's HR75 pledges.

In June and July, the HRA held numerous meetings with the NHRI and eight CSOs to guide them on preparing and submitting reports to the UPR. All stakeholders' reports have been submitted on time, including by the NHRI, which engaged for the first time with the international human rights mechanisms.

## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE (UNJHRO)

Type of engagement	Peace Mission
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Beni, Bukavu, Bunia, Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi, Thsikapa, and Uvira
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2023	54

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Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation

Advocacy and technical support by UNJHRO contributed to strengthening the legal framework in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), through the adoption of key legislation. Notably in June, the Law on the Protection and the Responsibility of the Human Rights Defender was adopted.

Technical and financial support provided by the Office to local CSOs, HRD networks and the Integrated Multisectoral Services Centres (CISM), helped to strengthen the protection of people in vulnerable situations. This support was important as well in the case of certain categories of persons under threat of imminent violations of their rights to life and physical integrity, for example as a result of human rights promotion and protection activities or following incidences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), individually or collectively. Support was provided via existing legal clinics within the CISM structure, local NGOs, and other local structures set up to combat impunity, SGBV, and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The training of legal clinic facilitators resulted in favorable judgements for people in vulnerable situations. Activities also contributed to restoring community confidence in the justice system in Kamonia, in Kasai Province. This led to an increase in the number of convictions in cases of rape and other offences, based on the principles of fair trial, including the conviction by the Uvira Garrison Military Court on May 15, 2023,

of Munyololo Mbao, alias Ndarumanga. The former leader of a faction of the Raïa Mutomboki armed group, was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity, including forced pregnancy. This is the first time that a national criminal court has convicted a perpetrator of a crime against humanity for forced pregnancy.

Communication support was provided to 43 HRD networks to facilitate information sharing on human rights and protection incidents, advocacy, and accountability for incidents pertaining to freedom of expression, peaceful gathering, and participation.

#### Accountability

In relation to transitional justice, UNJHRO provided technical support to the Provincial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CPVJR) in Kasai Central. This included an initial training for the CPVJR Commissioners in January and support on foundational texts such as internal regulations and procedure manual. A technical cooperation agreement between UNJHRO and the CPVJR was signed on 25 July, outlining the support for the CPVJR's implementation. The rehabilitation and equipping of the CPVJR headquarters in Kananga by UNJHRO, ensured an appropriate environment to receive victims of grave human rights violations.

UNJHRO also played a key role in the protection of victims and witnesses in emblematic court cases before, during and after trials, in support of individual's fair trial rights and of a victim-centred approach towards justice. This judicial protection scheme has been instrumental to the success of 13 mobile courts, ensuring that 403 victims and witnesses were able to appear and testify before the courts. Several perpetrators were sentenced in related trials, including 42 Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) soldiers, 2 Congolese national police (PNC), and 28 armed group members, while more than 352 victims were awarded civil damages. Following ongoing Office advocacy since 2021, a national reparations fund – *Fonds national de réparation des victimes des violences sexuelles liées aux conflits et des crimes contre la paix et la sécurité*



*de l'humanité* [FONAREV] – was established by the Council of Ministers, and its administrators were nominated in July. UNJHRO provided technical guidance for some 100 participants of a FONAREV national forum on identification of victims organized by the Fund in November. Guidance included applicable standards for the identification of victims and their protection, non-discrimination, and good practices on the administration of national reparation funds. The Fund is part of the implementation of the law establishing fundamental principles for the protection and reparation of victims of CRSV, crimes against humanity and the safety of humanity, promulgated in December 2022.

The Office supported a group of scholars and members of the Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Justice in the development of a draft transitional justice policy, in line with international human rights norms and standards. The draft was officially presented to the Minister of Human Rights in January. The policy is under review and will incorporate conclusions of national consultations on transitional justice, facilitating a holistic and victim-centred final version.



## Development

UNJHRO supported Government efforts to uphold the right to development by organizing a series of training sessions on this theme and on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs). Government commitment was illustrated by the adoption of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in May. In February, the Office organized a workshop in Kinshasa validating a study on the justiciability of ESCRs in the DRC, with the aim of raising awareness among justice officials and members of civil society on the protection of ESCRs through legal action. Forty people (11 women) participated in the workshop. Additionally, the Office organized a workshop in April, in Tshikapa, for 40 members of youth, women, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) associations, where participants were trained on adopting a HRBA, ESCRs, and conducting social audits. The activity aimed to increase citizens' input to public policy implementation linked to ESCRs.

UNJHRO supported the Government's efforts to adopt a NAP on Business and Human Rights through an inclusive process and using a HRBA. This included technical and financial support for a national dialogue in Kinshasa, and a regional dialogue in Yaoundé, and assistance to prepare a zero draft road map and related discussion, for the NAP.



## Mechanisms

Following the adoption and promulgation of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Organic Law No. 22/003), in May 2022, UNJHRO provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of People Living with Disabilities, for the organization of a retreat, from 18 to 21 January to discuss implementation. Participants included 50 individuals (20 women), from the Ministry Cabinet, the National Assembly's Human Rights and Socio-cultural Commissions, sectoral Ministries and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). Attendees were introduced to the contents of the CRPD and Organic Law No. 22/003 on the protection and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities.

Further, technical guidance from UNJHRO enabled the Ministry of People Living with Disabilities to finalize an initial report on implementation of the CRPD, which was submitted in March.

## EASTERN AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Tanzania
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Addis Ababa
Staff as of 31 December 2023	35

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

UN Human Rights supported the AU and NANHRI in organizing the sixth African Union Commission (AUC)-NANHRI Annual Policy Forum on Human Rights, in May, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This year's theme focused on applying a HRBA to the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). A declaration was adopted by all participants on the role of NHRIs and partners in the implementation of the AfCFTA. In October, OHCHR also supported the NANHRI in organizing its fourteenth Biennial Conference under the theme, "Nurturing responsible business conduct and respect for human rights in Africa," held in Accra, Ghana.

OHCHR supported the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to organize the sixth AU Judicial Dialogue, which focused on challenges and opportunities for integrating international and regional human rights jurisprudence in domestic courts. Over 100 chief justices, constitutional court presidents, and judges attended. OHCHR used the platform to advocate for improved application of international norms in domestic courts, building on treaty bodies guidance, and good practice in national and regional systems.

#### Participation

The Office strengthened the capacity of women HRDs on human rights principles, women's rights and on engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. Missions to **Djibouti** and **Tanzania** facilitated engagement with women-led

organizations and women HRDs. OHCHR also strengthened the institutional structure of women HRD networks at national level in **Tanzania** and **Ethiopia**. In particular, OHCHR provided guidance, technical and financial support to the Tanzania Coalition of women HRDs, which took up secretariat functions of the East Africa Women HRDs Network.

OHCHR efforts also helped to build capacity among youth activists to enhance their contribution to human rights awareness raising, hate speech prevention, and peace and security. A training was organized for 27 youth advocates, including 13 women, from East Africa on participation in governance, human rights, peace and security. In **Tanzania**, 45 university student leaders of the Human Rights Club from various universities, and 25 HRDs lecturing and working with the students, were trained on human rights, the UNGPs, how to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, and advocacy skills.

#### Non-discrimination

In November, OHCHR and the UN Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa launched the UN Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, a concerted effort to address the rise in hate speech using a HRBA and a focus on prevention and monitoring. In line with the strategy, OHCHR supported HRDs to establish an East Africa network, which will meet every two months from January 2024, to strengthen cooperation and solidarity and enhance joint advocacy efforts.

OHCHR provided technical and financial support for a celebration of the twentieth Anniversary of the Maputo Protocol. The event was attended by women leaders, AU Ministers in charge of gender and women's affairs, AU organs, regional economic communities and mechanisms, CSOs, Member States and UN representatives. The event enabled participants to take stock of achievements in the promotion and protection of women's rights, to reflect on challenges and emerging women's rights concerns, and agree on solutions and strategies. A report on the state of women's rights and a declaration on Maputo@20, is being developed by the AU with support from OHCHR and UN

Women, and will be presented to the heads of AU States in 2024.

The year was marked by increased violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons. OHCHR increased monitoring and engagement with stakeholders for the provision of emergency support and temporary relocation of victims. OHCHR also engaged with UN and funding partners to strengthen collaboration.



## Peace and Security

OHCHR continued its support for enhancing governance, peace and security, rule of law, development, and accountability. In a significant development, in November, the AU and the UN signed a joint Framework for Human Rights, which completes the existing partnership frameworks on peace and security and development. The joint Framework for Human Rights will facilitate a coordinated and streamlined UN system-wide approach in the engagement with the AU on human rights matters.

In line with the AUCF project, the institutional capacity of training institutions in 22 countries on the continent, and six AU designated training centres of excellence, were strengthened. The 22 training institutions included 7 from the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS), 10 from SADC and 5 from the East Africa Community (EAC). The AU designated training centres of excellence in **Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe**, were supported with training of trainers to promote AUCF integration of compliance and accountability measures in regular training and among national military/police academies.

OHCHR supported the “Fifteenth African Standby Force (ASF) training implementation workshop” held in Cairo, **Egypt**. The workshop was an opportunity to assess implementation of the ASF Training Directives for 2021-2023, identify challenges and gaps, and explore possibilities for improvement. Recommendations flowing from the workshop included a focus on enhanced dissemination of AUCF instruments, their take-up by training regimes, Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms, training

institutions and training centres of excellence, and Member States, and incorporation in the ASF Training Directives for 2024-2026.



## Mechanisms

In **Tanzania**, upon request from the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, OHCHR held a workshop to build knowledge and skills on State engagement in the cycle of reporting for regional and international human rights mechanisms, focusing on the ICCPR, and the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, including the Maputo Protocol. The workshop was attended by 58 individuals, including 28 women, senior officials, State attorneys, and members of other national institutions including the judiciary. A key outcome was the validation by participants of a road map for concluding the ongoing reporting process under the ICCPR. Tanzania is expected to fulfill its outstanding reporting obligations on the ICCPR, Maputo Protocol, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024.

In **Djibouti**, OHCHR advocated on the need for a full-fledged and dedicated secretariat and standing NMIRF with adequate financial and human resources to facilitate effective ministerial coordination to address outstanding reporting obligations. Three trainings on UPR reporting, for State actors, CSOs, and UNCT, were instrumental in the preparation and submission of the national report and a stakeholders’ submission under the fourth UPR cycle.

**ESWATINI**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2022
Field office(s)	Mbabane
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

**Key OMP pillars in 2023****PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Non-discrimination**

To enhance inclusive participation of ethnic minorities in public processes, 400 Emaswati women were recruited to encourage nomination of women candidates for public office. In partnership with the African Women Peace and Development Foundation and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, OHCHR organized four regional workshops to enhance women's participation in public processes, through leadership training and women's empowerment sessions. The workshops aimed to bolster women's confidence to stand for office and represent their communities and enhance their knowledge of the role of parliamentarians. Following these efforts, which support a key UPR recommendation accepted by the Government, the number of women candidates nominated in primary elections increased.

A multi-media campaign was also undertaken to encourage women's participation in public processes. The campaign informed on the importance of women's inclusion in leadership, and as advocates for the electorate. Messages were developed both in Siswati and English language encouraging votes for women candidates, and were widely disseminated via various platforms such as social media and radio ensuring outreach to rural areas.

The campaign complemented other activities by various actors aiming to strengthen women's participation in the elections. Over 30 women were nominated as parliamentary candidates following the primary elections. Significantly,

the Eswatini people elected eight women to Parliament (compared with two elected in 2018), while four women were appointed Members of Parliament (MP) by His Majesty. In the Senate, five women were elected and eight were appointed by His Majesty. For the second time in history, a woman Deputy Prime Minister was appointed by His Majesty, while five women were appointed as Cabinet Ministers.

The impact of this increase in the number of women in office can be seen in current legislative initiatives. Newly appointed women MPs and senators recently denounced high-profile cases of femicide in November and advocated for immediate action to declare gender-based violence (GBV) a national emergency. The Deputy Prime Minister indicated that she would consult with stakeholders and address underlying root causes and develop an action plan to address the issue.


**Accountability**

The HRA provided technical assistance to the Eswatini NHRI, the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/Integrity (CHRNA). Support included strategic advice and contributions to internal CHRNA documents and consultations with stakeholders regarding strengthening of the NHRI.

Legal advice was provided on the draft human rights bill in line with the Paris Principles, and consultations were facilitated with stakeholders including civil society, private sector and development partners. Legal advice provided was integrated into the draft bill, which was submitted to the Attorney General's Office for endorsement. It was not presented to Cabinet or Parliament due to the dissolution of Parliament in 2023 following national elections. Following further consultations with stakeholders including the Parliamentary Committees and endorsement by Cabinet, the draft bill is expected to be finalized and tabled for Parliamentary approval in 2024.

The HRA provided training to legal aid lawyers in preparation for the adoption of the draft legal aid bill. The training covered international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, including the basic

principles on the role of lawyers in the context of Eswatini's human rights obligations, and domestication of the ICCPR through the Eswatini Constitution and the Legal Aid Policy.

## Participation

The HRA, in partnership with the NHRI, government authorities, private sector, and CSOs, produced five live dialogues on X/Twitter, covering freedom of expression, the right to participate in cultural life, climate action and justice, right to health, right to a decent standard of living, and gender and non-discrimination. The overarching objective was to raise awareness on human rights and the UDHR as part of the HR75 Initiative. Some 90,000 people were reached through the online dialogues. Outcomes included commitments by specific stakeholders to follow up and advocate on targeted human rights issues in Eswatini. For instance, the youth parliament developed a plan to advocate on climate action and the environment. Standard Bank increased its commitment to address GBV through supporting the establishment of safe houses, and enhancing women's empowerment through internships to promote gender equality.

The Office assisted the organization of a training in September targeting 35 media professionals, ahead of general elections, and aiming to build participant capacity to integrate a HRBA in election coverage, through independent, fair, inclusive, and ethical reporting. Topics such as disinformation and fact-checking, the role and rights of media during elections, freedom of expression, mechanisms for reporting violations, international legal frameworks and standards governing the electoral contexts, electoral law and processes as they affect media reporting, and media ethics, were covered. Subsequently, the topic of women candidates was widely covered during and following the elections. Some media also reported on allegations of fraud and corruption following the primary and national elections.

## Development

Under OHCHR's Surge Initiative to strengthen the centrality of ESCRs in the design and monitoring of economic policies, and in collaboration with the World Bank, the HRA conducted a comprehensive analysis of current World Bank projects and programmes from a human-rights, gender, and LNOB perspective, with regards to implementation of the SDGs and promoting and protecting human rights, with a focus on ESCRs including the rights to water, food, health and social protection. The analysis revealed gaps in the World Bank grievance mechanism in Eswatini. Specifically, it was noted that beneficiary views were not systematically considered in the implementation of projects, and that they also did not have capacity to advocate for their rights. The HRA undertook consultations with civil society actors and representatives at community level to ensure their views are taken into account. The analysis focused on those at risk of being left behind, as identified by the VNR, including women, persons with disabilities, and youth, and particularly those in the rural areas such as in Shiselweni, the site of current World Bank energy projects. In 2024, the HRA will organize capacity-building for rights holders at the community level to strengthen their advocacy skills and ability to make informed decisions in relation to the World Bank and other projects that are impacting their lives.



## THE GAMBIA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2022
Field office(s)	Banjul
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2021 (extended to 2023)
Staff as of 31 December 2023	2

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Non-discrimination

As part of the HR75 Initiative, the HRA led a national dialogue on leveraging the UDHR to reduce inequalities. Some 150 individuals participated including government ministry representatives, the NHRC, students from several human rights clubs, the University of The Gambia Law Students Association, the National Youth Assembly, the diplomatic community, the UN, CSOs and OPDs. Panel discussions highlighted issues faced by persons with disabilities, migrants, women and children. The NHRC presented on forms of inequality and underlying causes, and proposed strategies to address disparities, emphasizing the vital role of human rights in dismantling barriers to equality. A separate roundtable discussion with some 50 students from the University of The Gambia Law Students Association was also organized as part of the HR75 Initiative, and included a HRA-led panel discussion of recommendations on how to improve the rights of vulnerable groups including older persons.

The NHRC held a forum on the rights of persons with disabilities to engage State actors on the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2021, promote CSO advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities, and to map out strategies for the implementation and enforcement of the Act. More than 100 persons attended, including the Gambia Federation of the Disabled members and other OPDs. Additionally, the HRA briefed participants on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and disability rights as reflected in the UNSDCF. A follow-up action point from the

forum was the request for dedicated support to the Gambia Federation of the Disabled and OPDs for their annual general meeting. The first such meeting took place in February 2024 with the UNCT's support.

### Development

The HRA led consultations with the Government, NHRC, and other partners during the development of the UNSDCF 2024-2028, to ensure human rights considerations and recommendations from international human rights mechanisms were reflected. In particular, the HRA led the UNCT thematic group on disability, to ensure adherence to the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS). The new UNSDCF was signed in October 2023.

The HRA also supported the NHRC's work on socio-economic rights and development, leading the UNCT's support for the NHRC's draft advisory note on the right to food and advisory note on mental health. In both, the HRA provided comments relating to the international human rights framework, and particularly on the Gambia's ratifications and obligations on the right to food and right to health. The HRA's comments were incorporated in the respective notes.

### Mechanisms

In November, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) prepared initial reporting on the Gambia's implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Committee invited confidential submissions from various institutions, including the UN, on issues relevant to Convention implementation by the Gambia and in relation to priority recommendations. The HRA led the drafting and submission of the UNCT's submission and oral presentation to the Committee.

The HRA also facilitated consultations on SGBV as part of the UNCT's activities supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. SGBV was highlighted as an area

of concern in the Gambia’s 2019 UPR recommendations. Some 50 participants including police, prison personnel, representatives from Ministries of Justice and Gender, and the UN attended. Discussion topics included, coordination and cooperation, investigation and prosecution of cases, sexual violence and human trafficking, financial issues, and factors hindering reporting/prosecution of cases, including cases of women and children, and persons with disabilities. The Office also assisted the Ministry of Justice in holding consultations with stakeholders on the 2019 UPR recommendations. Engagement took place with over 100 participants from ministries, CSOs, the NHRC, and the UN, to discuss the UPR process and reporting requirements. The Gambia will be submitting its final report on implementation of the UPR recommendations in 2024.

**GUINEA**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office
<b>Year established</b>	2010
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Conakry, Nzérékoré
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2023
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	20

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Mechanisms**

With OHCHR’s technical support, a NMIRF has been established in January, is operational, and its members were designated in May. It is expected that, with a fully functioning NMIRF, pending reports will be submitted and overall cooperation with the human rights mechanisms will be enhanced. To this end, OHCHR will support the capacity-building of NMIRF members, provide technical assistance in the drafting of Guinea’s reporting, assist in the setting up of a database and development of tools to monitor the implementation of recommendations from treaty bodies and the UPR.

 **Accountability**

OHCHR provided technical assistance to ensure provisions are in line with international human rights standards and norms, through inputs to the decree implementing the law on the protection of victims and witnesses, the laws on protection of people affected by albinism, and on people living with disabilities, as well as in the amendment of the law on repression of hate speech and incitement to violence.

The trial for crimes committed on 28 September 2009, began in the presence of several United Nations officials and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). OHCHR trained magistrates and lawyers on international crimes, administration of justice and fair trial rights, contributing to increased understanding and capacity in their respective roles during the trial.

Furthermore, while transitional justice mechanisms have yet to be officially established, OHCHR has supported the dissemination of recommendations included in the 2022 Report of the National Consultations for Reconciliation, throughout the country, as well providing support for the drafting of a national strategy for reconciliation. A first version of the national strategy, incorporating OHCHR's recommendations, has been submitted for validation by the Prime Minister's Office.

## GUINEA-BISSAU

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser
<b>Year established</b>	2021
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Bissau
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2022-2026
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	4

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Development

The HRA team trained national partners on UNSDCF Guiding Principles, on HRBA, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and LNOB. In 2023, a pool of trainers from the Leadership Academy consisting of 13 individuals (7 women) benefited from a training of trainers on mainstreaming human rights in the implementation of the UNSDCF. As a result, 52 partners (16 women) of the three UNSDCF outcome groups were trained.

Efforts to build understanding on the linkages between human rights and development included a brown bag lunch for UN staff, a briefing for European Union (EU) staff, and bilateral discussion with Member States.

The HRA team launched a Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) Lunch & Learn Human Rights series to create an informal space to foster inter-agency collaboration and contribute to a culture of learning. A live webinar addressing sensitive human rights issues was organized as part of the series, as well as discussions on human rights and elections, on the rights of LGBTI persons, on the right to development, and the right to social security. A key pledge made by the Government involves adopting a national social protection strategy and policy by the end of 2024.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, a panel discussion was organized reflecting on 50 years of implementation of the UDHR in Guinea-Bissau. A public information campaign was also carried out,

broadcasting key messages on the human right to development. Messages were disseminated in the Creole language and through a network of local community radios.

## **Peace and Security**

As part of a project supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the establishment of an early warning system (EWS) on human rights is being planned. OHCHR has held several meetings with stakeholders and is identifying a suitable partner with the necessary knowledge and expertise to carry out this work. A workshop was organized in October to discuss a feasible EWS model. OHCHR partnered with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), an organization that uses early warning to address political challenges and prevent violent conflict, to produce a report identifying organizations that could contribute to an EWS focusing on human rights violations in Guinea-Bissau.

Following the UN Needs Assessment Mission deployed to Guinea-Bissau at the end of 2022, ahead of legislative elections, OHCHR carried out recommendations calling for consideration of deployment of Surge resources to the RCO to strengthen the RC and UNCT ability to monitor and report on human rights issues and strengthen human rights capacity in relation to elections. The Surge deployment enabled awareness-raising and capacity-building for partners on human rights and elections.

OHCHR also provided support for the recommendation by the Needs Assessment Mission relating to hate speech and increasing awareness of this among UN staff and partners. This included the dissemination of the Portuguese version of the Rabat test, the threshold for defining restrictions on freedom of expression, incitement to hatred, and for the application of article 20 of the ICCPR.

Throughout the year, the HRA kept the RC and UNCT informed on major human rights incidents and trends and shared notes on trends in human rights violations relevant to the electoral context.

## **Mechanisms**

As part of HR75, the Government made four pledges, to: (1) clear its treaty body reporting backlog by submitting all six outstanding reports to the treaty bodies by the end of 2025, (2) ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICCPED) by the end of 2025, (3) establish an NHRI by the end of 2024, and (4) adopt a national social protection strategy by the end of 2024.

Several reports were prepared during the year. The report to the CRPD has been finalized and is expected to be submitted in 2024. The first ever reports to the HRC and to the CESCR, incorporating comments and suggestions from State entities and CSOs, have been submitted to the Minister of Justice and Human Rights for approval. Further, an interministerial ad hoc group was created to draft reports to the CEDAW, and the CRPD. These efforts, and the Government's use of its own resources to draft the reports, show an increased awareness and willingness to address reporting obligations.

**KENYA**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Nairobi
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2023	11

**Key OMP pillars in 2023****PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Development**

Pursuant to a MoU signed in 2017 and renewed in 2023, between the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the Office continued to support the integration of a HRBA to data collection. In 2023, with the technical support of OHCHR, KNCHR and KNBS completed the collection and verification of data for SDG indicator 16.10.1, on the number of verified cases of killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists, and human rights advocates, in the previous 12 months. Significantly, the methodology for data collection incorporates citizen-generated data from civil society and others. This milestone means that Kenya is likely to be one of the first countries globally to contribute to this indicator.

The Government officially launched the Policy and NAP on Business and Human Rights, building upon sustained engagement and support from OHCHR during the development phase, and paving the way for implementation. The NAP constitutes a unique opportunity to guide activities and enhance implementation of national laws touching on human rights, and provides a platform for the State and businesses to prepare for the expansion of global supply chains and compliance mechanisms as regards business and human rights.

The Office continued to support the protection of the right to a clean and healthy environment, through strategic litigation, empowering collective

engagement, and organizing by environmental HRDs. In the landmark Owino Uhuru lead poisoning case, the Court of Appeal delivered its judgement on the appeal by Government entities, upholding the finding that the right to a clean and healthy environment had been violated. OHCHR has provided support for the Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA) over several years, in relation to this case. However, the apportionment of liability was reviewed – with greater liability apportioned to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) – and the Court of Appeal directed that assessment of compensation be heard afresh by a lower court. The NEMA was also ordered to restore the environment of the area and its ecosystem, and to report to the court on a quarterly basis until restoration is satisfactorily completed. OHCHR continued its support for a national network of land and environment defenders. In a significant step forward, the Environmental Rights Organisation Group (EROG) has now established its own leadership structures and appointed a board. The EROG leadership convened a strategic meeting in 2023 with OHCHR's assistance, to set its priorities and guide further collaboration.


**Accountability**

OHCHR coordinated UN Kenya's support to and engagement with the Task Force on Police and Prisons Reforms appointed by the President. This included submissions to advance ongoing efforts to prevent violations, support oversight and investigation, and strengthen capacity. OHCHR also facilitated engagement of civil society and HRDs by the Task Force, to inform the scope of its work.

The Office engaged with the justice sector and investigative agencies on enforced disappearances, building upon commitments made by the new Government. The pledges delivered by the Attorney-General on behalf of the President at the HR75 high-level event in December, included a commitment to enact legislation criminalizing enforced disappearances and establishing mechanisms for prevention, investigation, prosecution and victim support. The Office of the Attorney General is working with relevant government departments to prepare for the ratification of



the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, and OHCHR is coordinating engagement with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to support efforts at addressing legislative and policy gaps.

OHCHR continued its assistance to the Tripartite Task Force comprised of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), and the National Police Service, which was established in 2020 to improve coordination in the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations. This included support for a regional training of trainers for prosecutors and investigators, and a rapid review of 100 files on serious human rights violations committed by police officers, and which were investigated by the IPOA. These efforts aimed to enhance coordination between the ODPP and the IPOA under the Standard Operating Procedures on Investigation and Prosecution of Serious Human Rights Violations Committed by Police Officers.

## Participation

OHCHR contributed to the development of a Public Participation Policy, providing inputs and integrating findings from stakeholder consultations. In 2023, the Policy was approved by the Cabinet and formally adopted by the National Assembly. The Policy provides a framework for implementing constitutional provisions on public participation and serves to guide processes towards meaningful participation.

As a follow-up to civic engagement during the 2022 elections period, the Office organized a review and reflection forum with 21 grassroots human rights networks from six diverse regions, who had been actively engaged in the implementation of civic education and community engagement dialogues under the UN Kenya elections project. Open discussions took place on challenges encountered and highlighting success stories, enabling partners to strategize and prioritize follow-up actions. The Office continued its support for grassroots networks, including further community forums on participatory governance to ensure that the voices of local citizens are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

OHCHR expanded engagement on a human rights economy, by facilitating participatory human rights-based budgeting processes at the county level. Together with the OHCHR regional macro-economist, the Office supported engagement on the budget process in Makueni, Marsabit, and Nakuru counties, to ensure a HRBA to resource allocation. The Office designed and rolled out a framework for a participatory and HRBA to the budgeting process through engagement with the county government executive, members of county assemblies, communities, and CSOs engaged in human rights and governance issues. This included training of 90 HRBA budget champions, conducted in collaboration with local CSOs and government officials in the three counties. Through this initiative, OHCHR has increased its direct engagement at the county level, in line with the devolved system of governance and service delivery in Kenya.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, the Office supported the KNCHR and the Office of the Attorney General in organizing eight regional human rights dialogues across the country. Discussions covered issues such as ethnic exclusion, marginalization, displacement, access to justice, high taxation burden, land-related grievances, security and community conflicts, police brutality, and limited access to services such as education, health care, infrastructure, and underdevelopment. Each dialogue resulted in the development of region-specific strategies and recommendations, and in October, over 200 participants working on relevant sectors attended the National Human Rights Dialogue and took part in the development of a new national human rights policy and action plan, which remained in draft version at the time of reporting.



## Mechanisms

OHCHR continued to support consistent and timely reporting by the Government to human rights treaty bodies, including through financial support for NMIRF convening to develop State reports. In 2023, the Government submitted updated reports as requested, to the HRC and Committee against Torture (CAT), addressing specific issues identified during the 2021 and 2022 reviews, respectively. The Office also supported engagement with special procedures mandates by both Government and civil society.

## LESOTHO

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2020
Field office(s)	Maseru
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2019-2023
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:



## Peace and Security

Through a joint project with UNDP and UN Women on security sector reforms, OHCHR supported capacity-building and human rights training for the police. In collaboration with the security sector training institutions, OHCHR also drafted and finalized human rights training manuals to prevent cases of inhumane treatment, for police, corrections, military, and National Security Service. Additionally, the Office facilitated capacity-building for 50 human rights trainers for the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, Lesotho Corrections Service, Lesotho Defence Force and National Security Service. All four of the national security sector institutions have endorsed a human rights curriculum that will be used in all training colleges of the respective security institutions. The curriculum, comprised of a human rights manual, PowerPoint presentations and exercises, was developed in collaboration with the security sector institutions through financial and technical support from OHCHR.



## Non-discrimination

Through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, the Government implemented recommendations relating to addressing discriminatory laws against women in cases of land inheritance. During key events including “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” and “Human Rights Day,” OHCHR supported the

dissemination of the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act, passed in 2022. OHCHR also engaged with women’s groups in communities and women’s organizations to raise awareness on the Act and their rights. Such effort is important to ensure that rural women specifically, are aware of and can use the law to claim their rights.

 **Accountability**

OHCHR continued to advocate for the establishment of a NHRI, meeting with civil society, parliamentarians, government officials and the UNCT, to advocate for passing of the NHRI bill into law. The bill, which was developed with OHCHR's support, is expected to be tabled in Parliament in 2024.

 **Participation**

OHCHR's support in the training of civil society members was instrumental to the preparation and submission of the ICCPR shadow report ahead of the HRC's review of Lesotho in July 2023. OHCHR also facilitated participation by a civil society representative in the Council deliberations, resulting in their substantive participation on issues relating to torture and discrimination, which were not dealt with in depth by the State report.

**LIBERIA**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office
<b>Year established</b>	2018
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Monrovia
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	13

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Mechanisms**

As a result of OHCHR’s technical and financial support in 2023, the NMIRF was able to resume its work, finalize its road map and submit outstanding reports including the CRPD report. The NMIRF also followed up on concluding observations on the ICCPR.

In August, in the context of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR assisted the government to organize the first ever National Dialogue on Human Rights. The Dialogue brought together Government representatives, the Independent National Commission on human Rights (INCHR), and CSOs. Three major pledges were adopted during the dialogue and presented by the Minister of Justice at the HR75 high-level event in December. The Government pledged to: abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR; ensure a new National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) is passed as soon as possible after the expiration of the current one and to effectively implement the new NHRAP; and ratify international human rights instruments including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government further committed to incorporate these into national legislation. OHCHR will support the implementation of these pledges.



## Accountability

OHCHR strengthened the INCHR, providing technical advice, training, mentoring and support in monitoring, documenting and reporting on the human rights situation, conducting advocacy and adjudicating on cases of human rights violations. In October, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, re-accredited the INCHR, and designated the institution with an “A” Status.

OHCHR’s detention facility monitoring, including of the Monrovia central prison, enabled the Government, the INCHR and relevant entities, to learn about the dire living conditions in the facilities and prompted the Government to conduct prison inspections where cases of tuberculosis and other diseases were highlighted. OHCHR also engaged with other UN agencies including the WHO and UNHCR – which provided medical screening, blankets, mosquito nets and other essential items for prisoners. OHCHR also distributed dignity kits<sup>21</sup> to women detainees.



## Participation

With OHCHR’s support, first round and run-off elections were held in a largely peaceful environment. Trainings, implemented in collaboration with the National Elections Commission (NEC), the Peacebuilding Office, and the INCHR, targeted County Peace Committees and Early Warning Committees, and aimed to strengthen monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and abuses during the electoral process. A total of 183 participants (78 women) from all 15 counties were trained including on preventive action to deter electoral violence, and reporting mechanisms. Following the trainings, 10 incidents were reported relating to violence and procedural irregularities. The Office is continuing its follow-up with the relevant authorities.

OHCHR also trained CSOs and INCHR human rights monitors to be deployed during the electoral process. A total of 116 participants were trained on human rights issues relevant to elections, and on hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. The monitors used a common checklist as a guide to gather information and feed information to the INCHR and Peacebuilding Office’s situation rooms for follow-up.

Further, OHCHR trained security forces under the PBF elections project, to support conflict prevention and mitigation of widespread insecurity, human rights violations and electoral violence, before, during and after the elections. Approximately 3,000 members of the joint security forces were trained and became instrumental in ensuring security during the electoral period. OHCHR and other observers noted exemplary behavior in their rapid deployment to prevent or stop violent incidents around polling stations and centres. National authorities and the head of the police reported that this series of trainings by OHCHR contributed to a peaceful election process and the smooth political transition in the country.



## Non-discrimination

In 2023, there was an increase in media reporting on LGBTI issues, from one online media platform managed from outside Liberia to three national newspapers based in the country and routinely providing positive coverage. Reporting highlighted the situation of LGBTI community members, including their contributions as well as security and other concerns. OHCHR continued efforts promoting non-discrimination including through a workshop on diversity and equality organized in September and attended by 37 participants (12 women), from the media, government institutions, INCHR, and LGBTI HRDs.

Under the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative, OHCHR provided technical, policy and editorial support for the drafting of the Strategic Plan and Advocacy Strategy for the Association of Female Lawyers. OHCHR also supported an assessment and analysis of the Domestic Relations, Domestic Violence, and Inheritance Laws, with a view to supporting the drafting of a single bill incorpo-

<sup>21</sup> Comprised of basic supplies to maintain the health and dignity of women and girls, including underwear, a reusable menstrual pad set, sanitary napkins, bath soap, washing powder, a flashlight, a comb, a toothbrush and toothpaste.

rating all three laws. The analysis recommended amending provisions to remove duplication, ensure consolidation into a single coherent statute, and align legislation with international human rights standards. Trainings for legislative staff and the Law Reform Commission staff – reaching 41 participants (23 women) – were organized to enhance capacity to integrate human rights principles and standards.

**MADAGASCAR**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2011
Field office(s)	Antananarivo
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2023
Staff as of 31 December 2023	3

Key OMP pillars in 2023



 **Development**

Under the “Business and human rights Africa project,” OHCHR supported drafting of the NAP on Business and Human Rights through its participation in the convening of the thematic National Steering Committee chaired by the Ministry of Justice. In June, 30 representatives from line ministries, private sector and trade unions, agreed on a road map to finalize the action plan. In September, OHCHR organized a technical drafting workshop where participants completed the draft plan and a draft implementation matrix. With OHCHR’s support, the National Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights is concluding arrangements for a national technical review of the current draft NAP to be held in February 2024.

OHCHR, together with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, the National Bureau of Concessions, and the INCHR, conducted monitoring visits, meeting with affected community members and companies. Findings and recommendations from the visits were shared with the responsible Ministries for further action. OHCHR will follow up to ensure implementation.

OHCHR also provided support for the development of a draft policy on HRDs. This draft and the draft NAP on Business and Human Rights, are currently at the Ministry of Justice pending Cabinet approval. OHCHR will continue to engage with the Minister of Justice to advocate for the swift approval of the policies by the new Government.

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Participation**

OHCHR's efforts in 2023 initially aimed at supporting development of a law for the protection of HRDs and whistleblowers as primary mechanism to protect civil society, and a draft law was presented. Subsequently, this was revised and is unlikely to have enough support to be passed by Parliament. In the context of continued attacks and intimidation of civil society, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of civil society to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. In 2023, this support allowed civil society to issue a common mid-term UPR report and engage with the Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) during its visit. One outcome of this effort has been greater coordination and joint advocacy by civil society on conditions in prisons and urgent cases.

Youth engagement continued to be strengthened by the Office. The nine observatories established as part of the “Rary Aro Mada” project and funded by the PBF, continue to function, with the youth HRDs monitoring and reporting on human rights issues and engaging with local authorities to identify solutions. The work of youth observatories received important media coverage through local radio and social media, and youth HRDs participated in several radio programmes, helping to publicize human rights issues and the importance of monitoring and reporting. The operation of the youth observatories has led to an eight per cent increase in national reporting on human rights violations compared to levels prior to the project.





## Accountability

An assessment of *Dina*, informal justice conventions in Madagascar, in terms of compliance with international human rights principles was finalized at the end of 2022. Approximately half of the population, predominately in rural areas, use informal justice systems. In early 2023, assessment findings were used during engagements with the authorities to advocate for greater reconciliation of formal and informal justice systems as well as greater human rights protection, resulting in the development of a joint project with UNDP, the Ministry of Justice, and civil society partners, to address these concerns. The project is to be implemented as of 2024 with the support of the PBF.

Concerned by the increase in attacks on persons with albinism, OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of Justice in 2022 to bring together UN agencies, national authorities and civil society to develop a comprehensive solution based on human rights. The recommendations resulting from the official country visit of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism in 2022 contributed to a joint study finalized in 2023 and documentation of the situation of persons with albinism in Madagascar, their needs and gaps in services. The results of this work are being used to develop a comprehensive national action plan to be finalized in 2024. These efforts, combined with widespread publicity and condemnation of attacks, contributed to a reduction in the number of attacks against persons with albinism in 2023.



## Mechanisms

OHCHR has consistently supported the Ministry of Justice to ensure the effective functioning of the NMIRF through capacity-building. These efforts were focused on understanding of the international human rights mechanisms, how to use tools available to identify recommendations, and how to document the implementation of recommendations. By 2023, the support had enabled the functioning of an intra-governmental committee in charge of drafting State reports for the mechanisms. The Committee benefits from a workplan identifying members' responsibilities and an

empowered secretariat based in the Ministry of Justice. It is in the process of setting up and operationalizing a database proposed by OHCHR to keep track of recommendations and their implementation, as a primary tool for reporting and follow-up.



## Peace and Security

OHCHR set up a monitoring and reporting system ahead of the November elections. Weekly and subsequently daily reports informed the interventions of the RC and the international community, and were used for advocacy in dialogue with the authorities, during a sensitive pre-electoral period.



## Development

The HRA worked with the RC to ensure that a HRBA is integrated into the work of the UNCT. The HRA ensured UN-wide coordination on prison overcrowding, attacks against persons with albinism, the situation of refugees and asylum seekers, and the increase in kidnappings of women and girls, to ensure human rights sensitive responses to these issues.

## MALI: UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

Type of engagement	Peace Mission
Year established	2013 (discontinued in December 2023)
Field office(s)	Bamako, Bamako-based office for the southern regions (Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso and Bamako District), Mopti, Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, and Timbuktu
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2023	60

Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

Following the promulgation on 15 November 2022 of legislation on reparations related to gross human rights violations, the President of the transitional Government signed an ordinance establishing the National Agency for Reparations to Victims of Crises, and its decree of application, in March 2023. The Human Rights and Protection Division (HRPD), representing OHCHR in Mali, advocated with the Government to ensure international human rights and standards for the protection of victims are mainstreamed in the ordinance and its implementing decree. The Law recognizes, in its article 3, the right to remedy and reparation for victims as a fundamental right.

A pool of 18 certified human rights trainers (capacitated with HRPD support) were put in place and a manual on international human rights law was developed, as part of the strategy for the roll-out of training on human rights for soldiers in military regions throughout the country. This achievement was the result of cooperation between the HRPD and Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF) institutions.

#### Peace and Security

Due to restrictions, HRPD adapted its monitoring and reporting work by conducting remote investigations on alleged human rights violations and abuses. In March, HRPD published a quarterly note on trends of human rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations in Mali, from October to December 2022. Two additional notes were finalized but have not been published due to the cessation of the mandate of MINUSMA. There has been limited progress in the prosecution of cases related to allegations of human rights violations involving the MDSF, however Courts are increasingly holding trials for terrorism related cases.

To ensure human rights mainstreaming in the UNCT's work, HRPD provided technical advice and practical guidance in drafting the contribution to the review of Mali's human rights records at the forty-third session of the UPR. HRPD also closely cooperated with the RCO in ensuring a HRBA to the design of the new UNSDCF 2025-2029. The HRPD also provided technical support in the drafting of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (HRDDP) by the UNCT, following the withdrawal of MINUSMA.

HRDP conducted a total of 187 risk assessments on operational support provided by MINUSMA and UNCT to non-UN security forces, including 12 on the handover of MINUSMA camps. Mitigation measures recommended addressing risks associated with such operations and ensuring compliance with the HRDDP. Recommendations, made to sponsoring MINUSMA sections and UN agencies, stressed the need for respect of obligations stemming from international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law. Further, HRDP conducted two trainings on HRDDP for 89 participants (12 women) and held over 50 meetings with Mission sections and components on HRDDP implementation, including on risk assessments, development of mitigation measures, and follow-up on the implementation of mitigation measures recommended.

**MAURITANIA**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2010
Field office(s)	Nouakchott, Nouadhibou
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2018-2022 (extended to 2023)
Staff as of 31 December 2023	15

**Key OMP pillars in 2023****PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

OHCHR engaged with the ministerial department in charge of human rights, Commissariat for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action, and Relations with Civil Society (CDHAHRSC), and the Ministry of Justice, on the drafting process of a new bill for the creation of a specialized tribunal against slavery and human trafficking, formalized at the end of 2023. A tripartite team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Human Rights and the Prosecutor General's Office, was created to ensure regular sharing of information and monitoring of cases of slavery. OHCHR provided support for the setting up of a database within this tripartite team to ensure access to updated information on the judicial proceedings of slavery cases before competent courts.

Furthermore, OHCHR supported the CDHAHRSC in the drafting of a new national human rights strategy that should serve as a key instrument for implementing the Government's general policy statement as issued in July. The National Human Rights Strategy was adopted on 27 December 2023, by the Council of Ministers, chaired by the President of Mauritania.

Within the framework of the ISF project, OHCHR organized several workshops and trainings. A technical workshop on Law no. 2015-033 on the Fight against Torture was attended by 60 police officers and magistrates (10 women). A training on international standards relating to detention for prison guards in Aleg and Kiffa, benefited

28 participants (3 women). Ahead of the legislative elections organized in May, OHCHR activated its election-related monitoring strategy and implemented several activities before, during and after the elections. These included organizing or facilitating trainings on, human rights and maintaining public order in the electoral context, crowd management, and international standards on the use of force. These sessions benefited 980 officers of the National Police and National Gendarmerie (660 gendarmes and 320 police officers), prior to their deployment on the ground to ensure safety and security during the elections. Throughout the year, OHCHR conducted prison visits as part of its protection mandate. Human rights officers carried out several interviews of inmates including at women's prisons to document detention conditions and provide necessary recommendations. The compilation of recommendations was handed to the General Directorate of Prison Administration and Reintegration, with the aim to enhance detention conditions and treatment of prisoners. OHCHR will work closely with national authorities to follow up and implement these recommendations.


**Non-discrimination**

OHCHR supported the National Observatory for Women's and Girls' Rights (ONDFP), newly created in March 2023, by providing capacity-building activities for its members on women's rights and drafting shadow reports to the treaty bodies. Concluding observations emanating from the presentation of the fourth report of Mauritania before CEDAW, were also shared with members. The trainings were attended by 60 participants, including 45 women.

Furthermore, OHCHR supported journalist networks in raising awareness on the issue of hate speech, including through the production of a video on how to address fake news. A technical training session was organized for 90 participants including bloggers, influencers on social media, and members of civil society. One major outcome of this training was the creation of a network of bloggers and young activists on social media – 72 members (25 women) – to raise awareness and counter hate speech in the media.

OHCHR supported the Women’s Network of the Bassikounou Department, Réseau des femmes de la Moughataa de Bassikounou (RFMB), to raise awareness in schools and neighborhoods of Bassikounou on girls’ right to attend school and the negative impacts of early marriage. Some 800 people including youths and parents were engaged in these activities. The RFMB also sensitized 450 people, including 300 women, on its work to support women victims of violence. As part of International Women’s Day celebrations and the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence,” a door-to-door campaign on gender equality and GBV was carried out, reaching 470 families.

 **Peace and Security**

Two community dialogues were organized by OHCHR as part of the ISF project. The dialogues took place in Kiffa and Sélibabi localities and sought to establish a discussion and exchange platform on how to strengthen trust and information sharing between security forces and local community. Discussions focused on prevention work and addressing potential human rights violations by security forces during law enforcement operations. The dialogues gathered 65 persons in each locality including community and religious leaders, women, young people and representatives of administrative and security authorities. It is expected that the platforms will continue meeting on a regular basis to exchange information and handle local communities’ concerns.

**MOZAMBIQUE**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Project (other type of field presence)/ Human Rights Adviser
<b>Year established</b>	2019 (Project)/ Deployed 2022-2023 (HRA)
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Maputo, Pemba
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	8

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR continued to promote the application of human rights standards in the administration of justice, particularly in legal proceedings in cases related to the conflict in Cabo Delgado, through regular engagement with justice actors, including judges, prosecutors, investigators and public defenders.

Notably, OHCHR supported the organization of field missions and mobile courts to address cases of alleged arbitrary detention in Cabo Delgado to review the legality of detentions. Approximately 250 cases were reviewed and some 50 persons released as result. Further, during the missions, 596 children (358 boys and 238 girls) in situations of vulnerability were identified and registered in the database of the Public Prosecutor’s Office for family tracking and reunification purposes. No child was found to be detained in adult prison facilities for terrorism-related offences.

OHCHR continued to work to build the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) to implement its mandate. A comprehensive analysis of the draft law regulating the CNDH and focusing on alignment with the Paris Principles, was carried out by the Office. The review confirmed incorporation of previous OHCHR recommendations, while noting a number of provisions to be improved, including the nomination of three of the commissioners by the Prime Minister, effectively compromising the independence of the Commission. The analysis will help to define next

steps in OHCHR’s engagement in the process of revision of the bill, particularly given the Government pledge made in December under the HR75 Initiative to establish a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. OHCHR will organize a working session with officials from the Ministry of Justice and members of the CNDH in 2024, to support this objective.



### Non-discrimination

OHCHR worked with civil society and State institutions to promote compliance of the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities, with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Office participated in a workshop on human rights and disability organized by the Forum of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities for Mozambique (FAMOD), for members of civil society, with the aim of supporting their effective participation in public consultations on the draft law. OHCHR also contributed to a technical note by the UNCT, which was shared with Parliament, providing an analysis of the bill and making recommendations to ensure compliance with relevant human rights standards. Further, the Office liaised with and provided information on this legal initiative with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, who issued a public communication on the bill on 9 February 2023. The communication encourages the Government to revise the bill in consultation with persons with disabilities and makes a number of recommendations to ensure it is in line with international human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



### Development

In partnership with UNDP and the EU, OHCHR continued to support the Ministry of Justice to develop a NAP on business and human rights, which is a key recommendation of the third cycle of the UPR for Mozambique. The Government also committed to this as part of the HR75 Initiative. Public consultations for development of the plan were conducted in 10 provinces and Maputo. By the end of 2023, the Ministry of Justice had circu-

lated a draft of the NAP for comments by partners, including OHCHR.



### Peace and Security

In Cabo Delgado, based on the partnership developed with the provincial command of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM), OHCHR completed a comprehensive human rights training programme for police officers. The training took place in the district of Palma – one of the areas most affected by the conflict in Cabo Delgado – and consisted of 18 sessions conducted between July 2022 and May 2023, reaching 100 officers (10 women). The training drew from OHCHR’s *Manual and trainer’s guide on human rights training for the police* and aimed to increase the capacity of police personnel to respect and protect human rights.

An initial workshop for members of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FADM), co-organized with the Ministry of National Defence in April, marked the first step towards development of a technical assistance and capacity-building programme on human rights. This was followed by a webinar in August, which resulted in a road map to strengthen human rights compliance by the FADM, with a set of recommended measures in areas such as legal and policy frameworks, trainings, and accountability mechanisms. In November, OHCHR and the Ministry of National Defence organized a training of trainers on human rights for the armed forces, which contributed to the creation of a pool of trainers to further strengthen the capacities of military personnel on human rights.



### Mechanisms

OHCHR continued to build the technical and operational capacity of the Interministerial Commission on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law established in April 2022 as the NMIRF. Assistance included developing the Commission’s internal regulations and workplan. OHCHR also organized a workshop for 31 Commission members (18 women) to build capacity on treaty body reporting and the implementation of recommendations of the international human



rights mechanisms. During the workshop, participants started to work on a written response to the list of issues prior to reporting (LoIPR) to the HRC, pending since August 2022. The support provided to the Commission contributed to stronger interministerial coordination on human rights and increased Government capacity to follow up on the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms.

**NIGER**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office
<b>Year established</b>	2019
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Niamey
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	19

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Non-discrimination**

OHCHR contributed to enhancing national legal frameworks and policies on the protection of human rights of migrants in line with the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and other international human rights instruments, and in line with the “PROMIS” regional project to strengthen the capacities of West African States to develop a human rights-based response to the smuggling of migrants and effectively respond to human rights violations related to irregular migration. OHCHR provided capacity-building, technical assistance, and advocacy for the integration of a HRBA in the process of amending legislation to comply with international human rights norms and standards. On 15 June, the Council of Ministers adopted the draft amendment to Law no. 2015-36 relating to the smuggling of migrants, which aims to foster greater protection for migrants’ rights.

 **Peace and Security**

In the framework of the ISF project, OHCHR established a dedicated and specialized team to monitor human rights violations, including GBV and human rights violations committed by security forces. In 2023, the team carried out four human rights monitoring missions at the Diffa and Maradi detention centres, and the Kollo vocational rehabilitation centre, and in six police stations in Niamey. These missions enabled the acceleration of procedures concerning cases of long-term detention without trial, the release of

detainees in police stations in some cases (held for identity verification), follow-up of tracked cases, and monitoring of the security situation.

Furthermore, 40 HRDs (12 women) from eight regions received training to improve monitoring, documentation, analysis, and reporting on cases of human rights violations and abuses in their respective regions. This enabled OHCHR to set up a pool of 14 regional focal points, including six women, to facilitate the monitoring of human rights on the ground.

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the complaints mechanism of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) through the creation of a computerized digital mechanism for filing complaints online. The online complaints mechanism aims to improve access to justice and to the services of NHRC for victims of human rights violations including those committed by ISF.

OHCHR trained 30 legal officers (8 women) on criminal complaint mechanisms and remedies, and developed and disseminated a practical guide for complaints and referral of victims of human rights violations committed by ISFs. This contributed to the strengthening of the complaints mechanism of the National Agency for Legal and Judicial Assistance (ANAJJ).

OHCHR provided capacity-building on GBV, to 46 individuals (23 women), of the ISF (gendarmerie, police, national guard) from four regions (Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabery).

In the Maradi region, OHCHR organized an awareness-raising campaign to create a community of exchange between the population and ISFs on respect for international human rights and international humanitarian law in the context of counter-terrorism. A total of 258 people (46 women) participated in these exchanges.

As part of the “G5 Sahel Compliance Framework project,” OHCHR carried out numerous activities including trainings, after action review exercises, remote field monitoring in the G5 Sahel Joint Force operation zone, as well as the operationalization of an early warning mechanism in Tera. These activities contributed to greater adherence by the Joint Force to international human rights and international humanitarian law standards.

In the framework of the Gender & Youth Promotion Initiative (GYPI) 2.0, OHCHR contributed to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda by increasing the participation and influence of women and girls in peacebuilding initiatives, with a focus on women’s CSOs in the Tahoua and Zinder regions. A total of 119 people (55 women) in the two regions were sensitized and trained on human rights, peaceful coexistence, the role of women in conflict prevention and management, and the impact of media productions on the participation of women and girls in the peacebuilding process. This activity enabled OHCHR to establish spaces for dialogue and consultation aimed at strengthening the role of women in the peacebuilding process. The target groups are representatives of public institutions, women’s organizations, community media, traditional and religious leaders from the communes of Affala, Dakoussa, Konni, Mirrhia, Tahoua, Taknamat, Tirmini, and Zinder. In collaboration with UN Women, OHCHR has also set up a regional committee to follow up on the implementation of the project activities in Tahoua. The committee is composed of government technical services, NGOs, and development associations.

**NIGERIA**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2014
Field office(s)	Abuja
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	2

Key OMP pillars in 2023



 **Development**

OHCHR assisted the Government to enhance its statistical systems for effective data measurement on SDGs reporting and country level development priorities. The Office provided support on the use of human rights indicators and approaches, including through a workshop on a HRBA to data for representatives of the NHRC, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), at which the partners committed to working together. In December, with OHCHR's support, the NBS, the NHRC and the OSSAP-SDGs signed a MoU on data, to ensure that human rights indicators are included in NBS data methodology, including disaggregation of data.

OHCHR continues to support the project to implement the Climate Migration Strategy currently covering Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria, since 2017. The project aims to document the nexus between climate change, human rights, and migration, as well as produce evidence-based advocacy for inclusive climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, bridge protection gaps, and ensure a rights-based, gender-responsive approach to migration and climate change in the Sahel. In Nigeria, OHCHR undertook 19 monitoring visits and engaged with more than 1,000 affected persons, documenting human rights violations faced by migrants in the context of climate related displacement. The Office is working with affected communities to assess and identify priority protection actions, and with national authorities to mainstream human rights and gender considerations into laws, policies, and interventions.

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR supported the NHRC, notably in strengthening its capacity to investigate cases of human rights violations and in the development of policies and regulations. A National Hate Speech Register that was established in 2022, continued to be used in 2023 to record incidences and reports of hate speech from across Nigeria, and a NAP on business and human rights was developed in 2023. As a next step, the Office is engaging with ILO and UNDP to support the NHRC in developing a joint implementation programme for the newly adopted NAP.

With the support of the PBF, OHCHR in partnership with UNODC, has been facilitating the implementation of the Police Act 2020, which provides for a more effective, well-organized police, driven by the principles of transparency and accountability in its operation and management of resources. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Police Complaints Commission and the Police Complaints Response Unit, to strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms, provided training on critical police oversight functions during elections, and sensitized the public on issues of police misconduct ahead of the elections. According to election observers including the NHRC, while there were cases of reported violence, there was a marked reduction in terms of direct human rights violations perpetrated by the police compared to previous election cycles, in particular regarding extra judicial killings, which are commonly associated with the police in the context of elections.

**RWANDA**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Kigali
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2018-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2023	3

Key OMP pillars in 2023

**PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Participation**

OHCHR supported the project, “Strengthening the capacities of the National Commission for Human Rights and civil society organizations in Rwanda,” through training of staff and members on how to follow up on the implementation of UPR and treaty body recommendations.

OHCHR also strengthened the capacity of national actors to advocate for human rights by training 160 staff of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and members of civil society on human rights monitoring, investigations, advocacy, and reporting. Further, OHCHR facilitated the training of over 250 members of the judiciary as well as security forces, on a HRBA to law enforcement and dispensation of justice.

The Office supported the Ministry of Justice and the NCHR to organize a national dialogue in the context of the HR75 Initiative. This dialogue brought together approximately 60 high-level representatives from Government, the judiciary, the Parliament, the NCHR, CSOs, law enforcement and security organs, UN agencies, the diplomatic community, development partners, trade unions, academia, and the media.

As a result of this dialogue, Rwanda adopted five pledges: Rwanda will continue to reform its justice system to emphasize restorative and reformative justice over retributive justice; Rwanda will adopt and implement the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Action Plan on Business and Human Rights; phase two of the National Strategy for Transformation will be human rights-sensitive; Rwanda will contribute to global efforts to find a solution to the current global migration and asylum system challenges; the State will continue reforming the media sector to ensure an independent print and electronic media. These pledges will be integrated in the Government’s National Strategy for Transformation 2, currently being developed, as well as into the new Cooperation Framework, and the Common Country Analysis (CCA).

 **Mechanisms**

OHCHR provided technical advice to the Government during the drafting and validation of three periodic reports under the ICCPR, the Convention Against Torture, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The reports were tabled before the Cabinet and are yet to be submitted to the relevant treaty bodies.

**G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK PROJECT**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Project (Other type of field presence)
<b>Year established</b>	2018
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mauritania until end of project on 31 August 2023. Mali until its withdrawal on 30 June 2022, and Niger until July 2023.
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	Tripartite Agreement between the European Union, the G5 Sahel, and the United Nations (2017)
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	57

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Peace and Security**

OHCHR continued to support the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat and its Joint Force during the revision of its Concept of Operations, providing advice aimed at maintaining achievements made under the project to support implementation of international human rights and international humanitarian law compliance frameworks. This is reflected in the strategic objectives of the Joint Force, which include: protecting civilian populations, securing their property, creating an environment conducive to the return of the population (refugees and displaced persons), and ensuring humanitarian assistance, as well as integration of provost units in all battalions to ensure judicial processes in field operations.

The revised concept of operations shifted responsibility for the planning and conduct of operations to the national level, enhancing the role of the national armed forces headquarters. OHCHR continued support to the Joint Force during its reconfiguration. At the same time, the Office increased engagement with the headquarters of the national armed forces of the G5 Sahel Member States, and with counterparts at the national level (including OHCHR country offices), with a view to ensuring sustainability and enhancing the project’s impact regarding human rights compliance of military operations.

OHCHR also continued to support the G5 Sahel Executive Secretariat in the development of a regional strategy for the protection of civilians during Joint Force operations, to be implemented by national armies. Further, a lessons learned study to identify and document insights and good practices related to the development, implementation, and termination of the project, was undertaken in 2023, which will inform future similar endeavors.

The project thus paved the way for deeper engagement by OHCHR field presences in the Sahel with security and justice actors to implement international human rights and international humanitarian law compliance. This is a positive sign for the continuation and expansion of the work initiated under the project. The value of this approach to promoting human rights compliance, and OHCHR’s role in implementation, have been recognized by the Security Council, namely in resolution 2699 (2023) authorizing the deployment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to Haiti, and resolution 2719 (2023), establishing the foundation for a new generation of AU Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs) funded through UN assessed contributions.



**SIERRA LEONE**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Freetown
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2019-2023
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

Key OMP pillars in 2023

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

OHCHR assisted the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) in organizing a public hearing on the amendment to the Court Act of 1965, as well as in drafting an opinion paper on the draft bill. This facilitated participation and a unified response to the bill by the HRCSL and CSOs, and eventual passage into law of the Court Amendment Act of 2023, on 12 January. Among its provisions, the new Act broadens the mandate and increases the jurisdiction of the magistrate courts on civil and commercial matters. The Attorney General and Minister of Justice presented the amendment, which will provide for speedy trials and ease the burden for citizens to access justice, according to the Minister.

On 31 January, the HRA followed up the case of a 14-year-old girl who died on 9 January reportedly after undergoing a female genital mutilation (FGM) procedure. The HRA consulted with the police and the guardians of the deceased child. According to the police, the “*Sowei*” or traditional female initiator, was charged with murder and conspiracy while the caretaker of the girl who reportedly handed over the girl to be initiated was charged with conspiracy. Both women are on remand.

In February, OHCHR together with the RC held a meeting with the Chief of Justice, focusing on the importance of the rule of law and human rights in a democracy. Specific issues relating to electoral courts and speedy proceedings for election related issues, overcrowding in detention facilities and the use of alternative measures to detention, guidance

on fines and the independence of judges, were also discussed. The Chief of Justice will share with the UN the compendium of elections related legislations that his office is finalizing. OHCHR will support the judiciary to develop and implement a new justice sector strategy.

At the fifty-second Session of the HRC, the Attorney General of the Republic of Sierra Leone outlined gender sensitive legislative reforms that will strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights, including increased budgetary support to the HRCSL and the Judiciary, establishment of the Sexual Offences Model Court and the signing of all nine core human rights treaties.


**Peace and Security**

OHCHR supported the HRCSL to strategize on approaches to monitor human rights in the context of the 2023 general elections, including with the support of OHCHR’s Surge deployment. The OHCHR Surge team supported monitoring of the 2023 elections, including the June presidential and parliamentary elections, and supported operationalization of the human rights situation room hosted by the HRCSL. During the electoral process, the environment remained relatively calm and peaceful with only sporadic instances of violence.

OHCHR led drafting of the HRDDP SOP and General and Preliminary Risk Assessment (GPRA), which were adopted by the UNCT.


**Participation**

The HRA set up and co-chaired the human rights Working Group meeting comprising participants from ministries, departments and agencies, including the Office of the Ombudsman, the Judiciary, the Legal Aid Board, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Police, as well as development partners, and UN agencies. The Working Group acts as an interministerial and inter-agency platform to discuss human rights issues in Sierra Leone, and facilitate stakeholder collaboration. The HRA conducted a capacity needs assessment of Working Group member

bodies, and developed and led capacity-building sessions on human rights, including on basic human rights principles and practices, regional and international human rights mechanisms, and monitoring and reporting tools.

The HRA also facilitated training for CSOs on their complementary role pre and post UPR cycle, including technical guidance on mid-term reporting, sharing good practices and developing strategies for the implementation of recommendations. Over 30 human rights actors benefited from the training. Participants were drawn from across the 15 districts of the country.

**SOMALIA: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Peace Mission
<b>Year established</b>	2008
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, Puntland, HirShabelle, Somaliland, and South West State
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	31

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Peace and Security**

In line with the 2019 road map on children and armed conflict, OHCHR carried out advocacy efforts resulting in the endorsement of the Age Assessment Guidelines and its Standardized Checklist, on 31 July 2023 by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. The Guidelines aim to protect children from underage recruitment and from being tried under the adult justice system.

On 6 September, Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of UNSOM, together with the UNSOM Police and UNICEF, met with the Federal Ministry of Internal Security to discuss the draft directive for police on children and armed conflict. The directive aims to ensure accountability for the promotion and protection of child rights. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Ministry agreed to hold a workshop for the Somali Police Force to increase awareness on children and armed conflict and related concerns.

With support from the HRPG, in March, members of the HRDDP Task Force endorsed a methodology note on training as a mitigation measure. The note guides UN entities on what is meant by training as a mitigation measure in the context of HRDDP risk assessments and which elements and criteria to consider when developing training programmes. Furthermore, in October, the Task Force endorsed a methodology note on background checks. The note was developed in consultation with Task Force members and aims to streamline implementation of this mitigation measure by UN entities.

## Non-discrimination

The HRPG provided technical guidance and policy advice to the National Disability Agency, which released the first ever nationwide survey conducted in consultation with persons with disabilities on their needs and perceptions of political, social and economic participation. The report maps available services for persons with disabilities in Somalia. Additionally, it establishes a baseline for the work of the Agency and provides entry points for collaboration with civil society to strengthen awareness and response. The report made several recommendations including: to strengthen public awareness-raising on disability rights and inclusion in schools and institutions of higher learning, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities; to strengthen relevant legal and regulatory frameworks in light of Somalia's obligations on disability rights; and to provide technical and financial resources to the National Disability Agency to support its strategic vision and implementation of the NAP in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and draft disability bill to be approved.

On 8 July, in Somaliland, the HRPG, in collaboration with the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), convened a one-day coordination meeting for human rights stakeholders in Hargeisa. The meeting was attended by 50 participants (20 women) from relevant government institutions and CSOs to discuss the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. Participants agreed to advocate for the finalization of the draft disability bill and the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in national programmes.

On 20 August, in Dhusamareb, Galgaduud region, the HRPG collaborated with the Galmudug Ministry of Women and Human Rights and Development to facilitate a one-day consultation on the draft disability bill for Galmudug State. The consultation was attended by 45 participants (19 women) from relevant institutions and CSOs. Participants agreed on the need for the inclusive elaboration of the draft bill and its quick passing into State law.

## Accountability

On 13 July, in Somaliland, the HRPG collaborated with the Somaliland NHRC to facilitate a consultation meeting in Borama district, Awdal region, which was attended by 35 participants (7 women) from government institutions and CSOs, to discuss the draft of the Somaliland national human rights policy. Participants proposed to include political, economic, social, and cultural rights into the policy.

On 9 August, the HRPG organized a workshop in coordination with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Security, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in Garowe, Nugal region. A total of 25 participants (5 women) were drawn from the Puntland Intelligence and Security Agency, the Criminal Investigation Department, the Military Court and the Puntland Women Lawyers Association, among others, to increase their understanding of the new anti-terrorism bill. Participants recommended submitting the bill to the Parliament.

## Participation

The HRPG strengthened the capacity of CSOs and HRDs to monitor, report, and advocate for their human rights, through trainings. For example, on 15 March, in Mogadishu, the HRPG conducted a forum for 25 representatives (7 women) of CSOs and media to raise the importance of civil society's participation in the development of national legislation. Following the forum, participants agreed to work jointly in advocating for civil society participation in legislative processes and are hence participating in the consultation process of the NGO draft bill.

In addition, on 18 June, in Mogadishu, CSO representatives of seven thematic clusters met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and discussed a range of issues including the exclusion of persons with disabilities and minority groups from public life, the shrinking civic space and the prevalence of violence against women and girls. The participants put forward recommendations urging the UN to increase its support to civil society to enable them to play a

more active role in safeguarding human rights in the country. In line with recommendations, the HRPG engaged with linguistic minority organizations and initiated the translation of the UDHR into six minority languages, facilitated the formation of a climate change cluster, and provided members with training on climate change and human rights.

 **Mechanisms**

From 6 to 19 November, the HRPG supported the second country visit of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia by providing logistic and substantive support. In addition, the Independent Expert’s last report (A/HRC/54/78) was presented to the HRC, in October, highlighting political and security developments in the country, the humanitarian situation and the impact of climate change on human rights, and assessing progress made by the Government against benchmarks and recommendations set out in previous reports.

 **Development**

In July, in Galmudug State, the HRPG in collaboration with Towfiq Umbrella Organization held a capacity-building event on the establishment of human rights clubs in academic institutions. A total of 20 participants (12 women) from Plasmu and Hanano Universities attended the training. As a result, two human rights clubs were established to advocate for Somalia’s compliance with its human rights commitments.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Office
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
<b>Year established</b>	1998
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Pretoria
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	14

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Non-discrimination**

OHCHR continued to support the domestication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through awareness-raising and capacity-building assistance to Government and CSOs representing persons with disabilities in **Botswana**. Botswana acceded to the Convention in 2021 and the Parliament has since been considering its domestication through the enactment of a new Disability Bill. In November, the Office co-organized a workshop focused primarily on raising awareness on the Convention and promoting its domestication and implementation. The workshop brought together key stakeholders including Government, OPDs, civil society and a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Persons with Disability Bill was adopted by Parliament in December 2023.

OHCHR completed the implementation of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) pilot project, “Strengthening migrant integration and social cohesion in **South Africa**.” Key areas of focus included support to South Africa’s Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The Office supported the drafting of a framework for a repository of disaggregated data on incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in alignment with international definitions.

The repository will assist the South African Government in tracking and responding to incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as in reporting to international human rights mechanisms.

In the context of the MPTF project, OHCHR contributed to the production of various publications aimed at increasing access to legal and social services for migrants. This included: a research paper on potential risks and early warnings related to migration in the sub-region, and its impact on social cohesion in South Africa; and a guide and assistance materials on access to legal services with translations into Amharic, French, Lingala, and Somali – all languages spoken widely in migrant communities in South Africa. The information is hosted on UNHCR's help webpage and will also be rolled out as an automated WhatsApp service in 2024.



### Mechanisms

The Office continued to reinforce treaty body capacity-building with various governments to promote the establishment and strengthening of NMIRFs. In **Seychelles**, the Cabinet approved the formal establishment of a Human Rights Treaty Reporting Committee, to serve as a NMIRF. The body was yet to be constituted as of the end of the year. Two new NMIRFs were also officially launched in **Mozambique** and **Zambia**.

In terms of reporting to the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR's technical support to several countries resulted in the successful submission of State reports such as **South Africa's** report to the CAT, **Angola** and **Namibia's** submission to the CESCR, and **Botswana** and **Lesotho's** reporting to the CEDAW.

OHCHR strengthened UNCT capacity in the sub-region to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. The **Mauritius** UNCT was supported in preparing its submission to the UPR fourth cycle, for example. The Office also facilitated dissemination of recommendations from the UPR fourth cycle to the UNCT on **South Africa** and **Botswana**, and provided support for their implementation. Additionally, the Office contributed direct written inputs to the CERD, which

informed the development of the LoIPR for **South Africa** and **Namibia**.



### Accountability

In **Namibia**, comments on a draft legislation to amend the current Ombudsman Act were provided. The draft bill seeks to further strengthen the mandate and powers of the Office to give expression to its independence as guaranteed in the constitution. The Office continues to engage with the Ombudsperson to ensure that the bill is promptly tabled for parliamentary approval. This is expected in the first half of 2024.

Technical advice was provided to the drafting of a Human Rights and Public Administration Bill in **Eswatini** to encourage its alignment with the Paris Principles. The Bill seeks to update the current mandate of the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration, to include an anti-corruption function. The Office input is based on technical support provided since 2020 to strengthen the Commission and ensure that it has sufficient independence and resources to fulfil its mandate in line with the Paris Principles.

In **Botswana**, OHCHR provided technical advice to the Office of the Ombudsman on the operationalization of a new Ombudsman Act, which came into effect in July 2023. The law transforms the Ombudsperson into a hybrid institution with a dual mandate to investigate both maladministration and human rights violations, and provide redress and remedies to victims. OHCHR provided input to the amendment bill while under consideration by parliament to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles. OHCHR also held a series of consultations with the Ombudsperson during the year, to discuss additional technical assistance to strengthen the Office including induction and training support.

In **Seychelles**, strengthened collaboration with the Human Rights Commission involved: a needs assessment to identify key gaps and challenges faced by the Commission to bring it in line with the Paris Principles; advice on the Commission's legal framework and assistance in developing internal policies and guidelines to govern its complaint handling and investigation; a capacity-building



workshop for the staff and members of the Commission focusing on human rights monitoring and investigations and developing a strategy towards accreditation. OHCHR strengthened advocacy with other national and international stakeholders as well.

OHCHR supported the **South Africa** Human Rights Commission in organizing a workshop for 11 NHRIs in the SADC region focusing on the OPCAT, and women deprived of liberty. The workshop aimed at building regional momentum for the ratification and implementation of the OPCAT as well the establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) mandated by the OPCAT. It focused on strengthening the capacity of regional NHRIs to prevent risk practices leading to torture and ill-treatment of women in the criminal justice systems, including through the implementation of alternative measures of detention.

### Development

OHCHR ensured the integration of human rights and recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms in the new UNSDCF 2024-2028 of **Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, and Seychelles**. The new UNSDCF 2024-2028 of Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, and Mauritius, refer to the enhancement of human rights under the prosperity pillar, thus contributing to the advancement of a human rights economy.

OHCHR developed an overview of CESCR implementation in the sub-region focusing on **Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe**, and further developed a presentation on the interlinkages between ESCRs and the SDGs in the **Angolan** context. These were used for advocacy with and trainings for government representatives. The Office also provided technical advice on **Namibia's** rural economy, mid-term budget review, and a policy paper on poverty and inequality, as part of Namibia's Joint Policy Analysis Team (JPAT), coordinated by the RCO. The JPAT was established by the Namibia UNCT in 2023 to contribute to integrated policy analysis and advise on SDGs progress and related human rights in the country.

### Participation

In **Malawi**, the Office assisted the RCO in providing comments on proposed regulations for implementing the NGO Act passed by Parliament in 2022. The NGO Act was adopted without incorporating OHCHR's comments, however, authorities indicated that all concerns raised by stakeholders would be addressed in the proposed draft regulations, which remain under consideration as of early 2024. OHCHR also provided comments for two other draft legislations in **Zambia**: the Access to information Bill 2022, and the NGO Bill 2022, both under consideration by the National Assembly.

### Peace and Security

The OHCHR ERT partook in the regional monthly review (RMR) processes, undertook risk analysis for **Mauritius and Seychelles**, produced nine situational reports on the human rights risks in electoral contexts in **Zimbabwe**, and provided an analysis on the political situation and risk of instability in **Zambia**. The ERT contributed to the draft VNR for **Comoros**, highlighting the main human rights concerns in the country, and provided extensive feedback on a needs assessment mission conducted in March.

The ERT prepared twelve regional monthly early warning snapshots containing analysis of the main developments of concerns in the sub-region, which were shared with HRAs and the UNCT to keep them apprised of major risks and to support potential preventive initiatives within the UN system.

## SOUTH SUDAN: UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Type of engagement	Peace Mission
Year established	2011
Field office(s)	Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Juba, Kuajok, Malakali, Pibor (sub-office under Bor), Rumbek, Torit, Wau, Yambio, and Yei
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	104

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Mechanisms

Advocacy and high-level engagement with representatives of the Government, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, and CSOs contributed to the signing of three bills of accession to international human rights treaties by President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, on 24 February 2023, namely the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; and one regional treaty: the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). The instruments of accession to the UN treaties are pending deposit.

The Human Rights Division (HRDiv) of the UNMISS undertook capacity-building activities to strengthen the implementation of recommendations made during the third UPR cycle in 2022. As a result, in May 2023, during a joint workshop organized with the Government and non-governmental actors, the UPR implementation matrix was reviewed to identify priority actions and indicators to measure progress. These priority areas included protection from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), access to quality education, and freedom of expression and association.

#### Accountability

The HRDiv advocated for and provided technical support to rule of law institutions to enhance accountability for human rights violations and abuses while ensuring access to justice for victims and their families. This included support to the General Court-Martial, deployed to Yei River County, preparation of case files, providing referrals, monitoring proceedings, and reporting on adherence to fair trial guarantees. The General Court-Martial sentenced to prison 12 soldiers of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF), convicted of crimes such as murder, rape, sexual harassment, and grievous harm. The convicted soldiers were imprisoned for three months to 10 years and were also ordered to pay fines ranging from 50,000 to 700,000 South Sudanese Pounds. Most of the convicted soldiers were demoted and dismissed from the SSPDF.

The HRDiv also played a key role in advocating for mobile court deployment to alleviate case backlogs and prison congestion. This led to a mobile court supported by UNMISS being deployed in Malaka in August. The HRDiv supported monitoring of adherence to fair trial standards, and identifying, mobilizing and assisting witnesses, and providing their access to the Court. The mobile court delivered verdicts in 23 cases, including 9 SGBV cases, with 8 involving underage female victims, and resulting in 20 convictions and 9 dismissed cases. Those convicted were sentenced to up to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay compensation to survivors and their families. The SGBV cases tried by the mobile court sent a strong message to the community regarding accountability for such crimes, particularly those committed against children.

Support was provided by the HRDiv to the Central Equatoria State Legal and Prison Administration to mitigate overcrowding of detention facilities and reduce the backlog of cases in the judicial system, through the project, "Action-oriented joint prison monitoring." As a result, 14 male inmates in protracted detention and accused of minor offences, were presented before a high court judge and promptly released.

HRDiv's engagement with the Legal Administration of Lakes State on accountability for the rape of a 16-year-old girl by a senior officer of the South Sudan National Police Service, resulted in the trial and conviction of the perpetrator on 21 August 2023. The perpetrator was sentenced to two years in prison and payment of fines.

The Division spearheaded 12 capacity-building activities in Bahr-el Ghazal, Greater Equatoria, and Greater Upper Nile, on the rights of individuals under arrest and in pre-trial detention, human rights standards within police investigations, prosecution techniques, and safeguarding the human rights of individuals under police custody. Over 1,000 participants were reached including law enforcement, the judiciary, customary court leaders, personnel of the SSPDF, legal aid providers, and CSOs.



## Participation

Ahead of national elections in 2024, the HRDiv, in collaboration with the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS) and the South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network, conducted tailored trainings in four States, equipping more than 180 journalists and HRDs (58 women HRDs), strengthening their context analysis, creating strategic plans and security plans, stakeholder mapping, monitoring and reporting on fundamental freedoms, and digital data protection. This contributed to the establishment of protection networks in Bor, Juba, Rumbek, Torit, and Yambio. These are informal collaborative networks to pool knowledge and resources for protection and advocacy and share information to offer support, personal security, and solidarity among members, as well as to contribute through analysis and reporting on civic and political environment, and citizen participation in the electoral processes at sub-national level.

The HRDiv provided capacity-building and facilitated engagement space between security personnel and journalists. With HRDiv support, the UJOSS successfully facilitated the release of four of seven journalists who were detained for their involvement in the dissemination of a video featuring the President.



## Peace and Security

Subsequent to public consultations by the Technical Committee of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the bills establishing the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority by the Government, were drafted and presented, with the HRDiv's support, at the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly for deliberations and enactment.

The HRDiv is assisting by providing comprehensive comments to the draft bills and continuing to engage in broad public consultations, to ensure all stakeholder views are taken into account, and to ensure compliance with human rights principles and standards. The HRDiv continues to advocate for the holistic implementation of the Transitional Justice Mechanisms outlined in Chapter V of the Revitalised Peace Agreement.

To establish a group of transitional justice trainers within the Security Sector, the HRDiv conducted a training of trainers workshop on human rights, gender, and justice processes for 34 senior judge advocates (7 women), of the SSPDF. Those trained will further train new justices at the SSPDF mobile courts, which adjudicate military and civil matters.

To raise awareness on the transitional justice process across South Sudan, the HRDiv provided technical and logistical support in coordination with UNDP, for the launch of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs' website, which is expected to keep the public updated on the mandate of the Ministry, and the establishment of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms referenced in Chapter V of the Revitalised Peace Agreement.

## SUDAN

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Ad Damazin, El Fasher, Kadugli, Kassala, and Khartoum
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2018-2021 (extended to 2023)
Staff as of 31 December 2023	41

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Development

The Office continued to support the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) on a HRBA to data collection and analysis and contributed to the Technical Committee of the Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey to advocate for the inclusion of ESCRs indicators in the Survey. As a result, the Washington Group Questions on Disability as well as a number of other OHCHR suggested indicators (i.e., education, standard of living and health) were included in the questionnaire that was finalized in 2022 and the final survey, which was conducted in early 2023. OHCHR continued to accompany the CBS in early 2023 throughout the process.

The Office also worked with CBS to prepare a series of training activities on a HRBA to data and human rights indicators, targeting CBS and relevant Ministries. However, preparations were suspended following the outbreak of hostilities on 15 April. The Office shifted its focus to integrating a HRBA to data into the humanitarian response and supported the humanitarian community in its advocacy for an independent multi-sectoral needs assessment based on vulnerability criteria and adequate data disaggregation. Following the Office's advocacy, the Governor of Kassala State who had previously been hesitant, facilitated a first needs assessment in November in which the Office participated.

#### Participation

OHCHR invested in creating and maintaining platforms to facilitate the meaningful participation of rights-holders in decision-making. In total, 10 human rights fora were organized, bringing together 215 civil society actors (99 women) to discuss on key human rights issues and identify recommendations. Selected recommendations were subsequently brought to the attention of authorities and the National Human Rights Commission's regional office.

In the wake of increasing crackdown on free speech and media freedom, the Office stepped up its emphasis on protection of HRDs and journalists. The Office continued to invest in the network of protection service providers, set up in 2022 to facilitate protection of HRDs and to optimize swift, adapted services to HRDs under threat. To facilitate cross-border coordination, the Office organized, at regional level, a technical coordination meeting with organizations providing protection service to HRDs. The Office also supported and referred individual cases or accompanied individual organizations in obtaining redress. In total, 54 HRDs (4 women) who were under threat were referred to receive protection and assistance. The Office also accompanied the newly established syndicate of journalists to submit a formal complaint to the ILO after their registration had been rejected by Sudan's Registrar General of Workers Organizations. The syndicate launched a formal complaint to the ILO for violating Convention No. 87 on freedoms of trade union work and protection of the right to organize. The case is still pending final decision.

#### Non-discrimination

On International Women's Day, OHCHR organized a human rights forum, which brought together 35 representatives (30 women) from civil society and authorities, in particular the Secretary General of the National Council on Persons with Disabilities. The event focused on women and disabilities and facilitated exchanges between duty-bearers and rights-holders. It allowed policymakers from the National Council on Persons with Disabilities to better understand the gendered

barriers that women and girls living with disabilities face. The results of the discussions enriched a joint OHCHR-UN Women study titled, *Rights of women and girls with disabilities in Sudan's legal and policy frameworks from the lens of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The study will provide an evidence base for advocacy towards harmonizing Sudan's legislation, policies, and mechanisms with the CRPD.

The Office nurtured women's rights advocates and networks and continued to mentor a network of 23 women lawyers. The Office worked to strengthen capacities on investigation and prosecution of GBV cases and remained committed to securing justice for SGBV victims despite the conflict.

Jointly with the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), the Office created a database to document incidents of sexual violence in different parts of Sudan as well as using other tools, such as secure closed message groups with women's CSO networks in Sudan to facilitate incident reporting while at the same time respecting the do-no-harm principle. As a result of this coordinated action, efficient monitoring as well as swift referral for multi-sectoral assistance of survivors was facilitated.

The Office ensured the documentation of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) cases and the referral of survivors to appropriate, multi-sectoral assistance. Survivors of 56 incidents of sexual violence linked to the hostilities, which had been documented since April, were referred to relevant services.

The Office organized a seminar on medico-legal examination and documentation of SGBV incidents in North Darfur (El Fasher), which enhanced the capacity of 32 participants (12 women) from health, police, prosecution, judiciary, lawyers, and social work sectors to document SGBV so that evidence can effectively be used in court and facilitate accountability.

## Accountability

Following the outbreak of conflict on 15 April, OHCHR quickly shifted the focus of its work to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation and violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law, and support to CSOs. In addition to remote and in-country monitoring, the Office conducted monitoring missions to neighbouring countries (Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan) to collect first-hand information from refugees on violations. On the basis of real-time information and analysis, OHCHR conducted advocacy and identified newly emerging hotspots or dangerous trends such as the increase in ethnically motivated targeting and hate speech, raising global alarm-bells.

OHCHR supported the first visit of the Designated Expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan, who met with stakeholders and visited detainees in Khartoum's Kober prison. He encouraged the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and advocated for the release of political detainees and those arrested based on emergency orders. Investigations into at least eight cases have been concluded and files referred to the judiciary immediately prior to and following the visit of the Expert.

With the support of the Designated Expert, OHCHR produced a report on the situation of human rights in Sudan, including on accountability measures, which was presented by the High Commissioner during the enhanced interactive dialogue at the fifty-third session of the HRC on 19 June. OHCHR also assisted the special HRC session on Sudan on 11 May, and the interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Sudan at the fifty-fourth session of the HRC on 12 September.

The Office advocated with the Governors of South Kordofan and of Kassala States to establish a human rights and rule of law working group in the States. Both Governors were supportive; draft terms of reference were prepared for South Kordofan. However, the establishment of the working groups was delayed due to the outbreak of conflict.



In early 2023, OHCHR remobilized the Transitional Justice Coalition (TJC). This civil society network, actively involved in shaping Sudan's transitional justice agenda and ensuring inclusive and participatory approaches, suspended its activities following the military coup in 2021. The Office coached individual members to support the TJC's advocacy capacity and accompanied the establishment of an action plan and a steering committee. The Office also supported intercommunity initiatives aimed at widening consultation on the transitional justice framework in the Juba Peace Agreement. Jointly with UNITAMS, OHCHR continued to coach and mentor the Coalition for Peace, Justice and Tolerance in Darfur. This diverse inter-community platform composed of religious and civil society leaders from the five States of Darfur was established in 2022 with OHCHR and UNITAMS' support.



### Peace and Security

Following the outbreak of hostilities in April, the Office intensified its monitoring and reporting work. The Office conducted monitoring through its remaining field presences (in Blue Nile and Kassala) as well as remotely and through missions to neighbouring countries to obtain firsthand testimonies from witnesses and victims (Chad, Ethiopia, and South Sudan). The Office conducted 17 field missions, monitored 31 court hearings, mainly of protesters arrested in the context of demonstrations, including those facing criminal charges, and conducted 6 detention visits to follow up on individual cases of activists arbitrarily arrested and detained at different locations.

Based on its monitoring, the Office produced daily updates on the human rights situation between April and June (25 updates per month). This was gradually reduced to 12 updates per month in the period July-October, and to weekly updates from November to December (4 updates per month). These fed into the Office's advocacy at international and national levels.

The Office supported the revitalization of the nation-wide Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) led by the UNITAMS Senior Women Protection Adviser. This resulted in improved coordination of monitoring of sexual violence, intended to promote timely prevention and response, inform UN Security Council actions, and strengthen senior leadership advocacy with national authorities and the international community. The Office also provided 12 monthly inputs to the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on Children Affected by Armed Conflict, informing the quarterly Global Horizontal Note and the Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict.



### Mechanisms

In support of the NMIRF, the Office organized a workshop on transitional justice on 14 March, for the members of the NMIRF in Khartoum. This was attended by 42 representatives (25 women) from the 18 State institutions including the NMIRF, Ministries of Interior, Justice, Defence, Education, the Unit on Countering Violence Against Women, the judiciary, and the Public Prosecutor's Office. This led to increased awareness on the concepts, goals, mechanisms, and approaches to transitional justice as well as guiding principles for the UN and AU, and recommended that ESCRs be fully integrated in the transitional justice process.

**UGANDA**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2005 (discontinued in August 2023)
Field office(s)	Gulu, Kampala, and Moroto
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	- *

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



\* The Uganda Country Office was closed on 5 August 2023.

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Development**

In April, the Office provided technical and financial support to the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in launching the *Disability Status Report, 2019/2020-2021/2022*. The Report highlighted key achievements and challenges for the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020, with a focus on the limited inclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 interventions and access to financial services, judiciary, and information and communication technology services. Key recommendations included enhancing the capacity of relevant government institutions on the collection and analysis of disability disaggregated data, taking affirmative measures to ensure the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in informing government policy and interventions affecting their interests, and adopting a guideline for facilitating better access of persons with disabilities to the judiciary. The Office facilitated the process of collecting relevant data for this report during 2020-2021.

 **Accountability**

In February and March, OHCHR facilitated technically and financially a joint monitoring mission in the North Karamoja region (Kaabong, Karenga, and Kotido Districts) with the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), to verify and investigate allegations of human rights violations perpetrated by security forces involved in the disarmament operation during the fourth quarter of 2022, and January and February 2023. The mission led to the finalization of an investigation into seven complaints previously registered by the UHRC, and registration of six new complaints. The UHRC Human Rights Tribunal will adjudicate the complaints following completion of the investigation.

 **Participation**

In February, OHCHR and the UHRC organized a stakeholder consultation with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the National Planning Authority, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and CSOs, on the integration of a HRBA to data, in preparation for the 2024 national census.

Prior to the closure of the Office, OHCHR monitored increased cases of arbitrary arrest, detention, enforced disappearance, and violation of freedom of assembly and expression especially towards government critics, opposition party supporters, and activists. In this context, the Kampala Monitoring Team, based on open-source investigations and interviews, registered 74 human rights violations cases in the database.

 **Non-discrimination**

The Office monitored the legislative process and advocacy against the Anti-homosexuality Act, 2023. In March, following the passing of the Act, the UN system made a submission to the Parliament, highlighting key areas of the law that are not compatible with Uganda’s international human rights obligations. The UN system further requested Parliament to review, repeal and

establish a moratorium on the application of all laws that criminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults and criminalize transgender people on the basis of their gender expression, as well as other laws used to arrest, punish or discriminate against people on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Additionally, OHCHR monitored implementation of the law in close coordination with national HRDs and referred approximately 30 victims to organizations providing protection measures, as well as medical and financial support.

## WEST AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, and Togo
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Dakar
Staff as of 31 December 2023	35

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Mechanisms

Following OHCHR's advocacy, awareness-raising and capacity-building support, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire ratified the OPCAT on 1 May and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families on 27 September. OHCHR is assisting the Government to put in place a NPM following the ratification of the OPCAT.

In **Senegal**, the NMIRF continued its efforts to support preparation and submission of periodic reports. This was mainly done via capacity-building and sensitization for members of the mechanism. In 2023, four reports to the CED, CMW, CRC and UPR were prepared by the NMIRF.

In addition, in June, following technical and financial support from OHCHR, the Senegalese NHRI (CSDH), submitted an alternative report on the UPR for the first time.

CSOs benefited from OHCHR's technical and financial support and capacity-building, to prepare alternative reports to the international human rights mechanisms. The UNCT also submitted a report under the UPR with OHCHR's support.



### Non-discrimination

OHCHR improved the engagement of **Burkina Faso**, **Niger** and **Senegal** with the international human rights mechanisms, and follow-up on recommendations from the CMW. Notably, **Senegal** submitted its report to the CMW in June. OHCHR

disseminated CMW concluding observations in **Burkina Faso**, to increase stakeholder awareness of recommendations, and provided opportunities to strategize on implementation. The Office also coordinated UNCT contributions from **the Gambia** and **Niger**, which informed the formulation of a LoIPR adopted by the CMW. In addition, following a series of advocacy engagements by OHCHR, **Côte d’Ivoire** ratified the CMW in September.

OHCHR conducted joint human rights monitoring missions with State Institutions (such as the Observateur National des Lieux de Privation de Liberté, in Senegal) and NHRIs in **Senegal**, **Côte d’Ivoire**, and **Chad**, leading to the preparation of reports identifying human rights concerns in the context of migration and highlighting recommendations for various stakeholders including specialized governmental bodies on migration.

OHCHR, with the Mixed Migration Centre (MMC), published in April, a briefing paper on the human rights of migrants in the context of smuggling of migrants in **Mali** and **Niger**. OHCHR, in collaboration with MMC, finalized a study to enhance understanding of return and reintegration experiences and identify human rights protection gaps and needs in the return and reintegration of migrants in **Senegal**.

In **Nigeria**, OHCHR supported the NHRC to establish and launch a National Working Group on Human Rights and Migration that has served as a platform for stakeholder coordination and promotion of best practices for human rights-based responses in managing migration, returns, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The “Support project for the protection of child victims of rights violations” (PAPEV) was renewed for a second phase, based on achievements from the first phase and with advocacy by the Governments of **Gambia**, **Guinea**, **Mali**, **Senegal** and **Guinea Bissau**. OHCHR will involve community leaders in the care of children, advocate for the protection of children with disabilities and promote children’s participation in phase two. Key results of phase one included the submission of seven periodic reports on children’s rights, the reform of the children’s code in Guinea, the adoption of the children’s code in Guinea Bissau by the Government, the devel-

opment of guides for the promotion of alternative family care in Niger and Guinea, the equipment of 47 childcare services in the six countries, and the adoption of a regional priority road map for the protection of unaccompanied children on the move in West Africa.

## Accountability

In **Senegal**, UN Human Rights strengthened the capacity of the NHRIs, CSOs, UN agencies and relevant national authorities in the areas of human rights, prevention and fight against torture, reporting to treaty bodies including UPR and implementation of recommendations. In accordance with the recommendations of the human rights governance mechanisms on the Senegalese Human Rights Committee (CSDH), a new draft law on the reform of the institution was drawn up and submitted to the Government. The draft law has been submitted for adoption to Parliament.

In **Côte d’Ivoire** and **the Gambia**, NHRIs have been established and are functioning in conformity with international standards. The institutions have been accredited with “A” Status by GANHRI.

## Participation

In the context of the tense political situation in **Senegal**, OHCHR organized a dialogue and exchange session with young people to discuss the political situation and its impact on young people’s rights. The event brought together 33 youths (19 women), representing various regions. This exchange session provided participants an opportunity to share their experiences of the political crisis and pre-election violence in Senegal. The platform also empowered young people by inviting their input and thinking towards a peaceful electoral process.

## Development

In **Senegal**, OHCHR, with the support of the Government and the NHRI, organized two workshops to share the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and advocate for the

action plan. A road map for implementing the NAP in 2024, has been adopted.

In Côte d'Ivoire, OHCHR, UNDP, and the Ministry of Justice, co-organized a workshop to popularize the UNGPs and consequently adopt a timeline for the development of the NAP by end of 2024.

## Peace and Security

Upon the request of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Nigeria, OHCHR enabled the deployment of a support staff ahead of the presidential elections to provide technical assistance during the electoral period for human rights analysis, early warning and prevention activities.

OHCHR contributed data and information graphics to the bi-monthly multi-hazard surveillance tool for West African coastal countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo) of the Regional Protection Working Group and the Intersectoral Analysis Regional Group (GRANIT). This aimed to support analysis and the design of response and prevention measures.

OHCHR produced a daily media monitoring alert and a monthly media monitoring early warning analysis with a corresponding dashboard covering the Western Africa region, using the Europe Media Monitor News Desk. The Office also developed dashboards with actionable early warning analysis, such as on human rights in the context of elections in Senegal, or a dashboard illustrating the rise in food and fertilizer prices and violent demonstrations in Western Africa. OHCHR also published its first regional early warning snapshot, which provides a brief risk analysis of some of the most significant human rights developments in the region that may have an impact on the human rights situation at the country or regional level.

## ZAMBIA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Lusaka
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Mechanisms

OHCHR continued to work with the Government and other stakeholders to give effect to Zambia's obligations under international human rights law and follow up to the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms. It conducted a review of the domestication of the treaties and a law review and supported the Government to launch an interministerial NMIRF on 27 June. OHCHR is providing capacity-building to enable the NMIRF's functioning and coordination of implementation of recommendations, such as those relating to the CRC, the CED, and the fourth cycle UPR, at which Zambia accepted 226 or 250 recommendations. OHCHR's efforts to integrate the long overdue CEDAW report as one of the expected outcomes of the "Gender equality and women's participation initiative project," has enabled the Government to finalize its seventh to ninth periodic reports.

#### Development

As a result of consultations and capacity-building on an OHCHR study on advancing the rights to food and education in Zambia, the Government, national institutions, experts, academia, and NGOs conducted a deep-dive meeting on international human rights standards and norms, their implementation and how to achieve progress, including through enhanced legal protection, fiscal space for rights, and rights-based analyses, and budgeting. The consultations, which were held as part of the HR75 Initiative, succeeded in rein-



forcing the message that the international human rights framework is a resource and can be used to catalyze change for good. Participants highlighted advancing the constitutional reform to include economic, social and cultural rights and institution of a universal (nutritious) school feeding programme to the Government as examples of HR75 pledges that it could make. The Government expressed keen interest in universal school feeding and has requested an impact evaluation of the “Home-grown school feeding programme,” setting the stage for OHCHR’s further substantive and financial collaboration with the Government, WFP, World Bank and other stakeholders on the evaluation, which is expected to generate evidence towards the roll-out of the programme from the current 70 to 116 districts by 2026.

National stakeholders have leveraged the Study and consultations in their own work. For example, the Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC) issued a [commentary on the right to food](#) and the Zambia Council for Social Development used a rights-based lens in media outreach, including on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation and in the Daily Mail newspaper, on issues such as school closures during the cholera outbreak and the implications of Zambia’s improved corruption perception on resource availability for the social sectors.

The Study and consultations also contributed to raising Zambia’s voice on the impact of the country’s debt on maximum available resources for economic, social and cultural rights. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning participated in a meeting of the Human Rights Council on the “Reform of the International Financial Architecture,” in January 2024. This followed a communication to BlackRock, Inc. in July 2022 and a media release in April 2023 by UN Human Rights Experts on the impact of the country’s debt on the enjoyment of human rights. In June 2023, Zambia secured a debt restructuring deal with its Official Creditor Committee (OCC) but continues to await further progress and agreement between its private creditors and the OCC.

## Accountability

OHCHR contributed to the UN concept note on a national conflict prevention body for Zambia prior to its submission to the Ministry of Justice. The Office continued to advocate for the establishment of this body to promote dialogue and trust and mitigate tension and potential violence, including in the lead up to the 2026 elections.

OHCHR, along with the Zambia Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), submitted comments to the National Assembly on Zambia’s Access to Information Bill in November. OHCHR also submitted comments to the Ministry of Justice in March on the NGO Bill, Public Gathering Bill and Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Law.

The Office’s follow-up to a media release of the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights regarding lead poisoning in Kabwe led to discussions with the UNCT; convening of a technical team on the mining sector; and development of a concept note and UN offer of support to the Government in February to convene a national dialogue on responsible and sustainable mining. The Government responded in June, requesting the UNCT’s technical assistance to establish its Minerals Regulatory Commission.

Related to this, OHCHR extended financial and substantive support to a National Stakeholder Dialogue on Business and Human Rights, which was held in April under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, ZHRC and UN. Additional funding was secured to enable follow-up to some of the items included in the NAP road map that resulted from the Dialogue.

OHCHR also supported advocacy efforts and remedy vis-à-vis other emerging environmental issues. This advocacy contributed to suspension of plans for an open-pit mining operation in the Lower Zambezi National Park, in June.

The Office advocated with the Government to follow up on key recommendations within the *Prisons and correctional centres audit report* including alternatives to detention for the reported 645 minors in detention as well as remaining circumstantial children and their mothers.

## Non-discrimination

OHCHR advocated for the rights of persons with albinism including through community outreach on International Albinism Awareness Day on 13 June in Mandevu Compound, Lusaka, and in Sefula, Mongu District, on 21 July, where attacks against persons with albinism have been documented. It supported a Lawyer's Caucus, hosted by the Independent Expert on the rights of persons with albinism and Amnesty International, on 10 August, which discussed increased access to justice, review and legal reforms for protection, and strategies to enhance assistance.

### ZIMBABWE

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	Harare
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

#### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Non-discrimination

Following the adoption of the National Disability Policy in 2021, the HRA continued advocating for a human rights compliant legislation on persons with disabilities. In collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR, the HRA supported the drafting of the bill by providing technical inputs. The bill has recently been gazetted and is expected to go through the legislative processes for adoption.

As a result of continued advocacy and activities on disability rights and inclusion particularly under the support provided through the UNPRPD, which the HRA provides technical support to, there has been increasing awareness within the Government on disability rights issues and a willingness to take action towards disability inclusion. As a result, one of the pledges put forward by the Government during the HR75 high-level event in December, was the mean-

ingful engagement of persons with disabilities in key decision-making platforms, by 2030.

The HRA provided technical advice on a policy lab tool for OPDs supported by UNESCO, under the UNPRPD. The tool sets out a structured and fully inclusive process for OPDs to influence policy and law-making. It is envisaged that the policy lab will be activated when public consultations on the draft disability bill are launched.

#### Participation

The HRA through the RC and other stakeholders facilitated advocacy with the Government, members of the legislature and influential personalities to ensure that provisions in the Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Amendment Bill likely to limit civic space and adversely impact on freedom of association and of assembly, are abandoned. The amendments were approved by the

legislature, and were subsequently transmitted to the President for approval. As a result of concerted advocacy efforts including by the RC, the relevant UN special procedures mandate holders, CSOs, development partners, and various stakeholders, the President referred the amendment back to Parliament for reconsideration.

## Development

The HRA provided technical support and facilitated the finalization and validation of the UNCT guidelines for increased accessibility and reasonable accommodation in line with UN Disability Inclusion indicator 6. In addition, the HRA contributed to strengthening disability rights programming, monitoring and reporting aligned with the attainment of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda, through a capacity-building workshop organized by the RCO in collaboration with the UN agencies participating in the UNPRPD.

Technical input was provided as well to the draft water, sanitation, and hygiene high-level political compact, which contains commitments and actions to eliminate inequalities in realizing the right to water, sanitation and hygiene and to accelerate achievement of SDG 6. By the end of the year, the draft compact was still undergoing finalization by the responsible Ministry to align it with the Rural Development Concept 8.0 and other government initiatives aimed at addressing water and sanitation challenges in the country.

With the support of the Surge team and the RCO economist, a human rights analysis of the 2023 budget allocations and expenditures of the water and sanitation sector was conducted and shared with relevant government Ministries. It aimed to inform decisions on budget allocations and expenditures so that they are human rights compliant, adhere to the LNOB principle, and are geared to attaining the SDGs and particularly SDG 6.

## Peace and Security

The HRA supported the development of the UN Inter-agency Contingency and Operational Plan for the return of Zimbabweans from South Africa following the expiration of Zimbabwean Exemption

Permits, by providing human rights technical advice and inputs informing the protection related activities in the Plan. This followed a decision from the Executive Committee requesting IOM to lead development of such a plan using a HRBA to migration governance in return contexts. This plan is intended to support Government efforts to assist the likely influx of migrants returning to the country and/or deportations to Zimbabwe from South Africa.

In collaboration with UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, and the Africa University, the HRA supported the development of a policy brief with human rights inputs, which provided policy insights for promoting sustainable reintegration of Zimbabwean returnees from South Africa.

Through the provision of technical support, the Office aided the development of the UNCT's contingency plan for the August 2023 elections. Consequently, during the elections, human rights reports and actions were taken into consideration. The Office observed the electoral environment including on election day and collaborated with OHCHR's ERT and the Regional Office for Southern Africa, to provide regular human rights and protection analysis, and risk assessments to the UNCT for early warning and to inform preventive action ahead of the elections, as well as human rights inputs for the daily updates to headquarters and for media engagements.

## Accountability

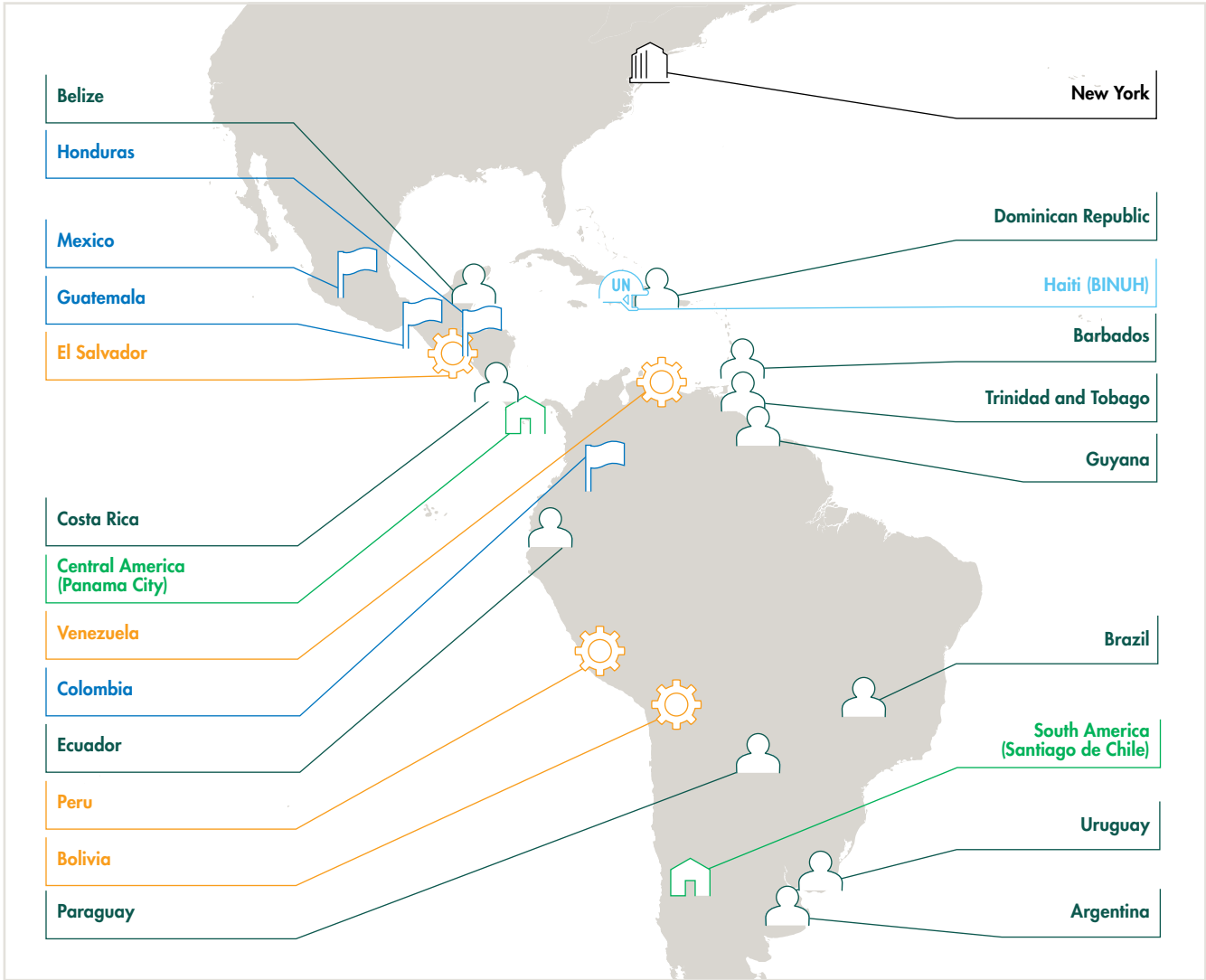
Working in collaboration with UNDP, UN Women, and UNESCO, the HRA provided technical advice on the implementation of the start-up phase of a project to strengthen the institutional and human rights capacities of the three independent constitutional commissions (the Zimbabwe HRC, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, and Zimbabwe Media Commission) to discharge their respective constitutional mandates with respect for the rule of law, accountability, democracy, human rights, gender equality and social cohesion, and in line with the national development priorities. The Zimbabwe HRC maintained its "A" Status following a review by GANHRI, which was supported by the HRA.



# UN Human Rights in The Americas



UN Human Rights Honduras staff members visit the Botaderos Mountain Carlos Escaleras National Park to assess damages caused by mining projects.  
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**TYPE OF PRESENCE**

**LOCATION**



Headquarters

New York



Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions

Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico



Regional Offices/Centres

Central America (Panama City, Panama) and South America (Santiago de Chile, Chile)



Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions

Haiti (BINUH)



Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs

Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica,<sup>a</sup> Dominican Republic,<sup>a</sup> Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay<sup>a</sup>



Other types of field presences

Bolivia, El Salvador, Peru and Venezuela

<sup>a</sup> Discontinued in December 2023.



In 2023, the work of UN Human Rights in the Americas region covered 35 countries and consisted of 22 field presences: 2 regional offices (based in Panama and Santiago de Chile); 4 country offices (Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico); 1 human rights component in a political mission (United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)); 3 technical missions (El Salvador, Peru, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); and 11 human rights advisers (HRAs) (3 internationals in Barbados/Eastern Caribbean, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic, and 8 nationals deployed in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay). OHCHR also maintained a scaled-down engagement in Bolivia following the end of its technical mission on 30 December 2022, which included discussions with the Government on future possibilities of cooperation. Additionally, OHCHR provided secretariat support to the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua, both mandated by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and based in Panama. OHCHR engaged with Canada, Cuba, and the United States of America from its headquarters in Geneva.

In Colombia, a new Host Country Agreement was signed extending the presence of the Office in the country until 2032. In Venezuela, a Letter of Understanding was signed with the Government, extending and expanding the presence of OHCHR's technical mission for two years. However, on 15 February 2024, the Government announced the suspension of the Letter of Understanding and requested that staff leave the country.

Amid continued climate, energy, and economic concerns worldwide, middle-income countries and small island developing States (SIDS) from the Caribbean region faced specific challenges, linked to high indebtedness, lack of access to international financing and limited fiscal space impeding universal access to economic, social, and cultural rights, with deepening socio-economic inequalities. Repeated heatwaves, storms, floods, and drought have impacted countries in the region, with growing needs for investment in preparedness, prevention, and mitigation. Food insecurity, linked to dependence on food imports and high food prices, continued to be experienced by many.

Persons on the move remained among the most vulnerable in the region. Migrants continued to be strongly affected by socio-economic crises, political turbulence, insecurity, and climate change, within a larger context of increasing stigma and discrimination, restrictive migration measures, and insufficient humanitarian response and protection measures for people in need. OHCHR reported on human rights violations and abuses such as disappearances, human trafficking, smuggling, gender-based violence and deportation, and implemented a sub-regional strategy on migration in Central America and Mexico, enhancing its capacity to monitor and report on Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

OHCHR supported Member States' engagement with the HRC to ensure adequate follow-up on those situations requiring international attention. Member States, including Colombia, Haiti, and Honduras, increasingly resorted to HRC item 10 (technical assistance and capacity-building) and requested support to improve the human rights situation in their countries, resulting in resolutions providing for such assistance, including designation of international human rights experts appointed by the High Commissioner. A resolution sponsored by all Caribbean Community (CARICOM) States was adopted by consensus, requesting the establishment of an OHCHR office to cover the CARICOM region. This marked an important step, as for the first time, CARICOM States came together with a strong and clear voice requesting the HRC to enhance human rights support for their countries, given the unique and specific challenges they face as SIDS.

OHCHR responded to continuing or emerging situations of concern. In Brazil, OHCHR expressed concerns over legislation unduly restricting Indigenous Peoples' right to land, and the continued high incidence of lethal use of force by law enforcement in neighbourhoods of people of African descent.

In Mexico, the continuing issues of disappearances, homicides, and the targeting of human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists remained a concern and OHCHR contributed to strengthening normative and institutional frameworks and enhancing victim participation. OHCHR provided technical assistance for protection plans in over

780 cases of HRDs and journalists. Advocacy efforts resulted in the release of wrongly accused defenders and the conviction of individuals responsible for attacks against journalists.

In Peru, OHCHR monitored and published a report on human rights violations during the political crisis and documented 50 deaths, 821 injuries and 988 detentions in the context of protests. In early January 2024, a historic first detention order was made against a police officer allegedly involved in the killing of a protester.

In Guatemala, OHCHR monitored closely the process surrounding the 2023 general elections in June and August, as well as cases of continued criminalization of justice operators investigating anti-corruption cases, and publicly expressed concerns about systematic attempts to undermine the results of the presidential elections and the rule of law. This included judicial actions led by the Attorney General's Office against electoral officers, justices of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and members of the "Semilla Movement" party, including the then President-elect and Vice-President-elect.

In the Americas, 2023 was dedicated in great part to the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative, in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Various activities took place throughout the year, including a regional dialogue on "Indigenous Peoples and Access to Justice," in Santiago, Chile, and another in Washington, D.C. on security and human rights, jointly hosted with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In Mexico, a collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the Colombian musical group, Aterciopelados, resulted in the production of the song "*Liberté*" to amplify the message of HRDs. The video received more than 1 million views within its first month.

**BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)**

Type of engagement	Project (other type of field presence)
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	La Paz
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	4

## Key OMP pillars in 2023

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

OHCHR provided support to the Ombudsman's Office, Defensoria del Pueblo (DdP), to enhance the effectiveness and independence of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and the National Torture Prevention Mechanism (embedded in the Ombudsman's Office since 2021). A joint workplan was established including several key initiatives, such as training sessions on human rights monitoring methodology for all substantive staff of the institutions, technical assistance on international human rights standards provided to the NHRI's Indigenous Peoples Unit, and joint visits to detention centres with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). Further, a comprehensive capacity assessment of the DdP was conducted together with the UNDP and the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The assessment resulted in a report with recommendations to improve the compliance of the DdP in line with the Paris Principles, and a strategic road map for institutional strengthening.


**Non-discrimination**

OHCHR delivered three information sessions on women's rights and the prevention of political harassment and violence against women, in collaboration with the Bolivia's Association of Women Departmental Representatives (AMADBOL), in Chuquisaca, Oruro, and La Paz Departments. The sessions reached more than 165 individuals, mostly women parliamentarians, councilwomen

and women leaders, and aimed to provide critical legal and practical knowledge to combat pressures to relinquish their posts midway through their mandate, a practice known as "forced shared mandate commitments" (*compromisos forzosos de gestión compartida*).

OHCHR also monitored the situation of women deprived of liberty. Along with the NPM, OHCHR visited detention centres in La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Chuquisaca, interviewing over 70 women deprived of liberty, and penitentiary system staff. OHCHR also strengthened the NPM through consultancies on torture prevention indicators and a tailored digital system.


**Participation**

OHCHR, in collaboration with UNESCO and the UNIR Bolivia Foundation, convened workshops for journalists, press workers, union representatives, CSOs, and media owners from across Bolivia, reaching more than 75 individuals. The workshops increased their knowledge on freedom of expression and challenges faced by journalists, and proposed strategies for the practice of safe journalism.

On press freedom, OHCHR worked with the UNIR Bolivia Foundation in coalition-building to lay the groundwork for establishing an independent non-State mechanism for the protection and support of journalists, including by incorporating a gender perspective.


**Development**

OHCHR continued to strengthen the networks of Indigenous experts (*peritas y peritos*) that play a vital role in bridging the formal justice and Indigenous justice systems, as well as women community leaders (*brigadistas comunitarias para la paz*), who promote and advocate for human rights in their communities. In July, alongside the Ombudsman's Office, OHCHR organized trainings on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, with the participation of 26 Indigenous experts and 8 women community leaders from all departments of Bolivia. *Brigadistas* participated in community radio programmes in their Indigenous

languages highlighting the importance of human rights in the context of the HR75 Initiative.

In August, an inter-agency meeting with leaders of the T’simane and Esse Ejja Indigenous Peoples was convened focusing on threats these communities face, such as loss of traditional lands and livelihoods for the T’simane, and severe health impacts due to mining-related mercury contamination among the Esse Ejja. A UN Country Team (UNCT) Task Force was established to deal with the impact of mercury contamination, especially among rural and Indigenous communities.

 **Peace and Security**

OHCHR delivered a training session in June to the UNCT on human rights indicators and markers, to support the formulation of the workplan for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Results Group (2023-2027). OHCHR also provided inputs for the integration of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into UN Bolivia’s new communication protocol on risk situations.

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Advisers for English-speaking Caribbean countries
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago
<b>Year established</b>	2012
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Belmopan (Belize), Bridgetown (Barbados/ Eastern Caribbean), Georgetown (Guyana), and Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	4

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Non-discrimination**

Under the HR75 Initiative, in November, in Bridgetown, Barbados, a UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) consultation, “Breaking barriers: inclusion, participation, and freedom from violence for persons with disabilities,” was jointly organized by OHCHR with the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UN Women, the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative, UNFPA, and UNICEF. The consultation aimed to shed light on barriers and advances towards inclusion, participation, and freedom from violence for persons with disabilities. Over 60 participants from 10 Caribbean countries attended, including high-level experts, governments and representatives from CSOs including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). Notably, this was the first UN consultation in the region focused on disability, organized with persons with disabilities, and with a clear intersectional dimension and a human rights foundation. The event led to the development of a substantive report identifying areas for further UN work and collaboration in 2024-2025.

Legislation and policies on disability inclusion are under development in **Barbados, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago**. **Saint Kitts and Nevis** also created

the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing and Disabilities, in place since February 2023. As part of a UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) project in **Trinidad and Tobago**, OHCHR participated in a legislative review panel with persons with disabilities and government authorities tasked with reviewing content and generating draft amendments to the Equal Opportunity, Mental Health, and Education Acts. The proposed amendments, aimed at ensuring stronger provisions for equality and non-discrimination within the school system, the public health system and the workplace, were submitted to the Government at the end of 2023. The proposed amendments align legislation with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In **Grenada**, discussions were organized on transformative solutions for inclusive development, as part of Disability Awareness Month activities in May. Another discussion was held with the RCO and Grenada's National Council for the Disabled, on youth and disability. In **Barbados**, as part of Disability Month activities in March, a webinar was organized with the Barbados Council for the Disabled to discuss the incorporation of standards in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the deliberations for a new constitution.

With OHCHR's support, roundtable discussions on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), food security and disability inclusion were convened in Georgetown, **Guyana**, in June, together with persons with disabilities. Over 35 participants from government entities, the disability community, and key stakeholders, participated in discussion on the challenges persons with disabilities experience and measures to ensure their meaningful engagement in policy dialogue.

Through the UN "Free & Equal" campaign, OHCHR engaged stakeholders in **Guyana** to increase awareness and support for equal rights and fair treatment of all LGBTI persons. This included engagement with CSOs and businesses on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), and training eight journalists on gender, sexual diversity, and terminologies for reporting.

In **Barbados**, on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in May, the UNCT hosted a panel discussion with testimonies of senior members of the LGBTI community about experiences before the HIV epidemic. Discussions focused on acceptance, tolerance, and the importance of community organization and advocacy.

At regional level, the Office also supported efforts to enhance understanding and practice of the principle of free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples. In November, a virtual dialogue for UN staff in English-speaking Caribbean countries was organized, aimed at raising awareness on this principle as a tool to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples and reduce the risk of conflicts. The dialogue also served to facilitate exchanges among impacted communities, namely in **Belize, Guyana and Suriname**. In Guyana, the HRA also coordinated a joint assessment mission to Indigenous communities with the UNCT and government entities, with a focus on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and migrants from Venezuela. The mission resulted in joint assessments of the development context; proposals to strengthen migrants' access to services and livelihood opportunities, to ensure protection for women and children and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities; and a UN plan for joint activities in border regions.

### Mechanisms

In October, in Bridgetown, **Barbados**, the first Caribbean capacity-building workshop on treaty body reporting and the strengthening of the National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs) was jointly organized by OHCHR with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados. Twenty-eight government representatives from 13 Caribbean countries attended the event, which was part of the HR75 Initiative activities in the region. Participants held discussions, shared experiences, challenges, and good practices and took part in the capacity-building activities on treaty body reporting, NMIRFs, and synergies between human rights reporting and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). This resulted in strengthened commitment of



CARICOM countries to establish or strengthen NMIRFs, access the National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD), and make efforts to comply with reporting obligations to treaty bodies, as outlined in the outcome document of the event. In December, during the HR75 high-level event in Geneva, **Antigua and Barbuda** and **Barbados** made a pledge to put into place a NMIRF, and **the Bahamas** and **Guyana** pledged to strengthen their NMIRFs. In Guyana, capacity-building activities for NMIRF stakeholders were delivered throughout 2023, including through a workshop on international human rights law and the scope of human rights and States' obligations, attended by over 80 participants. In **Saint Vincent**, a similar webinar was held with participation by over 15 institutions.

In **Belize**, OHCHR advocated with authorities in support of the ratification of the Escazú Agreement (the regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean) and provided training for parliamentarians, government officials and civil society representatives. This enhanced stakeholders' engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. Belize submitted on time its fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report. Additionally, the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, established in 2022, hosted a HR75 event focused on promoting women's rights and advancing economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). Capacity-building sessions are planned for 2024 for parliamentarians and will cover anti-discrimination legislation currently under discussion.

In **the Bahamas**, the Office supported the engagement of stakeholders with the UN Group on Arbitrary Detention and the UN Independent Expert on foreign debt, international financial obligations and human rights, which respectively visited the country in December and August 2023. The experts highlighted the need for long-term financial planning to address the country's climate vulnerability and economic dependence on tourism, and engaged in a dialogue with the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government, representatives of civil society, and detainees, on best practices to prevent arbitrary detention from occurring.

## Development

In March, **Belize** and **Grenada** became the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> countries, respectively, to ratify the Escazú Agreement. OHCHR continued its advocacy with authorities in **Barbados**, **Dominica** and **Trinidad and Tobago** for ratification in 2024. The Office also supported the participation of representatives from Barbados, Belize, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago in the Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in September 2023.

OHCHR engaged in the discussions on seabed mining before the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in **Jamaica**, reaching 75 individuals, including State delegates. The Office supported the call for a moratorium or precautionary pause on deep-sea mining beyond national jurisdictions, with [key messages](#) published on human rights considerations on the impact of seabed mining.

In a collaboration with the RCO in **Guyana** and the University of Guyana Green Institute, a [policy dialogue](#) on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment was facilitated by OHCHR, informing participants on rights-based environmental action, and the role of law in achieving environmental justice, with practical examples of rights-based approaches successfully securing environmental protections.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Regional office located in Panama City (Panama), with Human Rights Advisers in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador
Staff as of 31 December 2023	22

## Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:

 Participation

OHCHR facilitated the participation of HRDs and CSOs in the public consultation process of the Regional Action Plan to implement article 9 of the Escazú Agreement, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of those directly involved and affected are central to the development and implementation of the Plan. This key article mandates States to create a safe and enabling environment for HRDs. OHCHR contributed to ensure that strategies and policies outlined in the Plan are grounded in the real-world experiences and needs of HRDs and civil society.

OHCHR together with ECLAC, UNEP, and UN Women, co-organized the Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, today one of the largest advocacy spaces for the protection of HRDs. The Forum was attended by more than 300 people, including representatives of States, CSOs, HRDs, and the UN system. OHCHR ensured the integration of a human rights perspective into the conceptualization and organization of the event.

In partnership with UNDP and UNAIDS, OHCHR promoted adoption of more inclusive legislation and public policies in **Panama** through strengthening the advocacy capacity of LGBTI groups. This support culminated in the establishment of a National Observatory on LGBTI Rights in February. This groundbreaking development marks

the first time that the Offices of the Ombudsperson has set up such an institutional framework. The Observatory serves as a unique platform to assess the human rights situation of LGBTI people and facilitates stakeholder participation in advocating for inclusive legislation and public policies. OHCHR, with UNDP and UNAIDS, participated as observers in the Observatory and jointly assisted regular meetings and specialized training for the development of a workplan for the Observatory, to be implemented in 2024.

In **Nicaragua**, despite challenges in accessing the country, OHCHR contributed to maintaining international awareness on the evolving restrictions to civic space. The Office continued to monitor the human rights situation remotely through visits to third countries with a significant number of Nicaraguans in exile. During those visits, OHCHR conducted interviews with victims, journalists, HRDs, as well as persons stripped of their nationality and rendered stateless, including to document conditions of detention. The visits helped bring visibility to the severity and urgency of Nicaragua's human rights crisis on the international stage. Regular inputs to the UNOCC played a key role in advocating for preventive or protective measures by the Nicaraguan Government and the international community, and contributed to a new resolution by the HRC, which acknowledged the crisis and extended OHCHR's mandate in Nicaragua for two years. In addition to documentation, the Office also organized regular capacity-building activities for CSOs. These training sessions aimed at equipping organizations with the necessary skills and expertise to navigate the human rights system, as well as international accountability mechanisms.

In **El Salvador**, despite challenges in terms of restricted civic space, shifting legislative priorities, and a prolonged state of emergency, progress was achieved in strengthening the ability of CSOs to utilize international human rights mechanisms and advocate for the implementation of their recommendations. CSO capability was further reinforced by developing strategies and workplans to identify, analyse and follow up on the most relevant international human rights recommendations.

## Development

In Costa Rica, OHCHR contributed to enhancing the capacity of the ICE Group (*Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad*), the country's primary energy generator and distributor, to implement human rights due diligence processes. This resulted in the issuance of the first human rights policy commitment among the country's public enterprises. The policy ensures integration of human rights standards in corporate strategies in alignment with UNGPs. The ICE Group also developed a road map to initiate its first human rights due diligence process for 2024.

The Office engaged in capacity-building in the sugarcane production sector as well, in collaboration with local associations and sugar mills in Panama and Costa Rica, to implement human rights due diligence processes. With OHCHR's facilitation, the Sugar and Cane Industry Association (LAICA) in Costa Rica initiated the implementation of human rights due diligence processes among its mills and plantations. LAICA is also preparing a human rights policy commitment expected to be issued in 2024.

OHCHR engaged with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and agreed to collaborate through specialized technical assistance towards implementing business and human rights standards in CABEI's norms, practices, and procedures. This is a significant achievement as the CABEI is the primary international financial institution in Central America.

## Accountability

The Regional Office's monitoring work enabled more effective technical cooperation with the Panamanian NHRI, which enhanced its protection activities and response during the October anti-mining protests. This progress followed assistance provided by the Office including joint meetings with authorities and civil society, a joint press release, and advice on human rights norms and standards.

OHCHR's Emergency Response Team (ERT) ensured an in-depth follow-up on the civil unrest triggered by the mine-sector protests in Panama. By regularly monitoring open sources, the ERT registered over 1,600 events in 45 days and produced daily reports with updated analyses and recommendations on identified human rights risks. This work contributed to positioning human rights concerns in the UNCT's agenda. The analysis and recommendations were critical to tailoring the UN response, including using public voice and advocacy with State authorities to minimize foreseen human rights risks (e.g., excessive use of force, prolonged arbitrary detentions, criminalization of social leaders), and to avoid the escalation of violence during the protests.

The Office continued to promote the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of femicide cases and its related self-learning online course, among judicial practitioners of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, with the aim of enhancing use of human rights standards in the investigation of femicide cases. In partnership with the UN Women's Training Virtual Centre, the skills of 75 legal practitioners, including public prosecutors and lawyers were enhanced to deal with these cases. Ninety per cent of the trainees considered that the course contributed to the integration of relevant standards in their work, such as gender equality and gender perspective.

With OHCHR's support, the Judiciary of Costa Rica developed a guide for incorporating a gender perspective into sentencing in cases of sexual crimes and domestic violence. Official endorsement is expected in early 2024, helping to reduce impunity in such cases.

The Office convened a second regional forum to foster the elaboration of a regional protocol for the investigation of gender-related crimes against LGBTI persons, as part of its ongoing partnership with the Gender Specialized Network of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries, and the Regional Information Network on LGBTI Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. The drafting of the regional protocol is ongoing and is expected to contribute to reducing impunity.

 **Non-discrimination**

With OHCHR's advocacy and technical support, the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations are being gradually incorporated in migration governance measures in the region. This is reflected in the setting up of a regional training course on human rights at international borders for migration officials, by Member States of the Regional Conference on Migration, as well as in the installation of reception centres and closing of the informal shelter, *La Peñita*, in Darien, Panama, in 2021. Installation of the new centres improved access to basic services while deployment of public prosecutors helped to receive and process complaints of abuses and human rights violations against migrants in the Darien Gap.

Additionally, OHCHR contributed to developing a protocol on access to justice for migrants in line with the recommendations made to **Panama** by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the pledge submitted by the country in the International Migration Review Forum. The protocol aims to enhance Government efforts to address protection gaps and guarantee access to justice for people on the move who are victims of crimes and abuses. The protocol will be formally adopted in 2024.

As a result of the Office's cooperation and accompaniment to promote a regional approach of NHRIs to the situation of human mobility in Central America, the NHRIs of **Panama** and **Costa Rica** created a space for the exchange of information, carried out joint missions and issued early warnings regarding the human rights situation of migrants at borders.

The monitoring capacity of the NHRI of **Panama** was reinforced through a tool developed by OHCHR. Using the monitoring tool, the NHRI has been able to identify, register and analyse patterns of human rights violations against migrants at the Panama border, in order to inform relevant authorities and humanitarian actors of the protection needs.

Further, States in the region engaged in dialogue with expert members of treaty bodies, CSOs and relatives of disappeared migrants, to discuss good practices and challenges they face in preventing the death and disappearance of migrants, as well as access to justice. The multi-stakeholder participation provided regional input for the elaboration of the General Comment of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) in the context of migration, as well as to the General Comment of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), on the linkage of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families with the Global Compact on Migration.

**COLOMBIA**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	1997
Field office(s)	Bogotá, with field presences in Arauca, Barranquilla, Cali, Choco, Cúcuta, Medellín, Neiva, Pasto, and Villavicencio
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2023
Staff as of 31 December 2023	112

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Peace and Security**

On 7 September, the National Security Guarantees Commission (CNGS) approved the public policy on dismantlement of criminal organizations and issued a decree granting legal status to the policy. This constitutes a significant step towards addressing the violence that affects the country and the civilian population and complying with one of the most sensitive points of the Peace Agreement. The Office played a critical role in this process by providing technical assistance to the CNGS on public policy formulation and the incorporation of human rights standards. The policy aims to address the structural causes of the violence and to dismantle criminal organizations and their conduct. The Office contributed to mainstreaming human rights and human security in the policy, from a human rights-based, gender, ethnic, and differentiated approach, as well as to the inclusion of the five international good human rights practices for dismantling criminal organizations. Further, the Office advocated for a focus on, strengthening the institutional capacity of the State in the regions most affected by the presence of these groups, effective participation of the population, promoting a culture of accountability, and effective guarantees of non-recurrence. For the implementation phase, OHCHR provided 15 indicators to measure the impact of the policy on the enjoyment of human rights, and shared analyses on relevant violence indicators, and patterns of abuse affecting human rights.

OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the Early Warning System of the Ombudsperson’s Office to prepare early warning monitoring reports. As a result of the project, 25 monitoring reports were produced in regions with high levels of violence.

 **Participation**

OHCHR worked with the Ombudsperson’s Office on guidelines for adopting a national policy on the protection of HRDs. The document was shared with the Ministry of the Interior and is expected to serve as a main input for policy formulation in 2024.

OHCHR was part of the technical committee to operationalize the Public Policy on Reconciliation, Coexistence, and Non-Stigmatization of Human Rights Defenders. As a result of the work of the Committee, a Presidential Directive was issued in December 2023 that compels all authorities of the executive branch and urges all other public institutions, to recognize the work of HRDs and combat stigmatization of their work.

Notably, a resolution creating a new manual for managing protests and public manifestations and the use of force in these situations was adopted by the National Police with OHCHR’s support. The Office participated in dialogues between the National Police and civil society to discuss the resolution and presented recommendations based on international human rights standards.

In the framework of the human rights reform of the National Police, the Office facilitated 18 regional dialogues between police commanders and CSOs, to discuss relevant aspects of the reform. Participants agreed to create swift dialogue and rapid response mechanisms related to human rights complaints.

OHCHR shared its recommendations for the reform of the National Protection Unit. A notable development was the adoption of Decree 1235 of 2023, which includes economic support for protected persons, to be allocated for transportation, which is critical for their safe transit in rural areas affected by violence.





## Accountability

OHCHR support contributed to the finalization of a study on judicial sentences handed down in the case of murders of HRDs committed between 2016 and 2021. The Office presented the findings to the institutions responsible for guaranteeing access to justice, in particular the Office of the Attorney General, the Judicial Council, and the Office of the Procurator General. In 2024, the document will be presented to other relevant actors, including the Elite Police Corps, the Special Investigation Unit and CSOs that work on this issue. The document will also serve as a basis for dialogue with the new Attorney General to be appointed in the first quarter of 2024 and will help develop a pathway to strengthen investigations of such homicides.

The Office strengthened the capacity of CSOs to represent registered victims and to participate in proceedings by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). Through technical assistance, the preparation, presentation, and adoption of graphic tools and analytical documents, CSOs were able to identify opportunities to litigate in the JEP. OHCHR also helped to enhance the capacity of Indigenous authorities and leaders. Through this support, the Hitnü People were accredited by the JEP in two macro-cases, and the support resulted in the presentation of an annex for a report by the Hitnü, containing cases of sexual violence against Indigenous women. This annex was delivered to the magistrate's team for subsequent inclusion in a macro-case.

With OHCHR's assistance, families of victims of disappearance, and human rights organizations provided input to the development of the National Search System within the National Development Plan. This is the first time that a national development plan incorporates a line of action on enforced disappearance, including a review of the public policy to ensure a comprehensive State response (article 198). The Office provided recommendations and comments on the decree to strengthen participation of victims' organizations in the National System's decision-making body, and to guarantee coordination and support for the previously existing territorial initiatives to combat enforced disappearance.



## Development

On business and human rights, the Office provided technical advice and capacity-building support to the Presidential Advisory for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. This entity is responsible for updating the National Action Plan (NAP) and leading the business and human rights policy. As a result of the support, this issue has been prioritized in the agenda and workplan of the Advisory. This includes recognizing the need for a baseline on business and human rights at the national level to accompany decision-making, and enhancing understanding on the importance of updating or building a new NAP. The Office also helped strengthen capacity of the local Governments of Antioquia, Cali and Tolima, regarding the importance of incorporating the UNGPs into their government policies. This initiative will be continued in 2024 as part of the second phase of the project "Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean."

OHCHR also supported the NHRI in the development of a draft law on human rights due diligence, intended to be mandatory for companies operating in the country. The draft bill is scheduled to be presented to Congress in April 2024.

OHCHR assisted the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the formulation of its sectoral policy on business and human rights and facilitated dialogue with various CSOs. The public policy has not yet been published by the new Government. Together with the National Environmental Licensing Authority, the Office initiated a capacity-building process on the Escazú Agreement and the UNGPs and facilitated its participation in the seventh UN Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Santo Domingo
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Non-discrimination

On 25 September, OHCHR conducted a seminar titled, “Towards a comprehensive anti-discrimination law in the Dominican Republic,” at the chamber of deputies. The event was attended by the Resident Coordinator and 42 participants including 31 deputies (9 women), and 11 technical officers (6 women). It aimed to revisit key aspects of the anti-discrimination legislation with parliamentarians to prepare and submit a future comprehensive anti-discrimination bill.

A follow-up workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for members of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Human Rights, the NMIRF. The workshop was attended by 46 participants (32 women) and aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to contribute to the development of a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. Key components of the proposed legislation were covered, exploring good practices, and examining case studies on discrimination. Participants engaged in an analysis of two draft anti-discrimination bills dating from 2016 and 2020, currently under review by the NMIRF. This will directly inform the NMIRF’s ongoing work on finalizing a comprehensive anti-discrimination bill for submission to congress in 2024. The NMIRF, in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights of the Chamber of Deputies, aims to further refine the draft and present a unified proposal.

With the support of OHCHR and its Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR, the Dominican Republic adopted, published and disseminated both online and in physical formats, a revised National Plan on Human Rights in May. During the first semester, the HRA together with 11 UN agencies provided technical advice in the process of review and extension of the NAP. The Plan identifies seven groups, recognizing their situations of vulnerabilities and requiring specific attention: children; women; elderly persons; persons with disabilities; migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; victims of discrimination; and victims of human smuggling and trafficking. It outlines actions to promote and protect the rights of individuals facing discrimination including by: implementing education and awareness-raising initiatives to foster understanding and respect for the rights of all individuals; strengthening the legal and policy framework to ensure effective protection against discrimination, including the development and implementation of anti-discrimination legislation; enhancing the capacity of Dominican State institutions to effectively respond to and prevent discrimination, through training and resource allocation; and developing and implementing effective measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by individuals facing discrimination.

#### Mechanisms

OHCHR provided technical advice to the Government for the incorporation of human rights and towards enhanced compliance with international human rights and standards, including recommendations by human rights mechanisms, on the NAP on Human Rights, its revision and two-year extension, and on the adoption of a National Policy to Mainstream Human Rights.

During the first half of 2023, the Government adopted the National Policy to Mainstream Human Rights, agreeing to a set of measurable objectives, whose progress will be reported through a public platform, the Performance Monitoring System of the Public Administration in the Dominican Republic (SISMAP). Further, in October, OHCHR provided thematic sessions to the training institute

of the Ministry of Defence on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (HRDDP), to 60 participants (25 women), and to the Ministry of Education – 60 participants (34 women) – on human rights mainstreaming, the right to education, and indicators to measure achievements.

### Development

The HRA chaired the inter-agency Task Force on minorities and hate speech comprising representatives of 11 UN agencies. The Task Force played a key role in crafting the UNCT Plan of Action on Hate Speech, adopted in May. The Plan implements the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, providing a framework for UN collaboration with the Government, civil society, the private sector, and other partners to address hate speech while upholding freedom of expression. It aims to leverage the UNCT's collective resources and ensure a coordinated approach, outlined within the new UNSDCF 2023-2027. The Plan focuses on seven key areas including monitoring and analysing hate speech, supporting State institutions in hate speech prevention, and supporting victims of hate speech. Further solidifying its commitment, the UNCT incorporated the Action Plan's monitoring and implementation into the workplan of Outcome Group 4 established by the UNSDCF.

## GUATEMALA

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2005
Field office(s)	Guatemala City
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	50

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Accountability

OHCHR carried out a training for 45 members of civil society and university students to build their capacity in the use of historical archives for research, litigation and referencing accurate historical narratives. Additionally, 12 international human rights norms and standards have been compiled by the Office on a [resource page](#), covering topics such as the incompatibility of exemption norms from responsibility with the obligations of the State, death penalty, and the right to political participation, among others. The standards have been used in Congress to review legal initiatives and to promote the drafting of new initiatives. Similarly, CSOs have used the materials in their advocacy efforts.

### Mechanisms

OHCHR's support for CSO capacity-building and knowledge on CEDAW, the reporting cycle and alternative report drafting in 2022, including for Indigenous, youth and LGBTI organizations, resulted in over 20 submissions of alternative reports by CSOs to CEDAW in 2023 as the State of Guatemala underwent review by the Committee.

The Office, together with UN Women, facilitated the elaboration of a confidential report to CEDAW, which was presented by the UNCT in 2023. Another confidential report was presented to the UPR through the Inter-Agency Human Rights Group, led by the Office and integrating inputs from 12 agencies.

 **Development**

The Office advises and is a reference for the UN agencies in the implementation of the UNDIS, ensuring that the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and international human rights standards are incorporated. The Office, jointly with UNFPA, carried out a diagnosis of the administrative records of people with disabilities in State institutions and reviewed the content of the proposed tool for the standardization of administrative records. This is the first time such a review has been undertaken and will provide the basis for State authorities to strengthen their approach to assistance and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are upheld.

 **Participation**

OHCHR monitored and intervened in HRD cases in 2023, documenting 182 HRD attacks, including 42 criminalization cases, and observed 25 hearings. OHCHR exchanged information with embassies, the Filtro Group, and the IACHR. As a result of this outreach, visibility around and attention to the situation of HRDs was enhanced. In some cases, the IACHR issued precautionary measures.

**HAITI: UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN HAITI (BINUH)**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Special Political Mission
<b>Year established</b>	2004 as MINUSTAH; MINUJUSTH since 2017; BINUH since July 2019
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Port-au-Prince
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	15

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR held four advocacy meetings with national authorities in 2023 to support the creation of two specialized judicial Task Forces – “*pôles judiciaires*” – within the Haitian justice system. Meetings included the President and members of the Superior Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ), who expressed support for the initiative. This is a joint project to be implemented by OHCHR and UNODC in support of the CSPJ and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. One of the Task Forces will focus on combatting financial and economic crimes, while the other will focus on addressing mass crimes committed by gangs, including those involving the use of sexual violence, within the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince.

OHCHR carried out ten visits to monitor the conditions of detention in prisons and to advocate for the respect of detainees’ rights. Following these visits, OHCHR provided technical and material support to judicial actors to organize *habeas corpus* sessions and special hearings. These efforts led to the release of 88 people held in prolonged pretrial detention for minor offences in the prisons of Cap Haitian and Gonaïves (North and Artibonite Departments, respectively). This number is in addition to the 291 people already released following the same approach since October 2022. Furthermore, OHCHR is working on verification and advocacy to secure the release of an additional 200 detainees.

OHCHR supported the General Inspectorate of the Haitian National Police (IGPNH), through technical assistance and information sharing relating to human rights violations involving police officers. In 2023, a total of 84 cases allegedly involving police officers in human rights violations were reported to the IGPNH, of which eight were finalized and 76 are still being investigated. The IGPNH additionally processed 32 human rights-related cases, initiated between 2020 and 2022, with recommendations to IGPNH leadership for disciplinary measures for 32 police officers. Sixteen cases were handed over to the justice.

OHCHR supported the IGPNH in organizing a workshop on leadership, command and human rights, for 60 police commanders from the West Department, and carried out awareness-raising sessions on the fight against corruption within the police force, for 98 officials in various departments.

OHCHR supported the CSPJ and the School of Haitian Magistrature (EMA) in launching a nationwide training on sexual violence investigation techniques. Delivered by seasoned magistrates, the first session was held in September in the North Department for 35 magistrates (8 women), working for the Courts of First Instance of Cap Haitien and Grand Rivière du Nord and Fort-Liberté. A second training was organized in the South Department for 50 magistrates (7 women), from the southern jurisdictions of Anse-à-Veau, Aquin, Les Cayes, Côteaux, Jérémie, Miragoâne and Petit Goâve.

Further, OHCHR assisted CSOs in organizing an awareness-raising campaign on sexual violence through artistic and cultural activities, broadcasting of videos, and a workshop with community leaders. The Office also trained 97 community protection actors (57 women) in Gonaïves and Port-au-Prince, to strengthen community-based prevention and protection.

Additionally, from October to December, OHCHR supported a CSO in organizing a capacity-building initiative, which benefited 20 Haitian journalists working for the online press and traditional media (radio and television). The journalists were trained in monitoring and investigative techniques, as well as in the production and dissemination of civic content related to good governance and human rights.

## Participation

From July to October, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to three Haitian CSOs in organizing twelve community talks in the Centre, North, South, and West Departments. These talks engaged 695 participants (237 women) in discussion with local authorities on the impact of corrupt practices on daily life, and their economic and social rights. Issues covered included bribery to obtain identity and civil status documents, access to justice services (including reporting cases of sexual violence), and clearing goods at customs. These talks led to the establishment of four local networks that will be mobilized to take part in the fight against corruption in Haiti.

OHCHR supported three Haitian CSOs to produce and broadcast three audiovisual spots in Haitian Creole, and four radio programmes that were broadcast via community stations in four departments, as well as diffusion via social media pages. These efforts providing information on the different forms of corruption and actions to take to fight corruption reached over 1 million people.

As part of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) “Infrastructure for Peace” project, OHCHR and UNDP, under the auspices of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action, the Ministry of Culture and Communication and local authorities, organized “Youth Forums for Peace and Sustainable Development” in all 10 departments of the country. The workshops, held in October, mobilized over 600 youth from 104 communes, strengthening discussion with local authorities on promoting peace, respect for human rights, and social cohesion. As a result, 18 networks of young peacemakers and human rights activists were formed, made up of 500 youth organizations. The networks will serve as platforms for increasing the participation and commitment of Haitian youth vis-à-vis the SDGs and Security Council Resolution 2250. Network members will be key to accessing hard-to-reach regions and stand to play a vital role as human rights actors. Young peacemakers will carry out awareness-raising to promote human rights and peace, advocate for peaceful conflict resolutions, and contribute to mitigating violence. They will also serve as a foundation for building a structured youth advisory body for human rights in Haiti.



## Peace and Security

To facilitate the development of well-informed situation analysis reports on the dynamics of gang violence and its impact on human rights, OHCHR established an information gathering mechanism to collect and verify, in a systematic manner, accurate and updated data on human rights abuses and violations. The mechanism is built on a network of local monitors and other key actors. Collected data are assessed, verified, and processed by OHCHR. As a result, thorough and timely analysis and public reports have been produced on the impact of gang activities on the right to life and physical integrity as well as access to health care, education, and other basic social services.

This mechanism allowed OHCHR to monitor the use of sexual violence as a weapon of gangs, and to identify reporting and response challenges. It also contributed to strengthening the referral pathways of cases among national and international actors. In 2023, OHCHR was able to monitor and refer 3,952 protection cases (889 men, 1,468 women, 699 boys and 896 girls), which were referred to protection partners, enabling victims, including survivors of sexual violence, to receive holistic protection assistance (medical, psychosocial, legal assistance, relocation, family reunion and livelihood support).

OHCHR also developed and maintained three data processing tools relating to human rights incidents and cases collected. The first, the Protection Cases Tracking Tool, helped to collect, filter, sort, analyse and present human rights incidents gathered by OHCHR across the country, in a visually accessible and coherent format. This enabled OHCHR to regularly produce updated maps and dashboards for inclusion in human rights public reports, UNOCC notes and Secretary General reports on Haiti. The second tool developed, titled the Protection Referral Tool, tracks individual cases of protection incidents referred to UN agencies and local organizations for support. Lastly, the Protection Tracking Matrix uses seven indicators to assess the protection needs of affected populations across Haiti, and specifically in different communes.

OHCHR produced 51 weekly reports, 30 notes for the UNOCC, 30 notes for the diplomatic community, 3 quarterly reports on the impact of gang violence on human rights, and 2 thematic reports in 2023.

## Mechanisms

The Office provided support for the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDP) in organizing two workshops. Participants including CIDP members, CSOs, UN agencies and Member State representatives, reviewed and updated content of the National Action Plan on Human Rights in accordance with recommendations made to Haiti during its third cycle of the UPR in January 2022. During the workshops, stakeholders from across the country identified priority recommendations to be implemented, in particular on the right to health, education, development, and access to justice, as well as specific areas such as child protection and the participation of women in political decision-making procedures. The CIDP and OHCHR are working on the final draft of the NAP, reflecting these recommendations, prior to submission to the Council of Ministers for validation.

## HONDURAS

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2015
Field office(s)	Tegucigalpa
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2023	30

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

The new model for the election of magistrates to the Supreme Court of Justice, developed with OHCHR's support, introduced clear selection criteria based on merit, capacity, integrity and suitability, increased transparency and guarantees for women's participation. OHCHR's technical assistance played a key role in the appointment of one afro-descendent judge and eight women magistrates, including the President of the Court, in February 2023. In close coordination with the new Supreme Court of Justice, OHCHR strengthened the role of the judiciary in the prevention of human rights violations in the prison system, including through special measures in favor of persons in a situation of vulnerability. This included a judicial resolution that enabled the transfer of 15 Miskito persons deprived of liberty, to a detention centre closer to their community.

OHCHR prioritized its work with the penitentiary as part of a larger agenda to enhance practices in the security sector. Based on the monitoring carried out (25 detention centre visits, interviews with over 500 persons deprived of liberty) and experience from previous years, OHCHR undertook a comprehensive assessment of the penitentiary's main human rights issues and produced key recommendations. These were delivered to the Ministry of Security and Commissioner in charge of the penitentiary system, who reflected the recommendations in the "Ten-step programme to address the prison system crisis," presented publicly on 18 April 2023. It included measures to resolve structural

problems, such as the necessary classification of persons deprived of liberty.

In the context of a state of emergency declared in June where control and management of the penitentiary system was again transferred to the Military Police, OHCHR carried out close monitoring with regular visits and collected information that oriented technical support to prevent and mitigate violations of the rights of detainees. A press release was issued in July, expressing concerns over the remilitarization of public security as well as denouncing possible torture and ill treatment against prisoners. Following OHCHR's advocacy and technical assistance, the Ministry of Human Rights (*Secretaría de Derechos Humanos* or SEDH) established a human rights roundtable with key institutions of the executive, including high-level authorities from the Ministry of Security, and with OHCHR's participation, to reduce risks for human rights violations in the context of military control of the penitentiary system.

#### Participation

To strengthen the capacity of the national protection system and CSOs, OHCHR undertook an in-depth analysis of the national protection system in 2021-2022. The findings of this analysis served as a basis for development of an institutional strengthening plan for the national protection system, including 125 recommendations addressed to relevant State institutions. These were delivered to the authorities that make up the National Protection Council, a political and decision-making body within the national protection system. Some of the recommendations have been implemented, with OHCHR support, such as regarding capacity-building for risk analysis and incorporating an intersectional perspective in implementing the national protection system.

OHCHR conducted an analysis to identify potential gaps in the legal framework related to fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, access to information, assembly, association, and the defense of human rights. Dialogue with relevant authorities and dissemination of findings, and the commitment of the State to adopt necessary changes, led to the establishment of two

working groups. The first of these is a Technical Working Group for the harmonization of legislation, with the participation of the SEDH and the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), with the support of OHCHR and in consultation with CSOs. The second is a Technical Working Group with CSOs and the Office aimed at analysing regulations deemed restrictive to HRDs and assessing regulations affecting the financial, administrative, and operational aspects of CSOs.

OHCHR provided technical support to national investigative authorities to promote accountability. This led to the establishment of inter-institutional spaces for the eventual roll-out and dissemination of the Due Diligence Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes against Human Rights Defenders. This Protocol flows from the establishment of a Specialized Inter-Institutional Group (GIE). The GIE, comprising key entities such as the Public Prosecutor's Office, the SEDH, the Attorney General's Office, civil society victims' representatives, and OHCHR, exemplifies a collaborative effort towards enhancing the protection mechanisms for HRDs.

OHCHR has been implementing a comprehensive monitoring and documentation system on attacks against HRDs, journalists, demonstrators, and other persons of concern since 2020. In 2023, 450 victims including 309 HRDs and 141 journalists were recorded, as well as the murder of 15 HRDs and 2 journalists. The monitoring system increased the Office's capacity for early warning and early action. As a result, in 2023, 17 people were released; 9 through definitive and provisional dismissals, 7 through acquittals, and 1 case of substitution of custodial measures.

Additionally, OHCHR engagement with law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, enabled timely interventions in the detention of HRDs resulting in the release of 21 defenders and 3 protesters detained without trial and without cause.

### Non-discrimination

In 2023, with an average of 5,000 people in mixed movements entering the country, OHCHR put special emphasis on situation monitoring. As a result of the advocacy strategy implemented by

the Office in coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team, the Honduran State approved a decree for a migration amnesty in May 2022, subsequently extended in 2023. The migration amnesty has led to a reduction in human rights violations, in particular extortion, and protection risks, by exempting individuals who enter the country irregularly from administrative sanctions, and monitoring their human rights situation. In 2023, more than 500,000 people in mixed migratory flows benefited from this measure, helping to guarantee their freedom of movement and exercise of their human rights.

Following advocacy and technical assistance by OHCHR together with UNHCR, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Médicos del Mundo, the Law on IDPs was approved by the National Congress on 21 December 2022. The law entered into force in April, paving the way for further progress regarding migrants' rights. With OHCHR's technical support, members of the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF) – the main body created by the law – strengthened national coordination capacity to address internal displacement, from a human rights approach. Technical capacity has been enhanced as well, for prevention analysis of internal displacement in the context of social conflict over land, territory and the environment. This is notably relevant in extending protection to IDPs belonging to Indigenous Peoples and peasant communities.

### Development

To address the human rights and environmental impacts of business operations, OHCHR engaged with State institutions, CSOs and the private sector regarding UNGPs implementation through capacity-building, monitoring and advocacy. As a result, the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), with OHCHR's technical assistance, implemented a process of analysis, review and reform of the legal and institutional framework of the environmental licensing process, in accordance with international human rights obligations. With OHCHR's advocacy, an inter-institutional

working commission was set up between SERNA and the Honduran Institute of Geology and Mines (INHGEOMIN) to follow up and jointly address the cases. Commission oversight links mining concession and environmental license concerns, such as in the cases of Agua Zarca, Azacualpa, Jilamito, Locomapa, Pajuiles, and Escaleras National Park. OHCHR also strengthened the capacity of the Solicitor General's Office in analysing and reviewing the human rights impacts of economic development zones.

With OHCHR's support during the visit of the Special Rapporteur on climate change to the country in September 2023, the National Congress President (and Coordinator of the Legislative Commission on Environment and Climate Change), committed to promoting a new legislative agenda on environment and climate change, from a human rights approach. Commitment was made as well to repeal the legislative decree reducing the core zone of the Escaleras National Park, one of the emblematic mining cases followed by the Office.

OHCHR also contributed to the establishment of mechanisms to prevent and address conflicts related to land and territory in order to address inequitable access to these rights. The Office provided technical assistance to both the State and peasant organizations to address the agrarian conflict in Bajo Aguán towards the establishment of a commission to address justice, truth and reparation measures. OHCHR promoted Indigenous Peoples and peasant communities' access to land and the protection of natural resources, along with the review of environmental licenses of development projects for better compliance with human rights standards. OHCHR's advocacy and technical assistance resulted in the prevention of at least five forced evictions, and in the adoption of an institutional framework for addressing land-related conflict, and enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), and the right to a healthy environment.



## Mechanisms

The Office's technical assistance to the Coalition against Impunity (CCI), a network of more than 50 CSOs, since 2020, led in 2023, to the creation of the National System for Follow-up on Recommendations of Honduras (SINSERHO). This system aims to prioritize recommendations from human rights mechanisms, particularly the UPR.

OHCHR also provided technical assistance for the formulation of a draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities. This process was part of the inter-institutional roundtable charged with reforming Decree 160-2005 and involving broad consultation through 10 territorial assemblies held nationwide. The participatory process aimed to ensure that diverse perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities are accounted for. The initiative was led by the Secretariat for Social Development (SEDESOL), with OHCHR's technical assistance, and included the main federations representing persons with disabilities in Honduras, along with the NHRI (CONADEH) and other government agencies. The subsequent delivery of the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities to the Minister of SEDESOL, with the intention of submitting the bill to the National Congress in 2024, marks a significant legislative progress.

**MEXICO**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Mexico City
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	21

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Participation**

OHCHR strengthened its documentation system to record information relating to disappearances and killings of HRDs and journalists. The system was enriched with tools to guide and standardize proceedings, a protocol on emergencies, relevant templates and database, and a dashboard to enable disaggregated data analysis. Between January 2019 and December 2023, OHCHR documented 59 killings or disappearances of journalists, 116 of HRDs, and 6 of media workers in connection with their work. Systematically recording the data facilitates identifying gaps in public policies and reveals that at least 50 victims who had already sought protection, were subsequently killed or disappeared. The impunity rates remain above 90 per cent. The data also served to inform OHCHR’s advocacy efforts with Federal and State authorities, helping to raise early warnings in particular on high-risk locations and groups.

OHCHR participated in meetings of the Governing Board of the Protection Mechanism for HRDs and journalists, providing technical assistance for protection plans in over 780 cases. OHCHR also led the Working Group to strengthen the Protection Mechanism, with the participation of Federal authorities and CSOs, through the implementation of recommendations from an OHCHR analysis published in 2019. The Working Group has been addressing structural shortcomings of the Mechanism related to human and economic resources and inter-institutional coordination, and represents an

unprecedented initiative for institutional strengthening with broad civil society participation.

In December, OHCHR published *Good practices and challenges in the investigation of crimes committed against HRDs and journalists*, closely examining nine cases of homicides, disappearances and threats. The report pinpoints strengths and weaknesses in investigative processes, and makes 16 recommendations to prosecutor’s offices. These form the basis of OHCHR’s follow-up strategy to strengthen investigations according to the principles of due diligence. The prosecutors’ offices have shared that public statements or communications by OHCHR effectively help to prioritize investigations and assignment to specialized units.

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OHCHR’s advocacy and sharing with prosecutors and judges of an analysis of dynamics of criminalization against HRDs and journalists, compilation of international standards, and recommendations, led to the release of HRDs who were wrongly accused and detained in Oaxaca and Puebla. This advocacy also led to the conviction of two killers in the case of journalists assassinated in Guanajuato and Guerrero.

OHCHR launched the national campaign “#DeFrenteALaLibertad” with the Office of the Presidency, to raise awareness on risks faced by HRDs and journalists. The campaign is a result of a recommendation from the 2019 analysis of the Mechanism, and the Government pledged to transmit it through all television and radio outlets in the country. Further, in collaboration with CSOs, a strategy to monitor attacks against HRDs, journalists and demonstrators during the process of the General Elections in 2024, has been developed, focusing on freedom of assembly and association.

 **Mechanisms**

After extensive advocacy by OHCHR, Mexico officially acknowledged the competence of the CED to handle individual complaints in 2020. Subsequently, in 2023, the Committee adopted its inaugural decision, the *Barrospe Case*, in which it determined the international responsibility of the State. OHCHR accompanied the victims and



representatives in the public presentation of the decision and is promoting its implementation.

OHCHR has progressively executed an advocacy strategy promoting integration of international standards into Supreme Court analyses. In 2023, the Supreme Court adopted two landmark decisions that restrict the competence of the Armed Forces, addressing military jurisdiction and their role in security tasks. These decisions marked a significant shift and served as a crucial check on the trend promoted by the Federal Executive, to expand the responsibilities of the Armed Forces.

Joint efforts between the Supreme Court and OHCHR, have resulted in the promotion and continuous updating of a [search tool](#) that systematically organizes information from the general opinions issued by the treaty bodies and the thematic reports adopted by special procedures. The tool facilitates consultation of standards by a broad range of legal professionals and academics in Spanish.



### Accountability

With OHCHR's support, the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NMPT) and the NGO Documenta launched a permanent dialogue space with civil society, to raise awareness on the work of the NMPT, facilitate information sharing, and establish joint preventive measures. Two sessions took place, addressing the initiative and its purpose.

OHCHR developed an online training course based on its methodology for analysing criminal prosecutions on femicide. The course is available on-demand and seeks to reinforce investigation planning, mainstream gender perspective, strengthen technical and forensic examinations, and ensure adherence to the State's due diligence obligation. The course has already benefited more than 675 civil servants who participated in developing the tool. Further, OHCHR provided training on the methodological tool on femicide developed by the Office, to 95 civil servants working at three Attorney General Offices in three States. Seventy per cent of participants benefited from increased knowledge according to a training assessment.

OHCHR continued to promote the development of human rights indicators. The Judicial Power of the State of Mexico with OHCHR's support, completed elaboration of the conceptual framework and variables for indicators in the areas of labor justice, and mental/intellectual disabilities.



### Non-discrimination

OHCHR carried out two workshops in 2023 addressing the lack of participation and consultation of Indigenous communities, in particular related to megaprojects, and aiming to help communities claim their rights at the local, national and international level. The first took place in Jalisco, in February and focused on environmental HRD's protection. A second workshop was undertaken in March for 20 Indigenous defenders from Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán, and provided support regarding environmental access to justice, and the UN human rights system.

OHCHR also organized a workshop for 20 staff members of the Commission for Dialogue with the Indigenous Peoples of Mexico (CDPIM), on the right to defense of Indigenous Peoples and recognition of their rights in different international instruments. Participants discussed risks faced by Indigenous HRDs and the State's obligations to protect them. This activity aimed to inform the approach of CDPIM staff and strengthen relationships with the Office. From June to December, OHCHR also organized capacity-building sessions on the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, focusing on Indigenous rights. More than 100 public officials from the environmental sector participated and learned how to apply the Escazú Agreement to protect environmental civil rights.

Two sessions of the inter-agency course on internal displacement were conducted with the participation of approximately 200 participants. The course, organized in collaboration with other UN agencies, ICRC, and various other international organizations, has established itself as a high-quality learning tool for all stakeholders, including victims. OHCHR leads the section on the rights of displaced persons, as well as specific

groups such as Indigenous People, journalists, and LGBTI individuals who are victims of internal displacement.

 **Development**

After several years of providing technical assistance to a group from La Colorada community, in the State of Zacatecas, and to a Canadian mining company operating there, an agreement for reparation was reached. The community group and company agreed on comprehensive reparation measures specific to each family affected by the mining company’s activities. The case is an example of successful dialogue and reparation, which can serve as a model for similar situations elsewhere.

**PERU**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Project (other type of field presence)
<b>Year established</b>	2023
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Lima
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	12

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

In the context of the 2022-2023 protests, OHCHR documented and verified 50 civilian deaths, 821 civilian injuries and 988 detentions. Public advocacy and reporting, including through OHCHR’s report, *Observations on the human rights situations in the context of the protests of Peru*, published in October, was complemented by technical support from the beginning of the crisis to key stakeholders including victims’ associations, judicial operators and the Government.

Throughout the crisis, OHCHR prioritized technical assistance to strengthen access to justice, truth, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence of violations. As of December 2023, 45 case files were opened, 2,126 prosecutorial actions undertaken, and the first arraignments carried out. In early January 2024, a first detention order was made against a police officer allegedly involved in the killing of a protester, which referred to OHCHR’s report and human rights standards.

Following the establishment of a dedicated team of prosecutors investigating protest related deaths, OHCHR launched a tailored training programme of over 30 sessions, benefiting approximately 300 prosecutors, and drawing on international and national human rights experts to train prosecutors on good practices in criminal investigations involving serious human rights violations.

In the context of OHCHR’s advocacy, the Public Prosecutor’s Human Rights Unit benefited from an unprecedented budget increase of US\$27 million and an expansion of human rights prosecutors’ offices from 6 to 16 regions with high risks of viola-

tions (such as against HRDs, regarding Indigenous rights, and excessive use of force). Additionally, OHCHR agreed to provide capacity-building to new regional human rights prosecutorial offices in 2024.

OHCHR's monitoring work contributed to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights providing immediate economic support to 50 severely injured victims, helping to provide urgent medical and financial support to families.

### Participation

OHCHR established an ongoing registry of attacks against HRDs in accordance with a monitoring and verification protocol, documenting 163 incidents involving 235 victims, including 3 killings, and 61 attacks against journalists, in 2023.

Direct OHCHR support since May to the Inter-Sectorial Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders, resulted in over 70 preventive risk-analysis actions and follow-up on protection measures in individual cases, benefiting at-risk HRDs and communities. Further, OHCHR successfully referred seven cases involving 14 HRDs (2 women), all of whom were Indigenous, to the protection mechanism for immediate assessment and attention.

With OHCHR's direct support, five decentralized HRD protection roundtables were established between Indigenous communities and government authorities in isolated Amazon regions where environmental HRDs face serious protection risks. Further, OHCHR trained more than 150 HRDs from Lima, Madre de Dios, Cusco, and Selva Central (including the Amazonian provinces of Huánuco, Junín, and Pasco) on international human rights standards. Special attention was given to protection measures for Indigenous women HRDs in the Selva Central.

In line with its ongoing technical support to the Inter-Sectorial Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders, OHCHR carried out nine focus groups in five regions, in which 231

HRDs participated, as part of its development of a self-protection manual destined for HRDs and journalists at risk, with a focus on intercultural and gender-sensitive measures. The final product, a self-protection toolkit, will be released in 2024.

Interventions by OHCHR contributed to closing of criminal cases and dropping of charges against protesters and criminalized HRDs. OHCHR maintains a database of criminalization of HRDs, tracking trends and patterns to inform its advocacy work.

### Non-discrimination

OHCHR undertook 14 monitoring missions to document violations of the human rights of migrants and refugees in transit and in Peru. The monitoring tracked patterns and registered emblematic cases reflecting protection concerns for migrants crossing borders, which has informed OHCHR's technical assistance work with the State.

Together with UNHCR, OHCHR carried out a diagnostic study, based on over 500 interviews and four focus groups, to identify barriers in the process to regularize the migrant population. OHCHR provided a human rights analysis of the process, with recommendations about how to strengthen subsequent regularization efforts by the State.

Ongoing monitoring and human rights analysis related to 44 pending bills affecting rights of migrants and refugees, supported advocacy by UN and the international community before Congress. The majority of these bills are focused on citizen security issues. As a result of OHCHR advocacy, provisions of concerns, including with respect to charging fines for migrants in irregular status, were eliminated from some of the bills.

OHCHR assisted Venezuelan grassroots organizations, including through training on a HRBA to migration and strengthening advocacy related to Law 31732 of 2023, which was subsequently adopted in May. The Law ordered the removal of fines for migrants, benefiting more than 100,000 people.

In October, OHCHR initiated a data analysis study based on official information from various State institutions, to determine whether there is a statistical correlation indicating that migrants have contributed to higher crime rates in the country, in order to help counter xenophobic discourse. The results of the investigation indicate that there is no significant statistical relationship in this regard.

In collaboration with the Ombudsperson’s Office, a three-month diagnostic study on the labour inclusion of LGTBI persons was finalized. Over 80 interviews and four workshops and dialogues with LGTBI representatives, government institutions and the private sector were organized. The study has been converted into an advocacy document, which will be shared with relevant stakeholders and used as a basis for technical assistance.

OHCHR agreed with the Women’s Ministry to carry out two diagnostic studies, one related to the protection of women HRDs and one related to barriers to the State’s response to sexual violence against children. This work will begin in 2024.

**SOUTH AMERICA**

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Santiago (Chile) with Human Rights Advisers in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay
Staff as of 31 December 2023	23

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Development**

In **Argentina**, OHCHR provided technical assistance for the development of the NAP on Business and Human Rights, which was adopted at the end of 2023. OHCHR also provided human rights-based macroeconomic analysis for the Common Country Analysis (CCA) update. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to the UNCT's continued work on the three-nation initiative for the Gran Chaco region, with particular emphasis on the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In **Ecuador**, OHCHR supported the development of a NAP on Business and Human Rights, providing technical and financial assistance for the national baseline of the business and human rights assessment.

In **Uruguay**, OHCHR supported the last phase of the elaboration of the first National Plan on Human Rights, adopted in December 2023, which counts with national guidelines and coordination mechanisms to advance human rights.

 **Accountability**

In **Argentina**, OHCHR continued its cooperation with the Public Defenders' Office on the Guidelines for the Use of the Istanbul and Minnesota Protocols, launched in October 2023, and capacity-building on the Protocols including with the NMPT and provincial prosecutor's offices, among others. The guideline is a key instrument to inform

public defenders in the investigation of institutional violence undergoing criminal proceedings.

In **Brazil**, OHCHR provided technical and capacity-building support to the Federal Public Defender's Office (DPU) and strengthened its capacity to apply and comply with international human rights standards, including monitoring and advocacy with the international human rights system.

In **Ecuador**, OHCHR engaged in systematic cooperation with CSOs and HRDs, to strengthen their capacity to protect themselves and their information, and to document and report on human rights violations. OHCHR also launched cooperation with the NHRI and the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, on the development of an early warning system for the protection of HRDs. In addition, the joint OHCHR and RCO dialogues continued to inform UN risk analysis, strategic planning for sustainable development, protection of HRDs, and the development of a technical opinion on free, prior and informed consent that was quoted by the Constitutional Court.

In **Paraguay**, OHCHR provided capacity-building for special police units based on the *UN Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement*. OHCHR also prepared a position paper on the adoption of a national protection mechanism for HRDs and journalists, which remains under discussion.

In **Uruguay**, OHCHR, in close cooperation with the National Directorate of Public Defenders (DINADEF), carried out a training of trainers for public defenders on “Human rights with a gender perspective,” using the DINADEF guidelines formerly developed with OHCHR support to help apply international human rights standards for the protection of women undergoing criminal proceedings.



## Participation

In **Chile**, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government in developing a judicial protection protocol for HRDs. The Office is also supporting the development of a national diagnostic on the risks faced by HRDs. OHCHR participates

in the Police Reform Consultative Unit to provide technical assistance on the matter with emphasis on the development of protocols and measures to guarantee the right of association and protest. OHCHR supported the CSO Casa de Memoria José Domingo Cañas in the publication of a manual for observing protests.

In **Ecuador**, OHCHR and FAO worked with the Kichwa Kayambi Casco Valenzuela community to strengthen their capacities for adaptation and resilience to changes in their food system, among others, due to the effects of climate change. Also, OHCHR and UN Women continued to support the Amazon Indigenous women's agenda through training and support for the networking of women from 11 nationalities and 22 Indigenous organizations. The process is designed to strengthen their mobilization, advocacy and participation capacities to lay solid foundations for a stronger voice at local, national and global political discussions.

In **Paraguay**, OHCHR updated the database of forced evictions from lands and settlements developed in 2022 and initiated an in-depth analysis of the situation of forced evictions suffered by Indigenous and peasant communities, to examine the possible causes of this situation, the consequences for the affected communities, and potential solutions to address the problem.

## Non-discrimination

In **Chile**, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the National Institute of Statistics for integrating the afro-descendant variable in the 2024 census and shared international standards and comparative experiences as part of these efforts. OHCHR also presented the Protocol on Maternity for Women with Disabilities at national level and is cooperating with the authorities in their first steps towards implementation.

In **Ecuador**, OHCHR advocated on the rights of people of African descent with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and the UNCT to facilitate actions and the adoption of public policies by the authorities. OHCHR also worked with the civil society-based Observatory of Afro-descendant Rights to strengthen the



information management tools used to document allegations of human rights violations.

In **Paraguay**, following the evaluation of five indicators of the Disability, Youth, and Gender Scorecards, OHCHR led the implementation of recommendations from the 2021 Disability Scorecard evaluations and as a result, achieved improvement in four out of the five evaluated indicators. OHCHR also elaborated a study on the historic treatment of Indigenous Peoples' rights, to be used at universities. The study was validated by Indigenous Peoples themselves.

In **Uruguay**, OHCHR supported the development of a UNCT anti-discrimination strategy, which included the main outcomes of a technical co-operation visit to the country by two members of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, which was co-organized by the HRA.

 **Mechanisms**

In **Ecuador**, OHCHR provided technical and capacity-building support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights, and new focal points for the system of information on human rights (SiDERECHOS), on how to enhance follow-up and implementation of human rights, and following up on 164 recommendations supported by Ecuador during the fourth UPR cycle. As a result, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights together with SiDERECHOS focal points, established a road map for the preparation of the mid-term UPR report in 2024.

In **Uruguay**, OHCHR led the inter-agency process for the elaboration of the UNCT report to the fourth UPR cycle. More than 10 agencies participated in the process and the report was submitted in October. OHCHR with the UNCT, supported the National Association of CSOs Committed to Development (ANONG) to promote CSO participation in the fourth UPR cycle by strengthening their capacities in monitoring UPR recommendations, identification and analysis of issues, and the preparation of reports.

**VENEZUELA**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Project (other type of field presence)
<b>Year established</b>	2019
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Caracas
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2026
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	14

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR visited 11 detention centres, interviewing 179 detainees (48 women). Following each visit, OHCHR presented confidential reports to relevant authorities in charge of managing the detention centres (Ministries of Penitentiary Service, Interior, Justice and Peace, and Defence). Reports provided guidance for stronger compliance with international standards and specific recommendations for urgent individual cases, such as access to medicine and health services, medical transfers, access to food and drinkable water, family visits, and communication with relatives and legal representatives. In certain centres, OHCHR noted improvements in the quality and quantity of food for inmates, as well as in facilities for receiving family visits, including children.

OHCHR was also granted access to 11 case files in the Office of the Attorney General to provide recommendations on the investigation and application of human rights due diligence. OHCHR continued its regular dialogue with the Office of the Attorney General, which included the investigation of 101 cases of alleged extrajudicial executions by security forces and 41 cases of deaths in the context of protests, and noted some progress in judicial action for cases of serious human rights violations, including disappearances. OHCHR was also granted access to two judicial hearings, opening new areas of technical assistance with judicial authorities.

OHCHR regularly engaged and advocated with authorities for the release of priority cases of persons unlawfully or arbitrarily detained. In 2023, consequently, 69 persons (11 women) were released.

OHCHR also submitted three confidential notes to authorities to share concerns and provide recommendations on aligning legislation with international standards. In March, the Supreme Court announced the abrogation of the last sentence of article 565 of the Organic Military Code, which criminalized same sex marriage within the military.

OHCHR also partnered with the Directorate for the Protection of Women of the Office of the Attorney General to create a protocol for relevant institutions to integrate gender-sensitive approaches in the investigation of killings of women. A draft has been developed and will be presented in 2024. This work is based on the Latin American Model Protocol, which was created by OHCHR and UN Women to guide the investigation of femicides.



### Participation

OHCHR led or co-led 23 training workshops for civil society actors. These efforts aimed to improve capabilities in documenting cases of violations and engaging with various international human rights mechanisms. Workshops were tailored to participants' needs and integrated an intersectional and gender-sensitive approach. In total, 649 members of civil society were engaged, including 379 women, and 6 participants identifying as other or with no gender indicated. Attendees included 47 Indigenous persons, 27 representatives from the LGBTI community, and 12 persons living with a disability.

As part of the same efforts, OHCHR facilitated six meetings between CSOs and Special Rapporteurs, helping to raise visibility of the situation in Venezuela among the mandate holders. As a result, two special procedures letters were sent to Venezuelan authorities raising concerns including on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, terrorism, slavery, migrant rights, trafficking in persons, and violence against women and girls.

OHCHR guided civil society actors in preparation for the Ninth Periodic Review of Venezuela by CEDAW, which took place on 18 May 2023. Between September 2022 and March 2023, OHCHR led and supported five training and dialogue sessions to guide CSOs in drafting of shadow reports to the Committee, with 210 persons participating (178 women). These activities were coordinated with CSOs and other actors that had requested support to ensure a comprehensive approach that could contribute meaningfully to the review process, including informing on mandate, timelines, procedures, formats, and resources available. As a result of this support, 70 shadow reports were submitted to the Committee by civil society actors ahead of the review, including joint submissions between organizations. The contributions were instrumental for the inclusion of critical human rights recommendations on: sexual and reproductive rights; access to information; ESCRs of women; the rights of women from minority groups including Indigenous and afro-descendant; protection against sexual and gender-based violence and femicide; and combatting human trafficking.



### Non-discrimination

OHCHR monitored the human rights situation of Venezuelan refugees and migrants throughout the region. An eight-person team undertook 29 field missions in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru, to identify protection gaps and implement activities to address them. The team also continued remote monitoring in several countries across the region and engaged with OHCHR presences and HRAs to complement their ongoing actions.

OHCHR worked with other UN agencies, including UN Women, UNFPA, UNODC, and IOM, to improve access to justice for refugees and migrants, as well as victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. A capacity-building strategy has been developed integrating a HRBA in the migration-related functions of various State entities and civil society work. Fifteen training sessions were held in Ecuador and Peru, benefiting 289 persons (147 women). The trainings aimed to incorporate human rights protection standards

into the actions of the institutions involved in leading the migration response. CSOs were trained in international standards for the protection of migrant rights and on mechanisms for prevention and self-protection. Participants included member organizations of the Coalition for Venezuela and grassroots organizations assisting migrants and refugees.

## Development

OHCHR raised HRBA awareness within the UNCT and helped strengthen human rights within the UNSDCF. OHCHR included human rights-specific indicators and coordinated with the Leave No One Behind Task Force to include the rights of people deprived of liberty. OHCHR also led the UNCT's implementation of the HRDDP.

OHCHR strengthened its partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection and Environmental Crimes within the Office of the Attorney General. The Director of the Department requested OHCHR's support in training environmental prosecutors on human rights standards, as well as with comments on a proposed reform of the 2012 Law of Environmental Crimes promoted by the General Prosecutor, which OHCHR will support in 2024.

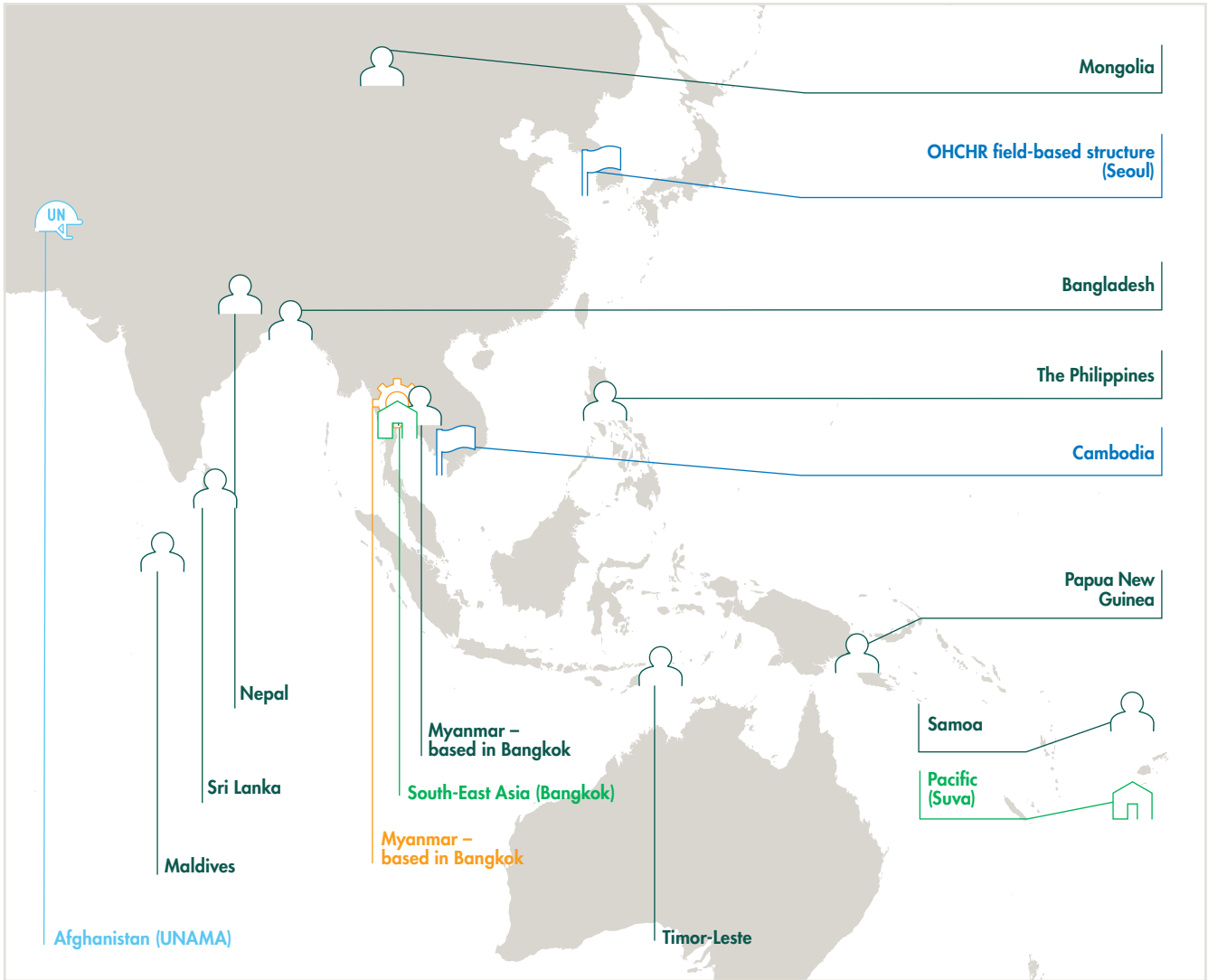
OHCHR continued to increase visibility around violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In June, OHCHR met with the Ministry for Indigenous Peoples, where they agreed to collaborate further. As a result, the Ministry now actively attends and participates in the inter-institutional coordination meeting between OHCHR and State authorities. Moreover, OHCHR is working with the Minister of Indigenous Peoples towards the elaboration of a manual to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

# UN Human Rights in Asia-Pacific



Police officers at the workshop on international human rights standards on the use of force, co-organized by UN Human Rights, the Royal Thai Police, and the Ministry of Justice, in Bangkok, Thailand. © OHCHR/ Wannaporn Samutassadong





**TYPE OF PRESENCE**



Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions



Regional Offices/Centres



Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions



Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs



Other types of field presences

**LOCATION**

Cambodia and Field-based structure (in Seoul, Republic of Korea)<sup>a</sup>

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

Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Bangladesh, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand), Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste

Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand)

<sup>a</sup> Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.



UN Human Rights coverage of the Asia-Pacific region extends from Afghanistan to the west, Mongolia to the north, Kiribati to the east and New Zealand to the south. The region is comprised of some of the most populous countries in the world, including China and India, some of the poorest and least developed, and some of the smallest island States. The Office has 16 field presences: 2 regional offices, the Regional Office for South-East Asia in Bangkok and the Regional Office for the Pacific in Suva; 1 country office in Cambodia; 8 international human rights advisers (HRAs), in Bangladesh, the Maldives, Myanmar (based in Bangkok), Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste; 2 national HRAs, in Mongolia and Nepal; 1 human rights component in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); and 2 remote presences, 1 for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), based in Seoul, and another for Myanmar (based in Bangkok).

The Office supports four special procedures country mandate holders, for Afghanistan, Cambodia, the DPRK, and Myanmar. It also oversees the implementation of country-specific Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions on Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Myanmar; two special accountability mandates on the DPRK and Sri Lanka, as per HRC resolutions 46/17 and 51/1 respectively; and a thematic resolution on nuclear legacy in the Pacific.

In 2023, the Deputy High Commissioner visited Bangkok in March for a regional event on the Right to Development and engagement with the UN Development System's Asia-Pacific Regional Collaborative Platform, and in November she visited Seoul and Tokyo.

The Human Rights 75 Initiative (HR75), commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), was marked with events throughout the year. The Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on regional human rights mechanisms was held in Bangkok, in October, with more than 250 participants, in person and online. OHCHR in Geneva hosted a first ever visit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in September. A HR75 side

event was held on the margins of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting in the Cook Islands in November, highlighting the contribution by accountability institutions to people-centred development and gender equality and featuring pledges to strengthen national human rights institutions (NHRIs). In Delhi, in September, the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs adopted the Delhi Declaration at their annual meeting, marking the 75 years of the UDHR and committing national institutions to strengthen regional cooperation on human rights. Eleven high-level dignitaries participated in person in the high-level event in December from Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), the Maldives, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand, while Bangkok also served as one of the three regional hubs for the high-level event. Further, 25 countries from the Asia-Pacific made pledges, in addition to pledges by regional organizations like ASEAN, such as NHRIs, civil society, and other actors from the region.

OHCHR provided substantive policy support and advice to Resident Coordinators (RCs) in the context of the UN reform and in relation to prevention and response to conflicts and humanitarian disasters, including by deploying HRAs and/or national human rights officers. All presences, including regional and country offices, engaged in UN coordination related to United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) to ensure a focus on human rights in sustainable development programmes.

OHCHR continued to coordinate with partners on an innovative "UN Joint Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" in the Philippines, focusing on strengthening domestic accountability mechanisms and promoting human rights in counter-terrorism and drug control. The Office provided technical advice on transitional justice laws in Nepal, digital security laws in Bangladesh and counter-terrorism laws in Sri Lanka, in line with international standards.

OHCHR continued to support the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Together with ILO, OHCHR convened regular roundtables of

influential multinational corporations to discuss obstacles to implementing the UNGPs in challenging environments. The Deputy High Commissioner engaged with the Keidanren business association in Japan, and Mongolia adopted its national action plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights.

Profound human rights and humanitarian crises continued in Myanmar (following the February 2021 military coup) and in Afghanistan (following the August 2021 Taliban takeover). The situation of Rohingya refugees continued to deteriorate during the year, with worsening humanitarian and security conditions in the Bangladesh camps and increased departures by sea of refugees. The situation in Afghanistan also remained dire, particularly for women and girls, with ever increasing restrictions issued by the de facto authorities. UNAMA's mandate was renewed in March 2023 and the mission significantly increased its public reporting; the Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan conducted two missions, one jointly with the Working Group on discrimination against women.

The human rights situation in the DPRK remained precarious, with the reopening of cross-border exchange raising concerns of repatriation and refoulement of DPRK nationals. The High Commissioner briefed the Security Council about the human rights situation in the DPRK in August. OHCHR broadened its engagement with China, through dialogues around treaty body reviews by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as follow up exchanges on human rights and counter-terrorism and minority issues, and the national security law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Developments in the region are being increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions and competition, and the human rights situation remains marked by deeply entrenched challenges related to gender equality, violence against women, and challenges to good governance and the rule of law, compounded by the impacts of climate and increasingly severe natural disasters. Regional forums, such as ASEAN and PIF, have an important prevention and response role to play. For example, the PIF Leaders endorsed a new regional mobility

framework for the Pacific that the UN, including OHCHR, helped to develop, along with PIF Secretariat and Platform for Disaster Response. Regional developments were also increasingly shaped by elections, for example in Cambodia and Thailand, as well as upcoming elections in 2024 in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Solomon Islands.

In addition to a country-focused approach, the Office fostered a broader regional approach, emphasizing cross-country thematic issues, including: accountability; the rule of law; strengthening NHRIs; transitional justice; civic space; human rights defenders (HRDs) and youth engagement; business/international financial institutions and human rights; climate change; migration and the human rights of people on the move; gender equality; and discrimination against minorities and persons with disabilities.

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

Type of engagement	Special Political Mission
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Kabul
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	61

Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Development

UN Human Rights and UNAMA supported the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the development of the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan 2023-2025. OHCHR with UNAMA also participated in the development of the Humanitarian Country Team strategy and informed the discussion of humanitarian actors through a presentation on key human rights risks and issues for the “2024 Humanitarian programming cycle risk analysis and scenario building” workshop.

The Office further coordinated with UNAMA to facilitate engagement between the de facto Office of Prison Administration (OPA) and individual agencies. This led to enhanced support for detainees by several agencies including UNICEF regarding care and services of incarcerated children, UN Women with regards to women and girls detained, and UNODC on the coordination of longer-term programmatic support for vulnerable incarcerated populations. The WHO and UNFPA also provided ad hoc donations of medicines, medical supplies and dignity kits for detainees.

#### Accountability

OHCHR and UNAMA continued to monitor and document allegations of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment and corporal punishment. The information con-

tributed to reporting on the overall human rights situation and helped to advocate with the de facto authorities, including to ensure prompt investigations into allegations of violations.

Thematic reports were released throughout 2023 including on: the treatment of detainees; human rights violations against former government officials and security force members; corporal punishment and the death penalty; the impact of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on civilians; and gender-based violence (GBV). These reports documented violations by the de facto authorities including the absence of respect for, and implementation of international human rights obligations binding them. The UNAMA report, *The treatment of detainees in Afghanistan – Respecting human rights: a factor for trust*, documented over 1,600 violations, largely attributed to the de facto Ministry of Interior (MoI) and General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI). Approximately 50 per cent of all such violations documented involved torture and ill-treatment in de facto MoI and GDI custody. Corollary issues with the criminal justice process, attributable to the de facto Ministry of Justice and the de facto Supreme Court, were also highlighted. Subsequent to the report, the de facto OPA extended OHCHR and UNAMA access to prisons countrywide while the de facto MoI is assessing the recommendations for possible future adoption.

Further, a report was released on human rights violations against former government officials and security force members, documenting at least 800 instances of extrajudicial killing, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and ill-treatment of individuals affiliated with the former government and its security forces. Following the report release, the de facto Second Deputy Prime Minister announced that any violation of the amnesty promulgated, would be considered a criminal act and that perpetrators would be held accountable in court. The de facto Third Deputy Prime Minister also confirmed that former officials were protected under the amnesty and had been provided with a safety card, which states that no one should “disturb them” in connection with their role with the former government.

OHCHR and UNAMA will continue advocacy and engagement with the de facto authorities in 2024, including taking forward recommendations of the 2023 reports noted.

### Non-discrimination

OHCHR and UNAMA monitored the de facto authorities' handling of complaints of GBV from August 2022 to March 2023, and documented findings in the report, *Divergence of practice: the handling of complaints of gender-based violence against women and girls by Afghanistan's de facto authorities*, released in December 2023. The report revealed lack of clarity regarding the legal framework applicable to complaints of GBV, including lines of responsibility among the de facto justice actors. Complaints that are referred to the de facto law enforcement and justice institutions are predominantly handled by men with many survivors reportedly preferring to seek redress through traditional dispute resolution mechanisms due to fear of the de facto authorities. The de facto police, courts and departments of justice appear to prioritize mediation of complaints of GBV over prosecution and trial through the de facto courts, an issue that was already a concern before the de facto authorities came to power. The report also found that there were no State-sponsored specialized women's protection centres or shelters across the country. The report is being used as an advocacy tool with the de facto authorities, the international community, and other stakeholders to promote the protection of women and girls.

In 2023, OHCHR and UNAMA documented 222 cases of alleged criminal offences of GBV, consisting of murder (86), self-immolation/suicide as a result of domestic violence (43), forced marriage (25), attempted self-immolation/suicide as a result of domestic violence (17), beating (15), rape (13), attempted rape (6), arrest on charge of runaway (4), attempted murder (2), attempted kidnapping (2), kidnapping (1), and others (8). Such data is used to inform advocacy with the de facto authorities and GBV actors and the design of appropriate responses aimed at addressing and/or preventing GBV.

### Peace and Security

OHCHR and UNAMA continued to document civilian casualties, predominantly as a result of IEDs and explosive remnants of war. The UNAMA report, *The Impact of improvised explosive devices on civilians in Afghanistan*, was released in May 2023 and found that between 15 August 2021 and 30 May 2023, three quarters of the 2,814 civilian casualties documented (701 killed, 2,113 wounded), were caused by IED attacks. The report also highlighted the specific impact of IED attacks on ethnic and religious minorities, in particular attacks on places of worship, and made recommendations to the de facto authorities to increase measures for prevention of such attacks and holding perpetrators accountable.

In 2023, OHCHR and UNAMA together with UNICEF, conducted capacity-building activities for some 400 child protection actors, aimed at strengthening monitoring and reporting efforts countrywide for the six grave violations on children in situations of armed conflict, as outlined in the 2005 Security Council Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM).

**BANGLADESH**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	Dhaka
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

Key OMP pillars in 2023



reiterated offers to provide technical advice to improve the Act and bring it in line with international standards.

Additionally, OHCHR supported three country visits by special procedures mandates, which contributed to enhanced dialogue with the Government and heightened visibility of key human rights issues.

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

OHCHR helped align the UNCT's agenda with human rights principles, advising on strategies to advance human rights in light of challenges with shrinking human rights space. OHCHR advocated with the Government on human rights issues, particularly in the context of the election environment, and facilitated openings to advance human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OHCHR also supported the establishment of a UNCT-wide disability inclusion team and worked towards a comprehensive UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), which is expected to be finalized in the first half of 2024. OHCHR contributed to updating the Common Country Analysis (CCA) to reflect human rights challenges, collaborated with the ILO on fair wage advocacy, and guided the UNCT and civil society in their Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports development.

**Participation**

OHCHR organized three dialogues reaching approximately 100 key actors including youth, CSOs, HRDs, journalists and artists, addressing various human rights issues such as freedom of expression and the Digital Security Act. Following technical exchanges between OHCHR and the Government, the Digital Security Act was replaced by a new Cyber Security Act, although concerns remain with many of its provisions. OHCHR



**CAMBODIA**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	1993
Field office(s)	Phnom Penh
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023
Staff as of 31 December 2023	26

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR focused on the administration of justice and provided recommendations on a number of legislations, including the draft law on the establishment and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission, the draft law on natural protected areas, the Law on Associations and NGOs, and draft law on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. OHCHR continues to follow the legislative process and provide advice in line with international human rights obligations. The Office has designed a strategy of engagement with stakeholders in cooperation with the RC and the UNCT, to ensure the participation of civil society in consultations ahead of legislative reforms.

OHCHR conducted 20 visits to nine facilities including correction centres, provincial prisons and rehabilitations centres. Concerns related to penitentiary conditions include access to complaint mechanisms, legal aid and proper health services. OHCHR raised concerns about compliance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) with relevant authorities, including the Prison General Department of the Ministry of Interior, and the National Committee against Torture (NCAT). OHCHR developed standard operating procedures with NCAT and is in the process of endorsing a joint action plan for 2024, which includes joint prison visits.

OHCHR also raised cases involving allegations of human rights violations with the Cambodian

Human Rights Committee (CHRC). A Task Force was established in 2023, composed of five senior officials of the CHRC, to exchange information related to human rights violations at places of detention.

 **Participation**

OHCHR carried out 14 field missions to 20 provinces and deployed 39 monitoring missions in Phnom Penh. Thirteen demonstrations and 30 trials were observed around the country. OHCHR documented cases of surveillance and other forms of intimidation against HRDs and opposition activists. Cases were raised with the Ministry of Justice and the CHRC and a list of cases was transmitted to authorities regarding allegations of human rights violations with recommendations for remedies. These cases with responses from the State were included in the Secretary-General report to the HRC on the role and achievements of OHCHR in Cambodia pursuant to resolution 48/23 under item 10 on technical cooperation, which was renewed on 13 October 2023 for another period of two years following resolution 54/36.

The Office contributed to enhanced CSO engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, and particularly Cambodia’s fourth UPR cycle, anticipated for May 2024. Six trainings were carried out for 91 participants (43 women) including 30 members from Indigenous communities, and covering human rights monitoring, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), safety and security, fundamental freedoms, and international human rights mechanisms.

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Type of engagement	Field-based structure
Year established	2015
Field office(s)	Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework 2017-2021 (extended to 2023)
Staff as of 31 December 2023	13

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:



#### Mechanisms

OHCHR assisted the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK to provide visibility to the DPRK human rights issues. In January, the Office helped organize a conference on women and girls in the DPRK, which was attended by more than 80 participants including CSOs, victims of violations, DPRK escapees, and government officials. The conference provided a space for victims, women's rights experts and civil society, to speak on the human rights situation of women and girls in the DPRK. Conference outputs were incorporated in the Special Rapporteur's report to the HRC.

OHCHR continued its advocacy with Member States and the international community highlighting the need to maintain focus on the human rights situation in DPRK, and to promote human rights discourse on the peace and security agenda for the Korean peninsula. In March, OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur briefed the Arrria Formula meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on human rights in the DPRK. In August, the High Commissioner and Special Rapporteur briefed the UNSC on the human rights situation in the DPRK, highlighting the link between peace, security and human rights and the importance of improving DPRK human rights to achieving overall peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur advocated on the protection of DPRK escapees in other countries, raising concerns over the risk of forced repatriation of escapees back to the DPRK and the

need for their international protection. OHCHR continues its advocacy with Member States on this issue, as well as for the protection of escapees, and to monitor and document cases of repatriation of escapees.

OHCHR supported CSO engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, particularly treaty bodies and the UPR. In February, the Office organized a briefing on the CEDAW reporting process for CSOs. In December, the Office provided another civil society briefing on the upcoming DPRK UPR review. Following the briefing, participants submitted stakeholder reports to the international Human Rights Mechanisms.



#### Accountability

OHCHR explored avenues for accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK, through enhanced monitoring and documentation, public reporting, advocacy, establishing and populating information repositories, capacity development events, and consultations with victims and stakeholders.

The Office's access to the reception and resettlement centres increased this year, enabling to interview 112 escapees (60 women), both at the ROK Government reception and resettlement centres and outside the facilities. Interviews were also conducted with victims (including of enforced disappearances and abductions in Japan) and their families. While the flow of escapees arriving in ROK has significantly reduced following COVID-19 border closures, the number of arrivals was higher this year than in the previous two, with 196 arrivals. Most escapees had remained in China, Russia or other countries for a long period prior to their arrival in the ROK. With limited new arrivals and DPRK borders remaining sealed, receiving new information on the human rights situation in DPRK continued to be a challenge. Increased cooperation with the ROK Government institutions has allowed for more contacts with high-level defectors from the DPRK and documentation on command responsibility, policies and procedures. Regular quarterly coordination meetings with CSOs have also enhanced coop-

eration and information sharing. Information gathered from OHCHR interviews of escapees is collected in accordance with global protocols. The information is analyzed from a human rights-based approach (HRBA) as well as in the context of international criminal law and is entered in the secure central repository and tagged according to set criteria, including elements of crimes in the Rome Statute. This allows the information to be reviewed for trends and gaps. Further, the Office engaged with other bodies collecting information and evidence, to facilitate a common approach and foster good practice.

The Office held a total of 44 consultations with 117 people (63 women) in ROK and Japan, delivering on the HRC mandate to consult stakeholders on their views on accountability for violations and crimes in the DPRK. The findings will be published in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Public reporting remains an important tool to provide visibility on the DPRK human rights issues, advocate with Member States and the DPRK on issues of concern, and provide a platform for victims, escapees, and other stakeholders to engage and better inform public discourse on human rights in DPRK. In March, the Office issued the report, *These wounds do not heal – enforced disappearance and abductions by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea*, documenting crimes of enforced disappearances in and by DPRK. The report was translated into Korean and Japanese, and provoked extensive media coverage. A second report on labour rights violations in the DPRK is being finalized and will be made public in May 2024.

The Office continued to expand and strengthen its central repository of information and evidence on crimes in DPRK, with interviews, reports, CSO information, open-source reports, and documents. In 2023, the Office made a renewed push to increase CSO and government contributions to the repository. For instance, the Office liaised with ROK Government entities, including the National Archives, to access interviews and reference DPRK laws and policies in the repository.

The Office met with victims, lawyers, and relevant ROK Government offices such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the police, as well as parlia-

mentarians in Japan to discuss investigation of abductions, reparations, and legal accountability. A conference on challenges and opportunities for universal jurisdiction for CSOs was organized in April, and a briefing session for civil society and victims was organized in Japan in December on “Abductions by the DPRK in international criminal law: documenting and understanding enforced disappearances pursuant to international law.” The Office held five interactive dialogues and joint seminars with the Ministry of Unification Records Centre discussing best practices on documentation, methodology and repository. The Office regularly cooperated with the Ministry of Justice to explore options on the use of the domestic jurisdiction to bring human rights violations cases in ROK courts. The Office also met with International Criminal Court (ICC) officials to explore options and opportunities for accountability on cases of human rights violations in the DPRK.

2023 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the UN Commission of Inquiry (COI) on human rights in the DPRK. The Office made presentations in ten universities, reaching hundreds of students, and also participated in several CSO and Member State events on COI plus ten, increasing awareness and emphasizing the historical importance of the COI.

## Participation

The Office increased media engagement in ROK, in an effort to increase public awareness and understanding on human rights in the DPRK. The Head of the Office was interviewed by several print media and television programmes, and provided comments to requests by several media on key issues such as forced repatriation of escapees, disability rights, food situation in the DPRK, and interlinkages of peace, security and human rights with overall DPRK human rights. The Office activities were also covered prominently by the Japanese media.

The Office participated and spoke at more than 60 events, focusing on the forced repatriation of DPRK escapees, sustainable development, transitional justice, accountability, non-judicial accountability measures, the mandate of the Office,

peace, security and human rights, and the ten-year anniversary of COI on the DPRK.

Three social media campaigns were organized that were widely covered by the local media. In March, “North Korean Voices,” highlighted gender issues and the voices of women and girl escapees to commemorate International Women’s Day. In August, on the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Office shared messages and concerns of families and victims of forced disappearance by the DPRK, highlighting their calls on the international community and the DPRK. In November, on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, the Office provided space for Women HRDs to speak on GBV and what can be done to address this in the DPRK.

To support stakeholder advocacy efforts, OHCHR drafted 15 one-page documents in English, Korean and Japanese, explaining human rights concepts related to accountability, international crime, international human rights mechanisms, the Office’s central repository, international courts, the Office’s mandated consultation process, among others. These one-pagers were valued by stakeholders and widely distributed in hard copy and online.

The Office prioritized engagement with youth through briefings to university students and young people working with CSOs on DPRK human rights. Consultations were organized with 27 youths (16 women), who shared their views on accountability and on improving human rights in DPRK. In December, the Office in collaboration with the University Students’ Association for Unification, organized an art exhibition on enforced disappearances in and by DPRK, providing a platform for enhanced youth engagement on human rights issues in the DPRK.

The Office regularly briefed the UNCT providing information to facilitate mainstreaming of human rights in their plans and programmes. The Office continued its advocacy with the DPRK Government on the urgency to allow the return of international UN staff and humanitarian agencies to the DPRK following the partial opening of its border in August. In September, the Office together with Soongsil University in the ROK, organized a conference on “Cities and Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals (SDGs) in the DPRK.” The conference brought together experts and practitioners on the environment, gender equality, development, and urban planning to discuss SDG implementation in DPRK cities.

**MALDIVES**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2020
Field office(s)	Malé
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR increased engagement with the NHRI, the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM). A workshop was delivered together with the RCO on human rights in the context of elections for the HRCM and other stakeholders, in June, ahead of the Presidential election in September. Components of the workshop included identifying the role of HRCM and CSOs in human rights monitoring in electoral contexts and capacity-building in planning and conducting related human rights monitoring. A separate session for government participants was held to familiarize officials with international human rights standards on elections as well as on challenges in promoting and protecting human rights in the electoral context. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants posted in the central and southern atolls.

Further, OHCHR conducted a needs assessment mission during the third quarter, with a view to providing recommendations for strengthening the HRCM in line with the Paris Principles. A final report with findings and recommendations was shared with the HRCM. OHCHR stands ready to support the implementation of these recommendations.

 **Mechanisms**

The Maldives ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 31 July. This followed engagement by the HRA with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs within the context of the HR75 Initiative.



**MYANMAR**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Project (other type of field presence)/Human Rights Adviser
<b>Year established</b>	2014/2021
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Bangkok, Thailand
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022 (extended to 2023)
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	13

**Key OMP pillars in 2023****PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Participation**

Following the 2021 military coup, the military has engulfed Myanmar in a spiral of violence and brutality to consolidate their control of the country, exacting a horrific toll on the civilian population. Under the state of emergency, civilian rule of law has effectively disappeared from the country and civic space has been strangled. OHCHR continued to monitor developments and advocate with duty bearers and, upon request, also provided technical assistance to democratic stakeholders in Myanmar, reviewing legal reform initiatives, including on the reform of independent human rights mechanisms for the future.

Further, from February to September, OHCHR conducted 43 formal consultations with civil society actors, prominent Myanmar experts, and HRDs, to assess the impact of military actions – following the coup – on the civilian population, including on issues of protection of civilians, accountability, denial of humanitarian access and the resulting impact on economic and social rights. This data combined with hundreds of interviews with victims and witnesses contributed to the preparation of four public reports delivered to the HRC and General Assembly.

OHCHR also organized 20 training sessions for CSOs on digital security, to enhance the online protection of HRDs, victims, and sources. To maximize impact, OHCHR worked in partnership with a widely recognized and trusted local organi-

zation with proven expertise and collaborated with 50 HRDs and journalists (24 women).

Additionally, the Office worked closely with legal aid organizations to build and strengthen their capacity, and to support actions and protection strategies for lawyers. The threat of possible arrest is an acute concern due to the exercise of their profession, particularly when defending individuals accused of supporting opposition factions. In December, OHCHR supported the organization of a workshop on coordination of protection referral pathways for civil society in northern Thailand.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR carried out seven field missions and over 40 consultations with INGOs and CSOs throughout the year to solicit their views on needed legal and institutional reforms to improve protection and promotion of rights enshrined in the UDHR. Additionally, the HRA with the RCO led the organization of a UN Myanmar event on HRDs. The hybrid event, “In time of crisis: uniting for Myanmar’s human rights defenders and journalists,” was held in December, in Bangkok, and aimed to mobilize support for Myanmar’s HRDs. The event was attended by some 60 individuals in-person and 80 online participants including HRDs, protection-focused CSOs, UN agencies in Myanmar and Thailand, and Member State representatives from Yangon and Bangkok. The meeting shed light on the critical situation faced by Myanmar HRDs and journalists during the nearly three years since the coup and emphasized the urgent need for scaling up support to ensure their ability to work with safety, dignity, and sustainability.

 **Peace and Security**

OHCHR submitted three reports to the HRC (HRC52, HRC53, and HRC54) and one to the General Assembly (GA78). Reports to the HRC52 and HRC54 focused on the overall human rights situation in the country. These highlighted key tactics deployed by the military, and which gravely affect the civilian population, including airstrikes, artillery shelling, enforced disappearances, burning of villages, sexual violence, and arbitrary arrests and prosecutions. In HRC54 and GA78, OHCHR focused on the violations of economic

and social rights as a result of the military's strategy of limiting or denying humanitarian access. While describing the all-encompassing measures imposed by the military to prevent access to humanitarian aid, OHCHR focused on the impact of this denial on fundamental rights, such as health and food. It also included a section on the denial of access following the landfall of cyclone Mocha and the detrimental impact on the Rohingya and other minority communities in Rakhine. Through these reports, OHCHR advocated for an immediate end to violence and accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations and violations of international law. All reports to the Council were followed by an interactive dialogue where the High Commissioner informed Member States of the situation and highlighted what the international community can do to end this crisis, and to ensure that human rights principles are at the core of responses.

### Accountability

Given that it was not possible to work with military State actors, OHCHR focused on accountability towards enhancing cooperation with the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar and collaborating with CSOs. To support necessary documentation efforts to advance accountability, OHCHR organized 20 training modules that were completed by 500 participating grassroots advocates, CSOs, lawyers, and journalists. The trainings focused on the UN Human Rights system and its reporting mechanisms, human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, human rights analysis and reporting, and documentation of specific crimes in the post-coup environment.

OHCHR worked closely with the UNCT to ensure that human rights principles and standards were incorporated in all UN actions, including humanitarian action. OHCHR continued to co-chair the Human Rights Theme Group to promote information exchanges and coordination on relevant human rights issues of concern.

## NEPAL

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Kathmandu
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Non-discrimination

The HRA contributed to expanding the National Human Rights Commission's scope of work to marginalized groups, focusing on older persons. A study on the implementation of the Senior Citizens Act of Nepal is currently in progress, with the final report anticipated in 2024. The study revealed that older persons are deprived of dignity and other rights as a result of outward migration, lack of support from family members, minimal state support services for senior citizens, and digital technology barriers to accessing social security services. However, the study also found that the social security schemes had a positive impact overall on older persons from marginalized and poor communities. The report is expected to contribute to the open-ended Working Group on ageing and discussions on the development of a convention on the rights of older persons. The findings of the study will contribute to strengthening a draft national policy on the rights of senior citizens by reflecting on the experiences of older persons and advocating for the protection and promotion of their rights.

#### Peace and Security

OHCHR accompanied developments in transitional justice by conducting three missions and temporarily deploying an advisor to the RCO to consult with stakeholders on upcoming transitional justice legislation and share advice on international standards. Some of OHCHR's recommendations were positively reflected in key provisions of the parliamentary draft law on the subject. OHCHR stressed the importance of a victim-centred approach to transitional justice and supported victims' groups in their advocacy around the draft legislation.

## THE PACIFIC

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands (Republic of), Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu
Year established	2005
Field office(s)	Suva
UN partnership framework	United Nations Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	15

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), New Zealand Human Rights Commission, Samoa Ombudsperson's Office, the Asia-Pacific Forum on NHRIs (APF), the Pacific Community (SPC), and OHCHR, supported efforts to establish a NHRI in the Cook Islands and to build the capacity of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission (FHRADC), by sharing good practices for legislative, institutional, and behavioral change to establish and strengthen NHRIs. OHCHR continued to expand engagement with the four existing NHRIs in the region (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa) and organized a high-level side event on the margins of the fifty-second Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in the Cook Islands, in November, to advocate for the establishment of NHRIs in more countries in the region. Government leaders of **Marshall Islands** and **Samoa**, and parliamentary representatives of **Cook Islands** committed to establish or strengthen NHRIs. The Office participated in the mid-term review of the **Solomon Islands** Government UPR and consultations on the establishment of a NHRI in May, with the Government's support towards this endeavor.

In December, OHCHR organized a training on international human rights standards and good practices, focusing on torture prevention, for 40

members of the Fiji Police Special Response Mobile Unit, in Suva. The Office will continue to engage with the police to consolidate a HRBA to police training curricula and in-service police trainings as well as accountability mechanisms for public complaints.

OHCHR engaged with the Attorney General of the new Government of Fiji on the need for legislative and institutional reforms, including of restrictive legislation impacting civic space and freedom of expression, such as the Penal Code, Public Order Act, and the Media Industry Development Act 2010 (MIDA). Stakeholders, including media companies and journalists, were concerned with the need for MIDA to be amended and engaged in public consultations and private advocacy with the Government. The Office consolidated comments from Pacific UN agencies and prepared a formal submission to the Office of the Solicitor General, seeking a repeal of the MIDA as per the recommendation made by the treaty bodies and UPR. Substantive comments were also made on a new draft media ownership and registration bill highlighting issues related to freedom of expression, state obligations to provide protection for journalists and media, and on strict requirements of transparency in media ownership. Following engagement by a number of media stakeholders, the MIDA was repealed by the Fiji Parliament in April and no new bill regulating the media has been introduced.

OHCHR, with the Multi-Country Office in Fiji and UNICEF, supported the visit to **Fiji** and **Solomon Islands** by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, in April. The visit assisted Government efforts to build on the political commitment and steps already taken to end violence against children, and reinforced engagement in preparation of Fiji's Voluntary National Review (VNR). The visit was an opportunity to identify good practices to be scaled up and actions required to overcome pending challenges, and to define the expertise and support needed for children's protection and well-being. Pending child protection legislation in Fiji is expected to be introduced in Parliament in 2024.



## Development

The Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility was endorsed by leaders at the fifty-second Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in November. The Framework reflects efforts made under the “Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Joint Programme” implemented by ESCAP, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD). The IOM-led programme aims to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of Pacific Islanders in the context of climate change and disasters, ensuring that migration and relocation remain a choice and displacement is averted, minimized and addressed. The Framework represents a proactive approach to addressing the challenges associated with climate change and human mobility. It aims to have a sustainable impact on the resilience of the region and its inhabitants, allowing agency for all, including those who choose to remain and those on the move. It is the culmination of a four-year consultative process and deliberations of an inter-governmental joint working group. OHCHR will continue to assist through the development of an implementation plan for the Framework.

In the implementation of HRC resolution 51/35, OHCHR conducted consultations and needs assessments to inform the report on addressing the challenges and barriers to the full realization and enjoyment of the human rights of the people of the **Marshall Islands**, stemming from the State’s nuclear legacy, and to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the National Nuclear Commission and other stakeholders in relation to the national strategy for nuclear justice and the country’s pursuit of transitional justice.

OHCHR conducted an online business and human rights dialogue in December to engage governments, civil society, the private sector and academia, in discussion on human rights challenges and opportunities related to just transition in the energy sector and beyond. The dialogue enabled consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on concerns and priorities, including issues related to the extractive industry, all of which will inform the Fourth Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights to take place in 2024.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, the Office, together with the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network and Macquarie University, organized a capacity-building workshop on the Special Procedures for environmental HRDs from 13 Pacific Island countries, in Fiji, in March. Following the workshop, participants issued the first HR75 pledge, committing to continue their work on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment across the region, and to hold governments, businesses, and other duty bearers to account when violations occur.



## Mechanisms

OHCHR provided capacity-building for over 100 government officials and 20 CSOs to facilitate increased and effective engagement with the treaty bodies. As part of these efforts, training sessions, mock sessions, and technical briefings were organized in **Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga**. Advocacy and technical support toward treaty ratification and reporting was provided to the governments of **Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**.

Following these activities, Cook Islands made progress in drafting its report to CEDAW; Fiji completed draft reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and took steps to draft reports to the CEDAW, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) report; Kiribati submitted its initial report to the Committee Against Torture (CAT), and participated in the review by the Committee in 2023, becoming the first Pacific Island country to do so; Marshall Islands submitted its common core document and improved draft reports to the ICCPR and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Nauru took steps in drafting its CRPD report; Vanuatu developed a road map to draft its CAT report; Papua New Guinea completed its draft report to the CRC and developed plans towards drafting reports to CEDAW, CRPD and CERD; Samoa submitted its report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED); and Tonga and Tuvalu submitted their UPR reports and participated in the UPR Working Group sessions.

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu developed road maps towards ratifying the Convention Against Torture; Tonga developed road maps towards ratifying the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and Tuvalu accepted UPR recommendations to ratify a series of human rights treaties. Following extensive advocacy, Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a result of OHCHR's engagement, the UNCT in Fiji also supported the preparation of several UPR stakeholder reports.

OHCHR also advocated for the establishment of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs) in Cook Islands and Fiji; provided capacity-building to strengthen NMIRFs in Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga and Samoa; and supported the participation of NMIRFs of Kiribati, Tonga and Samoa in HRC mandated seminars on NMIRFs to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing.

Subsequently, the Fiji Government expressed interest in the establishment of a NMIRF by 2025 and Cook Islands continues to hold ad hoc Task Force meetings on treaty reporting with increased awareness on the value of establishing a NMIRF in the future. In Tonga and in Kiribati, implementation of their respective NMIRFs strengthened coordination capacities, illustrated by the successful engagement in the UPR fourth cycle, and CAT and CRPD review cycles, respectively.



### Peace and Security

OHCHR contributed to the integration of a HRBA with a focus on vulnerable groups, in Vanuatu's Post Disaster Needs Assessment document, elaborated and published in June to define and guide Government response following the impact of tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin, in March.

In Fiji, OHCHR provided capacity-building for 30 CSO members, including 15 women and three LGBTI persons. An October workshop for participants focused on human rights sensitive early warning, including crisis prevention, monitoring, reporting, and advocacy for human rights in post-disaster emergency response contexts.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Port Moresby
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022 (extended to 2023)
Staff as of 31 December 2023	3

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Accountability

OHCHR was invited to take part in the technical working group comprised of relevant government and development partners to establish the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In partnership with the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Office also co-chaired the Human Rights Forum, bringing together civil society, government, and UN agencies, to discuss several important topics such as the establishment of the NHRC, the drafting of a HRD bill, amendments to the Family Protection Act, and a draft disability bill. OHCHR together with other UN agencies, also organized with civil society to advocate for the establishment of a NHRC. Following these efforts, the Government established a human rights secretariat within the Department of Justice and Attorney General in January 2023. In 2024, OHCHR will carry out study visits to NHRCs in the region with a view to provide recommendations for a feasible structure.



### Non-discrimination

The Government, supported by OHCHR and UN Women, held nationwide consultations on CEDAW reporting as well as the development of the HRD bill. Consultations were held with the Law Reform Commission and drafting of the HRD bill was initiated by the Commission. The complete draft is expected to be shared with OHCHR for review prior to submission to Parliament in 2024.



 **Participation**

In February, a draft media bill was introduced by the Department of Information and Communications Technology that was viewed by the media as a move towards increased government control. The Papua New Guinea Media Council expressed concerns on the lack of consultations with key stakeholders and on provisions’ risk of undermining media freedoms. The RC, with the HRA’s support, submitted detailed feedback on the bill to the Department and the Media Council, and facilitated a national dialogue on the proposed national media development policy. The dialogue was attended by government departmental heads, media stakeholders, CSOs, members of the public, and UN agencies. The consultation resulted in the Government’s agreement to review the policy to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

**THE PHILIPPINES**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser
<b>Year established</b>	2014
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Manila
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2019-2023)
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	6

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

OHCHR co-chaired regular meetings with the Department of Justice, and with the participation of the NHRC and civil society actors, to develop strategies for strengthening accountability. OHCHR organized a training for investigators, prosecutors, and civil society actors, on the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Deaths. This contributed to participants’ improved skills to conduct investigations and the Government’s pledging to establish a forensic training institute and continue justice sector reform.

To strengthen protection of victims, OHCHR with the Department of Justice, conducted a mapping of available protection mechanisms and organized a forum aiming to improve coordination between stakeholders. OHCHR provided technical expertise enabling the Human Rights Affairs Office of the National Police to review and improve the Human Rights Recording Analysis Information System (HUR AIS) database, and provided training for 228 police (83 women) in Cebu, Davao, and Manila on analyzing alleged violations and populating the database. This strengthened capacity to systematically identify and monitor human rights cases, and led to a commitment by the Police to roll out the system nationwide in 2024.

 **Participation**

OHCHR co-chaired six technical working groups under the “UN Joint Programme on Human Rights,” which served as platforms for strengthen-

ing engagement between the Government and civil society actors on core human rights topics. OHCHR advocated for the protection of HRDs including by raising awareness on legislation and local governance ordinances to protect HRDs and provided training on protection of HRDs. This contributed to the cities of Digos, Isabela, and Puerto Princesa, adopting city level ordinances on the protection of HRDs.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR established a National Youth Advisory Board in the Philippines that will facilitate outreach and youth engagement and provide inputs to key events. Furthermore, the Philippines participated actively in HR75 through its “75 days countdown” initiative.



### Development

OHCHR chaired the UNCT’s Thematic Working Group on Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and Human Rights and provided training on integrating a HRBA to members from 11 UN agencies. With OHCHR’s support, the UNCT and the Government integrated human rights in the formulation of the UNSDCF 2024-2028, including references to human rights conventions and the UPR process.



### Mechanisms

OHCHR provided technical advice to the NMIRF on treaty body reporting, including during mock sessions for delegates in connection with reviews by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), the Human Rights Committee, CEDAW, and CRC. This contributed to increased engagement, including via an official visit of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, and unofficial visits by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions, and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of older persons.

OHCHR also provided support for implementation of the National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD), contributing to the launch of a network of 19 departmental focal points to populate the database, enabling a more systematic and timely monitoring of implementation of recommendations.

## SAMOA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2022
Field office(s)	Apia
UN partnership framework	United Nations Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Accountability

The HRA increased engagement with the Ombudsperson’s Office, which is the only NHRI accredited with “A” Status in the Pacific region but has faced challenges due to turnover of staff. The HRA provided guidance on substantive issues, such as the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to be incorporated into a policy guideline for government ministries developed by the NHRI, and provided technical advice related to treaty body reporting. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the HRA jointly organized an event with the NHRI with the participation of UN agencies such as UNESCO and UNICEF, as well as CSOs, and focused on the right to education and human rights education, during which a documentary produced by OHCHR featuring a human rights educator with hearing disabilities from Samoa, Maselina Iota, was launched.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR supported the participation of the NHRI in the event supported by the Pacific UNCT in the margins of the fifty-second Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, in the Cook Islands in November, which focused on the role of accountability mechanisms in promoting people-centred development, gender equality and combating violence against women and children. High-level speakers at the event, which included the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Marshall Islands, and a member of Parliament of the Cook Islands, acknowledged the role of NHRIs in this regard and pledged to strengthen or establish NHRIs in their respective countries.



## Mechanisms

OHCHR, with UNICEF and the SPC, supported a follow-up visit of members of the CRC to Samoa in November, building on the CRC extraordinary outreach session hosted in Samoa in 2020. Country visits were undertaken in the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Tuvalu, and culminated in the Pacific Regional Learning Exchange Workshop in Samoa. The workshop, organized by OHCHR, enabled sharing of good practices to promote and protect children's rights, such as the prohibition of corporal punishment and promotion of positive and non-violent forms of discipline; protection of children from domestic violence, sexual exploitation and abuse; children's rights in the child justice system; and climate change, and the environment; and the rights of the child. The HRA led the Pacific launch of the CRC General Comment No. 26 on child rights and the environment, with a specific focus on climate change. The event featured Miss Samoa, Moemoana Schwenke, a youth climate change activist, with the active participation of more than 60 children who spoke about the impact of climate change on their lives and what more should be done.

OHCHR, together with UNICEF, UN Women, and SPC, continued to provide support to the Cook Islands for the preparation of its report to CEDAW. The HRA also provided guidance to the Government of Niue on the ratification process for CEDAW and treaty body reporting, and supported Samoa's submission of its initial report to CED.



## Development

The HRA provided Secretariat support to the Pacific Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG) and the Human Rights Coordination Group (HRCG) established in 2023 under the new UNSDCF 2023-2027.

The HRTG, co-chaired by OHCHR and ILO, convened quarterly meetings bringing together focal points from 18 UN agencies across the Pacific to ensure that human rights are effectively addressed in UN interventions. The Group contributed to an analysis of human rights markers in 14

country implementation plans in the Pacific region, which revealed a low contribution of UN interventions to the promotion and protection of human rights under the Prosperity and Planet pillars. To ensure accurate use of the human rights markers, a briefing for UN focal points was held jointly with the Gender Theme Group, in September, with the support of RCOs, thus enhancing awareness on linkages between human rights and agency interventions to promote sustainable development.

OHCHR helped establish the HRCG, co-chaired by OHCHR, ILO, SPC Human Rights and Social Development Division, and the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network, which brought together representatives of civil society, NHRIs, academia, and development partners. Discussions focused on key regional human rights developments, including live updates from the ground on the impact of tropical cyclone Kevin in Vanuatu in March, decriminalization of same sex relations in the Cook Islands in April, discussions on civic space, and recommendations on the creation of a regional human rights mechanism for the Pacific, as contributions to the HR75 Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue in Bangkok.

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## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok
Staff as of 31 December 2023	31

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

OHCHR continued to advocate for the abolition of death penalty in the region. In **Malaysia**, the Abolition of Mandatory Death Penalty Bill, and the Revision of Sentence of Death and Imprisonment for Natural Life – Temporary Jurisdiction of The Federal Court, Acts 846 and 847, respectively, came into effect on 4 July and 12 September 2023. The legislation abolished the mandatory death penalty in full for eleven offences, and introduced sentencing discretion for all offences where it was applicable. The new law retains however the death penalty for drug trafficking, the most common conviction for death row prisoners, under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

In **Thailand**, technical support was provided to the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Thai Police, and the NHRC, to reform laws, policies and practices for strengthening accountability and rule of law in line with international human rights standards. After more than a decade of advocacy by OHCHR and the human rights community, the Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance, was enacted and came into force in 2023. The Act criminalizes torture and enforced disappearances, and is significant in the context of ongoing transnational repression, increased risks of rendition of political activists and HRDs, and to safeguard the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants living in Thailand. The Government also established a committee under the Act to provide remedy to victims and affected persons.

## Development

In **Thailand**, the Government launched its Second NAP on Business and Human Rights, with a focus on labour protection, fair working conditions, land community rights, natural resources and environmental protections, cross-border investment and multinational enterprises, and protection of HRDs. The latter includes through legislative amendments to address Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs). OHCHR worked closely with the Ministry of Justice, CSOs and the UNDP in the public consultation processes and elaboration of the plan. The second NAP includes a strengthened focus on the right to remedy related to the protection of HRDs.

As one of the three UN agencies in the UN Environmental Rights Task Force, OHCHR provided technical support to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in its initiative to develop the **ASEAN Environmental Rights Framework**. The Framework is expected to be adopted by ASEAN in 2024 and will provide guidance to ASEAN Member States on the protection and promotion of the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

OHCHR supported the negotiation of a landmark framework on **climate mobility** in the Pacific, highlighting the need to ensure the protection of the human rights of all people who move in the context of climate change.

OHCHR continued raising awareness of the hostile environment faced by **Environmental HRDs** (EHRDs) in the region. OHCHR co-organized, with UNEP and CSOs partners, the third annual Asia-Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum under the theme “Strengthening protection through data collection.” The annual forum served as a safe space for EHRDs to discuss ongoing challenges and regional trends across Asia-Pacific on the right to a healthy environment.

The integration of human rights in CCAs and UNSDCF remained a key entry point for OHCHR to support the strengthening of UNCTs’ implementation of the HRBA to development, including in relation to economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to a healthy environment. As part of

the UN regional Issue-Based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Women’s Empowerment, co-chaired by OHCHR, UNFPA and UN Women, three HRBA trainings were carried out in collaboration with HRAs in **Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal** and two trainings for UNCTs on the right to a healthy environment in **Lao PDR and the Maldives**. OHCHR also provided inputs to the CCAs and UNSDCF of **Bhutan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Pacific**.

### Mechanisms

In **Viet Nam**, ahead of the UPR fourth cycle, the CERD review, the CEDAW pre-session Working Group (PSWG), and the ICCPR PSWG, OHCHR supported CSOs, including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and provided training on digital security. Several CSOs submitted stakeholder reports to the UPR, as well as public and confidential reports to inform the CERD concluding observations, and PSWG and ICCPR list of issues. The CERD concluding observations also emphasized human rights violations affecting Indigenous Peoples in Viet Nam, due to non-recognition of their rights by the Government.

In **Lao PDR**, the Government requested technical support on a series of topics, including for the preparation of overdue national reports to the CAT and CERD; technical guidance on the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which Lao PDR signed in 2008; and strengthening understanding on international human rights mechanisms. A first-ever, joint workplan was signed by OHCHR, the RCO, and the Government for this cooperation. OHCHR subsequently delivered eight workshops to line ministries on international human rights mechanisms and two on the right to a healthy environment and climate change.

To strengthen national reporting mechanisms, OHCHR organized a regional meeting of NMIRFs in Bangkok, with the participation of government representatives from **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam**. Individual country NMIRF strengthening workshops

were organized in the **Maldives, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste**. Workshops on specific mechanisms were organized for **Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste**. Subsequently, in the Philippines, this led to the roll-out of the NRTD.

### Non-discrimination

The South-East Asia Regional Office launched a nationwide public campaign on migration in **Malaysia**, entitled “Dari Dapur” (Stories from My Kitchen). The campaign aimed to place human rights at the heart of public narratives on migration, through storytelling. Videos and other media were disseminated through dedicated social media accounts, with the active support of civil society including the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights. Video episodes were broadcast on *Astro Awani*, the top television news channel. *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, Malaysia’s most prominent Chinese-language newspaper, published translated versions of the episodes on their social media accounts and website. *Bernama*, Malaysia’s national news agency, adapted the “Dari Dapur” material to create a feature story of their own. Within four months of its launch, the campaign had reached nearly one million people on social media.

As part of the joint project with UN Women and International Court of Justice (ICJ), “Enhancing Access to Justice for Women in Asia and the Pacific,” OHCHR supported a study on barriers to access to justice for women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities in **Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines**. The report, co-produced with the Centre for Disability Law and Policy and the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University of Galway, highlighted that women with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities face a complex set of barriers to accessing justice and proposed targeted actions to address this gap.

### Participation

OHCHR finalized and launched a digital security tips series for HRDs in South-East Asia, and an online holistic digital security training. OHCHR also launched a public report on the human rights



impacts of new technologies on civic space in South-East Asia.

### Peace and Security

OHCHR produced bi-monthly regional snapshot reports, providing regular analysis for partners on human rights developments, emerging trends and risks regarding early warning and prevention, such as restrictions on civic space, wider economic and political issues, and developments contributing to increased risks and widening inequality in the region.

Support continued for the roll-out of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights country dialogue with RCs and UNCTs, providing remote support to dialogues in the **Maldives, Malaysia and Viet Nam** and supporting **Thailand's** UNCT dialogue with civil society groups on the right to a healthy environment. Briefings were held for RCs and UNCTs in **Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Pakistan** on the Call to Action dialogue and human rights risks, and training provided to UN staff in **Myanmar and Nepal**, on human rights risk analysis and prevention.

Since early 2021, the region has increasingly faced a wide range of urgent human rights concerns linked to online fraud operations, often involving human trafficking. OHCHR published a briefing paper, *Online scam operations and trafficking into forced criminality in Southeast Asia: recommendations for a human rights response*. The publication and recommendations have been extensively covered and cited in international and regional media. Related to this, OHCHR was invited to speak on various occasions including at a meeting of the Bali Process Working Group on trafficking in persons. OHCHR also engaged and raised concerns with national authorities in affected countries, and within the UN system.

## SRI LANKA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2004
Field office(s)	Colombo
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	5

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Peace and Security

The Government introduced the draft anti-terrorism bill (ATB) to replace the severe Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). While an improvement, the ATB fell short of meeting Sri Lanka's international legal obligations. OHCHR provided preliminary analysis on the draft law in May, noting that the bill contained some positive reforms but highlighted the numerous human rights concerns that were not addressed. As a result of advocacy by OHCHR and other stakeholders, the Government withdrew the first iteration of the ATB and introduced another version of the bill in September, which did not substantially improve on the previous version. OHCHR supported advocacy by the RC and Member States on the ATB and reiterated offers to provide technical advice to improve the ATB and bring it in line with international standards.

#### Development

OHCHR monitored land conflicts for their potential to become drivers of inter-community conflict. Land issues were reflected in the High Commissioner's reports to the fifty-fourth session of the HRC, and in the early warning and prevention tools of the UNCT, as well as in the RC's advocacy with the Government.

**TIMOR-LESTE**

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2013
Field office(s)	Dili
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	4

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Non-discrimination**

After much advocacy effort, on 17 January, Timor-Leste acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and on 7 February, to its Optional Protocol. The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion requested support from OHCHR in further advancing implementation of the Convention. Following support provided by OHCHR, the Government made a pledge at the high-level event of the HR75 Initiative, to establish the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), which will be responsible for coordinating Government action in implementing the rights of persons with disabilities under the Convention, and national laws and policies.

OHCHR, working jointly with UN Women and UNICEF, and with OPDs, delivered a training for 50 participants (20 women) from Government institutions, and civil society. The training focused on increasing understanding on what is needed to put the CRPD and SDGs into practice. It also promoted cross-cutting approaches to enabling the full participation of persons with disabilities, women and girls, and LGBTI persons in national processes and decision-making. This resulted in the development of a two-year workplan, with United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) funding. The workplan identified priorities including, support to the establishment of the NCPD, disability inclusive planning and budgeting, improved monitoring and data collection, and the use of disability and gender

disaggregated data to influence decision-making, among others.

 **Mechanisms**

OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice to organize a consultation with relevant government counterparts, CSOs, and the NHRI, focusing on follow-up to recommendations made to Timor-Leste by the international human rights mechanisms. The meeting focused on recommendations related to the right to life, physical integrity, and access to justice. A report of the meeting was prepared by the Ministry of Justice and distributed to relevant State entities for follow-up.

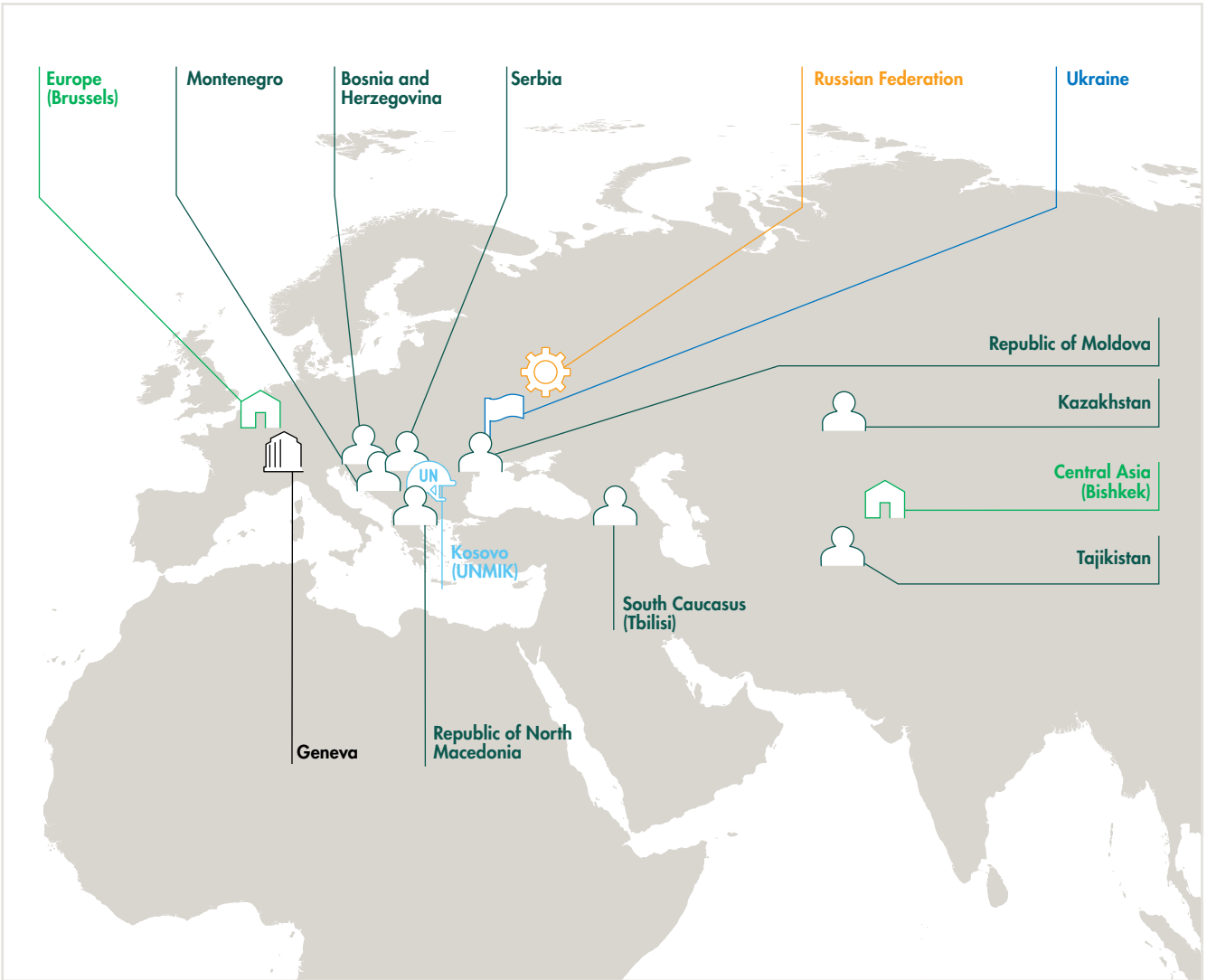
In view of Timor-Leste’s delay in its reporting obligations, OHCHR advocated with the Ministry of Justice and of Foreign Affairs, encouraging that time, human and financial investment be made to ensure the production of the reports. OHCHR also met with the new Minister of Justice and agreed to organize formal discussions with other State entities for the establishment of a NMIRF.

On 9 November, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice in the organization of a seminar to discuss the benefits of establishing a NMIRF. Twenty-six participants from different line ministries, mostly at the Director-General level, as well as a representative from the NHRI, attended. In addition to discussions about the objectives, capacities, and benefits of a NMIRF, representatives from the Philippines and Portugal presented examples from their respective countries. Participants also discussed the main challenges that Timor-Leste has been facing in keeping up with reporting obligations and agreed on the need to establish a national mechanism, as well as planning for the next meeting. The Government requested OHCHR’s support in this endeavour.

# UN Human Rights in Europe and Central Asia



Focus group discussions as part of an assessment on discrimination suffered by refugees from Ukraine in Moldova. © Charity Centre for Refugees



**TYPE OF PRESENCE**

**LOCATION**

	Headquarters	Geneva
	Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions	Ukraine (HRMMU)
	Regional Offices/Centres	Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
	Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions	Kosovo <sup>a</sup> (UNMIK)
	Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, Georgia and also covering Armenia and Azerbaijan) and Tajikistan
	Other types of field presences	Russian Federation

<sup>a</sup> References to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.



In 2023, UN Human Rights' work in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) covered a vast region comprised of 54 countries, including members and candidates of the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (COE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as several territories controlled by de facto authorities. OHCHR field operations consisted of 13 field presences: 2 regional offices (the Regional Office for Europe in Brussels and the Regional Office for Central Asia in Bishkek); 1 monitoring mission (Ukraine); 1 human rights component in a peace mission (United Nations Mission in Kosovo<sup>22</sup> (UNMIK)); 8 human rights advisers (HRAs)(Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, South Caucasus (Georgia) and Tajikistan); and 1 project in the Russian Federation.

An increase in conflicts and crisis situations across the region posed significant challenges, including an outbreak of hostilities along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. In many of these situations, violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law were reported, notably in Russia's ongoing armed attack against Ukraine. OHCHR ensured consistent monitoring and reporting on unfolding developments and contributed to the UN's response, engaging with the international human rights mechanisms, UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and permanent missions.

The Office implemented recurrent and new reporting mandates established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly, including on the human rights situations in Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine/Crimea. It promoted human rights engagement, including in the contexts of Cyprus, Kosovo, Republic of Moldova, the three countries of the South Caucasus and Ukraine, participated in political processes (Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia), provided human rights inputs to UN responses, and facilitated avenues for conflict resolution/prevention processes.

OHCHR monitored and advocated on human rights issues related to people on the move, regardless of their migration status, and on the civic space environment.

As part of UNCTs, OHCHR contributed to United Nations development, early warning, and prevention mechanisms, by participating in the preparation of Common Country Analyses (CCAs), road maps, annual results' reports and joint workplans, as well as in the regional Issue-Based Coalitions on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) and on Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience (IBC-LMPDR).

<sup>22</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.



## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Sarajevo
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	3

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation

The promotion and protection of civic space in general, and of the rights to freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and participation, remained a major priority. The HRA continued to monitor developments and analysed draft amendments to the Republika Srpska (RS) criminal code aimed at recriminalizing defamation, as well as a draft law on the special registry and publicity of the work of non-profit organizations receiving foreign funding and other assistance. The HRA advised the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the UNCT on these issues and supported their advocacy, including through bilateral engagement, a letter to the RS authorities, several media products (press releases, social media cards, tweets, and op-eds). The HRA also spoke on these issues and highlighted international norms and standards in public consultations.

Furthermore, the special procedures issued two communications. The first of these regarding criminalization of defamation in RS, was undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. The second regarding the draft law on the special registry and publicity of the work of non-profit organizations, was undertaken by the Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and on human rights defenders. OHCHR ensured the prompt translation and wide

dissemination of the communications, which constituted the main reference for many civil society actors in their advocacy efforts countering these legislative initiatives. These communications increased the visibility of the Special Procedures and contributed to revitalizing and expanding awareness on the international human rights mechanisms, norms and standards.

Under the “Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists,” OHCHR developed guidance on the issue of defamation for the media, lawyers, and the judiciary, referring to domestic legislation and international standards and jurisprudence, and proposing possible amendments on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) given increasing reports of such cases across the country. OHCHR also developed generic guidelines for media outlets to enhance the protection of media workers from external threats. OHCHR shared them with trade associations, who had expressed interest in such work to support their own efforts to protect journalists and media workers. Also, given the recent criminalization of defamation, OHCHR started developing arguments for a possible litigation strategy. On the occasion of International Day of Democracy (15 September), OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a regional conference in Sarajevo on the safety of journalists, focusing on women journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia. The conference was held in cooperation with OHCHR offices in the respective countries, within the framework of the Global Drive project. Among the outcomes of this event, over 30 journalists from the three countries made a pledge under the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative to counter all forms of discrimination and hate speech.

On 13 December, OHCHR and UN Women, with the support of Austria, organized a consultation of women human rights defenders (HRDs) in Banja Luka to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. This led to a policy brief and recommendations by women HRDs.

The HRA also continued to advocate for the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve engagement with civil society actors,

including to support their increased participation in various processes. The RC held the first meeting with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), in October. The meeting provided a space for these organizations to highlight challenges faced by persons with disabilities as the UNCT was developing its strategy on disability inclusion.

Ahead of Bosnia and Herzegovina's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in January 2025, the HRA initiated discussions and trainings of national counterparts, aimed at ensuring the involvement of CSOs, including those representing or working with groups in vulnerable situations (such as persons with disabilities, Roma communities, and victims of gender-based violence (GBV)). As part of this effort, OHCHR and UN Women organized a UPR training of 16 participants (15 women) in December.

The HRA organized and led several public events, including a HR75 conference in June, which welcomed over 100 participants, mainly from civil society. OHCHR also organized three consultations with persons with disabilities to raise awareness on their rights, inform an assessment on access to rights, and encourage OPD engagement in the UPR process.



## Development

The Office also conducted an assessment on the rights of persons with disabilities in the country, which will be published in 2024. OHCHR conducted consultations with OPDs in October and November to feed into the assessment. This work will assist the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve data collection and analysis regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, supporting their participation in processes that concern them. The assessment will also feed into preparations for the UPR, will provide information to treaty bodies including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in March 2024, and will help to inform the development of the next CCA and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026-2030.



## Non-discrimination

In May, OHCHR conducted a workshop on human rights-based data indicators gathering 32 participants (17 women) from the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), the State Agency for Statistics and CSOs. The workshop focused on measuring discrimination and promoting partnerships among these different stakeholders – notably between the NHRI and the Agency for Statistics – with a view to their signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2024, which would institutionalize the exchange of data and cooperation.



## Mechanisms

Since the deployment of the HRA, OHCHR has contributed to increasing awareness and knowledge in Bosnia and Herzegovina on international human rights mechanisms. Four communications were addressed to the Government in 2023 regarding: two draft laws related to civic space, two cases involving environmental HRDs subjected to SLAPPs, and instances of political pressure impacting the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OHCHR coordinated the UNCTs reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (CESCR) on follow-up procedures to concluding observations and mobilized the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the NHRI and CSOs to also submit reports in these processes.

As Bosnia and Herzegovina will undergo its fourth UPR cycle in January 2025, OHCHR initiated work in preparation for this review, which it intends to use as a strategic platform to advance dialogue on human rights. OHCHR organized three virtual UPR trainings in October, November, and December for the Government, the NHRI, CSOs, and the UNCT. Fifty participants attended. These initial trainings instructed participants about their respective roles, the timelines, and the process, while some participants considered assessing the implementation of previous

UPR recommendations. The Office established a UNCT Task Force to develop the UNCT submission, coordinate awareness-raising on the process and provide support to stakeholders. As a result of OHCHR’s advice and action, the RC intends to use the UPR as a strategic platform to promote dialogue and progress on human rights and to feed into the next UNDSCF. OHCHR also advocated with Member States to inform them about the UPR and encourage their engagement. OHCHR used the opportunity of marking International Human Rights Day to increase awareness on the process, with a panel dedicated to the UPR.

**CENTRAL ASIA**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Office
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
<b>Year established</b>	2008
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan); field offices in Astana (Kazakhstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), and Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	24

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

In **Kazakhstan**, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Forum of NHRIs and UNDP, OHCHR carried out a capacity assessment of the NHRI in June. OHCHR collaborated with media organizations and the OSCE on the draft law on mass media to advocate for a consultative process that includes a diverse range of partners. OHCHR also coordinated the joint UNCT advocacy efforts on the law and developed a non-paper human rights analysis, which was shared with stakeholders to inform their advocacy on the draft legislation. Subsequent drafts of the law addressed some human rights concerns. The draft law was presented to the lower chamber of Parliament for review and is expected to be adopted in 2024. Additionally, OHCHR introduced standards of torture prevention to members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) through training for newly elected members and it supported the NPM in disseminating the results of its work, including through the presentation of the NPM’s consolidated report for 2022. Moreover, OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance and advice to the NPM in **Kyrgyzstan** and maintained its advocacy with the authorities on the preservation of the NPM as a separate independent institution, in light of plans to merge the NPM with the Office of the Ombudsperson.

OHCHR provided technical assistance for preparation of two manuals on human rights law and international human rights mechanisms, for

the Higher School of Justice under the Supreme Court of **Kyrgyzstan**. These have been integrated into its curricula. In addition, with the Office's technical and financial assistance, the International Centre Interbilim, a CSO in Osh, conducted awareness-raising with authorities in the Batken region – where border clashes with Tajikistan took place in September 2022 – on the rights of civilian population to compensation and other remedies for losses suffered during the conflict. More than 20 individuals were subsequently provided with remedies and legal assistance, while the Parliament tasked the Cabinet of Ministers to resolve the issue of assessment of damages to civilian households.

Regarding legislative developments in **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR successfully advocated for the inclusion of guarantees for youth participation and the principle of disability inclusion, in the Law on Youth, which was adopted in 2023. Expert support was also provided for the preparation of the draft law on equality and the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Office also provided an analysis of the draft constitutional law on the Ombudsperson. In September, the Office facilitated inclusive public consultations hosted by the Office of the Ombudsperson with members of the Parliament and civil society about the Paris Principles and the draft law's compliance with these, which led to further revisions of the draft. In November, OHCHR supported the NHRI to hold a national dialogue under the HR75 Initiative to foster civil society participation in discussions on the implementation of recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, on torture prevention, the rights of persons with disabilities and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. As a result, national pledges were discussed with CSOs and sent to the Cabinet of Ministers, and were subsequently adopted and announced at the HR75 high-level event in Geneva, in December.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR prepared and presented guidance and recommendations for the governmental working group on the development of a new media law, on its structure and on the inclusion of international standards and practices. In addition, OHCHR continued its cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson and strengthened the capacity of its staff regarding protection of

persons with disabilities and non-discrimination, encouraging the Office of the Ombudsperson to prepare and send alternative reports to the international human rights mechanisms.

In **Uzbekistan**, an amended criminal code was adopted in April, criminalizing domestic violence. The move followed advocacy from the Office, including by the High Commissioner during his visit in March.



## Participation

In **Kyrgyzstan**, 60 lessons were introduced into the country's secondary school curriculum in 2023 following OHCHR's extensive support in 2022 to the Ministry of Education and Science, for the development of educational modules on human rights, non-discrimination, diversity, and tolerance.

Furthermore, OHCHR strengthened civil society advocacy skills and tools to engage with State authorities on the implementation of human rights standards related to civic space, criminal justice, and non-discrimination. Support was also provided to CSOs to mainstream international standards in their advocacy efforts. Relevant authorities were provided with comments on several draft laws, including on NGOs, mass media, and on "foreign representatives." With OHCHR's active engagement, the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Legislation agreed to hold on 17 October, a public hearing on the draft law on foreign representatives. This enabled a constructive dialogue with the participation of stakeholders from civil society, business, NHRIs, State bodies, and the diplomatic community. Following the hearing, several parliamentarians proposed amendments to the law to better align it with international standards. Following OHCHR's advocacy, on 31 October, the Office of the Ombudsperson convened consultations on the draft law on mass media. Stakeholders were informed about the legal analysis on the draft law shared by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the Venice Commission of the COE. The Office also

supported the Equality Coalition of NGOs to raise State official awareness on the need to adopt legislation ensuring the right to equality and protection against discrimination, which was prepared by civil society and was tabled by a group of parliamentarians, in September.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR conducted an analysis of the draft law concerning the rights of persons with disabilities and facilitated a public discussion of the draft law in collaboration with relevant ministries, UN agencies, and CSOs. The draft law is anticipated to align closely with international standards. OHCHR also supported a research study carried out by an NGO examining the challenges they face in the country, analysing various models of cooperation between State bodies and NGOs, and detailing the channels for engagement of NGOs in UN initiatives. In May, as part of the HR75 Initiative, the Office hosted a workshop to discuss the key findings of the research and showcase successful examples of cooperation between NGOs and the authorities. The workshop involved 27 parliamentarians (13 women) from the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Supreme Court, ministries, agencies, and NGOs working on international standards and good practices relating to civic space.

In **Uzbekistan**, as part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR co-organized a regional youth forum that provided a unique platform for more than 200 young individuals from Central Asia to contribute to the Youth Declaration that was presented in Geneva, in December.

## Development

OHCHR's long-term efforts to assist Kazakhstan in adopting human rights indicators showed visible results in 2023. An agreement with the Ministry of Justice and other relevant State bodies included a list of indicators covering the right to education, participation in public affairs, adequate housing, fair trial, freedom from torture, and prevention of violence against women. OHCHR has been requested to continue its support to incorporate the indicators in the work of different Ministries and the Bureau of Statistics in 2024. Furthermore, collaboration with the NGO Foundation for Par-

liamentary Development, in relation to advocacy on housing-related legislation, resulted in the Parliament committing to initiate discussions on a draft housing code.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR played a pivotal role in facilitating human rights-related interventions by the RC and the UNCT, including by providing timely human rights analysis on key developments. The Office contributed to speeches by the RC on civic space, fundamental freedoms, women's rights, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation, and drafted several letters from the RC to national authorities on human rights concerns in draft laws. In April, OHCHR supported a thematic UNCT retreat on civic space, which led to the adoption of relevant UNCT action points. It also contributed to the mainstreaming of human rights into the update of the CCA and provided human rights language for UN inputs into Government pledges before the SDGs Summit in September. Finally, together with other UN agencies, OHCHR contributed to drafting of the Emergency Response Plan that is pending approval by the inter-agency Disaster Response Coordination Unit.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR supported the UNCT in integrating human rights language in the CCA; prepared a compilation of UN activities to support the implementation of Tajikistan's UPR National Action Plan, to ensure better synergies between UN agencies and State bodies; and supported consultations with vulnerable groups in Dushanbe and Khujand, during the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process. The results of the latter were shared with the Government and incorporated in the State report as a special chapter on Leave No One Behind (LNOB). In addition, OHCHR supported VNR consultations with civil society, including with OPDs, on the implementation of SDG16. Participants provided recommendations on access to justice for those living with HIV, refugees and asylum-seekers, juvenile justice reform, independence of lawyers, and access to legal aid. The recommendations were consolidated and provided to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, which is coordinating the VNR report preparation process.

During the preparation of **Turkmenistan's** second VNR, OHCHR supported consultations with



CSOs and facilitated their contribution to the report, while in **Uzbekistan**, the Office played a key role in updating the CCA, contributing inputs on linkages between SDGs, human rights and the LNOB principle.



### Mechanisms

In **Kazakhstan**, the Office supported the Ministry of Justice in drafting and finalizing the National Action Plan (NAP) on monitoring, tracking, and reporting on the implementation of UPR recommendations ahead of its reporting to the fourth UPR cycle in early 2025.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR conducted awareness-raising activities with the Secretary of the Coordination Council on Human Rights, and the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF), regarding international human rights mechanism recommendations and the importance of engagement with civil society during preparation for the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) review in September and finalization of the voluntary mid-term report on the UPR. OHCHR also engaged with NGOs and the NHRI on the procedures for submission of alternative reports to the CRC. Subsequent reports by two NGO coalitions, the Office of the Ombudsperson, and the NPM, informed the CRC review and concluding observations.

In cooperation with the EU Delegation in **Tajikistan** and the Office of the Ombudsperson, OHCHR organized consultations between authorities and civil society on the implementation of the newly adopted National Strategy for Protection of Human Rights and its Action Plan for 2023-2025. More than 60 individuals attended, including State authorities, civil society, and international partners. Participants shared their vision and concerns on a range of issues including: juvenile justice, equality and non-discrimination, the rights of persons with disabilities, fair trial and due process, and overall cooperation between authorities and civil society on human rights.

In **Turkmenistan**, with UNICEF, OHCHR supported the Office of the Ombudsperson in submitting its first alternative report to the CRC, incorporating the views of children. OHCHR together with UNICEF developed a questionnaire and surveyed 247 children. The Committee will examine the report of Turkmenistan in August 2024.

In **Uzbekistan**, OHCHR facilitated training on alternative CRPD reporting by civil society. The Office also provided follow-up technical support to youth activists with disabilities who had previously been trained on human rights and advocacy. Seven of these young activists drafted alternative reports for submission to the CRPD contributing to the review of Uzbekistan's national report. The Office also supported the National Human Rights Centre, the Senate and the NHRI in implementing recommendations from the CRC. This included strengthening the capacity of State officials and the NHRI to develop a NAP – finalized and submitted to parliament – and ensuring consultations with children and CSOs in the process.

## EUROPE

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	European Union
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Brussels
Staff as of 31 December 2023	10

Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation

The Office continued to raise awareness at the regional level and among EU institutions, on human rights standards and the promotion and protection of civic space and HRDs. This was achieved, for example, through: a publication with recommendations to the EU entitled *Protecting and expanding civic space in the EU and beyond*; a dedicated event, in May, entitled “Rethinking public participation to enhance civic space and human rights,” as part of the HR75 Initiative; a structured dialogue with civil society and EU institutions as part of the annual EU-OHCHR strategic engagement, in July; and participation in a December high-level policy conference on youth inclusion, organized by the EU Commission. OHCHR also engaged with relevant stakeholders including the EU Commission and civil society partners, on key initiatives including the Digital Services Act, the EU Media Freedom Act and the EU directive to address the growing number of SLAPPs.

OHCHR further engaged with EU institutions on digital threats to HRDs through an online event, in June, on the safety of women journalists, organized together with UN Women and UNESCO in the context of the HR75 campaign. Additional engagement included a stakeholder meeting and regular discussions on the EU Artificial Intelligence Act, and an open letter from the High Commissioner addressing EU institutions, in November.

#### Non-discrimination

The Office has further become a trusted partner to the EU institutions working on anti-racism through collaboration on international human rights obligations related to racism and by extending expert advice on how to advance with the implementation of such obligations. In particular, OHCHR conducted in-depth analysis of European anti-racism legislation and policy, including the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan and Roma Strategic Framework, and commenced collaboration with the EU Anti-Racism Coordinator on addressing major gaps between EU anti-racism policy and international normative frameworks and recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms. This included raising the issue of differential impact of racism and structural racism on the physical and mental health of racialized communities.

In July, the Office consulted with over 35 CSOs from across Europe focused on opening a space for dialogue on civil society concerns related to racism in Europe and specifically on the challenges in the implementation of the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan.

OHCHR continued to contribute actively to the UNCT Task Force on Youth. In collaboration with 12 UN agencies and six youth leaders, OHCHR organized a panel on political participation at the European Youth Event in Strasbourg (9-10 June) as well as hosting an event stand where HR75 and other initiatives were promoted. Some 70 youths, predominantly female, attended the panel discussion. Regular exchanges with the European Youth Forum, the biggest network of youth organizations in the region, were also held to address youth participation. Some of civil society participation examples include: the High Commissioner’s town hall event, “In conversation with the High Commissioner” (19 July); the Regional Dialogue for Europe and Central Asia on “The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment” (20 October); and the Human Rights Day celebrations in December.


**Development**

OHCHR strengthened its engagement with stakeholders on the right to housing by availing policy support and enhancing risk monitoring, among others. In particular the Office engaged with the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, to discuss developments concerning the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness and the deteriorating situation in specific Member States. The Office also interacted with the European Commission Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, on 1 June, to explore further opportunities for engagement.

In collaboration with the ILO, and to mark the HR75 spotlight theme on social protection, OHCHR organized the talk on “Ensuring adequate minimum income, a matter of human rights,” in September. Supported by the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU, the event brought together the Spanish Ambassador, a representative of Spain to the Political and Security Committee of the EU, the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, and representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, CSOs (including trade unions), and private sector. Around 70 people participated (35 women). Key outcomes of the event were shared with the Spanish Presidency and disseminated on social media and via the ILO website, aimed at drawing attention to the EU Council Conclusions on implementation of the existing recommendation on adequate minimum income.

**MONTENEGRO**

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser
<b>Year established</b>	2019
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Podgorica
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	1

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Non-discrimination**

The Protector for Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, the NHRI, established an Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) jointly with ten OPDs. OHCHR provided support in the process of setting up the mechanism and provided inputs to its rules of procedure and 2024 workplan. The IMM started operating on 31 May and conducted various field visits, focusing on monitoring social and economic rights of persons with disabilities. A report on its findings is due in 2024. OHCHR also supported OPDs by facilitating six half-day training sessions, in June, for 81 staff (58 women). These included sessions on integrating CRPD indicators, and recommendations from international human rights mechanisms in programming.

Implementation of the new UNSDCF started in 2023. At the end of the year, OHCHR provided technical support for the update of the CCA, focused on stronger disability inclusion, with new information and data showing the need to shift from a medical to a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to disability, to tackle inequalities in education, health, employment and political participation, and address challenges for persons with disabilities to access justice and social protection.

In the area of legislation, two key laws on anti-discrimination and on gender recognition based on self-determination remained in draft form by end of year, mostly due to frequent institutional changes in the Government.



## Mechanisms

Montenegro, through the President, pledged to establish a NMIRF following recommendations from the international human rights bodies at the SDG summit in New York in September. OHCHR further advocated with representatives from the Government, Parliament, the NHRI, civil society, and the diplomatic community, for the establishment of such a mechanism, at the HR75 high-level event in December. Discussions on establishing the mechanism and on operationalizing the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) will commence with the new Government in 2024.

The May UPR proved an excellent opportunity to bring all relevant partners together to discuss human rights challenges and how to address them, and to highlight how international human rights mechanisms support UN Member States in this regard. Prior to the UPR session, in March, over 40 Member State representatives were briefed on the UPR, at an event organized by the UNCT, under the leadership of OHCHR. The NHRI and eight NGOs were provided with space to share their concerns and propose recommendations. Eighty-seven Member States made 247 recommendations during the UPR review, with Montenegro accepting 226. To initiate the process of implementation of UPR recommendations, OHCHR and UNDP organized an event in December, attended by approximately 50 national and international partners, where the outcome of the UPR was disseminated and good UPR practices from the region were shared. OHCHR prepared a two-page document highlighting key areas, institutions and groups noted in the recommendations, and informed participants of the outcome of the review. Discussions with the Government on the implementation of recommendations will be held in 2024.

Under the “Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists,” 14 journalists (7 women) were supported to engage with the international human rights mechanisms to promote and defend their rights. This engagement was facilitated by an OHCHR-led workshop, in February, and the subsequent involvement of participants in the UPR process. Following a diplomat briefing by Montenegro’s

Media Union on the situation of journalists in March, 16 recommendations were made during the UPR in May, specifically on preventing and resolving attacks on journalists. These were accepted by the Government. Journalists in Montenegro also led an initiative with their peers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia, facilitated under the Global Drive project, resulting in a [HR75 pledge](#) by more than 100 journalists and editors to contribute to tackling discrimination and hate speech.



## Participation

In the context of the HR75 campaign, three dialogues, held in June and November with over 80 children, young people and members of the Roma and Egyptian communities, provided platforms to discuss specific concerns affecting these groups’ ability to exercise their rights. Flowing from this, participants made a pledge to respect and demand human rights, and participate in civic affairs and counter hate speech and violence. The pledge also called for better education, mental health services and decent work for youth, and full respect for equality of groups currently facing discrimination. A [video recording](#) featured at the HR75 high-level event in Geneva. In addition, more than 2,700 children, young people, and parents participated in the online campaign, “*Tvoja Prava*” (Your Rights), led by a Montenegrin female influencer, and prepared with technical and financial support from OHCHR and the RC’s Office. The campaign, held between November and December, featured a video, artwork and quiz, and aimed to increase awareness of key Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) messages.

## REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Skopje
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	1

Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Non-discrimination

OHCHR provided technical advice on drafting and reviewing selected legislation in line with international standards. The Office advised a multi-stakeholder drafting group, led by the Ministries of Justice, Interior, and Labour and Social Policy, on legislative revisions to bring an end to statelessness. Subsequently, the Law on Civil Registry and the Law on Identity Documents were amended in June and October, respectively, ensuring immediate birth registration for every child, and issuance of personal documents. Additionally, the HRA has participated in the Ministry of Justice-led working group since 2022, reviewing the Criminal Code and specifically, providing a detailed assessment of the definition of rape, in accordance with the recommendations by the CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. OHCHR's recommendations were integrated into the revised criminal code, which was adopted in February 2023.

OHCHR engaged with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and the multi-sectoral Coordination Body for CRPD implementation established under the Prime Minister's Cabinet, in developing the 2023-2030 National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The HRA coordinated the UNCT support and provided technical advice on mainstreaming a HRBA to disability inclusion, to ensure a meaningful participation of rights holders and their representative organizations in making decisions that affect their lives. The National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, developed through an inclusive and participatory process, was adopted in December 2023.

## Mechanisms

The HRA assisted the NMIRF to organize national consultations in May and June, in advance of the fourth UPR of North Macedonia, taking place in 2024. Consultations involved multiple national actors, including the Parliament, the Government, NHRIs, the judiciary, academia, CSOs and their Issue-Based Coalitions, youth organizations, HRDs, think tanks, media professionals, as well as UN and other development partners. The consultations provided space to focus on human rights challenges and potential solutions. Notably, the Parliament was consulted for the first time regarding the UPR or any other report on international human rights mechanisms. The Parliament speaker, standing committees on human rights and gender equality, and inter-party parliamentary groups actively participated in the consultations, which were open to the public.

OHCHR worked to strengthen civil society capacity to engage and contribute to the fourth UPR cycle. In the course of June to September, the HRA provided substantive training on international human rights mechanisms and on reporting and follow-up to their recommendations. Ten consultations with CSOs were organized, including with CSOs representing different vulnerable groups. The CSOs committed to continue the dialogues with their constituencies. Several CSOs submitted individual UPR reports, and one joint UPR report was submitted by the group of 10 CSOs addressing a wide spectrum of human rights issues. Three to four organizations will take part in the UPR pre-session informational in February 2024.

The Office also participated in discussions with youth human rights activists and their organizations. Some of the concerns raised were online hate speech and violence, environmental degradation, and unemployment. Following the training facilitated by the HRA, several youth organizations submitted reports to the fourth UPR of North Macedonia. The HRA also supported the UNCT in preparing and submitting a joint UPR report.



## Development

The HRA contributed substantially to the update of the 2023 CCA, not only with human rights concepts, but also with analysis of broad areas of policy and legal developments, governance, rule of law, gender, access to justice, institutional capacities, and LNOB. In addition, the HRA has been appointed as UNCT focal point for the UN Common Pledge, the Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forum. In this role, the HRA facilitated dialogue, formulated commitments, and coordinated the work of UN agencies and national partners aiming to improve the integration and rights of refugees and migrants.

## THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser
<b>Year established</b>	2008
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Chisinau
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	18

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Mechanisms

With OHCHR's support, the process of evaluation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2018-2022 was concluded, following an inclusive consultative process. This was followed by the development of a new human rights programme 2024-2027, based on recommendations received by regional and international human rights mechanisms, including recommendations from the UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures. With OHCHR's support, the Human Rights Secretariat of the National Human Rights Council within the State Chancellery conducted an inclusive and participatory processes, following HRBA principles, to develop the new programme, including its costing. Seven consultations were facilitated, where more than 200 representatives of State institutions, NHRIs, CSOs, and development partners actively participated. The nearly final document was presented during the Human Rights and Equality Forum, organized by the Ombudsperson and the Equality Council in December, during which further comments were received from various stakeholders. Currently, the draft of the programme is placed for public consultations on the official governmental webpage for consultation of public documents. Following public consultations, the document will be updated and proposed for governmental approval.

Two other important programmes were adopted following long processes of development and consultations. The National Programme on Inclusive Education for the period 2024-2027, which foresees actions on facilitating access to

quality inclusive education, including for children with severe and sensory disabilities, following recommendations from the CRPD and also the Equality Council in Moldova; and the National Programme on Mental Health for the period 2024-2027, which aims at strengthening the mental health system in the country. OHCHR provided support to the former and is providing coaching and guidance to CSOs in the field of disability inclusion and OPDs in advocating for ensuring that the Programme and its action plan respond to the needs of rights holders in terms of access to quality inclusive education.

A set of measures for the implementation of UPR recommendations was developed by the State Chancellery, following an inclusive and participatory consultation with State institutions, CSOs and NHRIs and with the guidance and assistance of OHCHR. The measures were adopted in August during the first meeting of the Specialized Commission of the State Chancellery on coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on implementation of the UPR recommendations, created under the National Human Rights Council. Moving forward, the document will serve as basis for monitoring on the implementation of recommendations.

### Non-discrimination

OHCHR continued to engage on the implementation of the CRPD. In this context, under the leadership of the Office and through a participatory process, five UN agencies jointly supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in developing the new programme on social inclusion of persons with disabilities for the period 2024-2028, which is ready for approval by the Government. Furthermore, a situational analysis and road map on mainstreaming disability and a HRBA to care was developed with the participation of more than 60 persons with disabilities, personal assistants, CSOs, OPDs, and State institutions. Based on the road map, OHCHR will identify key areas of support to respond to some of the gaps identified through the situational analysis. Furthermore, the draft of the new regulation and structure of the National Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, developed with OHCHR's support,

are in the process of consultation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and will serve as regulatory basis of the activity of the Council as a coordination body in field of disability inclusion.

OHCHR continued to enhance the UNCT's knowledge on disability inclusion and a HRBA. An OHCHR training on applying a HRBA to disability was provided to 30 UN staff, (21 women) working in the areas of programming, operations, procurement, human resources, and communications, considerably increasing their knowledge on the subject. Disability inclusion was one of the cross-cutting aspects of the United Nations Moldova Communication Plan for 2023. In addition, other UN Agencies are ensuring consultation with, and participation by, persons with disabilities in their programmes. OHCHR also supported the UNCT in applying a HRBA and mainstreaming disability inclusion in different processes, including the development of joint working plans and of contributions to CEDAW follow-up.

OHCHR continued to be engaged in promoting the rights of Roma. On International Roma Day, OHCHR cooperated with UN agencies and international NGOs in an awareness-raising event where more than 500 participants, including Roma, increased their knowledge of human rights and the work and good practices of Roma community mediators on both banks of the Nistru River. In 2023, OHCHR continued to support the Roma community mediators, who conducted 269 consultations providing support to some 329 Roma living in five densely populated localities on the left bank of the Nistru river. Topics included community access to health, education, and labour rights, as well as social protection, and identity documents.

### Development

Following the 2021 signing of the MoU between the National Statistics Office, the People's Advocate Office and the Equality Council, and the approval of a national methodology for developing and contextualizing indicators from the perspective of human rights, a set of indicators on the right to health was finalized in 2023. The final

presentation of the indicators will take place on 26 January 2024. With the support of OHCHR, the elaboration of a second set of indicators on the right to be protected against torture was begun and will be finalized in 2024.

## Participation

OHCHR undertook considerable efforts with a range of State and non-State actors to combat hate speech. OHCHR provided training to 25 senior police officers, judges, prosecutors, and lawyers (13 women), and 41 police officers (13 women), on latest standards to identify and address hate speech cases. Additionally, OHCHR initiated the drafting of a new guide for investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, including hate speech, to be finalized in 2024. In June, the Office supported three partner NGOs from the left bank of the Nistru River to advocate for countering hate speech, through a television report, workshops, and public debates. The Office also provided advocacy skills training for 17 CSOs from both banks of the Nistru and Dniester Rivers, on countering hate speech. These activities will continue in 2024, focusing on peer exchanges, recognising, monitoring, and reporting on hate speech.

OHCHR remained a key contributor in UN planning and response exercises, ensuring the integration of human rights in substantive discussions and strategic documents. The Office provided significant inputs to the draft temporary protection regime directive, granting legal status for refugees from Ukraine, contributed to a UN advocacy letter for the Ministry of Internal Affairs requesting simplification of the registration process, and ensured the temporary protection monitoring tool was in line with human rights standards. Through surveys with refugees from Ukrainian and Moldovan host communities, OHCHR was also able to systematically identify individuals with specific needs, such as persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and older persons, and to refer them to service providers to receive tailored assistance, relying on the inter-agency referral pathways.

To ensure the human rights protection of refugees in the Transnistrian region, OHCHR advocated for the establishment of a local coordination

forum that resulted in six monthly meetings with active participation of 15 CSOs. OHCHR also actively advocated for the organization of awareness-raising events on the temporary protection legal status, as a response to the low level of registration of refugees from the Transnistrian region. OHCHR contributed to an increased knowledge among refugees, and in particular those most vulnerable, of applicable temporary protection measures, through legal counselling, support, and assistance during the pre-enrolment process. Through two such events, the Office assisted more than 200 persons.

## Accountability

With the contribution of the Public Administration Institute representatives, the learning package, *Mainstreaming human rights in the work of public authority staff*, was developed and a training of trainers carried out for 13 civil servants (11 women). The aim of the course was to provide concrete human rights knowledge to civil servants for application in their work in policy, programming, and decision-making processes. OHCHR will continue to work with the Institute in 2024 to roll out trainings and to create an e-learning module.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Type of engagement	Project (other type of field presence)
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Moscow
UN partnership framework	-
Staff as of 31 December 2023	5

Key OMP pillars in 2023

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Participation**

OHCHR continued to support the Consortium of Russian Universities in an effort to expand the Human Rights Master's Degree Programme in the country. With OHCHR's technical advice, the Consortium started working on a review of the curriculum to incorporate contemporary issues and challenges originating from the linkages between human rights, development, business, technology, and the environment. The collaboration between the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson and the Consortium continued, with the aim of developing practical skills of students. In cooperation with OHCHR, nine workshops were organized by the Office of the Ombudsperson for 150 Master's Programme students (90 women) providing them with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to work in the field of human rights.

The annual Human Rights Summer School could not take place due to logistical challenges. In its place, the Consortium decided to organize a conference on "The human rights dimensions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals," as part of the HR75 Initiative activities. The conference enabled students to reflect on the linkages between the UDHR and the SDGs, and the cooperation of governments, civil society, and businesses, for the implementation of the SDGs, among other topics. The event took place in the Peoples' Friendship University and gathered over 70 participants (36 women) including Master's Programme students from Moscow, Kazan, Perm, Voronezh, and Yekaterinburg.

Regarding the Consortium's expansion to other regions of Russia, the potential accession of the Siberian Federal University (SFU) of Krasnoyarsk to the Master's Programme was supported by the members of the Consortium. In January, a joint mission of OHCHR and the Peoples' Friendship University to Krasnoyarsk was organized to brief SFU staff on the Master's Programme and requirements for accession to the Consortium. During the year, the SFU developed the Master's Programme curriculum as part of the eligibility requirements.


**Non-discrimination**

Cooperation with NHRIs at the federal and regional levels continued, including on joint advocacy in the field of human rights education, raising public awareness about GBV, business and human rights, and the HR75 Initiative. More than 10 events were organized ranging from student lectures to seminars and workshops with participation of national partners including academia, NGOs, and business associations.

OHCHR continued its cooperation with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and participated in the extended meeting of the Union's Committee on Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development, together with the Global Compact National Network. The meeting was devoted to discussions on the importance and priorities of the sustainable development agenda in business practice and strategy, as well as presentation of corporate practices of the Union. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Global Compact National Network, OHCHR organized four working meetings with the participation of more than 30 representatives of large enterprises to discuss human rights and business practices. The establishment of a business and human rights community of practice with the technical support of OHCHR is designed to further enhance communication between business entities and other stakeholders. This networking approach seeks to facilitate public-private partnerships and strengthen efforts for a coordinated approach to promotion and advancement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) into national context.

## SERBIA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	1996
Field office(s)	Belgrade
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	2

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation

The HR75 Initiative in Serbia, supported by OHCHR, included numerous dialogues, conferences, discussions, and events, which enjoyed the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, academia, local community members, and media. Some of the topics that were addressed through the different events included the rights of persons in situation of homelessness, the rights of women, LGBTI persons and youth, mental health, and media freedom.

As a follow-up to previous activities, in 2023, CSO members of the Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with the International Human Rights Mechanisms were actively engaged on the implementation and mainstreaming of the LNOB tool in all law and policy development processes, as well as in their monitoring. Following the resumption of work of the State's NMIRF, facilitated by OHCHR, active participation of civil society has been renewed, including through targeted initiatives and thematic sessions.

Notably, development of the National Human Rights Strategy was undertaken as part of the HR75 Initiative, through a participatory process. Members of the working group charged with drafting the Strategy included relevant State authorities, independent institutions (e.g., Ombudsperson, Equality Commissioner), CSOs, academia, and representatives of international organizations in observer status. The initial draft was prepared with technical and expert support provided by OHCHR and is ready for

public debate in 2024, following formation of the new Government.

#### Non-discrimination

OHCHR provided technical guidance to a CSO to create an adequate housing manual regarding eviction processes, in line with international human rights standards. The manual, which will be used as of 2024, aims to promote equality and non-discrimination in the realm of adequate housing and the prevention of forced evictions. The initiative strengthens the capacities of local government in understanding and effectively applying international eviction standards. Additionally, it seeks to enhance application of the human rights framework in Serbia, with a specific focus on adequate housing and social inclusion of the Roma and other marginalized communities. In addition to the manual, a leaflet was produced to enhance accessibility of the topic.

OHCHR also provided advisory support to the UNCT for the development of the Strategy for Active and Healthy Aging for the period 2024-2030, adopted in September. The support provided aimed at securing compliance of the Strategy with human rights standards.

Another important development was the establishment of the Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Strategy for the period 2022-2030, comprised of representatives from all relevant ministries, independent institutions, CSOs, academia, and development partners, with the aim to ensure the participation of diverse groups and implementation of the LNOB principle. Action Plans for the implementation of this Strategy, as well as the Strategy for Deinstitutionalization and the Development of Local Services for the period 2022-2026, are under development with the support of OHCHR.

#### Accountability

In the area of hate speech and transitional justice, a draft UNCT action plan on social cohesion and building trust was developed with OHCHR's support. It included relevant recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR further supported the development of an analysis on hate speech and incitement to hatred as drivers of unfinished transitional justice processes in Serbia. The analysis included a desk review, interviews, focus groups, and a questionnaire, as well as assessment of data from court proceedings. The Office also supported the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue in developing manuals on human rights standards, targeting the executive power and the judiciary, to promote better understanding of human rights and their application. A manual on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was published in December, while manuals on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Convention Against Torture were prepared and are expected to be published in 2024.



### Mechanisms

Through the continuous advocacy and technical support by civil society and the HRA, the Republic of Serbia ratified, in September, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR, related to the communication procedures. This was one of the HR75 commitments of the Government, in addition to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is in process.

OHCHR's NRTD was nationalized for improving monitoring, reporting, and follow-up to recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms. A two-day workshop was held in Novi Sad to facilitate future usage of the Database by the NMIRF.

## SOUTH CAUCASUS

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser (based in Georgia); Human rights staff (based in UNCT Azerbaijan)
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia
<b>Year established</b>	2007
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Baku (Azerbaijan) and Tbilisi (Georgia)
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (Armenia); United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (Azerbaijan); United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 (Georgia)
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	11

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Accountability

In **Georgia**, specific guidelines on classification and effective investigation of crimes of torture and ill-treatment were developed following OHCHR's long-standing advocacy, technical assistance, and close cooperation with the Special Investigative Service (SIS). The guidelines help clarify which situations should be classified as torture or ill-treatment and which ones should be classified under other articles. The guidelines were officially introduced by the Head of the SIS, in June, and are binding for the investigators working for the SIS.

OHCHR further played a key role in assisting Georgian authorities in the development of the second National Human Rights Strategy, which was approved in March, by the Parliament. While there are some notable omissions, such as regarding the rights of LGBTI and homeless persons, and the right to adequate housing, the second strategy contains several important topics not included in the previous document. These include specific chapters on criminal justice reform, business and human rights, and on the rights of the elderly. Following the adoption of the strategy, the Government developed in December with OHCHR's assistance, the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) for 2024-2026. OHCHR also

helped to facilitate cooperation between authorities and civil society actors during the development of the NHRAP. The Office has further advocated for inclusion of the recommendations given to Georgia by the international human rights mechanisms.

The Office facilitated a number of capacity-building activities in Georgia, to enhance the knowledge of international human rights law and its application by legal professionals. OHCHR conducted seven training sessions for 147 members of Georgia's Bar Association (72 women) on topics such as torture prevention, prohibition of discrimination, freedom of expression, and right to liberty and security. In December, OHCHR delivered training sessions for 40 judges (26 women) on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. In October and December, OHCHR delivered trainings for 25 staff of the NHRI (12 women) covering standards on access to lawyers and the right of liberty and security, among other topics.

## Participation

In close cooperation with the NHRI and the Bar Association of Azerbaijan, OHCHR continued delivering free legal services for the benefit of persons in situation of vulnerability. As a result, 1,786 persons (877 women) benefited from free legal services in cases related to family law and women's rights, social security, housing, labour, administrative law, and other civil law issues. Of the 1,786 beneficiaries, 252 received litigation support.

In Georgia, OHCHR contributed to ensuring that persons with disabilities have greater access to national protection systems. With OHCHR technical assistance, the SIS developed and adopted the Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2023-2024. The process was preceded by extensive consultations with OPDs in the country's two largest cities. Moreover, with support from OHCHR, several guidelines for the SIS were developed and finalized in December, such as on effective inclusion of all actors with disabilities (minors and otherwise) – witness, victim, and accused – in investigative processes, and on the rules for effective interview/interrogation of

persons with disabilities. The guidelines are designed to improve protection for persons with disabilities during the investigative process and to clarify the role that OPDs and lawyers can play in protecting the rights of persons of disabilities.

## Non-discrimination

In Azerbaijan, OHCHR assisted three CSOs to carry out various activities focused on preventing GBV, promoting human rights of women, and engaging with international human rights mechanisms. Over 400 participants (250 women) representing State and local government, educational institutions, community activists, rural women, CSOs, and legal professionals participated in 25 training sessions, theatre performances, workshops, and seminars organized by the CSOs. Participants received information on civil society's role in monitoring CEDAW implementation, including how to follow up on recommendations, to navigate administrative and legal procedures for reporting cases of domestic violence, and obtain protection orders for victims. OHCHR will continue to support participant engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

A national dialogue was organized, on 30 November, by OHCHR in the context of the HR75 Initiative and in collaboration with the NHRI and the Bar Association. The event brought together over 100 participants (40 women) from the Government and NGOs, for discussion on the issue of diversity, the situation of civic space in the country, and strategies for advancing human rights implementation at national level. During the event, the NHRI and civil society representatives committed to enhancing collaboration, with a particular focus on advancing human rights education in both schools and higher education institutions. Additionally, civil society leaders urged governmental authorities to intensify efforts in implementing international human rights mechanism recommendations specific to Azerbaijan.

OHCHR advocacy in cooperation with OPDs, and based on recommendations provided by the CRPD, contributed to the amendment of Georgia's Criminal Procedure Code in 2023. Under the amendment, all articles according to which a

person with a disability cannot be questioned if s/he cannot correctly perceive, remember, and recall the circumstances important to the case and provide information or give testimony due to a disability, were removed from the code. The CRPD recommendations stated that Georgia should repeal all legal provisions restricting the right of persons with disabilities to participate in administrative and judicial proceedings and should instead recognize their right to participate in these proceedings in all roles, on an equal basis with others.



### Mechanisms

In Azerbaijan, OHCHR organized or co-organized 55 training sessions benefitting 831 individuals (334 women) comprising CSO representatives, penitentiary staff, lawyers, staff from local government, persons with disabilities, and journalists. Through these trainings, participants learned about engaging with and reporting to international human rights mechanisms, following up on their recommendations, standards on prevention of torture and other forms ill-treatment, the rights of persons with disabilities, and economic and social rights of vulnerable populations. Following a training session for 50 representatives from 20 OPDs, five alternative reports were submitted to the CRPD's second and third Azerbaijan review, taking place in March 2024.

## UKRAINE

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Monitoring Mission (HRMMU)
<b>Year established</b>	2014
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Kyiv; field offices in Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Odesa; satellite office in Chisinau (the Republic of Moldova)
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Transitional Framework 2022-2024
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	75

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:



### Peace and Security

The Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine's (HRMMU) provision of reliable and disaggregated data on civilian casualties supplied critical information as a primary data source on international human rights law and international humanitarian law violations. The Mission interviewed survivors and witnesses of violations; undertook site visits to shelled areas, communities near the front line, hotspots, crossing points, Prisoner of War (POW) camps, Internally Displaced Person (IDP) centres, hospitals, schools, places of detention and trial, and public assemblies and communities in territory previously occupied by the Russian Federation; and conducted remote monitoring of the situation in areas occupied by the Russian Federation. These efforts and collaboration with a network of HRDs, government actors, and international partners, provided a holistic understanding of the conflict and its dynamics. A dedicated report will be published in the first half of 2024.

The international community has come to count on HRMMU for reliable data regarding the human cost of the conflict (cited nine times at the UN Security Council). HRMMU's information was also used by the UNCT and the UN system more widely, and contributed to the 2023 Humanitarian Programme Cycle, Security Council briefings, and to other relevant fora. Domestically, Ukrainian authorities (including the Ministry of Economy) incorporated HRMMU data into

their analyses, while international and local media outlets (Washington Post, BBC, and Reuters) disseminated HRMMU findings in their coverage, increasing awareness of the conflict's human toll and helping to inform the decision-making of relevant stakeholders.

The persistent monitoring and advocacy efforts of HRMMU also yielded concrete improvements in the treatment of POWs under the control of Ukraine. The Mission observed marked enhancements at the POW camp in the Lviv region in response to HRMMU's concerns. Noteworthy changes included improved food portions, cessation of punitive measures, and the discontinuation of some coercive practices. Officials of the State Penitentiary Service also requested that other facilities housing POWs address concerns highlighted by HRMMU, such as the use of violence and humiliation, and overall conditions of detention. Advocacy efforts initiated by HRMMU also contributed to a decrease in violence regarding the capture of Russian POWs. Notably, the Mission documented no cases of summary execution of Russian POWs after February 2023.

The Ministry of Social Policy also updated the Ukrainian version of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in response to HRMMU's advocacy, incorporating the right to recognition of legal agency. This critical amendment laid a foundation for legislative reform on legal capacity, ensuring individuals with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities can fully access their rights and entitlements.

The HRMMU also advocated for the relevant normative framework to properly address human rights challenges. For instance, when the Government of Ukraine re-introduced identity verification practices in the Rules on Provision of IDP Subsistence Aid (Decree 1168), the HRMMU noted concerns for vulnerable populations, especially older persons, and persons with disabilities. This led to advocacy for legislative amendments in collaboration with the expert protection strategy working group, under the Ukraine Commissioner for Human Rights. This resulted in initial changes in verification practices, which need to be expanded to reach all vulnerable groups.

Separately, the Mission's analysis of draft law 7198 (regarding compensation to civilians whose housing was damaged or destroyed after 24 February 2022) and development of the first draft position, led to its adoption by the Parliament. The Cabinet of Ministers tabled draft law 9069, which aligns with the HRMMU's longstanding advocacy to recognize civil status acts, such as births, deaths, marriages, and divorces, based on documentation issued by occupation authorities. If adopted, this crucial change would facilitate the exercise of rights, including equal access to public services, for persons coming from the occupied territory.

The Mission also drafted or contributed to several reports including the report of the Secretary General on the *Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine*. The report, almost exclusively based on Mission monitoring, served as important reference document for the international community and civil society. The interim report was presented at the HRC Interactive Dialogue on Ukraine, while the main report was presented to the General Assembly's Third Committee. The Mission also collaborated with the COE's Commissioner for Human Rights on a report released on 18 April, covering human rights violations of Crimean Tatars from the occupation's inception to the present.

The Mission documented 219 cases of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), contributing to the availability of credible and verified information for future accountability as well as for evidence-based responses and survivor-centred services by national and international stakeholders. The HRMMU also collaborated with UNFPA-sponsored survivor relief centres, NGOs, and the CRSV Department of the Office of the Prosecutor General, to support survivors and advocate for their rights. The HRMMU provided direct assistance to survivors through referrals to partner agencies for comprehensive, cost-free support services, and conducted direct referrals to the Office of the Prosecutor General's CRSV Department, to facilitate access to justice.

The Mission actively engaged in various fora, contributing to the joint UN, Government of Ukraine and World Bank, *Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment*, and providing inputs to the EU report on Ukraine's accession to the EU. The Mission's involvement in revising the UNCT Action Plan against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and its contribution to the Protection Cluster underscored its commitment to human rights mainstreaming in humanitarian response activities. By providing in-depth information about the human rights situation in Ukraine to the Protection Cluster, the HRMMU helped to shape evidence-based assistance programmes and response mechanisms and facilitated targeted humanitarian assistance efforts. The HRMMU also contributed to the adoption of human rights sensitive approaches in the humanitarian response, and inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations such as persons with disabilities and older persons.



### Accountability

Since 24 February 2022, the HRMMU has provided 68 recommendations in its two periodic and four thematic reports and one briefing paper. By September 2023, the Government of Ukraine had partially or completely implemented 73 per cent of these recommendations, including, for example, ensuring timely and thorough forensic analysis for killed civilians and taking measures to ensure that the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities are taken into consideration during evacuations. The Government also made progress on investigating and prosecuting cases of enforced disappearances, regardless of the perpetrators' affiliation.

The Mission worked to align Ukraine's law enforcement and justice systems with international standards and provided analysis to senior government bodies on several laws including: the Law on Compensation for Destroyed and Damaged Property and the State Registry of Damaged and Destroyed Property, and the Law on National Minorities, both of which incorporated several HRMMU recommendations. The Mission also actively supported the drafting of amendments to the Law on the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, safeguarding the

independence of the Ukrainian Ombudsperson's Office. Upon the passing of Law no. 8224 on National Minorities (Communities) of Ukraine, the HRMMU built coalitions with the COE Venice Commission, the EU, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and relevant embassies, to advocate to the Office of the President and relevant government bodies on how to bring the legislation in line with international standards.

On 8 December, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted amendments to several legislative acts concerning the rights of national minorities, implementing a number of recommendations jointly advocated for by the HRMMU and partners. These amendments address the linguistic rights of national minorities in the areas of education (both secondary and tertiary), advertising, distribution of election campaign materials, and holding public or artistic events in minority languages. They also address language provisions for bookstores, publishing, and media. Although a positive development, concerns remain with the law's continued differential treatment of national minorities speaking an official language of the EU and those who do not speak an official language of the EU.

The HRMMU also contributed to justice and accountability efforts through international and national legal mechanisms, including courts. For example, the European Court of Human Rights relied on HRMMU's information in its 2023 decision on the admissibility of the inter-State case of Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia concerning events in eastern Ukraine including the downing of the MH17 flight, citing HRMMU findings 68 times in the decision. Local courts in Ukraine also referenced HRMMU reports in conflict-related cases. These included an HRMMU report on detention of civilians, which was quoted by defendants in hearings at the Shevchenkivskiy District Court of Kyiv in August, and in Obolonskyi District Court in Kyiv in October. Overall, HRMMU findings were mentioned in more than 65 judgements and verdicts of national courts of all levels during 2023.

Throughout these efforts, 60 trials were monitored by HRMMU, many of which involved conflict-related detainees. Among those, 1,038



human rights violations were documented, including cases related to arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances, killings, denial of basic services including education, civilian casualties, occupation, damages to educational and medical facilities, forced deportation, forced labour, CRSV, mine and unexploded ordnance contamination, treatment of POWs and conflict-related detainees, and fair trial rights. Additionally, 71 visits were made to places of detention – including temporary detention centres, POW camps, places of unofficial detention, and care institutions – and an estimated minimum of ten detainees were released in part due to HRMMU efforts.

The Mission actively used social media to showcase the work of women HRDs and promote meaningful dialogue on diverse human rights issues including GBV, social housing, human trafficking, and Roma and LGBTI rights. Online efforts reached nearly 35,000 people.

The HRMMU also took a proactive approach in early warning and preventive action, providing information to relevant officials on tensions between different Orthodox Christian communities in Ukraine, which led to prompt UN inter-agency reaction and cooperation with national authorities to avoid violence and prevent clashes during demonstrations in Kyiv.

## Mechanisms

The Mission played an active role in advancing human rights and addressing systematic concerns. Attention was given to supporting Ukraine in fulfilling its human rights obligations, specifically through the revision and implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy and 2021-2023 Action Plan. HRMMU's proactive support to the Strategy following the Russian Federation armed attack has yielded significant progress. Notably, the Ministry of Justice adopted 19 UNCT recommendations in the amended Strategy, preparation of which was coordinated by the HRMMU. These recommendations encompass critical areas such as reducing custodial measures, establishing POW camps in line with international humanitarian law standards, shortening internment of POWs in pen-

itentiaries, and promoting equal access to asylum processes. The HRMMU continues to support the Ministry of Justice in crafting the Action Plan for 2024-2026.

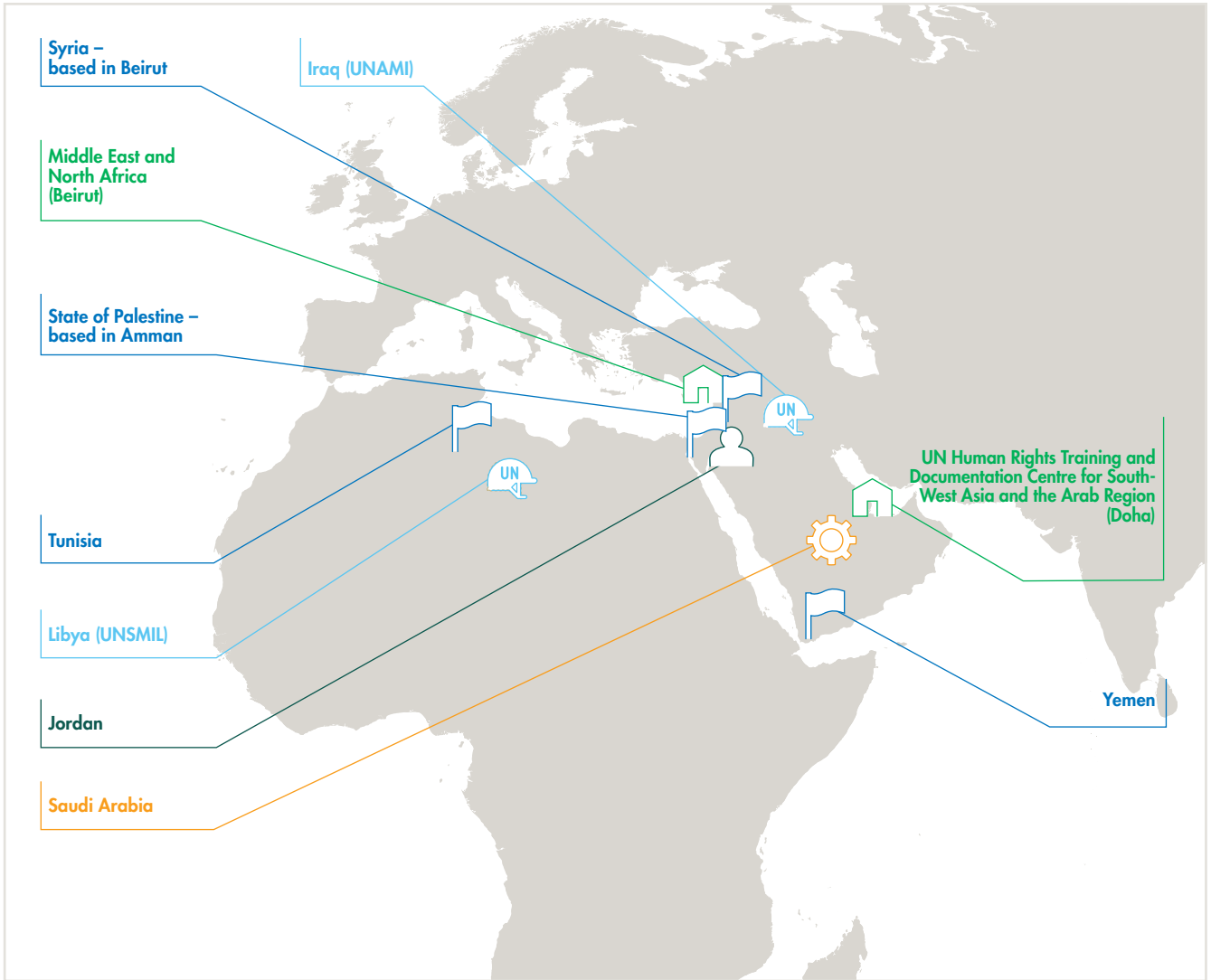
The HRMMU's contribution to drafting the UNSDCF 2025-2030 aims to ensure the integration of human rights concerns throughout the four strategic priorities. The framework's focus on vulnerable groups aligns UN analysis and programming in Ukraine, with the broader human rights agenda.

The Mission actively engaged with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, referring over 200 relatives of POWs and civilians subjected to enforced disappearance for further assistance in determining the fate or whereabouts of their family members.

# UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa



Training and distribution of materials on the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) at detention centres, in Aden, Yemen. © OHCHR/ Nasser Muthana Al Sheabi



**TYPE OF PRESENCE**



Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions



Regional Offices/Centres



Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions



Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs



Other types of field presences

**LOCATION**

State of Palestine,<sup>a</sup> Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen

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

Iraq (UNAMI) and Libya (UNSMIL)

Jordan

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

<sup>a</sup> References to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

In 2023, the work of UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region covered 19 countries and included 10 field presences. The Office's engagement in the region was supported by the MENA Regional Office in Beirut and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region in Doha; 4 country offices – the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt),<sup>23</sup> the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia, and Yemen; 1 human rights adviser (HRA) in Jordan; 2 human rights components in United Nations peace missions to Iraq and Libya; and a technical cooperation project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Office continued to implement country programmes from headquarters in Geneva, in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Office provided support to two special procedures country mandates, namely, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Office served as the Secretariat to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, as mandated by the General Assembly. In addition, the Office cooperated with independent human rights mechanisms related to Iran, Libya, the oPt, and Syria.

The region witnessed one its most violent conflicts in recent times in Gaza, following attacks by Palestinian armed groups against Israel on 7 October that resulted in the killing of 1,200 people including almost 900 civilians. The subsequent extensive and unprecedented military campaign by Israeli forces raised serious concerns about breaches of human rights and international humanitarian law. By the end of the year, estimates indicated that the conflict led to the destruction of most civilian infrastructure in Gaza, the displacement of over 1.7 million people as the majority of population moved to the southern parts of Gaza, mainly Rafah, and the deaths of over 25,000 Palestinians. OHCHR raised grave concerns regarding disproportionate attacks and

serious breaches of international humanitarian law by Israeli forces, possibly amounting to war crimes as well as forcible transfer. Meanwhile, an escalation of violence was reported in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with a significant increase in unlawful killings by Israeli Security Forces, settler violence, and attacks and displacement of Palestinian communities. The conflict is gradually expanding into the region with intermittent but increasing hostilities in Iraq, southern Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

Ongoing violence and instability in the region, in Iraq, Libya, and Yemen, continued to cause loss of life and damage to physical infrastructure, creating instability amidst ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Climate change and extreme weather events have negatively impacted a range of economic and social rights in some States. Protests have taken place over issues concerning inequality, governance, and discrimination. People on the move continued facing discrimination, lack of access to basic services, and in some cases arrests and detention. Religious and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTI persons, and other groups in vulnerable situations continue to face marginalization, which is accentuated through hate speech in some cases.

Discrimination against women persists in law and in practice across the region. Civic space has been increasingly threatened and some States continued implementing or adopting new measures limiting the rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly, including for human rights defenders (HRDs). The security apparatuses in some States have targeted HRDs, lawyers, and political activists to silence protest or opposition to government policies. Arbitrary detention, extra-judicial killings, torture, and disappearances continue to be documented. In some States, serious concerns remain relating to the adherence to the rule of law, fair trial standards, and due process. Some States continue to impose the death penalty, with some executing child offenders. Meanwhile, persistent impunity for past human rights violations and abuses perpetuated cycles of violence with limited progress to ensure accountability.

<sup>23</sup> All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

The Office responded to an exceptionally volatile situation in the region through monitoring, public reporting, and strategic advocacy on the overall human rights situation. The Office called for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict through the preparation of reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council (HRC), the General Assembly, the Security Council and through high-level visits to Egypt and Jordan in the context of the conflict in Gaza. The Office has increased engagement, technical cooperation, and capacity development with States, regional organizations, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and other actors to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights.

Tailored capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives were undertaken at the national and regional level, including with regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States and Gulf Cooperation Council, to enhance engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. Field presences worked with partners throughout the year, including UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs), to this end.

The Office remains committed to engagement and technical cooperation, monitoring, reporting, strategic advocacy, and supporting the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including through its presences and country programmes in the region. The Office will continue to prioritize certain areas, such as protection of civilians and civic space, prevention of violations, building a global human rights constituency, promoting gender equality and economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCRs), as it works to continue efforts and ensure progress in relation to accountability, participation, and peace and security.

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

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Peace Mission
<b>Year established</b>	2003
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Mosul
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2023</b>	48

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Peace and Security**

From 1 January to 31 December, OHCHR documented 88 incidents of armed conflict, causing 153 civilian casualties (69 killed, including 20 boys, 4 girls and 6 women; 84 injured, including 28 boys, 5 girls and 11 women). This represents a 56 per cent decrease in civilian casualties compared to last year. The absence of suicide attacks and a smaller number of roadside improvised explosive devices contributed to this decrease. The largest number of civilian casualties were caused by explosive remnants of war (31 deaths and 52 injuries), followed by aerial attacks (10 deaths and 11 injuries), small arms fire (13 deaths and 7 injuries), improvised explosive devices (3 deaths and 11 injuries), complex attacks (8 deaths and 3 injuries), and abduction and executions (4 deaths).

During the same timeframe, OHCHR verified 61 grave violations against 57 children (11 girls). These included killings (18) and maiming (34) of 52 children (8 girls), abduction of 5 children (3 girls), rape and other forms of sexual violence (3 girls), and 1 attack on schools. In March, thanks to OHCHR’s engagement and advocacy, the Government signed an Action Plan to prevent the recruitment and use of children by the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). The Action Plan includes measures to: identify and ensure the immediate release of children; cease further detention or prosecutions of children formerly associated or allegedly associated with the PMF; strengthen mechanisms, through child identification and age verification; and promote awareness-raising campaigns to prevent child



recruitment. The plan also supports the adoption of necessary legislation and administrative measures to prevent the recruitment and use of children, and promptly investigate any allegation of recruitment and use of children by the PMF. In 2023, the PMF was delisted from the *Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict*. OHCHR also supported PMF in the implementation of the Action Plan through various activities aimed at institutionalizing child protection in the armed forces; 40 PMF personnel from diverse departments benefited from skills and knowledge-building opportunities provided by UNAMI. In addition, following a dedicated training on child protection organized by OHCHR and UNICEF in June, a Directorate of Human Rights was established at the PMF Commission, with the mandate to develop a human rights curriculum, and train and raise awareness on human rights principles within the PMF.

In July, OHCHR organized a joint mission with government representatives, UNICEF, and other international organizations to Jeddah 1 Rehabilitation Centre to assess the situation and services being provided to children who are returning from Al-Hol camp in Northeast Syria. OHCHR continues to advocate for tracking of the reintegration of children in the community, to ensure access to middle school, and to accelerate processing of civil documentation of the children enabling them to access services when they leave the camp.

OHCHR continued to monitor the situation of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in Dohuk and surrounding areas of displacement (both camp and non-camp settings), as well as among returnees in Sinjar. In particular, OHCHR assisted CRSV survivors and young people who continue to experience gender-based violence (GBV) and are unable to access services within the camp due to fear and retaliation by the alleged perpetrators. In June, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, OHCHR partnered with the British Council to organize an event in Erbil to raise awareness on the impact of the use of sexual violence by Da'esh/ISIL in Iraq, particularly attacks targeting women from minority communities. Activists called for a localized and

context-sensitive approach to the issue, building on the expertise of local and women-led NGOs, and enabling long-term and sustainable programming to support survivors.

## Accountability

OHCHR enhanced efforts to promote human rights in the administration of justice, including fair trial guarantees, anti-corruption, and procedural safeguards. Following high-level advocacy and engagement by the High Commissioner during his visit to Iraq in August 2023, the Government lifted the suspension of detention monitoring activities enacted in July 2022. As a result, OHCHR was able to undertake 66 monitoring missions to places of detention, conduct 146 interviews with detainees (5 women), and monitor conditions of prisons in both Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan region.

In 2023, OHCHR monitored 434 trials in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Mosul. This included 52 cases of domestic violence, 29 civil cases related to violence against women, 4 trials held at the Rusafa Juvenile Court, and 230 trials on anti-corruption as part of a dedicated joint programme with UNAMI and UNDP.

OHCHR also provided capacity-building for more than 130 justice sector professionals, including lawyers from the Iraqi Bar Association, CSOs, the Iraqi Women Judges Association, investigative lawyers, and officers from various police departments. Participants enhanced their understanding and application of due process principles, the protection of the rights of defendants, and the right to legal representation in line with international human rights law and standards.

In February, the Council of Representatives voted to establish a Committee of Experts from various backgrounds to select the Board of Commissioners of the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights. OHCHR continues to provide technical assistance to the members of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee to ensure that the section of the new Commissioners aligns with the standards of competence, professionalism, and independence as outlined in the Paris Principles.

## Participation

OHCHR advocated for the preservation and expansion of civic space in Iraq and provided several capacity-building opportunities on the right to freedom of expression to national institutions, media professionals, and CSOs.

In September, OHCHR trained 14 civil society representatives (7 women) in Baghdad on monitoring and reporting civic space-related human rights issues, which contributed to their increased engagement with relevant international human rights mechanisms. In the context of the provincial council elections scheduled for December, OHCHR partnered with the CSO Tech4Peace to build the capacity of 28 civil society representatives (14 women) on fact-checking to address the growing issue of disinformation in the country. In November and December, OHCHR and the Iraqi Network for Social Media organized a series of five trainings in Baghdad, Karbala, Kirkuk, and Thi-Qar, attended by 114 participants (49 women), including journalists, lawyers, civil society representatives, and members of the Iraqi High Commissioner for Human Rights to raise awareness on the safe use of cyberspace, the right to freedom of expression, and protection against hate speech. In addition, under the “Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to information and Safety of Journalists,” OHCHR and the Iraqi Women Journalists Forum conducted five workshops on human rights and gender-sensitive reporting in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul, Najaf, and Ramadi, engaging 105 journalists and civil society representatives (78 women).

OHCHR and the NGO Tarkib trained 20 emerging and mid-career artists (9 women) in Baghdad on human rights principles and standards. These artists then produced paintings and other pieces of art to raise awareness on human rights-related issues, including migrants’ rights, equality, the impact of climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The artistic creations were displayed during three events held in Baghdad with the participation of government officials, HRDs, civil society representatives, members of the diplomatic community, and the UN system.

In November and December, OHCHR partnered with the Babylon Culture and Arts Institution to organize a human rights documentary film festival. Screenings took place in the Governorates of Babil, Baghdad, and Ninewa, which attracted significant attention and participation from the public. The festival contributed to raising awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities and children, accountability and the impact of climate change.

## Non-discrimination

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government, the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights, the UN system, and CSOs to strengthen institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the protection of minorities, increase opportunities for economic and social rights, and promote their full and meaningful participation in decision-making processes at all levels.

As part of activities organized to raise awareness on the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, OHCHR facilitated a series of workshops on the right to education, bringing together a diverse group of 53 educators and education advocates (27 women) from different backgrounds and regions. These events provided a space for dialogue to unpack key legal and theoretical frameworks while generating practical policy recommendations to address the challenges and concerns identified, including the need for inclusive representation in the curriculum to ensure the right to equitable education for all groups. As a result, participants agreed to create a core network to promote the right to education for all components of society. The workshops were complemented by a series of three dialogues held in Erbil and Baghdad in November, engaging 49 educators (16 women) to support the implementation of recommendations of the two UNAMI reports on the right to education. As part of the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative in commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), OHCHR also organized five events in Baghdad, Basra, and Erbil that brought together more than 80 representatives of the Government and CSOs. The events aimed to strengthen collaboration

among stakeholders on the promotion and protection of minority rights, as well as the rights of people of African descent in Iraq.

OHCHR continued to lead the implementation of UNAMI's Action Plan on Hate Speech by documenting incidents, including incitement to religious hatred, and providing technical support to the Supreme Committee on the development of a dedicated national strategy to counter hate speech. Within this framework, and as part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR organized in June a dialogue on the role of media and social media in countering hate speech. The 33 participants in attendance prepared a set of recommendations that were shared with the Government, highlighting the need to integrate gender and minority perspectives, and to strengthen partnerships with media outlets and social media companies to address incidents.

OHCHR scaled up joint advocacy to develop and implement effective strategies for the advancement of women in the justice system, and to promote the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary. In November, OHCHR conducted a high-level dialogue in Erbil to advocate for the establishment of a coordination mechanism dedicated to promoting accountability measures for criminal violence in domestic settings. The event brought together 20 representatives from the Kurdistan High Council for Women and Development, the Directorate for Combating Violence against Women, the Public Prosecutor's Office, and the judiciary, to strengthen coordination in tackling domestic violence. In collaboration with UNDP, in December, OHCHR also convened members of the judiciary as an initial step to discuss prerequisites for the establishment of an association of women judges in the Kurdistan region.

## JORDAN

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	Amman
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2023	2

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Mechanisms

OHCHR continued to enhance the capacity of the Government, CSOs, and UN entities to engage with international human rights mechanisms and supported the timely submission of their reports to the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

As a result of OHCHR's efforts to engage the UN system in the UPR reporting cycle, and under the leadership of the RC, 16 agencies supported the UNCT's submission on Jordan. This represented an increase of seven additional UN agencies since the last review in 2018. Further, the number of reports submitted by CSOs more than doubled from the last cycle, from 30 to 63. Submitting organizations also benefited from a series of workshops organized by OHCHR in May to finalize their reports.

In the lead-up to the national report submission, the HRA provided technical assistance for several consultations and capacity-building opportunities for the government. OHCHR and the Danish Institute for Human Rights conducted a workshop with the Governmental Task Force to share good practices on inclusivity and meaningful participation. OHCHR also regularly exchanged information about the UPR process with the international community, and opened a joint consultation between the Government and four major CSO coalitions – with over 50 participants – held before submission of the national report on 27 August.

As Jordan prepared for its Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) review in May, OHCHR organized a training for the UN Youth Task Force and conducted a follow-up workshop for the Child Protection Working Group, comprising UN agencies and NGOs, on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and integration into UN programming.

## Peace and Security

OHCHR raised awareness on the critical challenges related to civil documentation and registration for various marginalized groups in Jordan through evidence-based advocacy efforts and technical assistance.

The HRA convened a dedicated working group on legal identity, to prevent statelessness in Jordan, involving the RC's Office, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, and UN Women, to undertake research on the legal and practical impediments affecting the lives of Beduin communities, refugees, and migrant workers, among others. As a result, the UNCT presented a joint commitment at the Global Refugee Forum in December to enhance refugees' access to various essential services, including education, lifelong learning, decent work, social protection, health, and documentation, and integrated recommendations on the topic in its UPR report, some of which were picked up by governments during the UPR review in January. In 2024, the group will also work to integrate legal identity issues in UNCT-supported national data collection, further emphasizing the collective commitment to Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

## Participation

OHCHR continued to engage with CSOs for the promotion and protection of civic space and the right to freedom of expression, including through increased coordination with partners.

With four meetings held in 2023, OHCHR continued to support a group of international partners and CSOs in strengthening coordination and joint advocacy on issues of accountable insti-

tutions, empowering people, and the rule of law. This platform was important in facilitating the first UPR submission prepared by youth representatives on issues they face.

Additionally, OHCHR became a member of the Steering Committee established by the Jordan National NGO Forum, which is tasked to oversee the implementation of recommendations flowing from a June workshop to foster trust between the Government and civil society. The HRA also addressed the Jordan National NGO Forum in July on international standards and norms related to freedom of expression, in the context of discussions on the draft cybercrime law, later adopted in September. In a press briefing, OHCHR raised concerns about the law and its incompatibility with international human rights standards.

## Development

OHCHR contributed to improving accountability, transparency, and participation in finance policies and budgetary processes, with an emphasis on addressing inequalities.

With OHCHR's support, the UNCT entered a new partnership with the Jordan Economic and Social Council, and in March, launched a policy brief on the human rights-based approach (HRBA) to revenue collection. The brief benefited from inputs received from relevant governmental departments, national and academic institutions, and contributed to introducing a human rights dimension to the national discussion on taxation, particularly in assessing the impact of national policies on equality and non-discrimination. The President of the Council also presented the findings at the HRC sixth intersessional meeting on "Integrating human rights into the international financial architecture reforms" in January.

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

Type of engagement	United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)
Year established	2011
Field office(s)	Tripoli and Tunis, Tunisia
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	11

Key OMP pillars in 2023

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

OHCHR promoted several initiatives on women's rights and cooperated with the UNCT to sustain advocacy efforts on the draft law on violence against women. A dedicated roundtable discussion took place in Cairo, in November, to foster a common understanding between members of the House of Representatives on the proposed legislation. This resulted in the signature of a statement by 20 parliamentarians in favor of the adoption of the law.

In close cooperation with UNDP, UN Women, and the UN Team of Experts on the rule of law and sexual violence in conflict, OHCHR organized 11 capacity-building sessions for 91 female lawyers on international standards for human rights and criminal justice, the Libyan Code of Ethics for the Law Profession, and combating violence against women.

Following the visit in December 2022 and the subsequent report presented by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women in May 2023, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. This advocacy with the authorities aimed to establish a coherent, system-wide framework for gender equality and to accelerate efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including through constitutional provisions and comprehensive legal frameworks to combat impunity.

OHCHR continued supporting the Attorney General's Office and the Ministries of Justice, Interior, and Defense, and developed a comprehensive advocacy strategy launched in December, to stop human rights violations in prisons. Despite OHCHR's awareness-raising efforts with law enforcement agencies on the need to end arbitrary detention and bring accountability and justice to victims and their families, access to detention facilities remained highly restricted and ad hoc.


**Peace and Security**

OHCHR provided technical assistance on mass grave investigations, accountability, documentation, vetting, and the inclusion of the specific needs of women, victims, marginalized groups, youth, and persons with disabilities in transitional justice. To this end, OHCHR organized grassroots consultations, reaching over 350 victims. The findings fed into an advocacy paper on future transitional justice mechanisms, dedicated reports on human rights violations in Murzuq and Tarhuna, as well as a September statement issued by seven Special Rapporteurs and mandate holders, on forced evictions taking place in Benghazi. Training delivered by OHCHR to the judiciary contributed to the adoption in June of a set of recommendations on investigations and accountability for mass grave victims in Tarhuna.

As co-chair of the Working Group on international humanitarian and human rights law of the Berlin process, OHCHR organized a high-level session in May with Libya's Presidential Council. This resulted in the signing of a declaration of intent between the Presidential Council and the Working Group to centralize human rights in the ongoing political and reconciliation processes, including through inclusive dialogues, exchange of expertise, best practices, and experiences, aimed at mainstreaming of human rights into the different tracks of the political process.

To advance a HRBA to transitional justice, OHCHR continued to build the capacity of judicial authorities on best practices for vetting individuals, in accordance with relevant human rights standards. As a result of a series of workshops



held between September and December, partners agreed to identify priorities for a comprehensive vetting strategy. A preliminary agreement was also reached to create an interministerial committee to prevent violations in places of deprivation of liberty. National authorities and CSOs expressed support for the development of a national action plan to implement recommendations of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission report on Libya, issued in March to advance legislative, executive, and security sector reforms needed to uphold the rule of law. OHCHR's assistance helped to identify priorities, timelines, and adequate monitoring tools.

The Office continued to raise awareness of members of the international community, and to promote coherent advocacy and messaging on human rights violations and abuses taking place in Libya. In July, a group of 19 international community members issued a joint communication to the Head of the Office of the Prime Minister in Tripoli, to raise shared concerns on current regulatory measures limiting the action of CSOs, while emphasizing their vital role, particularly in the run-up to elections.

In October, OHCHR's advocacy contributed to the issuing of a letter from the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, to Libyan authorities to express concerns about the impact of Law 19 of 2001, on civic space restrictions in Libya. The Special Rapporteur encouraged the Government to hold extensive multi-stakeholder consultations in the process of redrafting the NGO law, calling for a high-level roundtable to be convened in Geneva in February 2024.

In August, OHCHR launched a year-long leadership training programme called “*Ra'idat*,” which aims to strengthen the skills of 30 young women from across Libya on leadership, advocacy, human rights, peacebuilding, and communications. The training also contributed to strengthening participants' skills in mitigating and combatting hate speech.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to CSOs to develop UPR mid-term reporting towards their UPR 2025 contribution, as part of Libya's review cycle. In June, OHCHR organized a dedicated workshop with 22 civil society representatives to provide recommendations for the development of a comprehensive protection strategy for women HRDs in Libya. The draft strategy will be finalized in 2024 following consultations with concerned governmental entities and embassies.

On 10 December, 20 women HRDs attended an online workshop organized by OHCHR and UN WOMEN on protection concerns in Libya for their cohort. The workshop followed the recommendations of the *Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security* of September 2022 to, among others, create time-bound sub-working groups with relevant UN entities to deliver concrete actions to enhance system-wide accountability and response for the protection of women HRDs in conflict-affected countries.

## Participation

Under the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR convened five youth dialogues with 75 youths on the UDHR, to discuss challenges and youth-led solutions to implementing the SDGs. Recommendations from dialogues were shared with Libyan authorities to ensure that youth voices are heard.

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Beirut, Lebanon, and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Staff as of 31 December 2023	30

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Non-discrimination

OHCHR has a dedicated regional gender advisor who works with partners across the region to combat gender-based discrimination. In addition, as of 2023, OHCHR recruited a dedicated anti-racial discrimination advisor, who engaged new CSOs partners working on racial discrimination, including migrants of African descent.

The gender programme, led by the regional gender advisor, strategically engaged a regional network of active and former members of legislative bodies. OHCHR was pivotal in introducing the network to the main regional media actors, creating a space for trust-building and open dialogue between the two groups. As a result, both parties agreed to coordinate their work and give a push to promoting gender equality in the region. This included commitments from media actors to adopt human rights and anti-discrimination language in public discourse.

With the support of the new anti-racial discrimination advisor, OHCHR co-organized the first regional workshop on human rights, equality, and non-discrimination, in Beirut, Lebanon. The workshop contributed to raising awareness among 18 civil society representatives from Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, and Yemen, on the manifestations of racism and racial discrimination in the region – including discrimination faced by migrants – and the international legal framework to address

these issues. It also contributed to enhancing their capacity to engage with international human rights mechanisms and fostered exchange of experiences and practices from across the region.

#### Accountability

OHCHR engaged particularly on strengthening the independence of the judiciary as well as prevention and investigation into torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

The Office worked closely with the security apparatus in Lebanon including the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in the context of the application of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP). This included frequent in-person meetings with security agency human rights focal points to discuss concerns. Further, OHCHR provided a series of human rights trainings to 85 LAF officers on “Human rights in time of crisis,” aimed at integrating human rights standards in military and law enforcement operations. The sessions used practical scenarios to help participants learn to apply a HRBA in real-life settings.

OHCHR is supporting the ISF in finalizing a booklet on human rights in law enforcement. The booklet aims to increase the knowledge of ISF officers on human rights standards while performing their law enforcement duties. The publication is part of the ISF strategy for strengthening the rule of law within the institution.

OHCHR, jointly with UNDP, strengthened the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission through a four-day workshop dedicated to training investigators on monitoring and reporting on places of detention.

#### Participation

To encourage the participation of a broad range of rights holders across the region, OHCHR reached out to at-risk and marginalized rights-holders including women HRDs, persons with disabilities, LGBTI communities, and youth. Communications with the population on human rights issues was

significantly strengthened through numerous advocacy campaigns and social media outreach, reaching approximately 200,000 users.

OHCHR revived its regional youth network, which has increased its membership to more than 600 young people. Recognizing that young people account for some 25 per cent of the Arab region's population, the youth network aims to engage, support, and amplify their participation in human rights discussions at the national, regional, and global level. The Office also works with its youth members to help build capacity to advance human rights and youth rights within their respective communities.

Under the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR collaborated with UNEP to launch a social media campaign on rights on the occasion of International Youth Day, with a focus on green skills and human rights of youth.



## Development

OHCHR supported the UNCT in the monitoring and evaluation process of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2025 for Lebanon as well as for the Common Country Analysis (CCA) update, with particular focus on mainstreaming human rights across the peace and governance pillar.

OHCHR and the UN Regional Development Coordination Office for the Arab States organized a training for members of the UNCT in Bahrain on mainstreaming a HRBA, LNOB, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), in the UNSDCF of Bahrain. The training sought to support the development of a UNSDCF that will lead to meaningful positive change in people's lives, particularly for the most marginalized and discriminated against, and to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.



## Peace and Security

OHCHR worked closely with RC's Offices and UN partners to ensure consistent human rights messaging in UNCT peace and security engagement. The Office further ensured a HRBA in the

humanitarian response, including in the context of protection of civilians in conflict settings.

Regarding the Gaza/Israel conflict and humanitarian and human rights implications in Lebanon, OHCHR produced daily situation reports covering the region, as well as incident reports on the impact of the conflict on civilians in Lebanon. This included verifying casualties and injuries, as well as damage to public/private infrastructure. OHCHR was also closely involved in the contingency planning of the Lebanon Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), where it supported protection of civilians and related international human rights and humanitarian standards.

OHCHR co-led the peace and governance pillar under the UNSDCF for Lebanon, jointly with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), where it supported inter-agency updates and assessments of issues including hate speech, the situation of refugees, and women, peace and security.

OHCHR chaired the UNCT Human Rights Working Group, coordinated an all-agency HRDDP risk assessment, updated the joint and preliminary risk assessment and HRDDP standard operating procedures. OHCHR also organized training on HRDDP principles for the Human Rights Working Group members.

OHCHR provided regular inputs to the UN Security Council resolution 1701 in the context of human rights developments in Lebanon related to peace and security.



## Mechanisms

OHCHR advocated for UPR mid-term reporting for Lebanon within the UNCT, resulting in two agencies working together on a joint report, with the technical support of OHCHR. This represents the first UPR mid-term undertaking by a UNCT within the region.

**STATE OF PALESTINE\***

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	1996
Field office(s)	East Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron, and Ramallah
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2023-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	19

**Key OMP pillars in 2023**

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

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

After many years of advocacy and capacity-building by OHCHR, the Palestinian Authority published in 2023, three human rights treaties – the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) – in the Official Gazette bringing them into force and obliging the Government to harmonize national laws in line with them. ICCPR and ICESCR were published in July and OPCAT in September following a visit by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT). This move also followed repeated calls from national and international stakeholders, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN treaty bodies, for the Government to publish all human rights treaties it has ratified in the Government Gazette.

In a positive development, in line with international human rights law, the Palestinian Supreme Constitutional Court ruled unconstitutional the power of a Governor to carry out administrative detentions, following a legal action brought by the Independent Human Rights Commission. Such power derived from provisions of a Jordanian law predating the Six-Day War (Jordan's Crime Prevention Law No. 7 of 1954), which remained in

force. In parallel, OHCHR had been engaged in multiple avenues of advocacy regarding administrative detention and related concerns on this law during preceding years. Despite these legal changes however, OHCHR has still recorded cases of detention on the orders of governors.

OHCHR continued documenting cases of death sentences issued and upheld in Gaza, and advocated for an end to the practice. The Office monitored emblematic cases of death sentences to document due process concerns of proceedings resulting in death sentences, including through consistent trial monitoring. The Office issued a local statement on the death penalty. A significant decrease was observed in the number of new death sentences issued by Gaza courts before October 2023 (7) amounting to one third of the 2022 total (22). Cases and analysis on the death penalty were provided as part of the UNCT submission to the Human Rights Committee and were raised by the Committee during the constructive dialogue with the State of Palestine in July. OHCHR's legal team is also monitoring proposed legislation in Israel that would discriminatorily reintroduce the death penalty for Palestinians convicted of "terrorism" related crimes.

OHCHR compiled key data on Palestinians in Israeli custody to monitor more systematically their situation. The monitoring of emblematic cases, such as that of Mohammad Al Halabi, continues. Visits to the Internal Security Agency in Gaza, as well as to police and female detention facilities in both Gaza and the West Bank were conducted in spite of challenges in undertaking detention monitoring visits. Cases of concern and the practice of ill-treatment and torture were raised with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Interior and highlighted in public statements. Monitoring work fed into briefings and submissions to the Committee Against Torture (CAT). The Committee concluding observations raised all of these concerns including specifically on detention of women and attacks against women HRDs. Concluding observations, in turn, have brought about some changes at the policy level, the most significant being the final publication of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

OHCHR finalized four mandated reports during the period, two of which, A/HRC/52/75 (Human

Rights and Accountability) and A/HRC/52/76 (Settlements), were presented to the HRC, and two, A/78/502 (Israeli Practices) and A/78/554 (Settlements), were presented to the General Assembly. Mandated reports raised concerns of ongoing serious violations perpetrated by all duty bearers, such as violations of international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in Gaza, Israel's unlawful use of force including lethal force during law enforcement, widespread arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of detainees, discriminatory movement restrictions including the 16-year closure and blockade of Gaza, discriminatory seizure of land and property, discriminatory laws on identity, nationality, and residence, all of which continued with little or no accountability. The de facto authorities in Gaza continued to impose the death penalty after unfair trials. OHCHR ensured high-quality human rights input and legal review into the *Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict*, the Security Council briefing on resolution 2334, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia reports.

Following the 7 October attacks and escalation, the Office initiated assessments on violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law committed during Palestinian armed groups' attack in southern Israel and Israel's attack and siege on Gaza. The Office developed strong lines on the use of wide area impact weapons with indiscriminate effects, the complete siege and forcible displacement, and the obligations of the parties to the conflict to ensure access to humanitarian assistance. Further analysis has been conducted on the factual situation in the West Bank, particularly on the normalization by Israeli Forces of the use of military weapons and tactics in law enforcement operations in refugee camps, in violation of international human rights law, as well as raising concern that settlers are directly forcing communities out of their lands and homes. These issues have been included in the High Commissioner's and Office's statements, as well as mandated reports, leading to calls for a ceasefire, accountability, and warnings of potential atrocity crimes. Statements have been picked up extensively in media globally, regionally, and locally, and its key messaging is used by the Office to advocate with States to ensure that their interventions are in line with international humanitarian law, and to call

for accountability, equality, and security for all Palestinians and Israelis.

The Office continued to lead the UNCT Human Rights Treaty Group, keeping all UN agencies informed on developments and coordinating efforts to promote Palestine's obligations stemming from UN treaties. OHCHR contributed to drafting joint UNCT statements and shares and promotes rights-based messaging with the UNCT to jointly push back against the anti-rights movement.

## Participation

OHCHR continued its partnership with Palestinian and Israeli civil society across monitoring, capacity-building, and protection cluster teams. The Office co-leads the civic space output under the UNSDCF Results Group 3 and continues to work on innovative approaches to protect civic space and support its actors. Civic space continued to be restricted and its actors faced significant retaliation.

The Office provided series of digital security and safety trainings for the NHRIs, HRDs, and journalists in Gaza and in the West Bank, aimed at addressing the growing civil society security and privacy concerns in the digital age. Training was provided to 95 participants, highlighting good practices in preventive measures and tools to protect against potential cyber-attacks.

On 14 December, in response to an alarming rate of killings of journalists in Gaza, the Office issued a local statement on the killing of journalists and their families, which received traction in news and social media. Statements were also made by Special Procedures mandate holders and the High Commissioner.

OHCHR contributed to the Secretary-General's report on reprisals for cooperating with the UN in the field of human rights. Concerns on reprisals against civil society actors were raised in relation to Israeli authorities, the Palestinian Authority and de facto authorities in Gaza. The report detailed reprisals against women HRDs in oPt for the fourth consecutive year, in relation to their engagement with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and to



the anti-rights backlash. The report was presented to the HRC in September.

### Non-discrimination

As part of the Office's gender re-accreditation process, OHCHR achieved a score of 93 per cent and the highest level of accreditation, demonstrating its success in mainstreaming gender equality in its substantive work as well as throughout its operations.

OHCHR continued systematic tracking of gender related killings in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. A two-day training was conducted for 29 staff of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Gaza entitled "Gender-based violence, discrimination, and gender-related killings." The training focused on the methodology for integrating a gender perspective in human rights monitoring and reporting, and focused on gender-related killings as an extreme manifestation of GBV against women and girls.

On International Women's Day, in partnership with UN Women, the European Union and Flow Accelerator, a business incubator, the Office launched a social media campaign and implemented a Hackathon of 40 young Palestinian entrepreneurs from Gaza and the West Bank on creative solutions for gender equality in Palestine. A total of five teams were selected, two from Gaza and three from the West Bank. They were awarded prizes, one-month free coaching by the Flow Accelerator, and put in touch with relevant EU bodies regarding the implementation of their ideas.

There are serious allegations of rape and sexual violence by Palestinian armed groups against Israelis in south of Israel during the attacks on 7-8 October and against Israeli hostages. There are allegations of CRSV and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by Israeli forces as well, against Palestinian men and women during operations in the West Bank, and against Palestinian detainees arrested in the West Bank including East Jerusalem and Gaza. In the latter months of 2023, OHCHR scaled up its monitoring on allegations of SGBV in Gaza and the West Bank and provided inputs to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Represen-

tative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as dedicated inputs in the accountability report to the HRC, among others. The Office requires additional, dedicated resources, to adapt to the changed monitoring environment and respond to new needs and requirements. Since the Gaza escalation, working on gender equality and women's rights has become increasingly challenging for the UN and more broadly for civil society.

### Peace and Security

To facilitate coordination of protection needs analysis, the Office held consultations with partners and drafted the 2023 *Protection Analysis Update*, to contribute to the *Humanitarian Needs Overview*. The Analysis update includes operational recommendations on priorities for the protection response for protection partners, the HCT, and donors. A pilot information management matrix has been launched and is enabling the collection of information on priority protection needs – including in the context of Gaza escalations, West Bank operations involving military tactics, and in response to massive increases in settler violence and displacement in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. Rapid intersectoral needs assessments were conducted for Gaza, Huwara, Jenin, and Nablus in 2023.

Office efforts towards integrating human rights in the humanitarian response included a training for legal aid partners on protection mainstreaming and gender mainstreaming, and a briefing for the Gaza and West Bank Inter-Cluster Coordination Group on protection referral pathways and minimum standards. Partners in Gaza and the West Bank were also trained on detection and referral of cases and use of the Protection Cluster service directory. Support and capacity-building on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) was provided, as well as regular briefings to partners on PSEA progress, through Protection Cluster meetings. A disability inclusion plan is also underway.

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Gaziantep, Turkey, and Amman, Jordan
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework 2022-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2023	18

Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

Although there has been no progress on accountability at the national level within Syria, some UN Member States used universal jurisdiction to hold perpetrators accountable and have instituted proceedings against Syria to hold the Syrian Government accountable for alleged violations of the Convention against Torture. The Office disseminated resources to support such initiatives, including two legal notes – *Using individual communications to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support accountability in Syria* and, *Pursuing accountability in Syria: The application of the Convention against Torture case before the International Court of Justice* – and a report on the human rights of returnees with a focus on women, which will be published in February. The Office is finalizing two additional legal notes on deprivation of liberty for women in Al-Hol camp and restrictions on freedom of movement in widow camps.

The Office also worked on the issue of accountability for attacks on Syrian health care infrastructure. A roundtable was organized on this theme in April, together with the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, bringing together 30 participants, half of them women, as well as representatives from the newly established Independent Institution on Missing Persons in Syria (IIMP), the commission of inquiry (COI), UNFPA, and Syrian civil society. Issues discussed ranged from GBV to avenues for accountability.

The Office was instrumental in the process of establishing the new IIMP, which flowed from the Secretary-General's endeavor to clarify the fate and whereabouts of those who have gone missing and to support their families. On 29 June, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 77/301, establishing the IIMP, which is mandated to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in Syria and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors, and the families of those missing. Its activities are to be undertaken in close cooperation and complementarity with all relevant actors.

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The Office is leading the work of the start-up team for the IIMP. The IIMP's terms of reference have been developed and annexed to the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the resolution, which was submitted to the General Assembly on 1 December. As part of the process, OHCHR undertook extensive consultations with relevant actors, including Syrian civil society, families of victims, survivors, family associations, Member States, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP).

#### Participation

OHCHR has been a key actor in strengthening Syrian civil society through numerous workshops and trainings on human rights and humanitarian issues such as the protection of Syrian women HRDs in the digital space and the rights of persons with disabilities. These workshops have been well received by participants, answering the need for strengthening capacity and knowledge. A number of trainings were also dedicated to international human rights mechanisms. The Office is currently working on the follow-up of the third cycle UPR review in 2021/2022 as Syria will be subject to the mid-term review in 2024. The Office held briefings for civil society as well as the UNCT on mid-term reporting and how to engage in the process.

OHCHR adopted a more innovative approach towards capacity-building by focusing on electronic resources. The Office produced several videos dedicated to human rights issues in Syria including the right to know, the right to health, the rights to water and sanitation, a promotional

video on a human rights-based approach towards programming and advocacy, and on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Office is planning to produce and disseminate an additional video on the issue of returnees. Moreover, the Office produced an e-Learning course on adopting a HRBA to programming and advocacy. The course has a dedicated focus on Syria but reflects lessons, which may be applied in other contexts as well.

Throughout its work on strengthening Syrian civil society, the Office adopts a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach, assessing the specific impact on women and children as well as the rights of persons with disabilities. On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Office held a two-day workshop for 27 civil society members, on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. The workshop familiarized civil society actors with the rights contained in the Convention and the option of submitting individual communications as an additional avenue for accountability.



### Peace and Security

The Office contributed to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation of those who return to Syria, with a dedicated focus on women. The Office continued its regular monitoring and reporting work and contributed to the Secretary-General's bimonthly reports on Syria through mid-2023. While the reports have been paused due to the non-renewal of the cross-border resolution with which they were affiliated, the Office expanded dissemination of its flash reports in 2023. On several occasions, partners expressed appreciation for these reports, which inform about trends in human rights and humanitarian violations and concerns, and provide early warning analysis.

Information and advice provided by the Office was essential to the humanitarian response after the February earthquakes affecting large parts of the Syrian territory. The Office supported drafting of the humanitarian response and was instrumental in the short-term deployment of two additional HRAs tasked to support the earthquake response, based in Gaziantep. OHCHR continued to support

UNCT efforts to implement the HRDDP in its procurement practices, including by assisting the UNCT Risk Management Unit, Risk Management Working Group, and HRDDP Task Force on procurement.



### Non-discrimination

Since January 2022, the Office has placed renewed emphasis on identifying gender considerations in all aspects of its work, beginning with participation in the OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme. In June 2023, the Office received the highest level of accreditation. A new Gender Focal Team has been set up to continue the OHCHR work on gender in Syria. The strengthened work on gender, at the same time, served to inform the Office's work on the adoption of an inclusive approach vis-à-vis persons living with a disability. The Office published a legal note on Using individual communications to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support accountability in Syria. The note was brought to the attention of partners during a roundtable on the right to health in Istanbul in April, and was also included in a workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, in December, to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

**TUNISIA**

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2011
Field office(s)	Tunis
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2023	11

Key OMP pillars in 2023



**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

From 11 February, OHCHR monitored a wave of arrests, the largest since July 2021. Other arrests took place over the following months. These arrests targeted a wide range of actors, including politicians, members of the opposition, trade unionists, media actors, dismissed judges, and businessmen. Arrests were made on the basis of various allegations, including plotting against State security and other national security-related charges, as well as terrorism-related allegations, which carry the death penalty. These arrests and detentions have taken place against a backdrop of reports of violations of due process and fair trial guarantees. By the end of the year, OHCHR had monitored 63 such cases, of which 41 individuals continue to be pursued for arrest and detention.

During 2023, OHCHR was allowed unhindered access to Tunisian prisons, with the cooperation of prison staff. OHCHR spoke with detainees as well as with the prison administration and conducted eight unannounced visits to monitor detention conditions and advocate for minimum standards. Following the visits, improvements in the conditions of some detainees were observed. In line with the findings of the NPM, OHCHR noted that the conditions of 63 political figures, activists and other detainees concerned, were ameliorated compared to the standard detention conditions in Tunisia.

In October, OHCHR initiated a two-year joint project with the NPM focused on access to health care for individuals in prisons, aiming to identify

shortcomings, challenges and unmet needs, identify barriers hindering access to adequate health services, and provide recommendations to relevant actors. Within the framework of this project, OHCHR conducted a joint monitoring visit with the NPM (including medical and legal experts) to the only women’s prison in October.

In November, OHCHR organized a capacity-building workshop for NPM members on monitoring and reporting on detention conditions of persons in vulnerable situations. The workshop aimed to highlight the specificities and potential challenges of monitoring conditions of these detainees – including migrants and women – as well as strengthen the reporting capacities of NPM members. Nine members of the NPM (three women) attended, including the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General.

OHCHR continued its advocacy with the authorities in cases of arbitrary and illegal arrests, and excessive use of force by law enforcement. The Office recorded recent instances in which the Ministry of the Interior initiated both disciplinary and criminal proceedings leading to the sentencing to prison of police officers. In this context, the Government also adopted a long-awaited code of conduct for law enforcement.

 **Participation**

The year was marked by persistent restrictions on civic space with journalists, bloggers, activists, CSOs, and HRDs facing harassment and intimidation, prosecution, and arrest by authorities. Authorities continued to unduly restrict the freedoms of expression and of the media, as well as public access to information on several occasions, highlighting a growing risk of self-censorship. OHCHR monitored a continued trend of judicial proceedings against journalists and bloggers. The wave of arrests initiated since February and the reliance on national security pretexts to stifle dissent, has had a chilling effect on CSOs and HRDs, who have become increasingly hesitant to speak out or engage in activism for fear of criminal proceedings. In this context, on 23 June, the High Commissioner expressed deep concern at the increasing restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and to press freedom, in Tunisia.

OHCHR organized two training sessions for 50 lawyers, including more than 50 per cent women and a visually impaired lawyer, from central Tunis and the northern regions. The sessions aimed to build their capacity to address laws and practices that unduly restrict freedom of expression, and to equip them with legal arguments and tools to defend clients more effectively in court.

OHCHR continued to support the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT). On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Committed against Journalists on 2 November, OHCHR, jointly with the Syndicate, UNESCO and CSO Article 19, organized an event attended by a wide range of participants including the Ministry of Interior, General Director of Human Rights and other Government representatives, media, journalists, and CSOs. OHCHR highlighted the restrictive nature of the cybercrimes Decree-Law 54 and its non-conformity with the standards of proportionality and necessity, and spoke about judicial prosecutions targeting journalists. OHCHR raised concern about the impact of this law, and the shrinking civic space and freedom of expression. The Office also underlined that impunity for crimes against journalists is considered a greater crime than the crime itself, and its continuation legitimizes ongoing attacks against journalists. As part of its technical assistance, OHCHR provided support to the SNJT's monitoring unit notably through reviewing and finalizing their annual report on attacks against journalists.



### Non-discrimination

Under the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), OHCHR, working jointly with UNESCO and UNFPA, continued to support HRDs, and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), to raise awareness about international human rights standards. It also advocated with governmental bodies for inclusive decision-making processes and for alignment of national legislation and policy with the CRPD. In May, OHCHR held a meeting with 17 young individuals (three women) with hearing disability, to discuss elements relating to sign language instruction in Tunisia, and the use of sign language

by public establishments. The meeting produced a first mapping document of the main actors involved in the use of sign language interpretation in Tunisia. The mapping exercise will serve as a valuable resource for future advocacy endeavours by OPDs with the support of OHCHR, aiming to secure recognition of sign language as an official language in Tunisia.

On 9 June, OHCHR attended a working meeting with the Ministry of Sports and Youth to discuss cooperation towards improving young persons with disabilities' access to services. The ministry's representative outlined their approach to creating more inclusive youth services, focusing on two key aspects – improving accessibility to ministry buildings, and strengthening the capacity of youth workers regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. In response, OHCHR emphasized the vital importance of adopting a HRBA in the ministry's strategy for the inclusion of young people with disabilities, ensuring their full enjoyment of rights related to participation and entertainment.

OHCHR maintained close monitoring of the situation of xenophobic and race-based violent attacks and collective expulsions of migrants including asylum seekers, from the south of the Sahara. In this context, the Office supported a submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), under its early warning procedure. Tensions between migrants and the host community were exacerbated in July, following the death of a young Tunisian man during clashes between migrants and host communities in Sfax, which led to the collective expulsions and refolement of hundreds of persons to Algeria and Libya. The situation at the Tunisian-Libyan border has been particularly acute as migrants and asylum seekers, including women and children, found themselves stranded in scorching heat in a desolate no man's land without access to basic necessities such as water, shelter, and food. In this context, OHCHR conducted three fact finding missions related to concerns on the human rights of migrants. One fact finding mission was made to a facility operating as a de facto administrative detention centre for migrants with no legal status in Tunisia, and two others along the Tunisia border with Algeria and Libya. The Office maintained close collaboration with UN partners to share in-



formation in this rapidly evolving situation, and effectively supported the UNCT's coordinated humanitarian response, including through initiating the production of UNCT crisis joint situation reports in the summer of 2023.

## Mechanisms

OHCHR continued its efforts to strengthen the technical capacity of Tunisian national institutions. In this context, the Office supported the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting, and Follow-up (NMIRF), in preparing the periodic report to the CAT. In collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, OHCHR organized a three-day capacity-building workshop in September, for members of the NMIRF and other national authority actors on the international human rights mechanisms, enhancing understanding of the review process for Tunisia's report and technical requirements, and guidelines and standards that the report must meet. The workshop convened a diverse range of participants from national institutions including, Members of Parliament, representatives of ministries, the General Committee of prisons, and the NPM. Further, in November, the NMIRF was also assisted in organizing a national consultation with CSOs, independent bodies, and public organizations for this report. This enabled to highlight the recommendations from the CAT and the alternative reports submitted by civil society to the Committee. The workshop convened a diverse range of participants representing various ministries, public institutions such as the NPM and civil society. Concurrently, OHCHR is engaged in collaboration with the NMIRF to set up the National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD).

OHCHR supported CSOs and HRDs, facilitating their engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including the CERD, the CAT, and several mandate holders. The engagement led to the issuance of seven communications from 16 special procedures mandate-holders to Tunisia in 2023. This had a significant impact, prompting the Ministry of the Interior to ask OHCHR to organize a workshop on the international human rights mechanisms and how to respond effectively to such communications.

## Peace and Security

OHCHR contributed to informing and sharing the analysis of the UNCT Early Warning Working Group, particularly regarding recent political developments in a context of deteriorating socio-economic conditions, pushing more individuals, including Tunisians, to take dangerous migration routes to Europe.

On 24 November, as part of the “Empowering the education system and school communities through the promotion of human rights, global citizenship education, and media literacy” project, OHCHR jointly organized with UNESCO, a workshop on the “Restitution of the mapping on preventing violent extremism (PVE) training initiatives based on a human rights approach.” The workshop brought together 50 participants (29 women) including representatives from the National Commission for Counter-Terrorism, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Vocational Training, the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Culture, and CSOs working in the field of human rights education for youth. The workshop focused on the main findings and recommendations of the mapping on PVE training initiatives. The recommendations will be used to identify specific capacity-building needs, to develop a training programme for a future core of expert trainers in PVE.

## YEMEN

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2012
Field office(s)	Sana'a, Aden (2019)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2023	40

## Key OMP pillars in 2023



## PILLAR RESULTS:

 Accountability

In March and July, OHCHR organized training workshops for 38 National Commission of Inquiry (NCOI) field monitors (8 women) from various governorates, to build their capacity in human rights investigations, and international humanitarian and human rights law. The activity enabled participants to share their concerns with the Commissioners, as well as suggestions for improving the quality of the work of the NCOI. OHCHR also strengthened the NCOI's monitoring, investigation, and reporting capacity by recruiting national consultants with expertise in international law and military affairs to provide support. Subsequently, the nine NCOI Commissioners attended the fifty-fourth session of the HRC to provide an update on the human rights situation in Yemen and meet with relevant stakeholders.

Five CSOs were assisted in their submissions for the February 2023 review of Yemen by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). In August and September, 104 civil society actors (35 women) in Aden, Ma'rib, Mukallah, and Ta'izz, were briefed on how to contribute to Yemen's fourth UPR to be held in May 2024. Approximately 25 stakeholder submissions were received, including at least eight local submissions.

In September, OHCHR conducted awareness-raising activities with 134 civil society actors and 21 government officials, including 92 women, through four symposia across Yemen on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women. Topics included GBV (Ta'izz), harmful traditional practices (Hadramaut), transitional justice (Aden), and women in detention (Ma'rib).

OHCHR wrote and produced an animated video on accountability focusing on GBV, which was shared via social media on 10 December. The Office also designed and produced a poster on the *United Nations rules for the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders* (the Bangkok Rules). Copies were disseminated to places of detention in the first quarter of 2024.

 Participation

The knowledge of Yemeni civil society about the work of the international human rights system was enhanced through the dissemination of 50 weekly e-communications on news, documentation, reports, resources, and opportunities to participate in the work of the international human rights mechanisms (such as calls for inputs to reports of various special procedures, consideration of Yemen by the CESCR and the UPR). Subscriber-ship grew by 31 per cent over the year to 520 recipients.

Between February and December, OHCHR improved the capacity of 124 civil society actors (57 women) on human rights monitoring and reporting, in Aden, Marib, Mukallah, and Mukha, as well as other governorates. Participants learned about international human rights standards and frameworks, monitoring, documenting, information management, and digital security, reporting, and advocacy. OHCHR's *Manual on Human Rights Reporting* provided the basis for these workshops. A follow-up meeting was organized in May for the participants of the first Aden workshop to assess outcomes two months post-training. The meeting was an occasion to provide additional guidance on digital security and information preservation, conduct of interviews, and report writing. A total of 16 trainees (6 women) shared how they used their new skills and knowledge and changed working habits to better protect their sources and themselves, as well as undertaking advocacy activities. Evaluations of

all training events have been compiled and will be used to improve the content and delivery of activities in 2024, targeting new participants.

As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR translated and made widely available the 30 articles of the UDHR in the modern South Arabian languages of Socotra and Mehri. Posters for display in schools of the two governorates where these languages are spoken were printed, and 500 copies of *Civil society space and the United Nations Human Rights System: A practical guide for civil society* were printed and disseminated. Additionally, OHCHR's report, *Yemen: Realizing the rights of persons with disabilities* was translated into Arabic braille and 100 copies were disseminated.

Civil society actors were also empowered through participation in various OHCHR convened and hosted consultations, including with journalist syndicates, Muhamasheen community, CSO heads, and professional associations in Aden, Mukallah, Sana'a, and Taiz. The meetings provided a platform for exchanges on key human rights issues, to build solidarity, and facilitate access of local actors to broader civil society networks, including outside of Yemen.

### Peace and Security

OHCHR produced internal reports supporting advocacy with the international community, national counterparts, the UNCT, and civil society. The Office conducted over 70 advocacy meetings with authorities in the south and north, concerning allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and use of illegal prisons, taking correction and prevention measures, and enhancing cooperation in human rights. The Office notably called for the release of four detained United Nations staff members – two OHCHR and two UNESCO – by the de facto authorities in Sana'a. In addition, at least 14 letters on human rights concerns were shared with the authorities, including a letter to the Attorney General on the arbitrary detention of 17 Baha'is in Sana'a, a letter to the Office of the Presidency concerning the death penalty in a rape case in Abyan, and six communications from special procedures.

OHCHR documented 385 cases of human rights violations in various regions of Yemen. These included 173 conflict-related civilian casualty incidents, resulting in 299 civilian casualties. Of these, 97 were killed (39 men, 13 women, 31 boys and 14 girls) and 202 injured (77 men, 18 women, 88 boys and 19 girls). Additionally, the Office documented 25 violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, involving 33 victims; and 82 cases concerning the rule of law, including 23 arbitrary detention cases, 12 cases of enforced disappearance, and 13 cases of death in custody.

OHCHR continued to support the implementation of the United Nations HRDDP, leading to the development of a Risk Assessment Framework and a Standard Operating Policy. The risk assessment is underway.

The Office also contributed regularly to UNCT and HCT meetings, as well as participating in the Protection Cluster, including the Cluster's Inclusion Task Forces on persons with disabilities, Muhamasheen, and gender. OHCHR led advocacy with partners (UNCT, Member States, civil society) to mobilize action on the situation of "Mahram" (legal guardian) requirements imposed by the Houthis on the movement of women in areas under their control; advocated for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in local UN employment opportunities, as well as for accessibility of UN premises for persons with disabilities; and undertook advocacy regarding peaceful assembly restrictions imposed by the Houthis on international organizations and NGOs. OHCHR also contributed to the UNCT Working Group on durable solutions. Through this platform, the Office will disseminate the MENA region *Property restitution and housing, land and property rights* handbook. In addition to addressing the Yemeni context, the handbook, expected to be launched in 2024, will serve as a resource for other countries of the region.

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

Type of engagement	Regional Centre
Countries of engagement	Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Doha, Qatar
Staff as of 31 December 2023	6

### Key OMP pillars in 2023



### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Mechanisms

OHCHR continued to build the capacity of CSOs to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms. A workshop on “Preparing and drafting reports on children’s rights,” and another on “Preparing and drafting reports on women’s rights,” was conducted in February, in Doha, together with the Qatar Social Work Foundation. A total of 28 representatives (25 women) from nine organizations working on children’s rights in the region attended and enhanced understanding of the CRC and the CEDAW. This contributed to the submission of two parallel reports to both committees in compliance with the latest guidelines and recommendations.

In June, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, OHCHR organized a five-day regional training course focusing on engagement with international human rights mechanisms. A total of 26 diplomats (9 women) from six Gulf countries participated, enhancing their understanding of human rights principles and mechanisms, including Member State obligations. The training facilitated exchanges on good practices in terms of intergovernmental coordination, fostering a deeper engagement with the UN system. In September, OHCHR hosted a dedicated workshop on the UPR of the State of Qatar. This session facilitated knowledge exchange among 24 participants from relevant ministries and CSOs

and contributed to the timely submission of the national UPR report to the HRC.

Another training course, organized by OHCHR in September, in Amman, in collaboration with the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, targeted Junior Arab Diplomats. A total of 18 participants (8 women) from various Arab countries engaged in in-depth exploration of human rights principles and mechanisms, enhancing their capacity to meaningfully engage with the UN system. In September, OHCHR delivered an online training course on international human rights mechanisms in collaboration with the Arab Master’s programme in Democracy and Human Rights, University of Saint Joseph and the Global Campus in Beirut, Lebanon. Aimed at postgraduate students, the course provided insights into the functioning of such mechanisms and the role of stakeholders in protecting and promoting human rights. A total of 20 students (15 women) participated from Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.

#### Participation

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacity of media professionals and youth to integrate human rights standards and principles in their work and advocacy efforts, as well as to promote freedom of expression, the protection of HRDs, and facilitate their meaningful engagement with national and international human rights mechanisms.

To mark World Press Freedom Day, in May, OHCHR organized a regional training on freedom of expression and countering hate speech in partnership with the Jordan Media Institute and Aljazeera Public Liberties and Human Rights Centre. Held in Amman, the training engaged 28 journalists and experts (18 women) from Iraq, Jordan, and the State of Palestine. It provided an opportunity for participants to discuss how to address human rights issues in journalism, while exchanging best practices on countering hate speech and promoting proactive engagement with human rights mechanisms related to journalism. This was complemented by a dedicated roundtable for media professionals from the Al Jazeera

Media Network organized in June in Doha. The discussion engaged 26 journalists (10 women) from several departments of the media network and focused on integrating human rights principles and work.

Training opportunities were also provided for youth throughout the year, as part of the regional thematic priority on human rights education for young people. In July, OHCHR organized a summer course in collaboration with the Institute of Political Science at The University of Saint Joseph and the Global Campus, Beirut, Lebanon. The initiative provided 25 young participants (13 women) from the region with an increased understanding of the international, regional, and national human rights systems, and contributed to building capacity on a range of practical skills for professional development in the field of human rights. Sessions were facilitated by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls and featured the participation of various academics from the region.

In November, OHCHR partnered with the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis to conduct a regional training for 20 young HRDs (10 women). The training focused on their role in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening their capacity to develop advocacy strategies, and leveraging relevant human rights tools and techniques. The course also provided an opportunity for young HRDs from the region to exchange good practices and lessons learned from successful advocacy experiences.

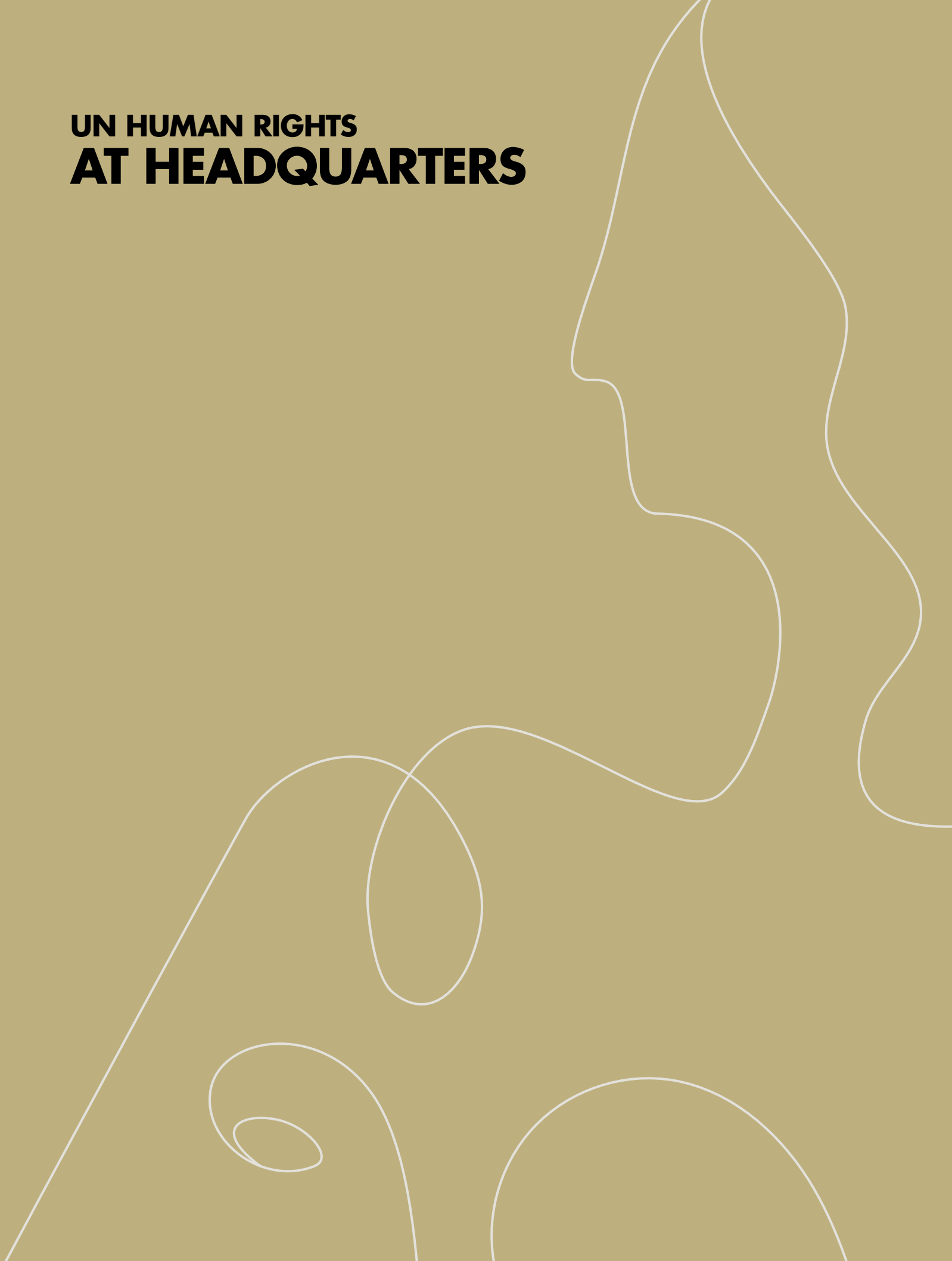
In November, OHCHR and the College of Law at Qatar University organized two briefing sessions in Doha on the work and mandate of OHCHR for 55 university students (35 women) from the region. Additionally, OHCHR and the Doha Institute delivered a seminar on the UPR for 40 graduate students and young practitioners (18 women) from the region.

## Non-discrimination

In September, OHCHR partnered with Ra'edat, the Network of Arab Women Parliamentarians for Equality, to conduct a three-day regional training workshop attended by 26 participants. Targeting new parliamentarians from six Arab countries, the workshop aimed to enhance capacity in promoting and protecting human rights, particularly focusing on women's rights legislation oversight. The training emphasized building alliances, advocacy skills, and effective monitoring tools for tracking the implementation of legislation on the ground. Participants demonstrated strong interest in the training, signaling the potential for future country-level initiatives to engage a broader representation of parliamentarians with the aim of fostering a more human rights-centric legislative landscape in the region.

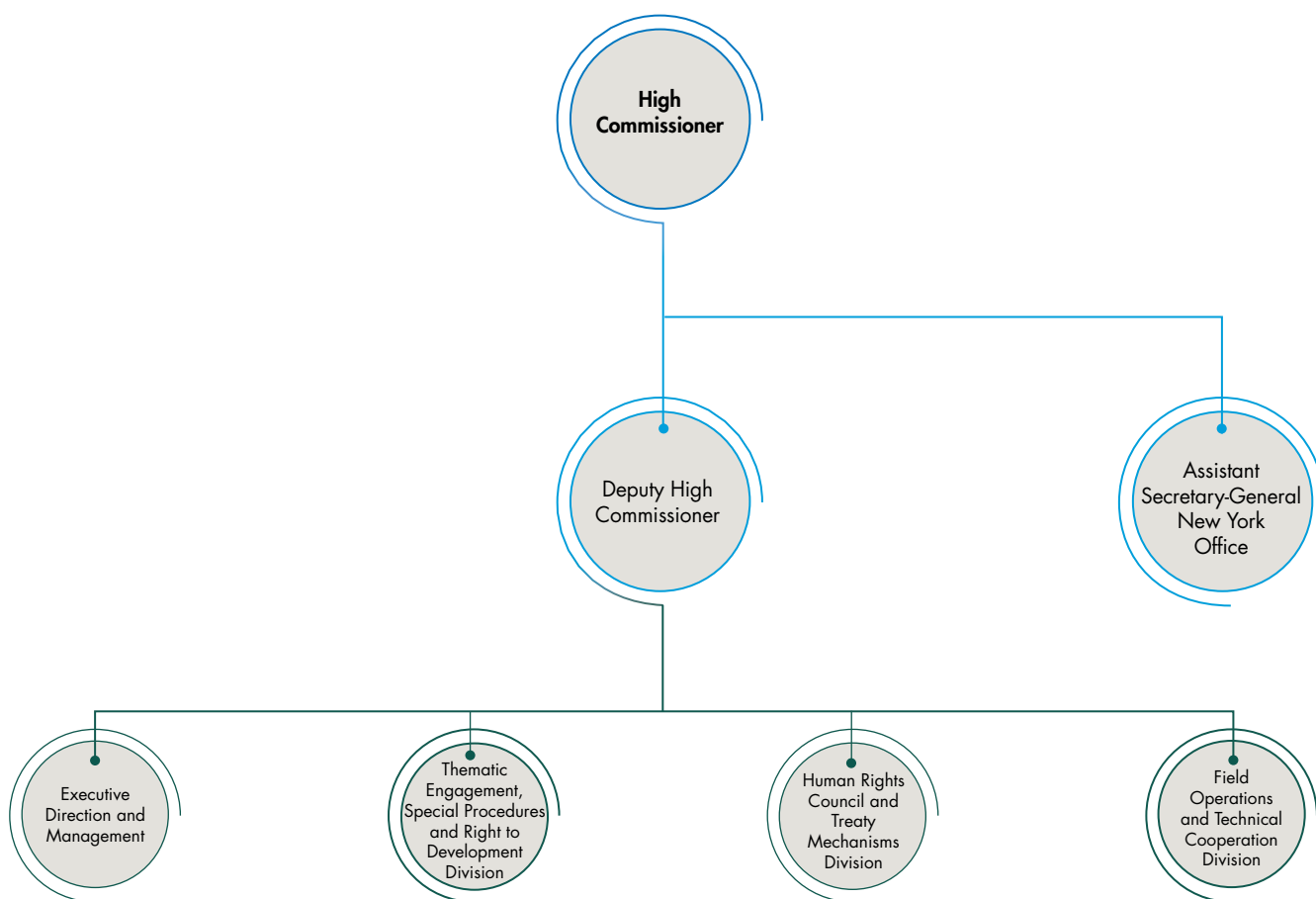


**UN HUMAN RIGHTS  
AT HEADQUARTERS**



# Introduction

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) headquarters is located in Geneva and an office is maintained in New York. The Geneva-based headquarters consists of three substantive divisions and the Executive Direction and Management, which handles management, planning, coordination and outreach functions. This chapter outlines their structure, functions and key achievements in 2023.

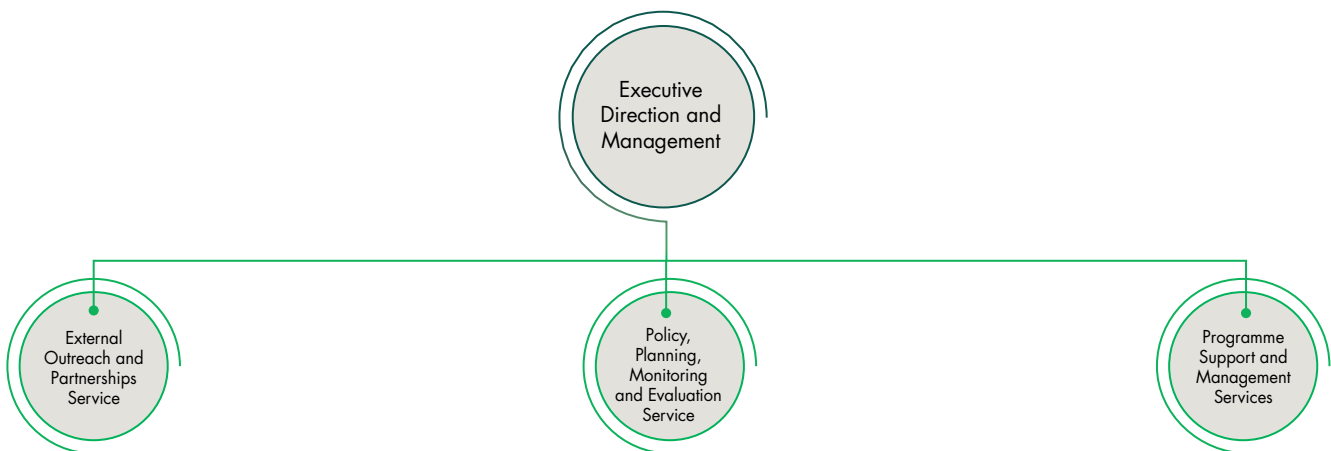


## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Executive Direction and Management (EDM) provides strategic direction and management support to OHCHR, under the leadership of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Human Rights. It is composed of the Executive Office, the New York Office, the External Outreach and Partnerships Service, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service, and the Programme Support and Management Services.

In 2023, the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner strengthened partnerships with Member States as duty bearers by proposing assistance that would enable them to build effective national human rights protection systems, including legal frameworks, institutions and practices, and promote respect for and enjoyment of human rights for all, without discrimination. The importance of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR), adopted 75 years ago, was recalled. Several events were organized worldwide to craft a shared vision for the future and renew commitments towards improving the human rights situation of everyone, everywhere. Further, the Organizational Effectiveness change process (OE 2.0) exercise was initiated with consultations throughout the Organization, aiming to review structures and processes so as to create an office fit for the future.

Member States, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), regional organizations and other partners benefited from the High Commissioner’s leadership and advocacy role in addressing issues of mutual interest and concern. These actors contributed to the High Commissioner’s analysis of activities that can bring about positive change.



## Executive Office

The Executive Office (EO) supports the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their daily work, including in their strategic leadership and management activities and interactions with partners. It also ensures coordination between divisions of the Office and the integration of its priorities into submitted inputs.

The EO is responsible for the overall coordination with the UN system and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), in close collaboration with the New York Office. It also facilitates the processing of internal and external communications and correspondence.

The EO provides guidance to all parts of OHCHR headquarters and field operations on key legal issues, in preparation for meetings with partners and in relation to the speeches and reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to the UN's intergovernmental bodies.

In 2023, the EO supported the launch, development and implementation of the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UDHR, and in particular the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner's advocacy and outreach efforts. Similarly, the EO supported the strengthening of partnerships with other UN entities such as the ILO, UNDP, UNESCO and the ICC, as well as with humanitarian actors such as the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The EO also supported engagement with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and with Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs), including through the Human Rights Advisers' (HRA) programme. Additionally, the EO served as OHCHR's focal point for the implementation of the UN Human Rights Screening Policy.

Under the leadership of the High Commissioner and his Deputy, the Executive Office supported efforts to strengthen the Office's response to discrimination and inequality issues, both internally and externally.

## New York Office

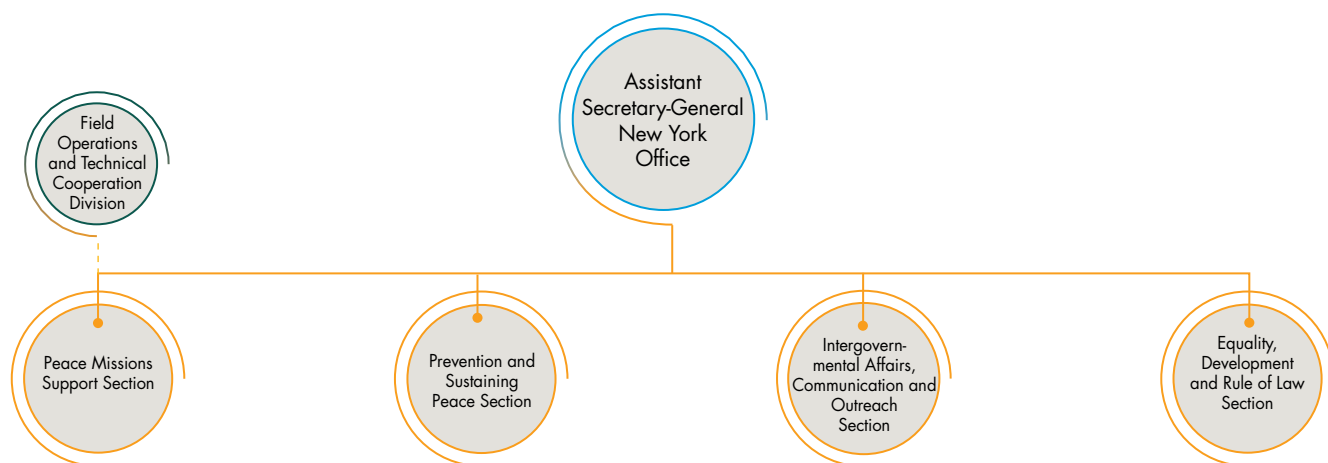
OHCHR’s New York Office (NYO) is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Human Rights. The principal objective of the NYO is to integrate human rights norms and standards into policies, discussions and decisions made in intergovernmental, inter-departmental and inter-agency bodies at UN Headquarters in New York, including by engaging with Member States, intergovernmental bodies, UN system entities, CSOs, academic institutions and the media. Under the leadership of the ASG for Human Rights, the NYO is responsible for the reprisals mandate, which seeks to strengthen the UN’s response to intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN on human rights matters. The NYO is composed of the following four substantive sections:

The **Intergovernmental Affairs, Communication and Outreach Section** leads engagement with the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, media correspondents, CSOs and academic institutions in New York.

The **Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section** covers all special groups and issues relating to equality and non-discrimination, the rule of law, counter-terrorism, justice, human rights and development issues.

The **Prevention and Sustaining Peace Section** works to mainstream human rights into wider UN efforts to prevent conflict and crisis and promote sustainable peace.

The **Peace Missions Support Section** works to facilitate the integration of human rights into UN peace operations through support for planning and the operations of human rights components of peace missions. It has a dual reporting line to the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division at headquarters in Geneva.





## External Outreach and Partnerships Service

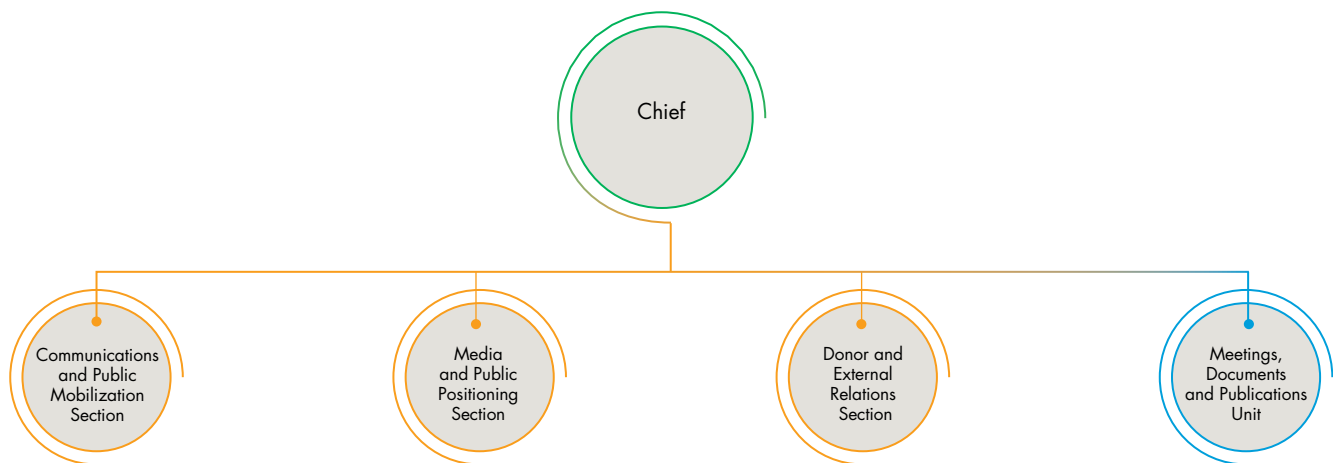
The External Outreach and Partnerships Service (EOPS) leads OHCHR’s external relations efforts. It consists of four sections, which work in synergy to maximize its impact:

The **Communications and Public Mobilization Section** develops strategies for public information outreach to a broad constituency about OHCHR, human rights and the work of the Office. It mobilizes a variety of audiences through engagement and partnerships. The Section develops content, campaigns and events, and produces branded print, audiovisual and online communications materials. It engages with the public through a variety of digital platforms, including the Office’s website and social media, and with UN partners to mainstream human rights into outreach efforts.

The **Media and Public Positioning Section** engages with the media and promotes the messaging of the High Commissioner and the Office through news releases, press briefings, interviews and other media products and activities, as well as speeches and video statements. It provides advice to the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies and assists with the editing and distribution of their media products.

The **Donor and External Relations Section** is responsible for mobilizing financial resources to enable OHCHR to implement its programme of work, as outlined in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) 2022-2023. It builds robust relationships with existing donors and explores funding opportunities with potential donors. The Section mobilizes funds, negotiates and manages a large number of contribution agreements and organizes meetings, briefings and consultations with donors. It serves as an entry point for Member States and others seeking information on OHCHR’s work, priorities and funding needs.

The **Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit** coordinates OHCHR’s annual programme of meetings and plans, verifies and submits all OHCHR official documents for processing. The Unit manages the OHCHR publications programme and develops policies for the planning, quality assurance, distribution and impact assessment of publications. It provides policy advice and operational support to OHCHR’s publications oversight body, the Publications Committee. It also oversees the production of print and electronic publications, including those for persons with disabilities, in various official UN languages and disseminates print materials to diverse audiences around the world.

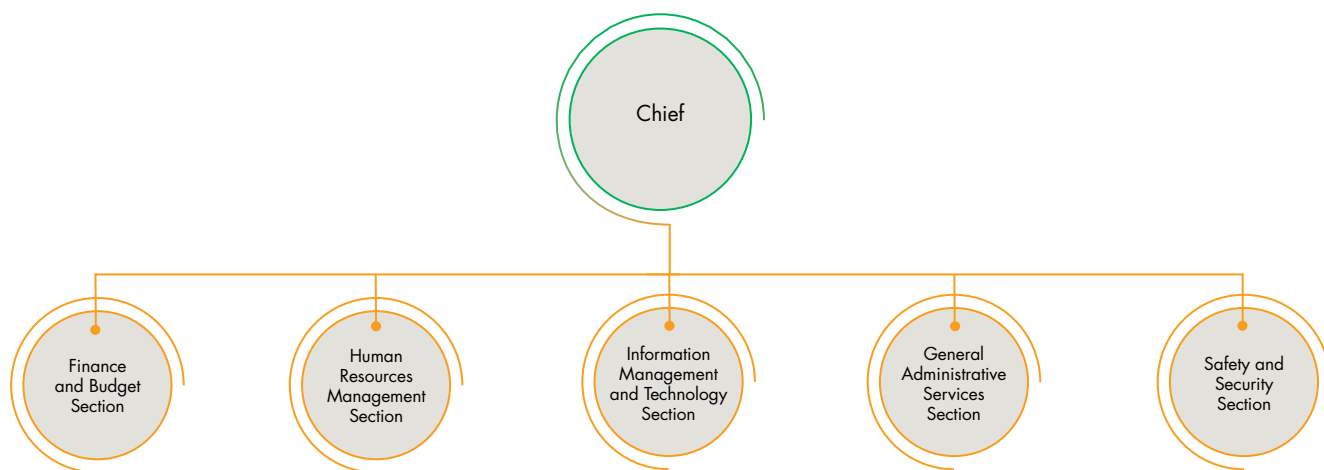


### Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES) takes the lead in translating the High Commissioner’s strategic vision into concrete priorities and operational programmes that focus on the achievement of results. The Service works to instil a culture of results-based planning, programming and budgeting across the Office. It ensures that programme implementation and risks are monitored and evaluated, and that good practices and lessons learned are incorporated into policy development, programme design and implementation. Through ongoing analysis of OHCHR’s organizational environment, PPMES helps to identify substantive or managerial gaps in OHCHR’s policies, results-based programming, internal communications and organizational effectiveness and change management, and proposes actions to address those gaps.

### Programme Support and Management Services

The Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS) provides administrative support within the Office, including budgetary and financial management, recruitment and human resources management, procurement, asset management and general logistical support, travel services, information technology and staff learning and development. PSMS consists of the Finance and Budget Section, the General Administrative Services Section, the Human Resources Management Section, the Information Management and Technology Section, and the Safety and Security Section. PSMS ensures that all financial transactions and adequate logistical, and human resources support are made available to field presences and headquarters divisions to guarantee the continuity of OHCHR operations.



## **FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION**

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is responsible for overseeing and supporting OHCHR's work at the country and regional level, including through advisory services and technical cooperation.

FOTCD is composed of the Office of the Director and three geographic branches, as well as three thematic sections. The geographic branches are divided into six sections, namely, Africa I (East and Southern Africa) and Africa II (West and Central Africa), Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the Americas, and Europe and Central Asia (ECA). Together, they are responsible for the day-to-day work of OHCHR in the field, including by following human rights developments at the national and regional level, engaging with governments, regional mechanisms, NHRIs, civil society and the UN system and interacting with the international human rights mechanisms.

The three thematic sections are the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, the Emergency Response Section, and the Peace Missions Support Section, which is based in New York.

FOTCD is responsible for the implementation of the High Commissioner's mandate at the field level. This is achieved through different types of human rights presences that undertake monitoring, analysis and reporting on human rights developments, do early warning and prevention activities, provide advisory services and technical cooperation, provide human rights capacity to the Resident Coordinators (RCs) and the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Framework, and through the deployment of monitoring, fact-finding, and emergency response missions.

FOTCD provides analysis and advice on human rights situations, including situations of risk and emerging crises, to OHCHR's leadership and the United Nations system. It also develops and strengthens strategies for OHCHR's engagement on the ground. FOTCD contributes to the UN's broader efforts related to the three United Nations pillars of human rights, peace and security, and

development, including through the integration of human rights across and into all pillars and the mainstreaming of human rights-based peace-building, in conjunction with human rights-based programming for sustainable development.

FOTCD supports the implementation of specific OHCHR mandates of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly regarding monitoring and public reporting on human rights issues, and provides technical assistance and technical cooperation. This includes support for the HRC's special procedures country mandates and the establishment of and assistance for international commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and investigations mandated by the Council. FOTCD administers the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and serves as the Secretariat of its Board of Trustees.

The year 2023 was marked by, among others: the escalation of the conflict in Israel and Gaza; the closure of the human rights country office in Uganda at the request of the Government; the discontinuation of HRA presences in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, due to funding limitations; the end of the G5 Sahel project; and the closure of the human rights components in Mali and Sudan with the withdrawal of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in December 2023, and the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) in February 2024.

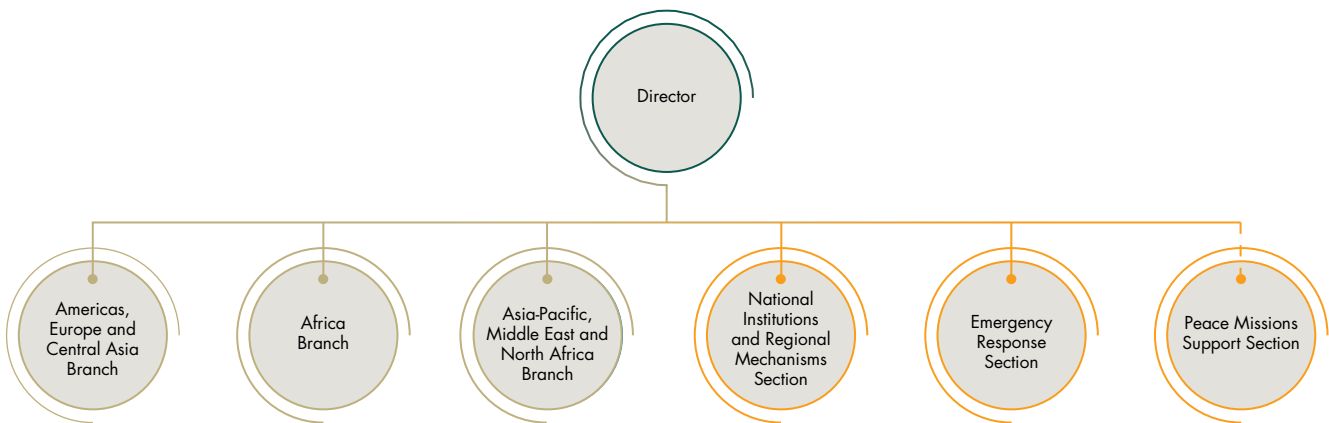
Despite challenges, it was also a year during which field presences celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UDHR and re-kindled the hope for human rights for everyone, everywhere. Around 60 field presences organized 5 regional dialogues, 4 national dialogues partnering with government entities, 84 national consultations jointly with CSOs, UN agencies, and other actors, and 17 promotional campaigns. These year-long processes constructively engaged States and all relevant stakeholders to reflect on the challenges and future of human rights in their countries and regions. In addition, Member States increased their requests for human rights technical cooperation resulting in new HRC resolutions for the creation of a human rights regional office for the Caribbean, increased support to Colombia and Honduras, and a General

Assembly resolution strengthening the Regional Office in Central Africa.

The **Emergency Response Section** coordinates OHCHR's engagement in and effective response to ongoing or emerging crises. It maintains a prevention perspective and ensures that potential emergency situations are addressed through the deployment of fact-finding, monitoring or emergency response missions, the provision of early warning and information management, and the integration of human rights into humanitarian action. The Section leads the provision of early warning information management and analyses to various UN processes, including the UNOCC and the IASC Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) analyst group. Moreover, the Section is responsible for the establishment of Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in OHCHR regional offices, to which it provides substantive and programmatic support. Through its Investigation Support Unit, the Section is responsible for the operationalization of activities mandated by UN intergovernmental bodies (primarily the HRC), such as the establishment of and support for commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. The Unit coordinates the deployment of human rights teams in the context of complex emergencies or natural disasters, or for the purpose of preventive advocacy and action.

The **Peace Missions Support Section**, located in the NYO, leads the integration of human rights in Security Council mandates for UN and non-UN peace missions, such as those led by regional organizations or Member States. It engages the Security Council, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations (DPPA-DPO) and other UN partners to ensure that human rights are integrated in Security Council resolutions and the UN's peace and security agenda at the political, strategic, and operational levels. It provides strategic and operational support and guidance to the human rights components of UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions, in close coordination with OHCHR's geographic branches.

The Section carries out strategic planning for the integration of human rights into UN peace missions, and support to non-UN peace missions, such as the Security Council-authorized deployment of the Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti to ensure human rights protection and compliance with international human rights standards in the field. This includes supporting compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law among the peace support operations in regional and subregional organizations, such as the Compliance Framework for the African Union (AU) and the G5 Sahel Joint



Force, assisting the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), and working with the European Union (EU) on the integration of human rights into its engagement with conflict and crisis management. The adoption of the AU-UN Joint Framework on Human Rights in November 2023, and the Security Council Resolution 2719 (2023) on the financing of AU peace support operations through UN assessed contributions, are expected to increase UN-AU cooperation on the implementation of human rights compliance. OHCHR's advisory role on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP) is expected to be increasingly called upon.

The **National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section** provides legal and technical assistance for the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs, in compliance with the Paris Principles (SDG indicator 16.a.1). In close coordination with FOTCD geographic desk officers and field presences, other UN agencies, funds and programmes and regional networks of NHRIs, the Section provides legal advice to Member States on NHRI laws, and carries out capacity-building activities for NHRIs on a broad range of thematic areas including on the discharge of the mandate of an NHRI, rights-based climate action, early warning and conflict prevention, protection against intimidation and reprisals, human rights indicators and the SDGs. It also supports the interaction of NHRIs with the international human rights system, including the human rights treaty bodies, the HRC and its Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the special procedures. As the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), it provides substantive and financial support, including technical advice and secretariat services, for GANHRI Annual and Bureau meetings, the two-yearly sessions of its Sub-Committee on Accreditation, and the annual International Conference of NHRIs.



### **THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

The Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRDD) is composed of the Office of the Director, the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, the Special Procedures Branch and the Methodology, Education and Training Section.

The Division's main functions are to promote and advance human rights norms and standards and apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to thematic areas through a range of measures at the global, regional and country level. These include: providing research, advice and advocacy; supporting norm-setting processes; developing methodologies, procedures, guidance and tools; offering legal and policy support; providing technical advice and expertise; undertaking capacity development; and supporting the HRC subsidiary bodies.

Specific areas of work include:

- Implementing the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda and supporting work on the Summit of the Future, especially on the Global Digital Compact;
- Leading OHCHR's work on thematic areas such as women's rights and gender, children and youth, the rights of persons with disabilities, older persons, migration, racial discrimination and Indigenous Peoples and minorities, through advocacy, capacity-building, and support for policy development.
- Providing substantive support to countries on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the right to development, economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; developing policy tools to promote the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle and combatting inequalities and discrimination; and extending thematic support to Member States and UNCTs, including through the Surge Initiative (OHCHR body providing specialized advice and analysis to operationalize ESCRs);

- Supporting the integration of human rights in processes, practices and outcomes, for instance in intergovernmental norm- and standard-setting processes and in business practices relating to the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and in the development and application of digital technology;
- Contributing to efforts to promote the rule of law and ensure access to justice, including in the fields of environmental, racial, and transitional justice;
- Contributing to increased knowledge and an enhanced understanding of human rights, including under the Plan of Action for the Fourth Phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as well as through campaigns and awareness-raising activities, such as on migration and LGBTI persons;
- Supporting the international human rights mechanisms, in particular the special procedures, and other mechanisms, such as the intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, the Social Forum, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement, and the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent;
- Ensuring the application of a HRBA and integrating a gender and a disability rights perspective throughout OHCHR's work; and
- Taking a leading role in supporting OHCHR's digital transformation and enhancing capacity to deliver on its mandates including using the potential of digital platforms to promote human rights, reinforcing data-driven human rights advocacy and ensuring that OHCHR's information and processes are accessible to users, while also establishing rights-based standards in the management and use of data.

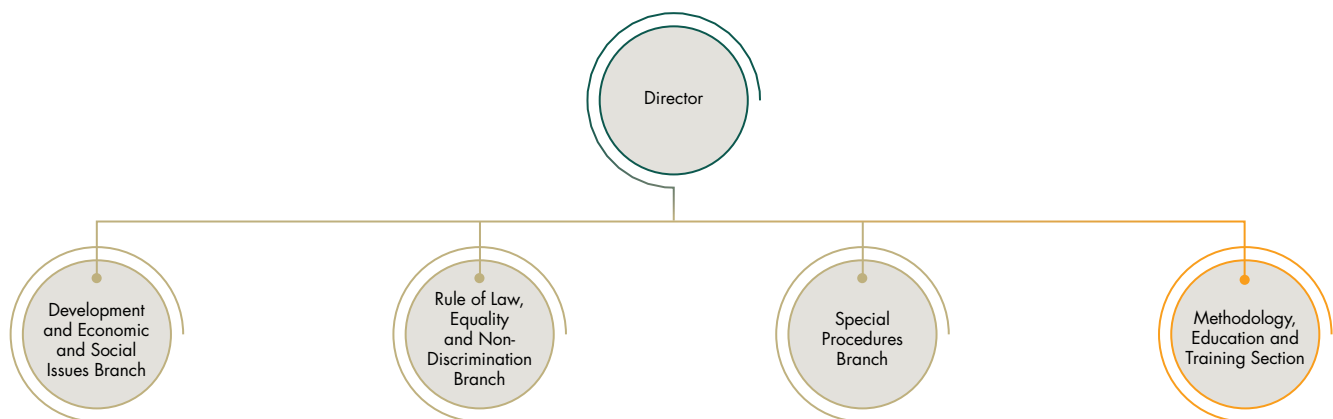
The work of the **Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch** and of the **Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch** includes: conducting thematic research and contributing to policy development and the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the UN; producing tools and learning packages and providing expertise on human rights themes to

diverse stakeholders, pursuant to mandates of the HRC, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); and leading efforts to advance the right to development, in accordance with the High Commissioner’s mandate to promote and protect the realization of the right to development, economic, social and cultural rights, the right to a healthy environment, which includes eliciting support from relevant UN bodies for this purpose. The two branches also undertake human rights research and advocacy work and contribute to national-level implementation, including through advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity development, often undertaken by OHCHR field presences.

The **Special Procedures Branch** supports the special procedures system and its thematic mandates. The special procedures system is composed of 59 mandates (45 thematic and 14 country mandates) with 83 mandate holders. The special procedures contribute to the development of international human rights law, undertake thematic studies, conduct country visits, send communications to States and other actors regarding human rights cases and issues, provide advisory services, and engage in awareness-raising activities. The Branch supports the mandates in these abovementioned functional areas in relation to policy issues and by adopting efficiency measures that streamline work processes and strengthen the special proce-

dures system. It facilitates the coordination and cooperation of the special procedures with other international human rights mechanisms, Member States, regional and national human rights bodies, UN agencies, funds and programmes, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

**The Methodology, Education and Training Section (METS)** aims at strengthening the effectiveness and impact of human rights work by OHCHR and international, regional and national actors. Strategies to this end include: developing good practice-based policies, methodologies and tools; providing advice and support in their implementation; facilitating knowledge management; designing and delivering training; using quality data to advance and assess human rights; and promoting the use of innovation and technology and the application of human rights standards. The work of METS spans OHCHR operations, at the field and headquarters levels, and focuses on core areas including: monitoring the application of human rights and international humanitarian law; fact-finding and investigations; human rights indicators, data and statistics; global human rights policies; engaging with security forces; human rights education and training; analysis and early warning; technology, digital support and innovation; dynamic knowledge; and the OHCHR Library.



# Special procedures mandate holders (as of 31 December 2023\*)

MANDATE	ESTABLISHED	MANDATE HOLDER(S)
<b>Country mandates</b>		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Afghanistan</b>	2021	Mr. <b>Richard Bennett</b> (New Zealand) since May 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Belarus</b>	2012	Ms. <b>Anaïs Marin</b> (France) since November 2018
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Burundi</b>	2021	Mr. <b>Fortuné Gaetan Zongo</b> (Burkina Faso) since May 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Cambodia</b>	1993	Mr. <b>Vitit Muntarbhorn</b> (Thailand) since May 2021
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the <b>Central African Republic (CAR)</b>	2013	Mr. <b>Yao Agbetse</b> (Togo) since November 2019
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)</b>	2004	Ms. <b>Elizabeth Salmón</b> (Peru) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Eritrea</b>	2012	Mr. <b>Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker</b> (Sudan) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of <b>Iran</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Javaid Rehman</b> (Pakistan) since August 2018
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Mali</b>	2013	Mr. <b>Alioune Tine</b> (Senegal) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Myanmar</b>	1992	Mr. <b>Thomas H. Andrews</b> (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Palestinian territories<sup>a</sup></b> occupied since 1967	1993	Ms. <b>Francesca Albanese</b> (Italy) since May 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Russian Federation</b>	2022	Ms. <b>Mariana Katzarova</b> (Bulgaria) since May 2023
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Somalia</b>	1993	Ms. <b>Isha Dyfan</b> (Sierra Leone) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Pablo Sérgio Pinheiro</b> (Brazil) will begin once the mandate of the commission of inquiry ends
<b>Thematic mandates</b>		
		Ms. <b>Dominique Day</b> (United States of America) since November 2018
		Ms. <b>Catherine S. Namakula</b> (Uganda) since May 2021
Working Group of Experts on People of <b>African Descent</b>	2002	Ms. <b>Miriam Ekiudoko</b> (Hungary) since August 2021
		Ms. <b>Barbara G. Reynolds</b> (Guyana) since November 2021
		Ms. <b>Bina D'Costa</b> (Bangladesh) since May 2023

\* An updated list is maintained on the [special procedures website](#).

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

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with <b>albinism</b>	2015	Ms. <b>Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond</b> (Zambia) since August 2021
Working Group on <b>Arbitrary Detention</b>	1991	Ms. <b>Miriam Estrada-Castillo</b> (Ecuador) since November 2020 Mr. <b>Mumba Malila</b> (Zambia) since November 2020 Ms. <b>Priya Gopalan</b> (Malaysia) since May 2021 Mr. <b>Mathew Gillett</b> (New Zealand) since May 2022 Ms. <b>Ganna Yudkivska</b> (Ukraine) since November 2022 Ms. <b>Elżbieta Karska</b> (Poland) since August 2018 Ms. <b>Fernanda Hopenhaym</b> (Mexico) since November 2021 Ms. <b>Pichamon Yeophantong</b> (Thailand) since May 2022 Mr. <b>Damilola Olawuyi</b> (Nigeria) since August 2022 Mr. <b>Robert McCorquodale</b> (Australia) since August 2022
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other <b>business</b> enterprises	2011	The mandate is currently vacant, awaiting the appointment of a new mandate holder.
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of <b>climate change</b>	2021	Ms. <b>Alexandra Xanthaki</b> (Greece) since November 2021
Special Rapporteur in the field of <b>cultural rights</b>	2009	Mr. <b>Surya Deva</b> (India) since May 2023
Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>development</b>	2016	Ms. <b>Heba Hagrass</b> (Egypt) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with <b>disabilities</b>	2014	Ms. <b>Farida Shaheed</b> (Pakistan) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>education</b>	1998	Ms. <b>Aua Baldé</b> (Guinea-Bissau) since November 2020 Ms. <b>Gabriella Citroni</b> (Italy) since August 2021 Ms. <b>Angkhana Neelapaijit</b> (Thailand) since May 2022 Ms. <b>Grażyna Baranowska</b> (Poland) since August 2022 Ms. <b>Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez</b> (Mexico) since May 2023
Working Group on <b>Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances</b>	1980	Mr. <b>David R. Boyd</b> (Canada) since August 2018
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable <b>environment</b>	2012	Mr. <b>Morris Tidball-Binz</b> (Chile) since May 2021
Special Rapporteur on <b>extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions</b>	1982	Mr. <b>Michael Fakhri</b> (Lebanon) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>food</b>	2000	Ms. <b>Attiya Waris</b> (Kenya) since August 2021
Independent Expert on the effects of <b>foreign debt</b> and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Ms. <b>Irene Khan</b> (Bangladesh) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to <b>freedom of opinion and expression</b>	1993	

Special Rapporteur on the rights to <b>freedom of peaceful assembly and of association</b>	2010	Mr. <b>Clément Nyaletsossi Voule</b> (Togo) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of <b>hazardous substances and wastes</b>	1995	Mr. <b>Marcos A. Orellana</b> (Chile) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental <b>health</b>	2002	Ms. <b>Tlaleng Mofokeng</b> (South Africa) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on adequate <b>housing</b> as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Mr. <b>Balakrishnan Rajagopal</b> (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of <b>human rights defenders</b>	2000	Ms. <b>Mary Lawlor</b> (Ireland) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the <b>independence of judges and lawyers</b>	1994	Ms. <b>Margaret Satterthwaite</b> (United States of America) since November 2022
Special Rapporteur on the rights of <b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	2001	Mr. <b>José Francisco Cali Tzay</b> (Guatemala) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of <b>internally displaced persons</b>	2004	Ms. <b>Paula Gaviria Betancur</b> (Colombia) since November 2022
Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable <b>international order</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Livingstone Sewanyana</b> (Uganda) since May 2018
Independent Expert on human rights and <b>international solidarity</b>	2005	Ms. <b>Cecilia Bailliet</b> (Argentina) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by <b>leprosy</b> (Hansens' disease) and their family members	2017	Ms. <b>Beatriz Miranda Galarza</b> (Ecuador) since November 2023
Working Group on the use of <b>mercenaries</b> as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Mr. <b>Chris Kwaja</b> (Nigeria) since May 2018 Ms. <b>Sorcha Macleod</b> (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) since August 2018 Mr. <b>Ravindran Daniel</b> (India) since November 2020 Mr. <b>Carlos Salazar Couto</b> (Peru) since May 2022 Ms. <b>Jovana Jezdimirovic Ranifo</b> (Serbia) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of <b>migrants</b>	1999	Mr. <b>Gehad Madi</b> (Egypt) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on <b>minority issues</b>	2005	Mr. <b>Nicolas Levrat</b> (Switzerland) since November 2023
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by <b>older persons</b>	2013	Ms. <b>Claudia Mahler</b> (Austria) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on extreme <b>poverty</b> and human rights	1998	Mr. <b>Olivier De Schutter</b> (Belgium) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>privacy</b>	2015	Ms. <b>Ana Brian Nougrères</b> (Uruguay) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of <b>racism</b> , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Ms. <b>Ashwini K.P</b> (India) since November 2022

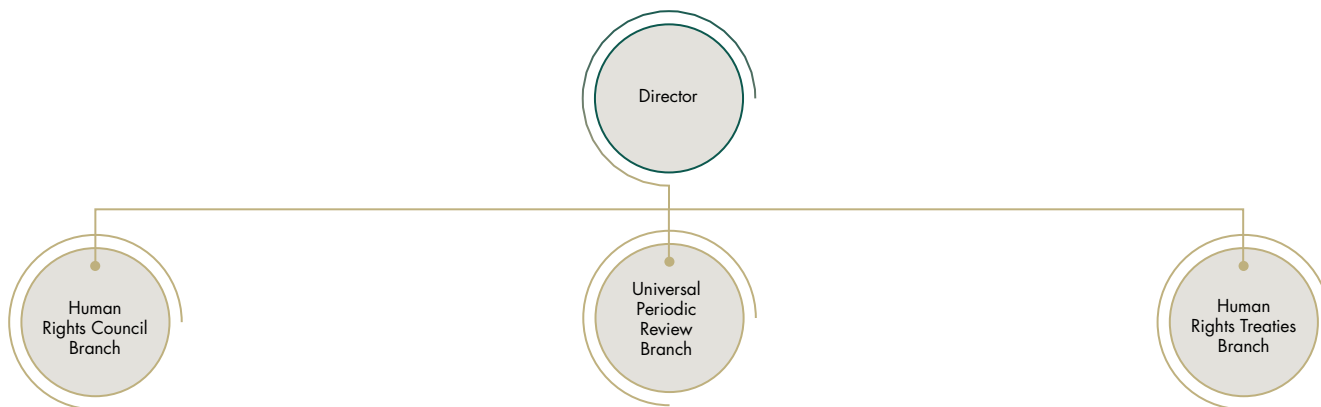


Special Rapporteur on freedom of <b>religion</b> or belief	1986	Ms. <b>Nazila Ghanea</b> (Islamic Republic of Iran) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on <b>the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children</b>	1990	Ms. <b>Mama Fatima Singhateh</b> (Gambia) since May 2020
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on <b>sexual orientation and gender identity</b>	2016	Mr. <b>Graeme Reid</b> (South Africa) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of <b>slavery</b> , including its causes and its consequences	2007	Mr. <b>Tomoya Obokata</b> (Japan) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering <b>terrorism</b>	2005	Mr. <b>Ben Saul</b> (Australia) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on <b>torture</b> and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Ms. <b>Alice Jill Edwards</b> (Australia) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on <b>trafficking</b> in persons, especially women and children	2004	Ms. <b>Siobhán Mullally</b> (Ireland) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of <b>truth</b> , justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	2011	Mr. <b>Fabián Salvioli</b> (Argentina) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of <b>unilateral coercive measures</b> on the enjoyment of human rights	2014	Ms. <b>Alena Douhan</b> (Belarus) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on <b>violence against women and girls</b> , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. <b>Reem Alsalem</b> (Jordan) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking <b>water and sanitation</b>	2008	Mr. <b>Pedro Arrojo-Agudo</b> (Spain) since November 2020
		Ms. <b>Dorothy Estrada-Tanck</b> (Mexico) since November 2020
		Ms. <b>Claudia Flores</b> (United States of America) since November 2023
		Ms. <b>Haina Lu</b> (China) since November 2023
		Ms. <b>Ivana Krstic</b> (Serbia) since November 2023
		Ms. <b>Laura Nyirinkindi</b> (Uganda) since November 2023
Working Group on discrimination against <b>women and girls</b>	2010	

### HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND TREATY MECHANISMS DIVISION

The Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division (CTMD) consists of the Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch, the Human Rights Treaties Branch, and the Universal Periodic Review Branch. The Division has a core mandate to support the HRC and its subsidiary mechanisms, the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies. It is therefore well placed within OHCHR to ensure that the significant normative value of the international human rights mechanisms is matched by committed follow-up to the implementation of their recommendations.

The Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB) supports the Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body composed of 47 Member States that are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. Established by the General Assembly, the body is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. In 2023, the Branch assisted the HRC to fully implement its programme of work, including one special session on the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in Sudan.



## Highlights of the Human Rights Council in 2023

The Human Rights Council held three regular sessions and one special session in 2023 and continued to expand the range of issues being brought to its attention through the adoption of 154 resolutions and decisions. To date, 123 States have served as members of the HRC.

Furthermore, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council, enabled the participation of 41 delegates (27 women and 14 men) at the fifty-second (27 February to 4 April 2023), fifty-third (19 June to 14 July 2023) and fifty-fourth (11 September to 13 October 2023) regular Council sessions. Out of the 41 participants, 36 delegates (22 women and 14 men) received the necessary support for their participation through the Trust Fund delegates' programme. The five other participants (all women) were granted fellowships under the Trust Fund.

Among these government officials, 23 were from Africa, 6 were from the Caribbean and Latin America, and 12 from Asia and the Pacific; 6 representatives were from States without a permanent representation in Geneva, and 9 from States that were members of the Council at the time.

The **Universal Periodic Review Branch (UPRB)** provides full secretariat support to the UPR mechanism of the HRC. It prepares the background documentation for the States under review each year, assists the Troikas<sup>24</sup> in preparing the reports on the recommendations formulated during the UPR Working Group sessions, and supports the adoption of the related outcome reports in the HRC plenary sessions. The UPRB also assists States to prepare for their reviews in Geneva and to implement recommendations received from the reviews. UPRB supports the implementation of UPR recommendations through the development of specific tools and the provision of in-country technical and financial assistance through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

The fourth UPR cycle kicked off in November 2022, with a focus on the implementation of recommendations received and supported by Member States. The new cycle witnessed active participation of Member States in this peer-review process. On average, 98 Member States and Observers made interventions with an average of 280 recommendations put forward per review. A significant increase of submissions by civil society representatives and the UN entities has been recorded for the pre-session reports of six sessions of the fourth cycle - approximately a 20 per cent increase in the number of submissions per Working Group compared to the third cycle, and a 70 per cent increase in the number of submissions compared to the second cycle. In 2023, the UPRB serviced three UPR Working Group sessions, the forty-second, forty-third and forty-fourth, where 41 countries were reviewed. The UPRB ensured the timely preparation and submission of 82 pre-session reports, 41 Working Group reports, and contributions to 3 HRC reports covering summaries of the UPR outcomes of 41 countries.

The **Human Rights Treaties Branch (HRTB)** supports the treaty bodies, which are independent committees established under the nine international human rights treaties and their optional protocols.

- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and
- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The Branch also supports the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), which is a different kind of treaty body in the United Nations human rights system that began its work in 2007. It has a preventive mandate focused on a proactive approach to preventing torture and ill treatment. States that ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) give the SPT the right to visit their places of detention and examine the treatment of those being held.

The treaty bodies monitor the implementation of the international human rights treaties through the examination of reports that are periodically submitted by States Parties to them or through in situ visits. The treaty bodies collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including States, CSOs and NHRIs. They also issue recommendations to States Parties, encourage priority follow-up on certain matters and adopt general comments/recommendations on thematic or procedural issues.

<sup>24</sup> Each State review is assisted by groups of three States, known as “Troikas,” who serve as rapporteurs.

In 2023, the treaty bodies reviewed the implementation of the treaties by 139 States Parties and issued 70 Lists of Issues and 31 Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting (LoIPR). They also adopted 282 decisions on individual communications and in addition, supported the treaty body Chairs in developing constructive conclusions on the treaty body strengthening process. The HRTB provided support to the work of 172 treaty body experts during 29 sessions. Over 190 media statements, press releases and media advisories were issued in 2023. A total of eight States Parties were visited by the SPT. There were 16 new ratifications of and accessions to human rights treaties. A total of 1,281 submissions from UNCTs, civil society and NHRIs were received. The committee secretariats also continued to provide support to the committee rapporteurs or focal points on reprisals and responded to allegations of reprisals.

Uncertainties of the funding arrangements for hybrid meetings negatively impacted on constructive dialogues held remotely with the States Parties, in 2023, even though such hybrid or remote dialogues are mandated by General Assembly resolution 68/268. Further, a liquidity crisis and the restriction on recruitment resulted in a reduced staff capacity, adding further strain to an already overstretched treaty body system.

As part of the treaty body strengthening process, an OHCHR Working Paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the human rights treaty body Chairs of 2022 was published. The High Commissioner convened an informal briefing on 1 November 2023 to seek initial feedback from States and to launch a consultative process towards the next General Assembly resolution on the human rights treaty body system, scheduled for December 2024. A total of 118 States from all regional groups constructively engaged in discussing the options and guiding questions contained in the OHCHR Working Paper. States consultations will continue in 2024 to secure support and financing for implementation of the treaty body strengthening process.

In 2023, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme (established by General Assembly resolution 68/268 to support States Parties in building their capacity to implement treaty obligations) organized 185 activities worldwide – 87 either completely online or in hybrid format and 98 in person – engaging 5,381 participants, including 1,722 women. Of the 185 activities, State representatives were involved in 86 of them; members of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs) in 81; civil society in 87; UNCTs in 24; and UN RCOs in 5 activities. Parliaments were involved in 14 activities, regional organizations in 10 and the National Preventive Mechanisms in 10.

An increasing number of States have shown interest in using the National Recommendations Tracking Database, relaunched in 2022, to help improve the information management capacity of their NMIRFs. The tool was rolled out in six States in 2023.

The Division administers the following six Trust Funds:

- The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council;
- The Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review;
- The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review;
- The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;
- The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and
- The Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Detailed information on the Trust Funds is presented in the chapter on Funds Administered by UN Human Rights on pages 90-106.

# Pillar Results



## Mechanisms (M)

### Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR supported 23 States for the creation or strengthening of national Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs), in addition to global, regional and cross-regional peer-to-peer learning activities for NMIRFs. Capacity-building activities focused on enhancing coordination and consultation capacities of NMIRFs, providing guidance on tasks distribution, on identifying relevant information for reporting, and ensuring consultations with relevant stakeholders using a participatory approach. During workshops, NMIRFs designed road maps to ensure the timely submission of reports due. Peer-to-peer exchanges and sharing of good practices were promoted through the organization of sub-regional exchanges for NMIRFs in South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa and the Caribbean, as well as a global event for Portuguese speaking countries. Discussions among participants in South-East Asia and Portuguese speaking countries led to the establishment of informal networks of NMIRFs, facilitating regular exchange on experiences, good practices, challenges, and any other relevant information. Notably, NMIRFs were established by Ecuador and India. At the global level, OHCHR organized the first seminar on NMIRFs mandated by Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 51/33.

With OHCHR's support, in 2023, there were 16 additional ratifications/accessions to human rights instruments, bringing the total to 120 for the 2018-2023 period. OHCHR contributed to increasing the knowledge and skills of State officials including through the publication of ratification toolkits in different languages; co-publishing the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol: Handbook for Parliamentarians* with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); publication of the *Implementing the rights of persons with disabilities – the role of independent monitoring frameworks: practical guide*; and organizing sub-regional events to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT).

To build the capacity of stakeholders to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR, together with the League of Arab States and the Arab Organization for Human Rights, organized a consultative meeting attended by 35 senior representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs from the region, to discuss methodologies and good practices. In Egypt, OHCHR cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights



and trained 36 junior diplomats (22 women). OHCHR also organized an online training for 15 civil society actors (9 women), including lawyers, religious and ethnic minorities, labour rights activists, and journalists. Further, regular meetings with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and NGOs, and a leadership dialogue with NGOs, were organized to provide updates on the treaty body strengthening process, and address concerns and answer queries.

To strengthen stakeholders' capacity to implement Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, OHCHR organized a workshop for the Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council and its Member States, to support the development of plans to implement the fourth cycle UPR recommendations. In the Central African Republic (CAR), OHCHR supported a mapping exercise on economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCR) feeding into the National Human Rights Policy and corresponding Action Plan, stemming from the third cycle UPR recommendations. Further, in Kuwait, a workshop for 22 participants (8 women) from various ministries was organized on the implementation of the fourth cycle UPR recommendations.

Following UPR recommendations and with OHCHR's support, **Mongolia enacted in June, its Business and Human Rights National Action Plan (NAP)**. The NAP is aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and underscores the State's duty to protect human rights in business operations, businesses' responsibility to respect human rights, and of both duty bearers to provide remedies when violations occur.

Following the fourth cycle UPR, **the Kingdom of the Netherlands adopted a new Gender and LGBTI Equality Policy Plan 2022-2025, and Ghana adopted a new bill abolishing the death penalty.**

Following OHCHR's technical support, **Cuba pledged to implement all the UPR recommendations** it had accepted, during the Human Rights 75 (HR75) high-level event.

Through OHCHR's **UPR Voluntary Fund for Participation, and Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the HRC**, representatives of 13 States under review, including 7 from LDCs/SIDs, participated at three UPR Working Group sessions, and 41 LDCs/SIDs delegates participated at the HRC's fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions.

OHCHR collaborated with the IPU and **strengthened engagement with parliamentarians**. Parliamentarians from 33 countries received in-depth briefings on the UPR processes and modalities. A roundtable was organized in June with the participation of 35 parliamentarians from 22 countries, and 18 parliamentarians participated in UPR Working Group sessions.

OHCHR supported the annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs in Delhi, India, in October, contributing to the **adoption of the Delhi Declaration on cooperation between national, regional, and international human rights systems.**

OHCHR contributed to the **dissemination of General Recommendation 39 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**, regarding the rights of Indigenous women and girls, providing translation into Indigenous languages including Aymara, Guarani, K'iche, Nahuatl, Trinitario and Zapoteco.

OHCHR provided technical expertise in the **implementation of HRC resolutions 50/23 (2022) and 52/41 (2023) on Libya**, including on transitional justice and reconciliation. In October, it organized, together with Libya's two national human rights committees, a workshop in Tripoli, on development of a national plan for the implementation of Libya's international human rights obligations and commitments.

OHCHR assisted the Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the

Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), who presented a document, pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/RES/76/226, compiling issues pertaining to the **draft United Nations Declaration on the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of people of African descent**. The Declaration will reinforce the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the DDPA, emphasizing the specific needs resulting from historic injustices and human rights violations endured by people of African descent.

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**Three UPR Working Group sessions and three HRC sessions under item six were convened, covering the reviews of 41 States.** OHCHR ensured the timely preparation and submission of 82 pre-session reports, 41 Working Group reports, and contributions to 3 HRC reports, covering summaries of the UPR outcomes of 41 States.

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OHCHR engaged with NHRIs and NGOs and facilitated the **submission of more than 1,200 reports from NHRIs and NGOs, and 60 pre-recorded video statements presented by NHRIs, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and its regional networks.**

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OHCHR supported the **adoption of 282 decisions on cases and registered 408 new individual communications.** This is the highest number ever of new cases registered, bringing the number of active cases managed by OHCHR to 1,700.

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OHCHR assisted the **special procedures country mandates**, contributing to 16 press releases and 4 communications by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, 10 press statements and 21 communications by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 40 communications to countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

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The number of States interested in the **National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)**

increased. The Database was rolled out in **Botswana, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lesotho, the Philippines, Serbia and Uzbekistan.** In the Philippines, OHCHR provided support for implementation of the Database, contributing to the launch of a network of 19 departmental focal points to populate the database, enabling a more systematic and timely monitoring of implementation of recommendations.



## Development (D)

### Advancing sustainable development through human rights.

OHCHR supported processes at the HRC in which two key resolutions were passed: resolution [A/HRC/RES/52/14](#) on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and resolution [A/HRC/53/28](#) on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights. The former acknowledges the Surge Initiative's role – OHCHR body providing specialized advice and analysis to operationalize ESCRs – and calls on OHCHR to increase its support for the integration of human rights in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the latter, the concept of a Human Rights Economy was acknowledged for the first time.

The newly developed **Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) online checklists** were rolled out in five regions, in collaboration with the interagency network on human rights, Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and Sustainable Development, which OHCHR co-chairs jointly with the ILO. The checklists are tools for UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to use to enhance integration of the three guiding principles of LNOB, gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and a human rights-based approach (HRBA). Training of trainers is also being organized to establish a pool of resource persons from various entities.

In 2023, OHCHR provided **analytical inputs and advice to 29 CCAs and UNSDCFs, and conducted or supported 14 human rights-based budget analyses**. In doing so, OHCHR sought to systematically anchor macroeconomic analysis in relevant human rights obligations. For instance, in Botswana, OHCHR highlighted debt vulnerabilities, and debt servicing impacts on fiscal space for critical human rights areas that could help in addressing the high levels of inequality, and resources needed for the attainment of the 2030 Agenda, and the dire consequences of inflation on vulnerable groups. In Kenya, OHCHR supported the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) economist on the development of a joint UNCT budget analysis of the 2023/2024 national budget, building on the previous human rights-based budgetary support undertaken for the [2021/2022](#) and the [2022/2023](#) national budgets. In Zimbabwe, as a member of the UNCT policy advisory team and in collaboration with the RCO economist, OHCHR conducted work on human rights budgeting in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector with the aim of providing practical policy recommendations, informing the Zimbabwe draft national WASH financing strategy, in order to better respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups vis-a-vis their right to water and sanitation.

**Human rights data partnerships were strengthened with 14 countries** (Albania, Cameroon, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo,<sup>25</sup> Liberia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, the State of Palestine,<sup>26</sup> the Philippines, and Uganda), with NHRIs and national statistical offices formalizing their commitment to operationalize a HRBA to data, to LNOB, and to populate human rights indicators, including the four SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship (16.a.1 on NHRI accreditation, 16.1.2 on conflict-related deaths, 16.10.1 on human rights defenders (HRDs) and 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination). Further, the Government of Brazil established a Human Rights Observatory to make publicly available human rights indicators on vulnerable populations.

**Data availability for the four SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship has significantly improved.** Data availability for SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination increased by fivefold since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, with 62 countries collecting at least one data point for this indicator, compared to only a dozen in 2015. OHCHR was able to collect data for 70 per cent of the 10 deadliest conflicts, compared to 2015 when no global figures were available on the number of civilians killed during armed conflicts. The total number of countries for which OHCHR has documented killings of HRDs has more than doubled since 2015, from 41 to 94 in 2023.

OHCHR's reporting on SDG indicators on violence against HRDs, prevalence of discrimination, death of civilians in conflicts, and existence of independent NHRIs was downloaded more than 1.6 million times in 2023.

To support States in **integrating human rights in the implementation of the SDGs**, a new methodology on State reporting to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), using data and information contained in Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports, has been developed and piloted at a regional event for Caribbean countries. Treaty body capacity-building programmes also systematically highlighted the interconnectedness between SDGs and human rights and their reporting processes, during workshops and activities.

In contributing towards the High-level Political Forum, OHCHR supported 15 VNR processes with guidance on integrating human rights data and analysis, and applying a HRBA to data. Further, the *Human rights and Voluntary National Reviews: Operational common approach guidance note*, was presented at the 2023 VNR Knowledge Exchange.

Following a detailed analysis of the **impact of the embargo on the right to food, right to health and right to education of the Cuban population**, particularly on those in vulnerable situations, in the context of the UNGA resolution 77/7, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights carried out an academic visit to Cuba, the first visit of a mandate holder since 2017.

The **Twelfth Forum on Business and Human Rights** was held on 27-29 November, under the theme, "Towards effective change in implementing obligations, responsibilities and remedies." About 4,000 participants from 144 countries shared their concerns and experiences, and discussed how to address business and human rights related issues. This followed regional multi-stakeholder dialogues held throughout the year covering Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia.

OHCHR participated in the second edition of the International Forum "Public-Private Partnership for the Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples," held in Moscow in November. The

<sup>25</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

<sup>26</sup> All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

meeting brought together over 250 participants including government officials and private sector representatives. It contributed to the establishment of a Working Group to develop **guidelines for businesses on engagement with Indigenous Peoples**, to be presented at the third edition of the Forum in 2024.

Since 2019, the Working Group on business and human rights has coordinated a **project on responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean**, together with the ILO and OECD. This enabled governments in the region to exchange on good practices and receive support to develop and implement NAPs. As a result, the first NAP for Argentina was adopted in November 2023; national baseline assessments for business and human rights were developed in Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador; and the Peru NAP implementation was accelerated through a decentralization strategy and capacity-building of stakeholders. In Colombia, support was provided for the development of a bill on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces (HRDDP) and the update of the human rights policy and human rights impact mapping tool in the mining and energy sectors. Finally, through support to the UN Global Compact, 100 businesses in the region committed to translate their human rights commitments into practice through the implementation of the Global Compact tool on corporate respect for human rights.

OHCHR supported the **implementation of NAPs on Business and Human Rights**. In Kenya, it supported the development of a due diligence framework. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), OHCHR organized a national dialogue, leading to the adoption of a draft road map for the development, adoption, and the implementation of the NAP. In Zambia, following an open letter from the High Commissioner raising concerns over mining in the lower Zambezi and its impact on the rights to health and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the Government called on the concerned company to halt mining in the area while it determined compliance with environmental regulations.

OHCHR participated in **environmental negotiations**, such as the recent climate negotiations and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. This contributed to the integration of human rights and civic space protection in the outcomes of the Bonn climate change conference; the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) related to the effectiveness and sustainability of rights-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation; and the mainstreaming of human rights in the Global Framework on Chemicals. In partnership with UNEP, ECLAC and ESCAP, OHCHR assisted the implementation of the Escazú Agreement, and contributed to discussions on a new Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Framework on Environmental Rights, respectively.

Together with the Government of Colombia, CSOs and peasants' organizations, OHCHR contributed to the organization of the **first regional consultation on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region**, in Bogotá, Colombia, in December. Participants were able to take stock of challenges and achievements including on the rights to food, land, seeds, water, livelihoods, as well as engage on climate change and environment related issues. The consultation will inform future work.





## Peace and security (PS)

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

OHCHR provided support and guidance to UN peace missions on the integration of international human rights and humanitarian law, and strengthened the human rights capacity of national and regional defence and security forces under the UN policy frameworks for the protection of civilians and the HRDDP. This contributed to the **adoption of a Human Rights Directive**, in March, by the Office of Military Affairs of the UN Department of Peace Operations.

OHCHR supported the finalization and launch of the *Guidance note of the Secretary-General on transitional justice: A strategic tool for people, prevention and peace*, together with the thematic working papers, in June. The guidance note seeks to ensure a rights-based, innovative and practical, as well as coordinated approach to transitional justice across the UN system and beyond.

OHCHR, jointly with UNODC and UNDP, released the **first global SDG16 indicator report**, *A wake-up call for action on peace, justice and inclusion*. The report urges policymakers to increase the pace of SDG16 implementation. Among the findings from the report: close to 17,000 civilians were killed in war operations in 2022, a 53 per cent increase compared to

2021; there was a 40 per cent increase in killings and nearly 300 per cent increase in enforced disappearances of HRDs and journalists in 2022 compared to 2021; and discrimination is prevalent worldwide with one in six people having experienced discrimination during the previous 12 months. The report findings were used to inform debates at the UN Security Council (UNSC).

OHCHR's report to the HRC on the *Impact of casualty recording on the promotion and protection of human rights (A/HRC/53/48)*, shed light on how casualty recording data are used by stakeholders, and showcased the Office's work since 2007 including in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, the State of Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Yemen. Casualty recording impacts on protection, compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law, early warning, prevention, accountability, and access to services and reparations.

OHCHR ensured the **integration of protection and human rights concerns** in documents and discussions by the UN Secretariat and international community on emerging or existing situations of conflict/violence and insecurity, and ensured regular information sharing with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Early Warning Early Action Readiness Analysis,

to the UN Regional Monthly Reviews, and the UNOCC, and provided human rights recommendations for action. In August, the High Commissioner briefed the UNSC on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for the first time in four years.

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OHCHR supported the development of the UNSC resolution on financing African Union-led peace missions with UN assessed contributions to ensure compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law. **Resolution 2719 (2023) was unanimously adopted in December** and determined that support would be delivered in accordance with the UN HRDDP for non-United Nations security forces. OHCHR also provided technical support in the preparation of the UNSC resolution authorizing a Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti to ensure human rights compliance. **Resolution 2699 (2023) adopted in October**, called for the Mission to establish an oversight mechanism to prevent human rights violations and abuses.

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OHCHR continued **reporting on the situation in Myanmar**, and provided an analysis of trends in respect of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties. During the year, the National Unity Government made several commitments to respect international human rights and humanitarian law, strengthen its oversight of the People's Defence Forces, and to ensure accountability for reported abuses. There was some evidence of ethnic armed organizations taking mitigating measures to protect civilians in their latest offensive in 2023.

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In response to the **October 7 attacks by Palestinian armed groups in Israel and subsequent armed response by Israel towards Gaza**, OHCHR promptly increased its monitoring and documentation of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. OHCHR heightened advocacy for the protection of civilians, the call for a ceasefire, unrestricted access of humanitarian aid, and accountability for violations of international human rights, humanitarian and criminal law.

OHCHR enhanced its monitoring of the impact of hostilities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including on the border between Israel and Lebanon. The HRC special procedures provided early warning to the international community, raised the alarm of the risk of genocide and highlighted the responsibility to protect.

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OHCHR engaged with the European Union (EU) to ensure the **integration of human rights into the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy**, as well as related policies. In March, OHCHR participated in a high-level expert meeting on the elaboration of an EU Due Diligence Policy.

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OHCHR monitored and advocated for the **protection and respect of human rights in the context of electoral processes** in the DRC, Eswatini, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe.



## Non-discrimination (ND)

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination.

A new module to measure the prevalence of discrimination aligned with OHCHR's methodology for SDG indicator 10.3.1 was integrated in the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), one of the main data sources for SDG indicators. In 2023, the number of countries that reported data on this indicator continued to grow, reaching 62.

The Working Group on discrimination against women and girls provided **analysis and recommendations on specific areas affecting the enjoyment of women's and girls' rights**. Its thematic report to the HRC on *Gendered inequalities of poverty: feminist and human rights-based approaches* (A/HRC/53/39), focused on poverty and socioeconomic inequality as outcomes of systemic failures that violate multiple human rights of women and girls. It also produced the *Guidance document on eliminating discrimination against sex workers and securing their human rights* (A/HRC/WG.11/39/1), and the *Guidance document on men's accountability for gender equality* (A/HRC/WG.11/37/1).

Pursuant to HRC resolution 51/20, the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, undertook a joint visit to Afghanistan, and presented a report

(A/HRC/53/21) at an **enhanced interactive dialogue** of the HRC in June, describing **widespread and systematic discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan**.

In **Mongolia**, the OHCHR Surge Initiative and the human rights adviser (HRA) provided technical support to the Government and advocated for the improvement of housing conditions and accessibility to housing of persons with disabilities. CSOs working for persons with disabilities were also supported to build their capacity to prepare a shadow report for the review of Mongolia by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). These efforts contributed to approval of a **programme to support the housing of persons with disabilities** in July, jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development. The programme aims to include as many persons with disabilities and their families as possible in housing projects implemented by the Government and to improve their living conditions and quality of life.

Following a communication by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as advocacy by the Special Rapporteur and civil society groups, the Seattle City Council added **prohibition of caste-based**

**discrimination** to the City’s anti-discrimination law. These changes made Seattle the first United States city to prohibit caste-based discrimination, improving protection within the city and setting a precedent within the country.

The first workshop on “**Human rights: Equality and anti-discrimination**” for the MENA region was organized in October, in Beirut, Lebanon. It helped raise awareness on the manifestations of racism and discrimination in the region and inform on the international legal framework to address these issues, including issues faced by migrants.

OHCHR organized a panel discussion on **fighting racism in sports** during the twenty-first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the effective implementation of the DDPA, in October. Discussions covered challenges, good practices, and how to combat racism. The panel called for awareness-raising and education programmes, sanctions for racist manifestations, and promoting collaboration. The panel outcomes will feed into the IGWG report as recommendations for Member States in the fight against racism in sports.

In March, the Office launched a **training guide, *Towards a human rights-based approach to migration***. The guide aims to enhance duty bearers’ human rights perspective on migration and how human rights laws and standards can be operationalized to make migration safer.

To shed light on how digital technologies are reshaping border governance and impacting on the rights of people on the move, in September, OHCHR and the University of Essex launched a joint study, ***Digital border governance: a human rights-based approach***. The study analyses the human rights implications and provides recommendations on how to take a HRBA to ensure use of digital technologies at borders aligns with international human rights law and standards.

OHCHR led efforts to contextualize and socialize the “**#StandUp4Migrants**” **campaign and toolbox**, to promote migrants’ rights and

reframe harmful narratives against migrants and migration, including through the development of communications materials, a dance performance, and a graphic story series on migration and climate change.

Through the “**Faith for Rights**” conversation series with partners, OHCHR fostered a **community of practice and peer-to-peer learning** on religions, beliefs and human rights. Discussions focused on the universality and indivisibility of all human rights without discrimination on any ground. Further, a roundtable in November was organized at the Geneva Academy focusing on addressing religious hatred.

OHCHR and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) collaborated on the **2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup** in Australia and New Zealand, with a focus on **non-discrimination, inclusion, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples**. During the tournament, key messages and the OHCHR logo were promoted inside the stadiums, reaching thousands of spectators.

For the first time, the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** was asked to submit an amicus brief to the Human Rights Committee on a joint communication dealing with Indigenous Peoples’ rights. An 11-page third party intervention was presented in June, thus enhancing coherence within the UN system and mechanisms, on a rights-based approach to non-discrimination.

The Office supported 16 national “**UN Free & Equal**” **campaigns** for LGBTI persons across four regions, including through: the training of senior police commissioners on the marginalization of LGBTI persons in DRC; sensitization of media representatives in Liberia; partnerships with private sector to reduce discrimination in the workplace in Albania; and partnerships with three universities to reduce bullying in educational settings in Timor-Leste. The global campaign achieved 121.6 million impressions and 41.5 million engagements, with 46.1 million

video views and over 228,000 followers, through social media channels.

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OHCHR engaged with Cuban experts on the National Programme for the Advancement of Women and the Comprehensive Strategy for the Prevention and Attention to Gender-based Violence in the Family Setting. Following the Office's advocacy on the importance of public data, the **Cuban Observatory on Gender Equality** was inaugurated in June as a mechanism to give visibility to socio-economic indicators related to women in Cuba.

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OHCHR data on SDG indicator 16.b.1/10.3.1 revealed that one in six persons globally have experienced discrimination in the previous 12 months. Further, one in three persons with disabilities experienced discrimination, twice the rate of persons without disabilities. Racial discrimination, related to ethnicity, colour or language, is among the most common grounds of discrimination. Despite the crucial role national human rights institutions play in helping States address human rights violations, 60 per cent of Member States still lack independent NHRIs.

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In 2023, within the framework of the **OHCHR Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent**, OHCHR welcomed 10 fellows (7 women) from 10 countries (Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Jamaica, Lebanon, Panama, Portugal and the United States of America). The Fellowship Programme aims to empower activists, to enhance their capacity as rights holders and to further strengthen the existing global network of OHCHR former fellows of African descent. For the first time since the establishment of the programme, young female activists from Bolivia, Lebanon and Portugal benefited from training.

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The second session of the **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent** took place from 30 May to 2 June, under the theme “Realizing the dream: a UN declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.” The event was attended by approximately 900 participants

including Member States, United Nations entities and civil society representatives from more than 85 countries, as well as additional participants online. The Forum concluded with recommendations including on global reparatory justice, transnational migration, an evidence-based approach to addressing systemic and structural racism, the need for an informal Pan-African Group of States to build solidarity between Africa and the diaspora, and the issue of health and intergenerational trauma.





## Accountability (A)

### Strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations.

OHCHR published a **fact-finding report on the March 2022 events of Moura, Mali**. The report concluded there are strong indications that more than 500 people were killed - the vast majority summarily executed by Malian troops and foreign military personnel - during a five-day military operation in the village of Moura in the Mopti region of central Mali. It called for the Malian authorities to conduct an independent, impartial, and transparent investigation with a view to holding those responsible to account.

The High Commissioner's report, *Human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem* (A/HRC/54/53) was widely welcomed by States and civil society, including through a statement at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs signed by 49 States as a clarification of a rights-based approach to drug policy, and strong input to the 2024 review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on countering the world drug problem.

The **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture** awarded 184 annual direct assistance grants, 6 capacity-building grants and 9 emergency grants to rehabilitation centres and legal aid programmes in 92 countries, in all five of the world's regions, thereby assisting an estimated 59,500 survivors of torture and their family members. The Fund's Board of Trustees recommended continuing this support in 2024

through 183 annual direct assistance grants and 7 capacity-building grants for CSOs to support approximately 50,000 survivors in 93 countries.

The **United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery** awarded 38 direct assistance grants to rehabilitation centres, trade unions, shelters for victims and legal redress programmes in 32 countries, in all five of the world's regions, thereby assisting more than 7,700 survivors of slavery. In addition, nine grants were awarded under the Special Call for the Sahel region to address the needs of survivors of traditional/descent-based slavery, assisting some 4,400 survivors. The Fund's Board of Trustees recommended strengthening this support in 2024 through 45 annual grants for CSOs, which will assist approximately 10,800 survivors in 35 countries.

OHCHR continued to advocate for **abolishing the death penalty**. The Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, issued a communication to the United States of America, raising concerns and the Human Rights Committee also covered the topic extensively during its regular review of the State Party.

OHCHR provided legal advice on draft laws to **establish NHRIs**, ensuring compliance with the Paris Principles, in 10 countries: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Eswatini, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan,

Mozambique, Namibia, Suriname, Sweden and Uganda.

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To build capacities and promote exchanges, OHCHR organized the MENA regional meeting on “Lessons learned and good practices of transitional justice, in the context of sustaining peace and sustainable development, notably SDG 16,” in Rabat, Morocco, as mandated by HRC resolution 51/23 on **human rights and transitional justice**. A total of 25 transitional justice experts and practitioners (11 women) from Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen, attended.

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OHCHR continued implementing the **Internal Security Forces project** in Chad, Niger and Mauritania to prevent human rights violations during law enforcement operations and to investigate and address them when they occur. Over 1,700 elements of the Police, Gendarmerie and National Guard, 915 CSO members, and NHRI members were involved in human rights trainings, workshops and awareness-raising sessions.

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OHCHR continued its technical assistance to **align counter-terrorism legislation with human rights**. In Sri Lanka, the new draft law is to be reviewed pending further consultations. In China, OHCHR followed up on the assessment report on the human rights situation in Xinjiang. OHCHR held a virtual dialogue with Chinese judicial and security ministries on counter-terrorism laws and human rights in May.

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OHCHR strengthened the **integration of a gender perspective in documentation, analyses and reporting on human rights violations**, by field presences and investigative bodies in country operations including Afghanistan, CAR, the DRC, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, the State of Palestine, Sudan, and Ukraine, and in international investigative bodies including Belarus, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, and Venezuela.

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OHCHR participated in joint UN efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), including through the de-

velopment of a **guidance note on applying a survivor-centred approach to CRSV**.

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OHCHR assisted members of the **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)** in conducting eight visits, to Croatia, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, the Philippines, South Africa and the State of Palestine. It also assisted in the drafting of respective reports to State bodies and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), as well contributing to SPT’s work on its first general comment on the definition of places of deprivation of liberty, and a public consultation on the first draft of the text, with more than 80 submissions.

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In October, the HRC established the **Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan** through resolution A/HRC/RES/54/2, following which OHCHR established a start-up team to operationalize the new investigative body. In addition, the Office established a start-up team to operationalize the mandate received for the **Fact-Finding Mission on Iran** and provided operational and substantive support for the undertaking of investigations. The Office has also made significant progress in the roll-out of new information management and e-discovery tools for investigative bodies, as well as in addressing the communications needs of all investigative bodies through the recruitment of a new public information officer. In 2023, 24 press releases were issued, eight press conferences organized, interviews arranged for experts and commissioners of investigative bodies, and a media strategy developed for the Fact-Finding Mission on Iran.



## Participation (P)

### Enhancing participation and protecting civic space.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation in the work of the HRC and published the *Report on the expert workshop on possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council* (A/HRC/53/44).

OHCHR advocated for stronger legislations for the participation of people of African descent through the development of the guidance note on *How to effectively implement the right to participate in public affairs: a spotlight on people of African descent*. The note outlines recommendations for States to fulfil their obligation to facilitate meaningful, inclusive and safe participation by people of African descent.

OHCHR published a report in May, on the *Human rights impacts of new technologies on civic space in South-East Asia*, raising concerns on the use of digital technologies to target critics, surveil and harass dissenting voices. The report draws attention to laws and regulations restricting freedoms of expression, association and privacy in the online space and provides recommendations to ensure human rights are protected in the digital domain.

In collaboration with National Statistical Offices, NHRIs, and NGOs in Kenya and the

Philippines, a systematic data collection process on attacks against HRDs and journalists has been established in line with SDG 16.10.1 and following OHCHR methodology. OHCHR is advocating with other NHRIs to do the same.

OHCHR amplified the voice of minority artists and HRDs by organizing the **second edition of the International Art Contest for Minority Artists**, under the theme of intersectionality. The contest exposed, explored and addressed matters relating to intersectionality and compounded forms of discrimination through artwork.

The **Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes** resumed in-person gathering in Geneva, with the participation of 47 Indigenous representatives from 30 countries (26 women) and 25 minority representatives from 22 countries (14 women) belonging to either national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. OHCHR stepped up its response to address acts of intimidation and reprisals against Indigenous HRDs who cooperate with the UN and added a module on reprisals and intimidations in the curriculum of the Fellowship Programmes.

The **UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples** supported the participation of 115 Indigenous representatives (66 women) in 14 UN meetings and processes. For the first time, the Fund also extended support to regional meetings such as

the Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and the bi-regional meetings of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platforms (LCIPP).

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OHCHR strengthened CSO knowledge on **engaging with the international human rights mechanisms and preventing and addressing reprisals** for cooperation with the UN. OHCHR also engaged with national authorities on individual cases of HRDs, victims of intimidation and reprisals for submitting information to the UN in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India, Mali, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Viet Nam.

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OHCHR continued working with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights under the **joint action plan on the protection of HRDs in the Americas**, to share information on issues and cases of concern and jointly follow up, including through public statements.

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In November, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on extra judicial summary or arbitrary executions sent a joint allegation letter to the Government of Chile and issued a press release emphasizing the importance of **holding accountable those at the highest levels of the chain of command for human rights violations committed during the mass demonstrations in 2019-2020**. In January 2024, the Centre-North Metropolitan Region Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment against three senior carabinero commanders for their alleged involvement.

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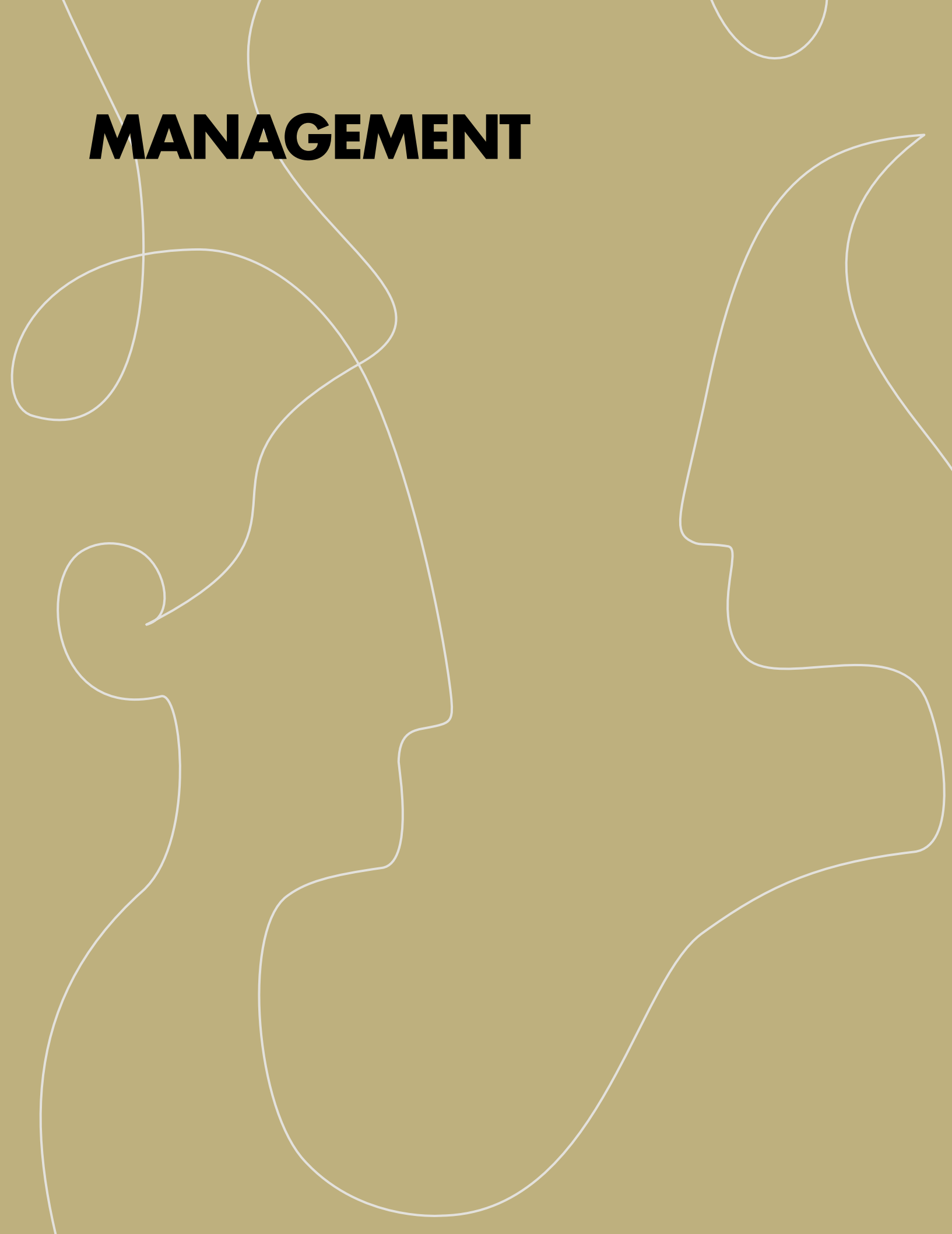
OHCHR **strengthened youth engagement** through human rights education activities, such as workshops for Scouts, the release and dissemination of the documentary *Changemakers: Stories of young human rights educators*, and increased partnership with youth-led and youth-focused organizations. As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR established a HR75 Youth Advisory Group to ensure meaningful engagement with young people. Twelve young

human rights advocates from different regions were selected and engaged in the development of the HR75 Youth Declaration, which was developed based on wider consultations with young people. The Declaration was presented at the high-level event held in Geneva, in December.

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In Egypt, OHCHR in partnership with the National Council for Human rights, organized a workshop on “**Using a human rights-based approach in media and journalistic work**,” in March, in Cairo, for 25 journalists (12 women), to strengthen their capacity to protect and promote human rights.

# MANAGEMENT





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

## Accountability and governance framework

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### INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING

Office-wide decision-making takes place through the Senior Management Team, which is chaired by the High Commissioner, and the Programme and Budget Review Board, which is chaired by the Deputy High Commissioner. These two bodies meet regularly and play a pivotal role in fostering a results-oriented approach, and making recommendations on policies, operating procedures and programmes and resource allocations.

The **Senior Management Team (SMT)** convened eight meetings in 2023 comprising four regular meetings and four senior leadership retreats to make decisions on policy and organizational effectiveness-related matters. The regular meetings focused on security forces, disability rights, humanitarian action, and OHCHR evaluations, and facilitated the development of a draft strategy for engagement with security forces, a strategy for humanitarian action, a new evaluation policy, and an updated disability action plan. The senior leadership retreats resulted in the launch of a participatory Organizational Effectiveness change process (OE 2.0) aimed at supporting a more effective and efficient implementation of OHCHR's mandate. The process entailed reviewing the efficacy of OHCHR's global configuration, functions, work processes, and organizational structure and culture, with the aim to make OHCHR more effective in responding to demands and emerging needs, and to be fit for the future. Through this process, OHCHR seeks to strengthen capabilities in innovation, data utilisation, strategic foresight, and results orientation.

The efficiency of the **Programme and Budget Review Board (PBRB)** meetings and decision-making processes were enhanced through electronic reviews for new funding proposals. As of 5 December, the PBRB had successfully assessed and reviewed 65 fundraising and fund allocation proposals, including 28 from headquarters and 32 from the field. The guidance implemented on cost recovery for funding proposals contributed to enhancing fund management and in reducing the funding gap.

Under the leadership of the Deputy High Commissioner, the **Policy Advisory Group (PAG)** and the extended **Policy Advisory Group (ePAG)**, provided additional forums for senior managers to exchange views on policy, organizational change and management, while ensuring that decisions are informed by lessons learned and good practices.

In 2023, three **ePAG** meetings were held, focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on the workplace, discussing OHCHR's work on the human rights economy, and the critical issue of anti-corruption. To respond strategically to challenges that arose from the pandemic, OHCHR conducted an office-wide lessons learned exercise in 2023. The resulting report presented actionable recommendations in six key areas: flexible working arrangements, a connected and collaborative workforce, cost-saving travel policies, technological transformation, staff mental health services, and crisis preparedness. The recommendations are being implemented within the OE 2.0 process and in line with overarching strategies such as the Digital Transformation Strategy.

# Results-based management

## 328 PLANNING

The OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) combines the High Commissioner’s vision for the Office with a results-based framework. The Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights guides its priorities and results. It details OHCHR’s priorities, expected results and strategies and is a tool to hold OHCHR accountable to the people it serves, Member States and the entire UN system.

Although the OMP usually covers four years, the Office extended its 2018-2021 OMP through 2023. The 2024-2027 OMP is under development and is shaped by broad consultations held in the context of the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative throughout 2023 with Member States, the United Nations System, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders, as well as by the OE 2.0 process. At the end of 2023, senior management undertook a scanning the horizon exercise, based on trends reports, and reviewed the information gathered through the HR75 Initiative to define the strategic directions that guide the development of the new OMP. The 2024-2027 OMP will be released in July 2024.

## EVALUATION

During the programme cycle 2018-2023, 48 assessments, including evaluations, internal reviews and other evaluative exercises were conducted, managed, or supported by OHCHR. Evaluation reports are uploaded to the evaluation section on the Office’s [website](#) and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) [portal](#), jointly with the respective management responses and action plans to implement their recommendations.

During 2023, seven evaluations were finalized: the evaluation of the UN Human Rights annual report and annual appeal; the evaluation of the Uganda country programme; the evaluation of the project, “Advancing justice and human rights in Syria: promoting a more inclusive, victim-centric approach to justice and human rights;” the evaluation of the project to “Reinforce OHCHR’s capacity to support investigative bodies;” the internal evaluation of the OHCHR country programme in Guatemala; the internal assessment of the technical cooperation programme between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and OHCHR; and a COVID-19 lessons learned exercise. Management responses for the completed evaluations were prepared and submitted to the PBRB, including action plans for implementing their recommendations. These evaluations contribute to enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of our programmes at the country level, and the efficiency of the Office’s internal processes.

Three additional evaluations were begun during 2023 and will be completed in 2024: the evaluation of the Danish-funded project on migration and climate change (CLIMIS); the “Global drive for media freedom, access to information and the safety of journalists;” and the country programme in Ukraine.

Management responses and action plans started in 2022 were finalized and submitted to the PBRB for implementation of the recommendations in evaluations conducted for the following: the Sudan country programme; the OHCHR project, “Widening democratic space, strengthening the rule of law and promoting respect for and protection of human rights in Thailand;” and the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) programme.

OHCHR supported the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in conducting three reviews and evaluations. These included a *Synthesis review on advancing gender equality in the United Nations Secretariat* and a *Thematic evaluation of the Secretariat's support for the SDGs*. OHCHR also assisted with an OIOS report on *Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery, and policy directives*. Additionally, OHCHR supported an evaluation conducted by the European Union (EU) in the context of the G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project.

Evaluation recommendations were monitored, and their progress reported to the PBRB every six months. Evaluation data is used to assess the current programming cycle's relevance and to prepare for the next cycle. The database and mailing list of evaluation consultants have been maintained, as well as the repositories of evaluation reports on OHCHR's intranet, external website and the UNEG portal.

OHCHR's evaluation policy has been updated in accordance with the evaluation guidance framework. A meta-analysis of evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations relating to disability inclusion was conducted in 2023, covering the cycle of evaluations from 2018-2023 to inform the development of the next OMP. An overall meta-synthesis of evaluations and reviews conducted during the programming cycle 2018-2023 has been finalized and was also used as input into the environmental scanning phase of the OMP preparations.

Finally, gender equality and disability inclusion continued to be mainstreamed into the evaluation processes. This was reported during the reporting cycles of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP) and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS). As co-convener of the UNEG Working Group on gender, disability and human rights, the Office contributed to their integration into evaluations across the UN System. In 2023, OHCHR joined the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) steering group, to contribute to system-wide evaluations of humanitarian contexts. OHCHR is also a member

of the IAHE Working Group to revise the IAHE process guidelines.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

In 2023, OHCHR maintained its office-wide Risk Register, implementing the risk treatment and response plans for the very high and high levels of risk categories. The Risk Register was updated, and the progress of implementing the risk treatment and response plans was reported to the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC).

Risk management is included in OHCHR's Annual Workplan process, as well as its mid-year and end-of-year review processes, with entities required to report on their actions in relation to risk management.

OHCHR continued participating in the United Nations Working Group on Enterprise Risk Management, contributing to the Secretariat-wide risk management initiative.

# Organizational effectiveness results

**330** UN Human Rights defined ten interrelated Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs) in the extended OMP. These plans outline the necessary changes to internal work processes and operating systems to enhance operational relevance and efficiency, and to improve programme delivery. The results were set at the output level in the 2023

annual workplans. The following data shows OHCHR’s progress towards planned results and is based on self-assessments undertaken by reporting entities.

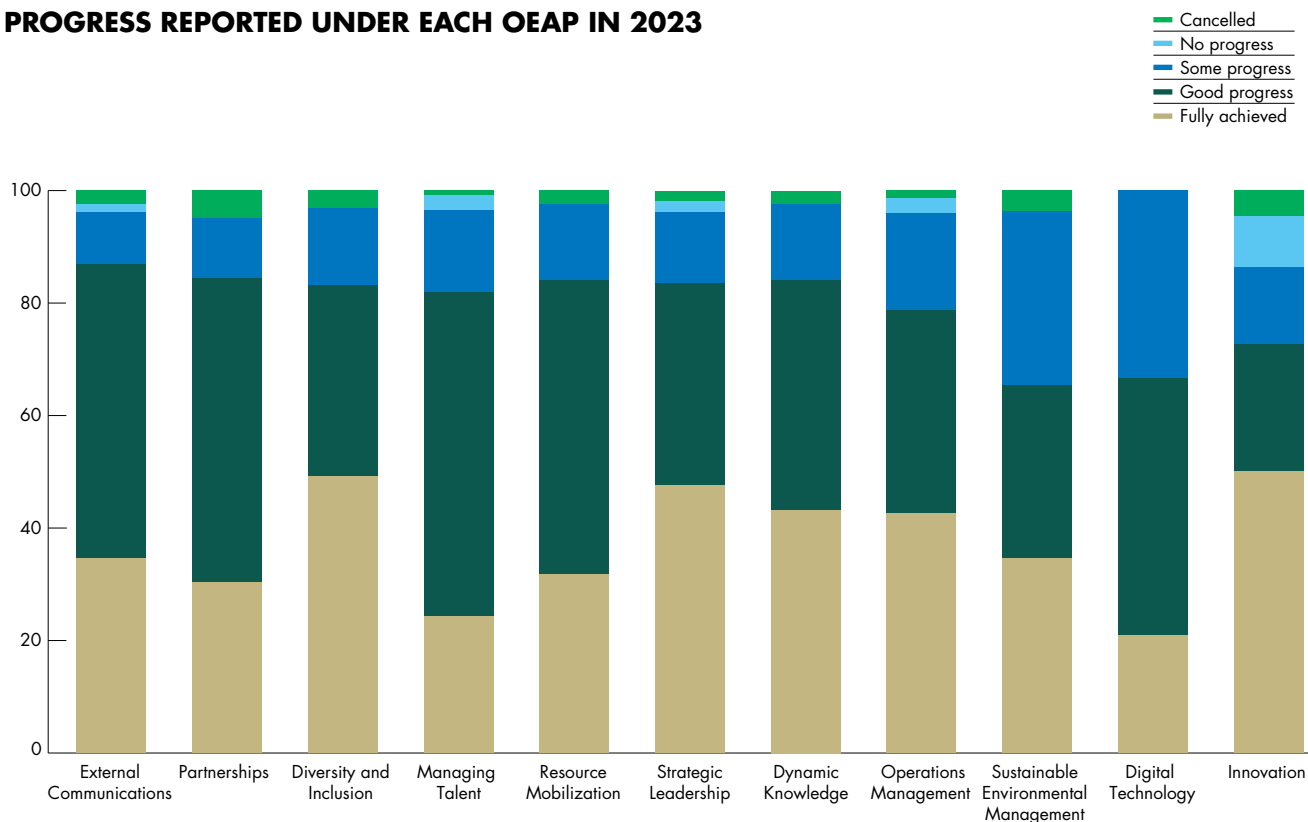
## ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS ACTION PLANS (OEAPS)



### LEVEL OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OEAP RESULTS

Progress on outputs planned for 2023 was visible with 68 per cent of outputs being reported as having attained good progress or fully achieved. Outputs indicated as having reached some progress constituted 11.6 per cent. Approximately 3.1 per cent of the outputs were listed as cancelled and with no progress, primarily due to a lack of resources or external factors such as political circumstances.

### PROGRESS REPORTED UNDER EACH OEAP IN 2023







## STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION

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

The OEAP aimed to ensure that OHCHR is fit for purpose to deliver its mandate, with a strategic direction that responds to the changing global context, and through inspirational leaders who focus on results. The OEAP emphasized leadership and operational guidance, effective and efficient functioning of internal governance bodies, inclusive decision-making, and results-based programming that is aligned with the strategic direction.

### Highlights of results in 2023

- In response to the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) assessment and several evaluations highlighting the need to demonstrate an in-house project management capacity to deliver results in a timely manner and meet funding partners' requirements, OHCHR established a **project management support team**. The team provides substantive support, guidance, and quality assurance for project management proposals, project implementation, monitoring and reporting. It aims to standardize the project development and review processes. As part of this effort, an intranet page was developed, including new guidance on project governance and management structures. An assessment on possible IT support modules for project management was undertaken and recommendations were proposed.
- Also, as part of the efforts to **strengthen project management and RBM** implementation in OHCHR, a capacity-building strategy was defined and started to be implemented. A training of trainers was held in September, equipping 23 staff members (18 women) to deliver a two-day RBM training programme. Participants will deliver trainings in more than 20 field presences in 2024. Further, an OHCHR RBM Community of Practice has been established, providing a platform to exchange on practical knowledge and stimulate peer-to-peer learning. The network has 102 members

including the 23 RBM trainers. The first session enabled sharing tips and experiences to ensure the timely submission of quality end-of-year reports.

- **Internal information sharing was strengthened** through regular updates via the Weekly Update emails, the High Commissioner's podcast, and staff-wide meetings. Further, additional meetings were held on specific topics such as the Organizational Effectiveness OE 2.0 exercise, the HR75 Initiative, and the new OMP planning process. Decisions made by governance bodies were made accessible to all staff through the online decision-tracking system, which was created as part of OHCHR's larger accountability framework.
- **Evidence-based programming** was enhanced through the implementation of the Evaluation Plan and finalization of seven evaluations.



## DYNAMIC KNOWLEDGE

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

The OEAP progressed with continued investments to equip and support OHCHR staff to leverage its knowledge, practices, and evidence-based lessons learned for human rights.

### Highlights of results in 2023

- As part of the HR75 Initiative, OHCHR launched a challenge to **increase the number of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) translations** to expand the Library collection. In 2023, the collection grew to 562 translations, integrating new translations from Africa, Asia and Europe. The UDHR remains one of the most translated documents in the world, facilitating access for an even wider public to knowledge about their basic human rights.
- OHCHR continued to **update its e-resource guides**. The International Commissions of Inquiry, Fact-finding Missions electronic resource guide, developed by the OHCHR Library continues to attract clients, with 11,076 views. More than 19,000 searches were done

via the Library online catalogue, representing an increase of 14.5 per cent compared to 2022 levels.

- The OHCHR Library supported the setting up of a **new Sanctions Research Platform**. The platform provides a comprehensive online repository of resources and research related to unilateral sanctions and their impact on human rights. The platform is open and available to all public and contains resources in all six official UN languages.
- The Library also invested in the creation of a **new comprehensive electronic LibGuide** on the UDHR, which includes 12 new thematic electronic resource guides focused on the 12 themes that were spotlighted by OHCHR as part of the HR75 Initiative. These resources are accessible to the public at large.
- OHCHR assumed a central role in the **UN Library and Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (UNLINKS) 2023 annual meeting**. It led an exercise consolidating 14 good practices of UN libraries that showcase how they promote human rights with their products and services. This, coupled with live discussions and knowledge sharing amongst participating libraries, helped to identify actions reflected in the HR75 pledges that UNLINKS libraries and documentation centres committed to further promote human rights.
- The **OHCHR Intranet and Knowledge Hub project**, a key element of OHCHR's digital transformation, entered its last stage. Phase 3 of the project is focused on releasing new features including an interactive organigramme and a Who is Who that will facilitate locating expertise across OHCHR, a global calendar, and dynamic knowledge graphs that will bring together relevant content and experts in search results based on the adopted taxonomy. The new platform will be launched in 2024 and will become OHCHR's internal communications and knowledge management one-stop-shop to better connect OHCHR's workforce globally.
- To enhance knowledge management, OHCHR provided trainings and facilitated **knowledge exchange via Communities of Practice (CoPs)**. For instance, OHCHR LusofONU, a CoP of Portuguese speaking OHCHR human rights officers, hosted the sharing of resources amongst

colleagues in Lusophone countries. A new LGBTI and human rights CoP also emerged to facilitate knowledge exchange amongst practitioners advancing OHCHR's work in this area.

- OHCHR undertook a **lessons learned exercise on the OHCHR G5 Sahel project** implemented between 2018 and 2023 to assist the G5 Sahel Joint Force in implementing a compliance framework on human rights and international humanitarian law. More than 70 key stakeholder interviews were undertaken virtually and in person in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. Overall, the project was found to have positively contributed to addressing violations by the G5 Sahel Joint Force against civilians by both non-State armed groups and State security forces in the region. The lessons learned also underlined the importance of integrated approaches to addressing human rights and security challenges at regional and national level. Reports were shared internally and externally with partners.



## INNOVATION

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

The OEAP promotes innovation across OHCHR through an internal system of incentives, an annual Innovation Challenge and an Innovation Engine.

Several projects were implemented through the Office's Innovation Engine and with the Innovation and Sustainable Development Master's programme at the University of Geneva, including projects on artificial intelligence (AI), human rights indicators and data production, stocktaking of innovation efforts, and mapping challenges to inform the next OMP.

## Highlights of results in 2023

- A project exploring the **use of AI to open-source information** has led to an exponential increase in our capacity to gather human rights information. The project team developed AI for automatically processing open-source information in search of leads on attacks against human

rights defenders and protests experiencing violent repression. This new approach increased the number of leads on human rights attacks on defenders from on average several hundred per year to 450 per day. The AI models were trained and developed to apply human rights definitions and thresholds so that the leads flow seamlessly into further human rights monitoring and verification, investigations and analysis.

- A cross-divisional project used **behavioural science to change how staff interact with digital tools**. The project aimed to reduce the Office's digital carbon footprint and, through a targeted awareness campaign, sensitize staff on the impact of daily digital work practices, covering the carbon footprint of the internet, emails, and virtual meetings. This resulted in 172 colleagues signing a pledge to reduce their digital online footprint. A pilot project will run through the first quarter of 2024 to experiment with using a default calendar set to reduce the duration of online meetings. This may contribute to adopting shorter meetings by default, contributing to both improvements for the environment and enhanced efficiencies. A post-pilot survey is planned in 2024 to analyse the extent of changes in staff behaviour concerning online meeting duration, email frequency and use of attachments or adoption of links as default practices.
- Another project aimed to **promote knowledge sharing and matrix work behaviours using behavioural science**. The project defined a behavioural science-based road map to implement the new OHCHR knowledge management policy and strategy. The objective is to step up the application of behavioural science to enhance OHCHR's organizational culture, resulting in knowledge-sharing behaviours and a more connected workforce. Results from the initiative will be consolidated in 2024.
- A system of incentives was established, with **innovation courses and design thinking workshops** for interested staff. Eleven staff members learned to apply innovative practices into their work through the Innovation Programme conducted by the United Nations System Staff College. Participants used real projects as case studies, putting directly into practice knowledge gained. The experiences

from this course will be shared with staff during the next innovation challenge in 2024.

- OHCHR conducted a **comprehensive meta-analysis**, examining the performance of programmes and projects, and assessing external and internal evaluation reports. Evaluations provided detailed findings, good practices, lessons learned, and recommendations. Findings were shared with other UN entities, and reports have been valuable in developing the strategic direction for the next OMP.



## SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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

OHCHR continued to advance the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment by mainstreaming environmental sustainability throughout OHCHR's operations and programming. The Sustainable Environmental Management (SEM) Group supported the development of the OHCHR Environmental Management System (EMS) in alignment with ISO 14001:2015, leading to the development of a sustainability policy, a SEM communication strategy and an EMS action plan. OHCHR also continues to engage staff in sustainable environmental activities and through the internal SEM e-course for environmental knowledge development and awareness, and capacity-building; seminars; the Green Fund; and collaboration and partnerships.

### Highlights of results in 2023

- The SEM Group focused on **increasing in-country presence reporting of real carbon footprint data**, resulting in 37 locations compared to 25 in 2022. OHCHR's overall carbon emissions for 2022 (calculated and reported in 2023, in line with UNEP's Greening the Blue Initiative) were 7,643 metric tons of carbon emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) or 3.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person, compared to 3,868 tCO<sub>2</sub>e or 2.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person in 2021. The rise can be attributed

to factors such as enhanced reporting accuracy, reduced COVID-19 travel restrictions, and increased OHCHR staff and programmes. Nevertheless, the 2022 carbon footprint remains below the UN average of 4.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person and is still a significant reduction compared to OHCHR's 2019 levels of 5.6 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person. Travel related emissions constituted 62 per cent of the total, with air travel being the predominant contributor. In this regard, OHCHR approved a 3 per cent carbon levy on air tickets purchased by OHCHR to be implemented as of 2024.

- OHCHR strengthened its commitment to **sustainability and global environmental initiatives** through collaboration with UN counterparts, and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). OHCHR also joined other UN agencies and international Geneva in signing the new 2050Today Charter to establish a shared framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Two **Green Fund projects** were supported aiming to lower electricity costs, greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality in Ukraine and Venezuela.
- OHCHR developed information materials and organized coffee briefings to enhance staff **behaviour change, capacity, and awareness**, including for human rights mechanisms with respect to sustainable environmental management.
- The **SEM focal point network** expanded to cover 54 per cent of in-country presences and 86 per cent of planning units.

## Navigating energy disruptions in Ukraine through sustainable environmental management

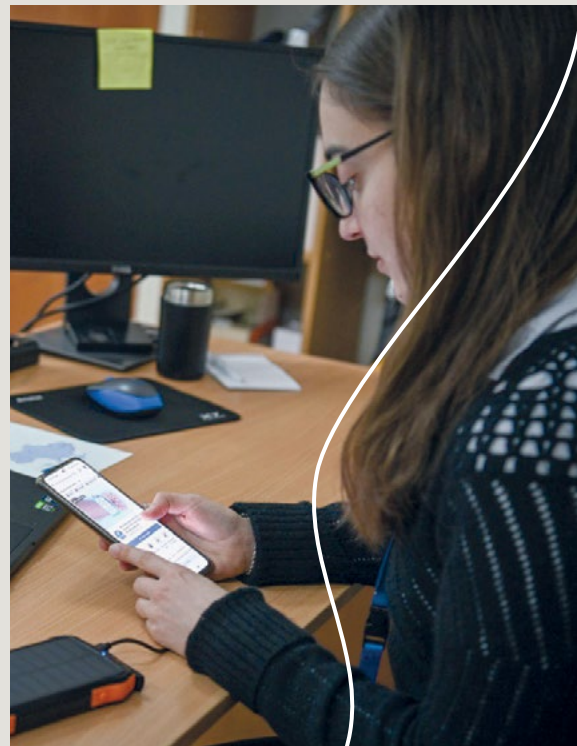
“The mobile solar charger proved invaluable, especially during evening hours. Given the outage of street lighting, the flashlight charged by the solar chargers assisted in ensuring my secure journey home,” remarked Anna, OHCHR staff of the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

In the autumn-winter seasons of 2022 and 2023, Ukraine experienced notable energy disruptions resulting from the Russian Federation’s attacks to Ukrainian energy infrastructure. Responding to the crisis, the OHCHR staff in Ukraine exhibited resilience by securing portable solar chargers through the Green Fund. These devices proved crucial in sustaining essential equipment including mobile phones, Wi-Fi routers, and USB lamps during times of limited electricity.

In 2023, OHCHR supported a 7KVA (kilo-volt-amperes) solar energy system for its Kyiv Head Office, meeting minimum requirements for sustaining laptops and basic heating for staff.

The current energy demand of the Kyiv Head Office results in approximately 75,600 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually. The introduction of the 7KVA solar panels is expected to reduce current emissions by about one-third, equivalent to 25,200 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum. This eco-friendly initiative, the first of its kind in the business park where the Kyiv Office is located, serves as a potential model for wider adoption. OHCHR Ukraine also aligned its operational practices with global environmental standards, implementing measures such as enhanced waste reduction, recycling, and a transition to hybrid vehicles. The strategic management of the vehicle fleet led to a significant cumulative reduction of 175,593.6 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2023 solely from vehicle management.

These sustainable practices not only ensured uninterrupted OHCHR operations during blackouts but also addressed personal needs of staff, providing essential illumination and navigation tools. Colleagues praised the solar initiatives for their practical value, emphasizing their role in securing staff well-being and mission continuity in adverse conditions. The experience highlights the importance of sustainable environmental measures, showcasing dual benefits in both ecological impact and operational resilience.



UN Human Rights staff benefiting from the adoption of the new solar energy system, in Kyiv, Ukraine. © OHCHR





## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

UN Human Rights shaped its messaging to support the HR75 Initiative. It also continued to explore new storytelling formats through a greater range of multimedia storytelling products made via our social media platforms and website, while working to expand target audiences.

At the same time, OHCHR continues to face challenges in communicating about human rights, against the backdrop of decreasing civic space, widespread conflicts and increasing scepticism about the efficacy of human rights. The Office strengthened the production of “hope-based” communications, and communications resonating with grassroots movements and communities on current affairs, in attractive multimedia formats.

### Highlights of results in 2023

- As part of the HR75 Initiative, **storytelling was enhanced** with the production of 42 inspiring videos, a series of stories focusing on the monthly thematic spotlights and a countdown highlighting 75 positive stories, aiming to inspire people and encourage them to take action.
- To **reach new audiences**, several well-known personalities were mobilized to take part in the HR75 outreach campaign: Ahmed Joudeh, Angelique Kidjo, Caster Semenya, Eudoxie Bridges, Ingrid Silva, Jane Goodall, Kirsten Neuschafer, Morgan Freeman, Nyle DiMarco, Sara Curruchich and Vinicius Junior.
- Interest in **OHCHR's social media channels** increased, as illustrated by nearly 12 million followers of the headquarters and field presence channels, compared to 10.5 million followers in 2020.
- The speechwriting team produced a total of 223 texts including speeches, video messages, and op-eds. The spokespeople produced and published 260 media products including 26 media advisories, 100 press releases, 56 briefing notes and 76 media statements. The

audio-visual officer produced materials that resulted in 771 TV stories across the globe. These efforts generated significant **media interest and pick-up**, in particular on high-profile country situations such as Afghanistan, Myanmar, the State of Palestine,<sup>27</sup> and Sudan, as well as on issues such as Quran burnings, digital technologies, and sensitive topics.

- To support the treaty bodies, 98 media products including 30 media advisories, 63 press releases and five media statements were produced. To support the special procedures, 383 media products were edited and issued. **Increased visibility of the mechanisms** led to increased demand for interviews from national and international media.

<sup>27</sup> All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.



## Human Rights 75 Open Days at Palais Wilson

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As part of the HR75 activities, about 3,000 visitors joined Palais Wilson to learn about the history of the building, human rights and the work of the Office through inspiring expositions, an audio guide recorded by a historian, a treasure hunt, human rights quiz, a range of children's activities, photo-taking at a historic selfie booth, and printing of historic declarations at the Gutenberg press.

The High Commissioner welcomed Swiss authorities, and a local radio programme broadcasted a four-hour show on human rights, from Palais Wilson with participation from OHCHR staff talking about their work.

In addition, a dedicated day for young people gathered around 300 pupils from 17 classes, mainly from Geneva public schools. The pupils participated in an interactive visit that included a treasure hunt that allowed them to better understand the importance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the UDHR.



Visitors learn about human rights and the work of the Office on Open Day at Palais Wilson, UN Human Rights' headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. © OHCHR/ Pierre Albouy



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

UN Human Rights culture and workforce are more diverse and inclusive. Staff are treated with equality, dignity and respect, and greater data usage informs decision-making with established accountability measures.

OHCHR continued to foster a more inclusive and diverse workforce and culture. Strengthened recruitment practices contributed to improved regional group diversity and towards the equal representation of women in realizing a gender-balanced workforce in all staff categories and at all levels. The Office expanded access to entry level employment opportunities for youth, including from developing economies of the global south.

Workplace practices comprising values-based behaviour, workplace flexibility, and family-friendly policies have helped staff to improve work-life balance, and briefings and messaging on anti-racism, sexual harassment and standards of conduct have contributed to enabling a more respectful and inclusive workplace.

### Highlights of results in 2023

- **Strengthened recruitment practices**, including through improved candidate assessment and information, contributed to improved regional group diversity, and a reduction in staff from the Western European and Other Group from 50 to 45 per cent over the past four years.
- **Enhanced staffing data** informs a human resources life-cycle approach to gender in the context of workforce planning, outreach, talent development and learning, coaching and mentoring, and performance management.
- The Office increased opportunities for youth, including from developing economies of the global south, to gain employment and benefit from professional work experience. For instance, the Office facilitated an **increase in P2 entry-level positions** and **expanded the University United Nations Volunteers (UUNV) programme**, enabling 17 UUNVs to learn about and contribute to the work of OHCHR.
- The use of the **human resources dashboards** enabled greater visibility and granularity of

staffing data to inform management and leadership on geographical diversity and gender parity for regular appointments at the Office, Division and Branch levels.

- The **OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme** completed its third iteration in the Country Offices of Guatemala and Syria, focusing on diversity and inclusion, gender equality, value-based behaviour, and instilling a positive office culture.
- OHCHR continued engaging and collaborating with **inter-agency working groups** on disability, anti-racism and racial discrimination, sexual harassment, youth, gender equality, and geographical diversity. For example, the Office partnered with other UN entities to deliver a dedicated event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



## MANAGING TALENT

UN Human Rights is actively unleashing the full potential of its staff by recognizing talent and making career management accessible to all.

OHCHR facilitated a combination of career support options and outreach initiatives to enhance staff development and assist a rejuvenated workforce. Career opportunities in the Office were disseminated through talent networks for staff, and former volunteers and interns, with outreach activities concentrating on universities from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States, aiming at promoting wider geographical recruitment.

A coaching service supports staff in their career management, and the introduction of entry level positions provides opportunities for young and talented people, including those from developing economies of the Global South. Non-staff personnel, such as fellows, also benefited from career development advice and coaching.

Data analytics and the establishment of human resources dashboards has been at the centre of workforce planning, contributing to enhanced decision-making for recruitment selections, and allowing greater visibility and transparency towards a more diverse, and geographically and gender-balanced workforce.

## Highlights of results in 2023

- **Six career conversation** events for staff were organized and over 100 hours of coaching services provided. Support was also provided to staff impacted by downsizing exercises.
- **Human resources information briefings** were organized on temporary appointments, performance management, the People Management Index, and mobility.
- OHCHR participated in **outreach activities** at career fairs and conferences to promote the work of OHCHR among students and fellow professionals from international organizations, academia, public sector, and private institutions.
- **Onboarding time** from candidate selection to entry on duty has been reduced from an average of 53 days in 2022 to 49 days in 2023.
- A **voluntary mobility project** for P-3 human rights officers was designed and piloted to increase development opportunities.
- **Over 3,100 individual, and 71 team consultations** were provided on stress management, trauma, secondary trauma, prevention, and practical interventions. Further, weekly well-being activities, including mindfulness, Yoga Nidra and Art Therapy, were organized.

## Supporting the mental health needs of staff in crisis situations

In complex emergency settings, the mental health needs of staff are profoundly affected by the intense and prolonged exposure to violence, displacement, and loss. Given the prevalence of trauma-related conditions is significantly elevated in these environments, for example post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), OHCHR has increased access to psychosocial services for staff working in crisis situations.

A team of consultant psychologists have communicated and connected with country-based teams to provide briefings and individual crisis and trauma support interventions. Staff have been supported and equipped to navigate the demands of a difficult working environment through training on coping mechanisms for managing stress, resilience, and mental health. Managers have also received dedicated support for their own well-being and have received support and guidance on demonstrating empathy and solidarity within teams, encouraging staff to seek help, and responding to the needs of traumatized team members.





## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

**Investment in and support for UN Human Rights expands and funding partners express confidence in the value delivered by these investments.**

UN Human Rights continued to invest in and support the partnership and resource mobilization function across the Office, including in the context of the conflict in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)<sup>28</sup> and the continuing full-scaled armed attack on Ukraine, and deteriorating global financial conditions.

Despite the challenging circumstances, the Office received US\$281.5 million in extrabudgetary resources in 2023, the highest level of voluntary contributions received to date. OHCHR engaged actively with funding partners throughout the year to secure projected contributions, explore opportunities to tap into new and additional funding sources, and advocate for flexible contributions.

The Office more than tripled the revenues from non-traditional partners compared to 2022. OHCHR is also exploring an innovative partnership agreement to upgrade its individual giving system. Looking ahead, UN Human Rights developed its new private sector partnership strategy with a focus on leadership giving and individual giving, and key markets. To strengthen donor visibility, OHCHR launched a dedicated X account for partners on 3 November (@OHCHRPartners).

The Office continues to invest in resource mobilization to build staff capacities and competencies and equip staff with tools and guidance. Efforts to strengthen the resource mobilization function in the field included the recruitment of an outreach officer based in Washington DC. This follows the deployment of resource mobilization officers to the Bangkok, Panama and Pretoria Regional Offices in 2021 and 2022. A new partnership officer based at the Brussels Regional Office will also be deployed in early 2024. Investing in human resources, staff capacities and competencies is essential to ensuring that the support that is needed at the global, regional, and country level can be provided.

## Highlights of results in 2023

- **The highest level of voluntary contributions received to date was secured in 2023, amounting to US\$281.5 million.** During the year, 96 partners contributed, consisting of 71 Member States and 25 non-State partners, including other international organizations and private sector organizations. In 2023, unearmarked contributions accounted for 30 per cent of total voluntary contributions. While representing an increase of 6.4 per cent in absolute terms, it decreased by 3 per cent, as a portion of total contributions, compared to 2022. The high level of earmarking hinders the Office's capacity to allocate resources quickly and flexibly where they are most urgently required and demands constant budgetary adjustments. The Office maintained a strong relationship with its donors during the year, providing regular updates on OHCHR's work through 109 consultations and briefings. A total of 110 funding agreements were signed.
- **Financial support from non-traditional donors more than tripled compared to 2022, from US\$2 million to US\$6.7 million.** Notably, 43 per cent of contributions to the HR75 Initiative were secured from philanthropies. Two new foundations in Switzerland provided financial support to OHCHR for the first time. Further, OHCHR is exploring an innovative partnership agreement to establish an individual giving system for the receipt of recurring donations. Looking ahead, OHCHR developed its new private sector partnership strategy with a focus on leadership giving and individual giving, and key markets. To strengthen donor visibility, OHCHR launched the X account for Partners (for public and private donors) on 3 November. As of 14 February 2024, the account had reached 681 followers and 94.1K tweet impressions.
- **UN Human Rights continued to apply a RBM approach to its fundraising proposals and reporting.** This proved to be critical in building the trust of donors and increasing accountability. The Office submitted 85 results-based fundraising proposals, including on specific spotlight populations (youth, women and persons with disabilities), and 216 narrative and financial reports to donors. Moreover, OHCHR distributed the UN Human Rights

<sup>28</sup> Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.



annual report and annual appeal. Human interest stories were shared through the annual report, annual appeal and the OHCHR website to raise awareness about what the Office does and the impact of its work.

- In line with the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy, and to strengthen OHCHR's organizational effectiveness on Resource Mobilization as identified in the OMP, the Office continued to invest in resource mobilization to build staff capacities and competencies and equip staff with tools and guidance. Deployments to field presences that began in 2021 continued, totalling seven positions at Regional Offices and in Washington DC as of early 2024. Further, efforts to diversify funding streams so as to retain, attract and expand resources mobilized from non-traditional partners (private sector and philanthropic partners) are ongoing, with two partnerships officer posts recruited in 2023. Furthermore, as part of the Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 programme to create an OHCHR fit for the future, resource mobilization processes have been reviewed and key priorities for investment identified including the need for deploying specialized capacity to strengthen field presences and scaling up capacity-building. As part of these efforts, a comprehensive e-learning platform has been developed and launched in February 2024.



## OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

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

This OEAP aims to facilitate and expedite the implementation of mandates through the effective and efficient use of financial, human and physical resources, aided by the use of pertinent IT tools. OHCHR continued implementing its delegation of authority project, equipping field offices with the autonomy and agility to process transactions that are under their responsibility. The Office engaged with and provided financial and budgetary services to all teams, including at headquarters, field projects and emergencies. OHCHR rationalized its

travel arrangements and ensured that procurement considered the principles of transparency, fairness, value for money and sustainable procurement in buying decisions. Human resources continued to provide tailored services for personnel and ensure proper talent management across the Organization.

## Highlights of results in 2023

- A delegation of authority project was initiated to decentralize and delegate Umoja roles to field offices so as to provide them with autonomy and agility to process transactions for their travel, low value acquisition, hiring of consultants and individual contractors, management of implementing partners and asset management. The project seeks to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency in the processing of these transactions and avoid duplication and use of multiple parallel systems in transactions processing. To streamline processes, the Office signed agreements with regional UN Secretariat Service providers for transactional support in the field.
- The Security Team provided **support, guidance and co-ordination of highly sensitive and complex missions** supporting the work of Special Rapporteurs, Treaty Body Experts and the High Commissioner in high-risk and volatile environments. Furthermore, capacity-building training on mitigating security risks was undertaken for OHCHR personnel, experts and other stakeholders involved with the work of the Office.
- The Office engaged with teams, including at headquarters and field-based projects, to provide **financial services** including budget allotments, processing of payments, issuance of financial authorization to field presences and post management. Targeted financial support was also provided to emergencies such as in the oPt and Sudan.
- Travel assistance was provided for 11,675 trips, including the travel of dignitaries from around the world as part of the HR75 Initiative activities; 2,000 low value procurement actions were assisted; logistical and travel related support was provided to staff affected by the crises in the oPt and Sudan under exceptional circumstances.



Delegation of Authority training for the Middle East and North Africa region, in Beirut, Lebanon. © OHCHR



Delegation of Authority training for the Americas region, in Panama City, Panama. © OHCHR





## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

UN Human Rights maximizes its potential and scales up its impact by fully integrating its technology stack and digital services in order to advance its mandate.

This OEAP promotes an enabling environment for technology development, uptake and use within OHCHR. Digital technology is a critical platform for organizational effectiveness and human rights impact. The OEAP addresses several long-term challenges that the Organization faces, including: the structural underfunding of digital technology; the fragmentation of information systems; technology project delivery methods; the underutilization of existing tools; cybersecurity risks; foundational digital skills; and diversity and inclusion. It also encourages OHCHR's leadership to consider institutional arrangements for technology and cyber governance and services.

OHCHR continues to absorb and develop digital technologies to improve operational efficiency by: digitizing paper-based work; interconnecting, rationalizing and instrumentalizing processes to deal with bottlenecks and efficiently deploy resources; better coordinating, collaborating, sharing and managing information and knowledge; and re-thinking policies, practices and technologies to secure and protect data and information. OHCHR takes advantage of the exponential growth in open-source data, with digital transformation supporting the use of technologies to supplement OHCHR's monitoring, investigations, analysis, early warning, prevention and training efforts to address human rights challenges. A key factor in the success of the implementation of its ICT and the digital strategies, is increased investments in the technical teams that provide the backbone of the holistic vision for the digital transformation, which is a key component of the OEAP. OHCHR is also strengthening ICT governance and management to maximize delivery of coherent and fit for purpose solutions, thus enabling an organizationally effective workforce.

## Highlights of results in 2023

- Progress continued on the implementation of **RightsView**, OHCHR's data portal, by integrating human resources and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) datasets, and incorporating a generative AI assistant.
- A **digital complaints submission portal**, enabling victims of human rights violations and their representatives to securely lodge individual complaints to the Treaty Bodies and Human Rights Council (HRC) under their respective complaint procedures, was publicly released. The portal supports complainants with interactive guidance, including initial admissibility checks. It further supports the process of complaints screening and handling by human rights officers through the automatic generation of standard correspondence in four languages. The portal currently covers three complaint procedures, with the possibility to be expanded to other Human Rights mechanisms and procedures with additional development.
- The **OHCHR Events application** was launched, providing a unified platform for stakeholder engagement and submissions related to OHCHR meetings. The system digitized the submission of advanced questions by States for the UPR review process and supports digital real-time drawing of lots, used to determine the order of speakers during UPR Working Group sessions.
- **Over 73,000 individuals benefited from online training service** for staff to increase their capacity to uphold human rights in their daily work and to take appropriate action for human rights protection within their functions.
- A **multi-faceted cybersecurity strategy** was developed addressing challenges for the next 3-5 years. The strategy incorporates aspects of internal capacity-building and awareness as well as advanced monitoring and prevention. As part of the implementation of the strategy, the OHCHR cybersecurity team prepared an overall risk assessment for the Organization, internally developed applications, and delivered 17 training and awareness sessions across the Organization, including to at-risk field offices, and implemented several security and monitoring tools. Cybersecurity threats are increasing in the fields of phishing, multi-channel social engineering and digital supply chain, however,

thanks to the implementation of tools, processes and diligent monitoring, no major cybersecurity incidents were identified in 2023.

- Improvements were achieved in **IT assets and documents' management and storing**, providing enhanced control and security, and enabling further collaboration among staff.

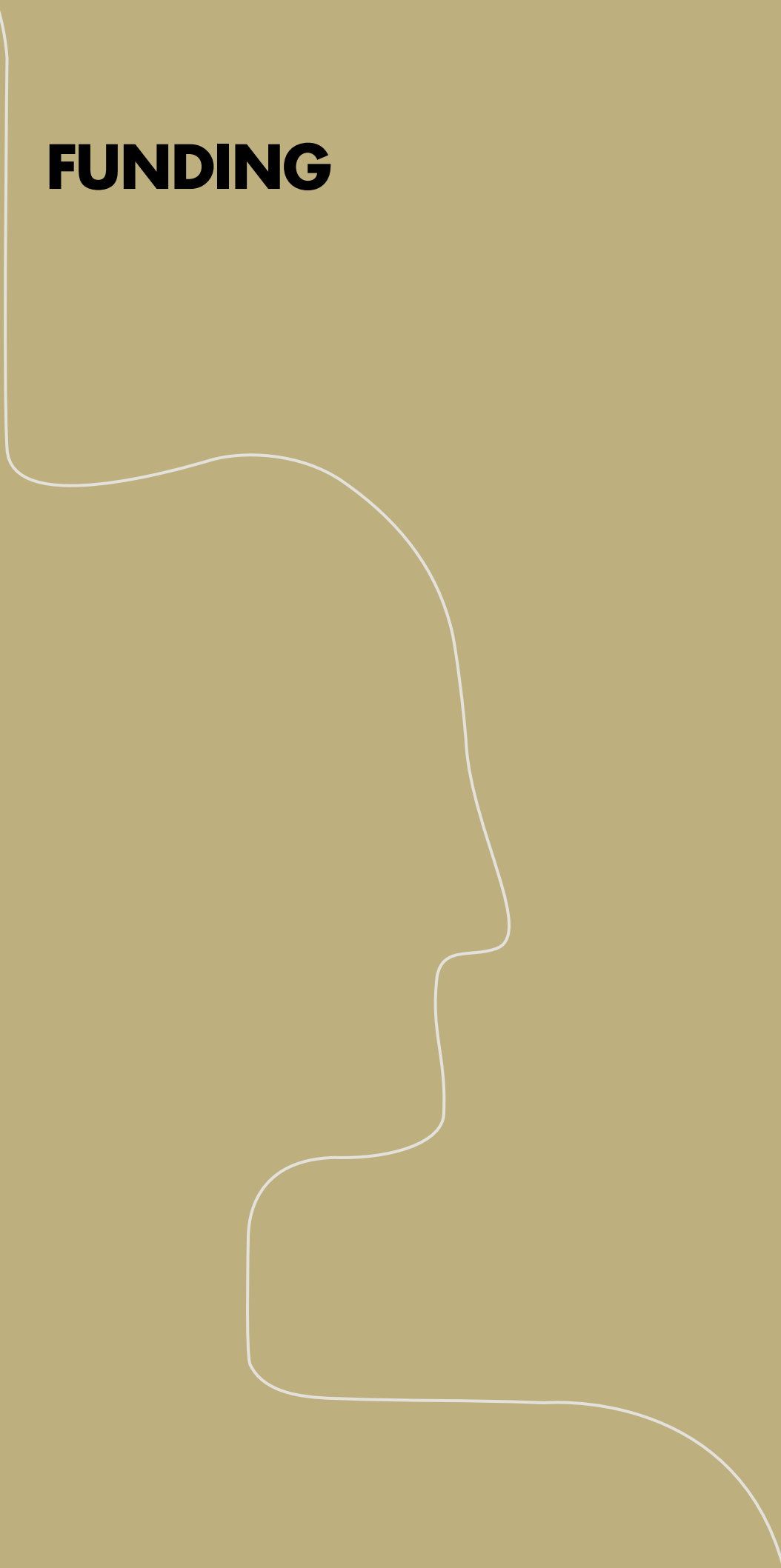
## AI powered analysis in RightsView

RightsView, OHCHR's data portal and analytics tool, has emerged as an indispensable asset for programme support at OHCHR. The integration of the RightsView AI Assistant, powered by state-of-the-art generative Artificial Intelligence, has been a transformative addition to the platform. Trained on authoritative documents such as Human Rights Council resolutions, special procedures communications, and Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI), this tool has revolutionized the retrieval and analysis of human rights information and led to increased user engagement, fulfilling the demand for sophisticated analytical capabilities.

RightsView significantly streamlines various aspects of the Organization's work, for example, in the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme (TBCBP). From developing and monitoring workplans to organizing regional events and national trainings, OHCHR staff can now effortlessly access data that would otherwise require manual collection. RightsView plays a pivotal role assisting TBCBP and other Human Rights Treaties Branch staff to inform senior management ahead of visits and meetings with States on a broad set of issues. It was also instrumental in planning the HR75 ratification campaign.

Additionally, an improved finance dashboard presents data in a more integrated, clear, and user-friendly manner, facilitating ease of staff access to and uptake of financial information pertinent to their programmes or projects. Contributing to the Office's operational efficiency, RightsView supports teams at headquarters and field presences by enabling enhanced monitoring and analysis on budget and spending, contributing to a more impactful use of resources. The fivefold increase in user engagement attests to the tool's success in meeting the complex analytical demands of the Office, making RightsView an essential ally in advancing and upholding human rights globally.

# FUNDING










# Voluntary contributions to UN Human Rights in 2023

## (by earmarking and in descending order)








The distribution of funds in this table reflects earmarking by donors (as per major headings of the extrabudgetary requirements presented in the UN Human Rights Appeal 2023).

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2023 (by earmarking and in descending order)

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	European Commission	United States of America	Sweden	Germany	Norway	UNDP	Netherlands
							
<b>Unearmarked</b>	5,642,391	11,500,000	10,082,581	5,174,748	9,143,228		5,268,704
<b>Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva</b>				54,885	417,711	291,975	
<b>Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</b>	3,911,879			3,684,230	1,995,730	286,505	
<b>Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies</b>				472,498			
<b>Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation</b>			2,409,174	2,963,535	1,206,721		
<b>Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>				866,986	92,825		40,000
<b>Support to the Programmes</b>							
<b>Field Presences</b>	24,626,253	12,437,654	16,197,172	12,393,495	6,642,526	14,584,479	5,763,437
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>		1,150,000		596,357		5,000,000	2,105,263
<i>Africa</i>	18,129,399	1,000,000	8,960,745	1,384,600	2,738,327	4,108,790	328,472
<i>Americas</i>	2,145,230	8,800,000	2,604,233	1,873,184	2,325,834	3,349,813	274,612
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	993,973		2,217,812	1,590,305	371,299	1,103,588	9,308
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	1,533,178	987,654	1,465,526	2,391,749	789,355	1,022,288	1,100,000
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	1,824,473	500,000	948,857	4,557,300	417,711		1,945,782
<b>Humanitarian Trust Funds</b>		9,000,000		850,788	278,474		
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>				329,308			4,011,000
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>34,180,523</b>	<b>32,937,654</b>	<b>28,688,927</b>	<b>26,790,473</b>	<b>19,777,215</b>	<b>15,162,959</b>	<b>15,083,141</b>








\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

	France	Switzerland	Denmark	Finland	United Kingdom	Canada	Italy
							
<b>Unearmarked</b>	6,935,660	3,400,000	3,888,249	6,600,660	3,802,281	1,238,165	537,057
<b>Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva</b>	327,154	150,000		63,627			
<b>Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</b>	182,380	350,000		457,771		393,701	
<b>Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies</b>	490,731		143,287				
<b>Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation</b>			716,435				
<b>Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>	305,344	343,034	6,402	225,225			10,741
<b>Support to the Programmes</b>							
<b>Field Presences</b>	3,097,056	3,620,200	4,344,716	2,439,024	3,028,245	3,910,083	5,053,714
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>			3,744,240	2,439,024			2,023,783
<i>Africa</i>	1,101,418	910,768	368,406		313,936	1,501,502	1,396,868
<i>Americas</i>	163,577	650,794			251,560	1,225,904	342,349
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>			232,070				
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	1,145,038	765,000			1,850,755	1,182,677	129,266
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	687,023	1,293,638			611,995		1,161,447
<b>Humanitarian Trust Funds</b>	91,641	200,000	288,018			208,267	10,741
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>		1,755,629	427,655			196,850	
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>11,429,965</b>	<b>9,818,863</b>	<b>9,814,762</b>	<b>9,786,307</b>	<b>6,830,527</b>	<b>5,947,066</b>	<b>5,612,253</b>










\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.










Ireland	Belgium	Spain	China	Microsoft	Australia	Luxembourg	New Zealand	Korea, Rep. of
								
3,495,763	2,972,652					219,058	2,006,689	775,000
370,763		21,459	500,000		118,969			
		142,544	2,390,000	2,400,000	33,047			270,000
		32,895						
		54,825			297,422			350,000
32,017		252,193	1,110,000		121,052			
1,244,351	2,190,057	3,762,542			1,282,223	1,860,160		600,000
		762,061				1,096,491		500,000
755,124	1,641,812					323,625		
269,687		2,836,007						
					1,282,223			100,000
219,540	548,246	164,474				440,044		
163,577		10,965			493,122	32,859	12,285	
<b>5,306,471</b>	<b>5,162,709</b>	<b>4,277,422</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>2,345,835</b>	<b>2,112,077</b>	<b>2,018,974</b>	<b>1,995,000</b>










	Saudi Arabia	Japan	Open Society Foundations	UNFPA	UNODC	Qatar	OCHA/CERF
							
<b>Unearmarked</b>							
<b>Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva</b>			393,240				
<b>Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</b>	350,000		1,007,319	1,166,813		110,000	
<b>Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies</b>			98,310			35,000	
<b>Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation</b>	200,000	205,927				225,000	
<b>Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>	149,866	16,036	236,000			30,000	
<b>Support to the Programmes</b>							
<b>Field Presences</b>	1,077,856	1,541,508	21,131		1,016,165	550,000	799,341
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>		300,583			1,016,165		499,936
<i>Americas</i>			21,131				299,405
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>		925,925					
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>		315,000					
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	1,077,856					550,000	
<b>Humanitarian Trust Funds</b>	150,000					50,000	
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>							
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>1,927,722</b>	<b>1,763,471</b>	<b>1,756,000</b>	<b>1,166,813</b>	<b>1,016,165</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>799,341</b>

\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.








ILO	Ford Foundation	Fondation Botnar	Türkiye	Kuwait	UNESCO	Austria	Liechtenstein	India
								
				500,000		105,485	57,078	
	500,000					133,404		
	134,637	669,643	100,000		200,000	142,405	342,466	
			350,000					
717,618						21,097		200,000
	50,000		150,000		288,652	31,646		200,000
								200,000
	50,000							
					142,128			
						31,646		
			150,000		146,524			
				10,000		52,743	57,078	50,000
<b>717,618</b>	<b>684,637</b>	<b>669,643</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>488,652</b>	<b>486,780</b>	<b>456,621</b>	<b>450,000</b>

	Portugal 	World Bank 	Iceland 	The Schmidt Family Foundation 	UN Trust Fund for Human Security 	Cyprus 	IOM 
<b>Unearmarked</b>	261,812		225,398			219,178	
<b>Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</b>			100,000	325,000			
<b>Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>	75,512					27,397	
<b>Support to the Programmes</b>							
<b>Field Presences</b>	86,300	403,065			259,127		234,281
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>	32,362	403,065			259,127		
<i>Americas</i>	26,969						79,533
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	26,969						154,747
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>							
<b>Humanitarian Trust Funds</b>	21,575						
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>							
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>445,200</b>	<b>403,065</b>	<b>325,398</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>259,127</b>	<b>246,575</b>	<b>234,281</b>

\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.










Czech Republic	UN Women	Morocco	Norwegian Refugee Council / NORCAP	Kazakhstan	Poland	Christian Blind Mission	Save the Children International in Yemen	Greece
								
102,041				100,000				53,937
13,915		150,000				110,963		
9,276								
23,191					44,950			
13,915				15,000	33,713			
27,829	165,056		118,894		33,713		108,000	53,937
	165,056							
13,915								
13,915					33,713			
			118,894				108,000	53,937
9,276								
<b>199,443</b>	<b>165,056</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>118,894</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>112,375</b>	<b>110,963</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>107,875</b>








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	Belgique / Fédération Wallonie- Bruxelles 	Algeria 	Côte d'Ivoire 	The Philippines 	United Arab Emirates 	Uzbekistan 	Pakistan 
Unearmarked		100,000	100,000				70,000
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva						100,000	
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis							
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies							
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation							
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures				25,000	100,000		19,492
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	100,301			50,000			
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>				50,000			
<i>Africa</i>	100,301						
<i>Americas</i>							
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>							
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>							
Humanitarian Trust Funds				25,000			10,000
Miscellaneous*							
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>100,301</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>99,492</b>










\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.










Estonia	Monaco	Indonesia	République et Canton de Genève	Slovakia	Lithuania	David Clark Cause, Inc.	UNOPS	Mexico
								
38,377	32,931	60,000			30,264			
			57,143					
						50,000	50,000	
								39,773
	31,780							
32,895				53,937	21,906			
32,895				53,937	21,906			
10,965								9,586
<b>82,237</b>	<b>64,711</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>57,143</b>	<b>53,937</b>	<b>52,169</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>49,358</b>

	Romania	Slovenia	Azerbaijan	Chile	Malaysia	Uruguay	Bulgaria
							
<b>Unearmarked</b>		32,362		20,000		30,000	30,000
<b>Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva</b>	10,977						
<b>Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</b>	27,442		26,000				
<b>Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies</b>				10,000			
<b>Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>			5,000				
<b>Support to the Programmes</b>							
<b>Field Presences</b>							
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>							
<i>Americas</i>							
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>							
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>							
<b>Humanitarian Trust Funds</b>							
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>					30,000		
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>38,419</b>	<b>32,362</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>

\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Ville de Genève	Peru	Armenia	Georgia	Andorra	Thailand	Malta	Latvia	Salesforce
								
	20,157	27,000	15,000		20,000	16,112	15,940	
27,975								
								15,000
			7,000					
	6,913			21,345				
<b>27,975</b>	<b>27,070</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>21,345</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>16,112</b>	<b>15,940</b>	<b>15,000</b>

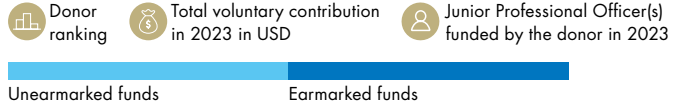
	Singapore	Montenegro	Costa Rica	Croatia	Brazil	Albania	Nicaragua
							
<b>Unearmarked</b>		10,288	11,791	10,787		2,729	2,500
<b>Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation</b>							
<b>Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>	15,000				10,000	2,729	
<b>Support to the Programmes</b>							
<b>Field Presences</b>							
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>							
<i>Americas</i>							
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>							
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>							
<b>Humanitarian Trust Funds</b>		1,652					
<b>Miscellaneous*</b>							
<b>Total contributions by donor</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>11,940</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>10,787</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5,459</b>	<b>2,500</b>

\* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

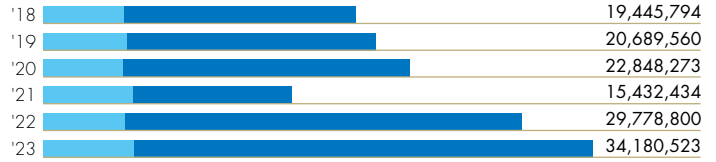
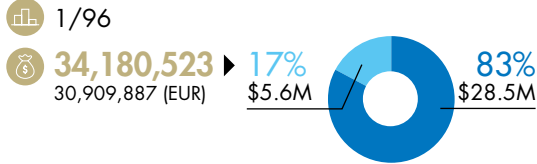


# Donor Profiles

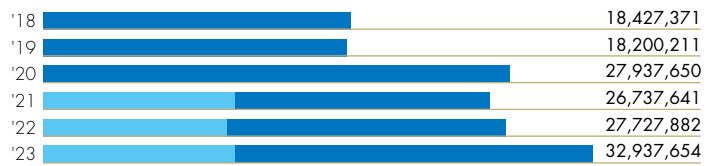
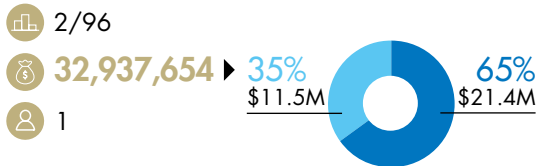
360



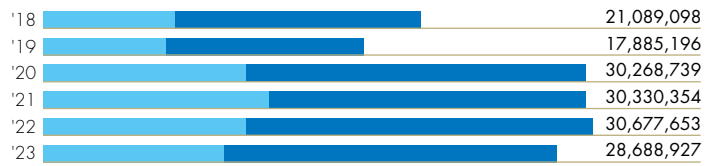
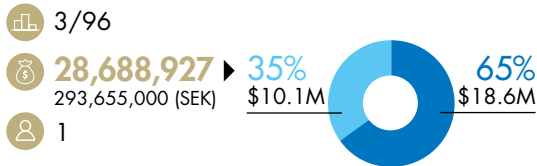
## EUROPEAN COMMISSION



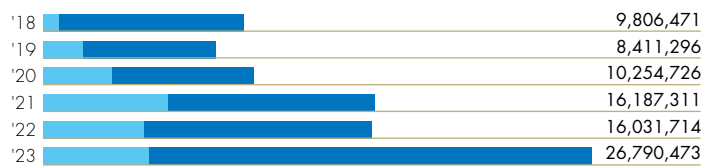
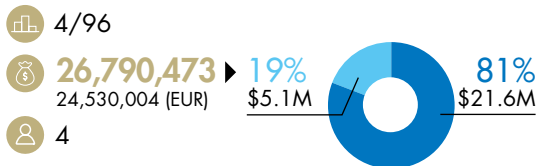
## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



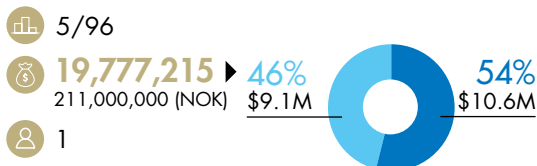
## SWEDEN



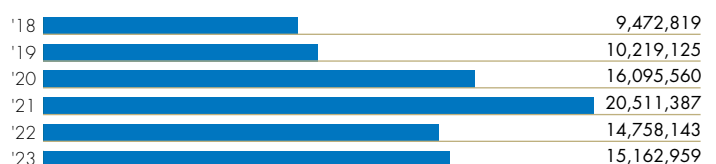
## GERMANY



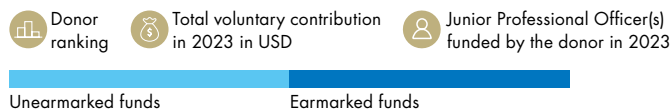
## NORWAY



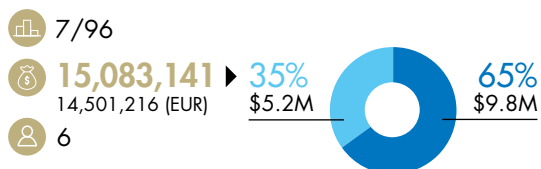
## UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



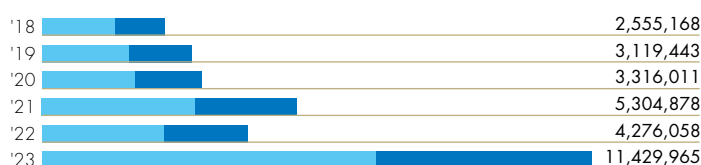
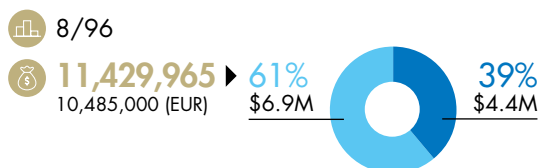




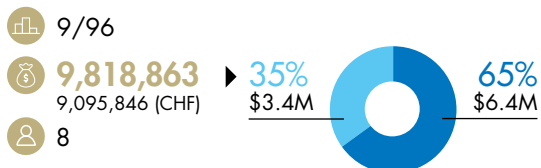
### THE NETHERLANDS



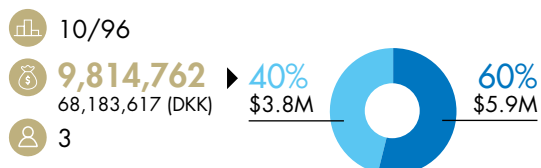
### FRANCE



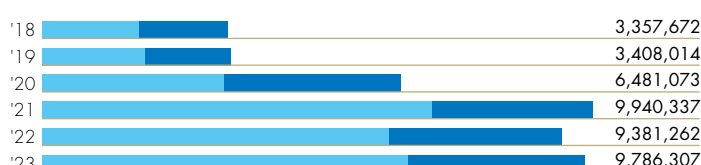
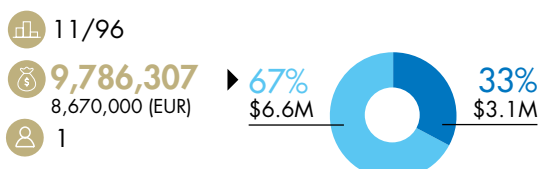
### SWITZERLAND



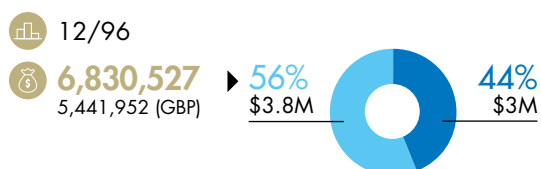
### DENMARK



### FINLAND



### UNITED KINGDOM

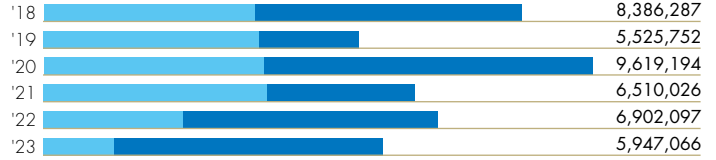
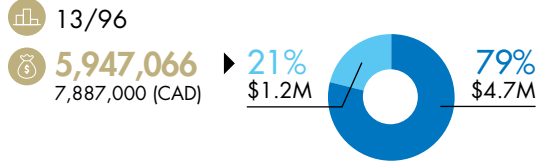


Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

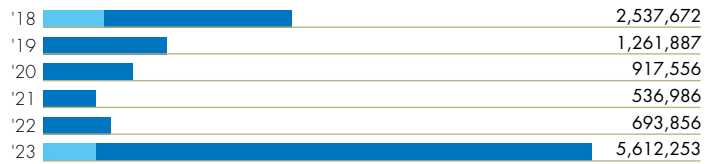
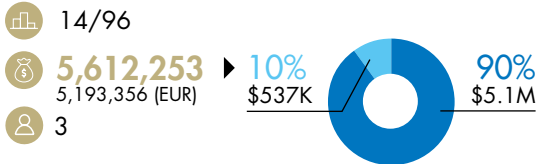
■ Unearmarked funds
 ■ Earmarked funds



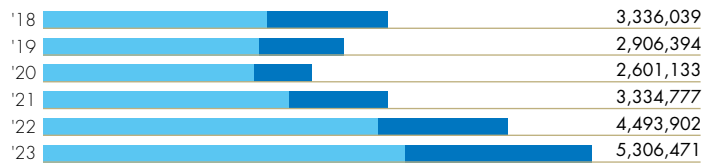
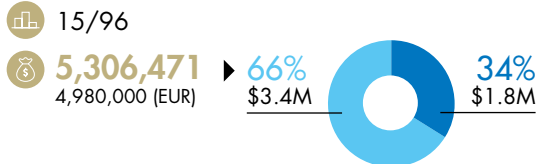
**CANADA**



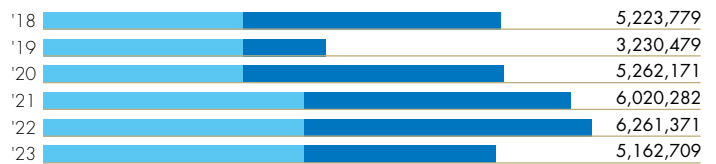
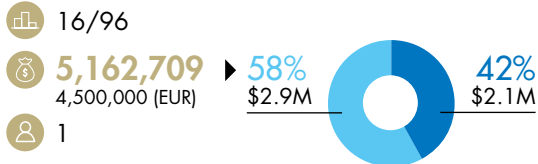
**ITALY**



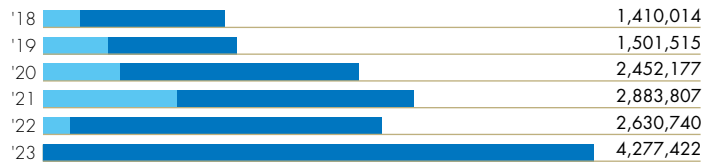
**IRELAND**



**BELGIUM**

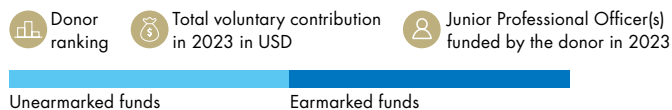


**SPAIN**



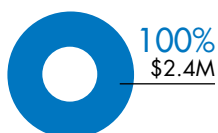
**CHINA**





**MICROSOFT**

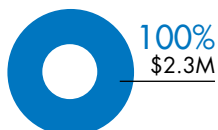
19/96  
2,400,000



'18	500,000
'19	850,000
'20	880,000
'21	600,000
'22	600,000
'23	2,400,000

**AUSTRALIA**

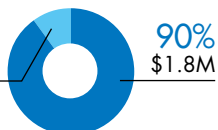
20/96  
2,345,835  
3,550,000 (AUD)



'18	2,119,719
'19	1,936,192
'20	2,073,096
'21	2,092,079
'22	2,071,239
'23	2,345,835

**LUXEMBOURG**

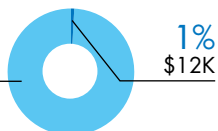
21/96  
2,112,077  
1,930,000 (EUR)



'18	332,955
'19	268,602
'20	404,716
'21	1,674,827
'22	2,107,407
'23	2,112,077

**NEW ZEALAND**

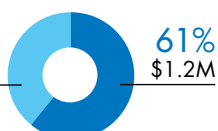
22/96  
2,018,974  
3,020,000 (NZD)



'18	2,006,689
'19	2,051,984
'20	2,051,984
'21	2,051,984
'22	2,805,404
'23	2,018,974

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

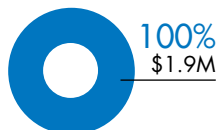
23/96  
1,995,000  
2



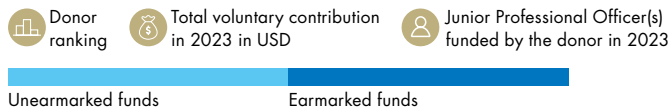
'18	1,873,236
'19	2,500,000
'20	1,601,416
'21	2,114,000
'22	1,653,000
'23	1,995,000

**SAUDI ARABIA**

24/96  
1,927,722  
4



'18	1,149,867
'19	1,149,867
'20	1,949,867
'21	2,004,111
'22	2,330,133
'23	1,927,722

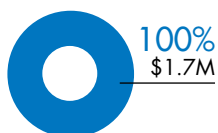


**JAPAN**

25/96

1,763,471 ▶

1



'18	1,937,444
'19	117,133
'20	65,000
'21	258,340
'22	280,350
'23	1,763,471

**OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS**

26/96

1,756,000 ▶



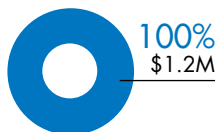
'18	0
'19	107,000
'20	107,000
'21	79,981
'22	0
'23	1,756,000



**UNITED NATIONS POPULATIONS FUND**

27/96

1,166,813 ▶



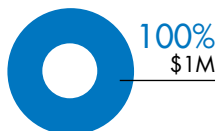
'18	2,000
'19	0
'20	0
'21	77,531
'22	51,531
'23	1,166,813



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIMES**

28/96

1,016,165 ▶



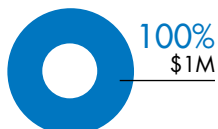
'18	474,001
'19	0
'20	878,462
'21	2,117,899
'22	985,436
'23	1,016,165



**QATAR**

29/96

1,000,000 ▶



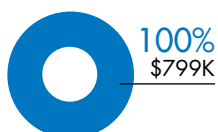
'18	1,031,561
'19	89,911
'20	0
'21	1,020,000
'22	1,000,000
'23	1,000,000



**OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS**

30/96

799,341 ▶



'18	1,285,399
'19	624,334
'20	500,000
'21	765,285
'22	2,982,409
'23	799,341

Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

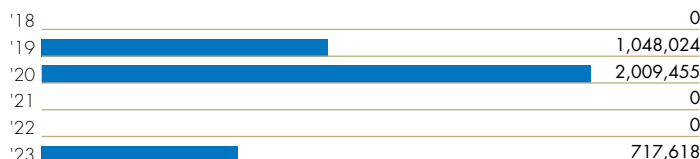
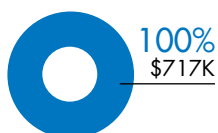
■ Unearmarked funds
 ■ Earmarked funds



### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

31/96

**717,618**  
666,667 (EUR)



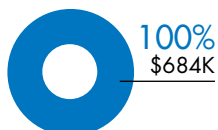
365



### FORD FOUNDATION

32/96

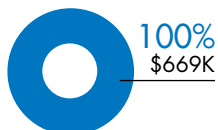
**684,637**



### FONDATION BOTNAR

33/96

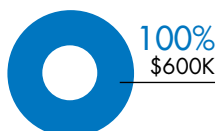
**669,643**



### TÜRKIYE

34/96

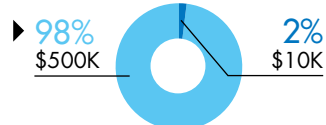
**600,000**



### KUWAIT

35/96

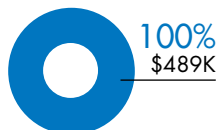
**510,000**



### UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

36/96

**488,652**



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

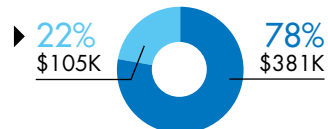


**AUSTRIA**

37/96

**486,780**  
460,800 (EUR)

1



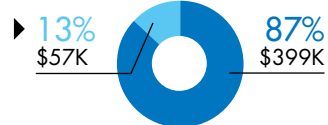
Year	Total
'18	980,748
'19	120,349
'20	122,212
'21	118,906
'22	2,831,360
'23	486,780



**LIECHTENSTEIN**

38/96

**456,621**  
400,000 (CHF)



Year	Total
'18	151,320
'19	155,155
'20	160,124
'21	214,823
'22	421,067
'23	456,621



**INDIA**

39/96

**450,000**



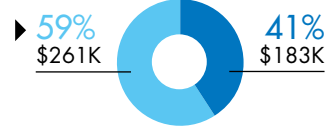
Year	Total
'18	150,000
'19	300,000
'20	400,000
'21	400,000
'22	400,000
'23	450,000



**PORTUGAL**

40/96

**445,200**  
412,700 (EUR)



Year	Total
'18	186,518
'19	375,028
'20	100,000
'21	387,021
'22	371,855
'23	445,200



**WORLD BANK**

41/96

**403,065**



Year	Total
'18	60,000
'19	0
'20	261,290
'21	380,291
'22	355,385
'23	403,065



**ICELAND**

42/96

**325,398**  
30,100,000 (ISK)



Year	Total
'18	0
'19	200,000
'20	180,950
'21	154,476
'22	432,589
'23	325,398

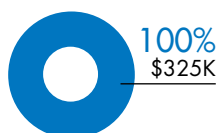




### THE SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION

43/96

325,000



Donor ranking Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

Unearmarked funds Earmarked funds

Year	Total Voluntary Contribution (USD)
'18	0
'19	0
'20	150,000
'21	250,000
'22	325,000
'23	325,000

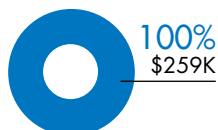
367



### UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY

44/96

259,127



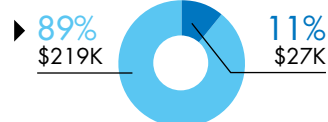
Year	Total Voluntary Contribution (USD)
'18	0
'19	75,011
'20	154,786
'21	133,807
'22	555,185
'23	259,127



### CYPRUS

45/96

246,575  
216,000 (EUR)



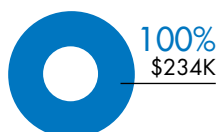
Year	Total Voluntary Contribution (USD)
'18	17,065
'19	22,002
'20	59,737
'21	114,679
'22	165,872
'23	246,575



### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

46/96

234,281



Year	Total Voluntary Contribution (USD)
'18	60,000
'19	0
'20	0
'21	123,753
'22	27,730
'23	234,281



### CZECH REPUBLIC

47/96

199,443  
4,300,000 (CZK)



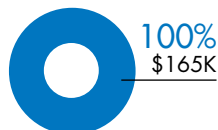
Year	Total Voluntary Contribution (USD)
'18	96,407
'19	117,296
'20	136,811
'21	168,856
'22	169,072
'23	199,443



### UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

48/96

165,056



Year	Total Voluntary Contribution (USD)
'18	2,000
'19	125,630
'20	217,153
'21	388,756
'22	314,437
'23	165,056

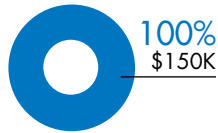
Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023



**MOROCCO**

49/96

**150,000**



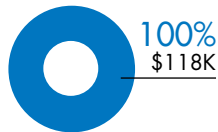
Year	Unearmarked funds	Earmarked funds	Total
'18	300,000	0	300,000
'19	300,000	0	300,000
'20	500,000	0	500,000
'21	300,000	0	300,000
'22	300,000	0	300,000
'23	150,000	0	150,000



**NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL / NORCAP**

50/96

**118,894**



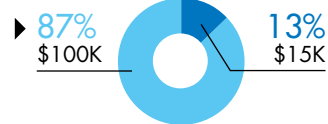
Year	Unearmarked funds	Earmarked funds	Total
'18	0	0	0
'19	0	0	0
'20	0	0	0
'21	0	0	0
'22	288,574	0	288,574
'23	118,894	0	118,894



**KAZAKHSTAN**

51/96

**115,000**



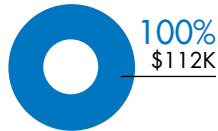
Year	Unearmarked funds	Earmarked funds	Total
'18	5,000	0	5,000
'19	5,000	0	5,000
'20	25,000	0	25,000
'21	30,000	0	30,000
'22	65,000	0	65,000
'23	115,000	0	115,000



**POLAND**

52/96

**112,375**  
101,362 (CHF)



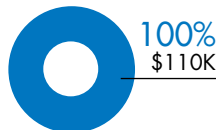
Year	Unearmarked funds	Earmarked funds	Total
'18	254,428	0	254,428
'19	335,239	0	335,239
'20	79,805	0	79,805
'21	74,900	0	74,900
'22	87,474	0	87,474
'23	112,375	0	112,375



**CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION**

53/96

**110,963**



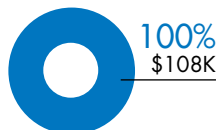
Year	Unearmarked funds	Earmarked funds	Total
'18	0	0	0
'19	0	0	0
'20	0	0	0
'21	0	0	0
'22	89,037	0	89,037
'23	110,963	0	110,963



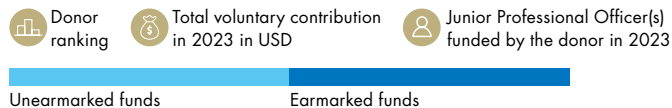
**SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL IN YEMEN**

54/96

**108,000**



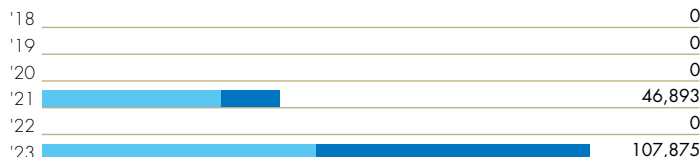
Year	Unearmarked funds	Earmarked funds	Total
'18	0	0	0
'19	0	0	0
'20	0	0	0
'21	0	0	0
'22	0	0	0
'23	108,000	0	108,000



**GREECE**

55/96

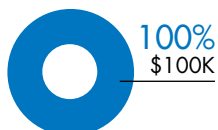
**107,875**  
100,000 (EUR)



**BELGIQUE / FEDERATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES**

56/96

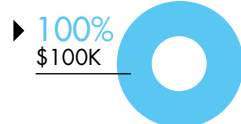
**100,301**



**ALGERIA**

57/96

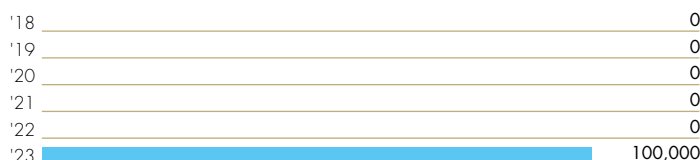
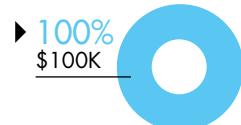
**100,000**



**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

57/96

**100,000**



**THE PHILIPPINES**

57/96

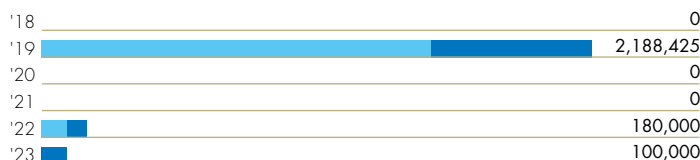
**100,000**



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

57/96

**100,000**



Donor ranking 
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD 
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

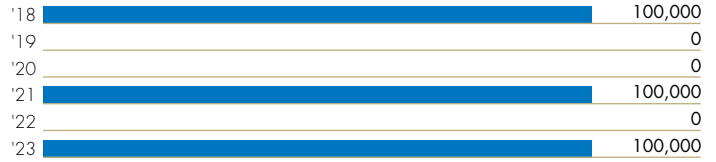
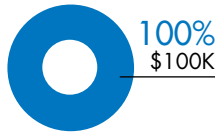
■ Unearmarked funds 
 ■ Earmarked funds



**UZBEKISTAN**

57/96

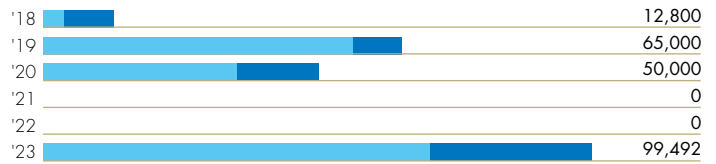
**100,000**



**PAKISTAN**

62/96

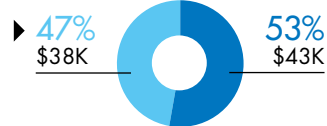
**99,492**



**ESTONIA**

63/96

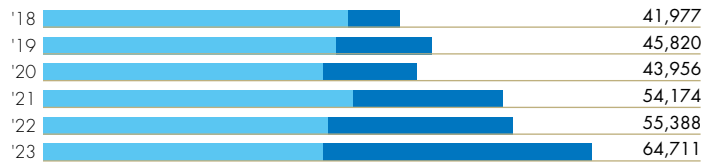
**82,237**  
75,000 (EUR)



**MONACO**

64/96

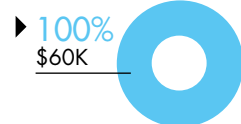
**64,711**  
60,000 (EUR)



**INDONESIA**

65/96

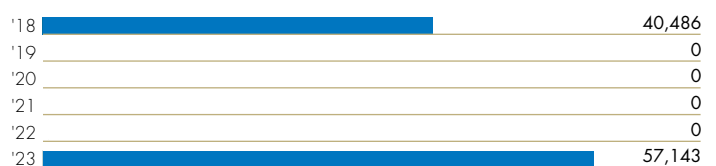
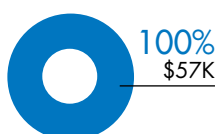
**60,000**

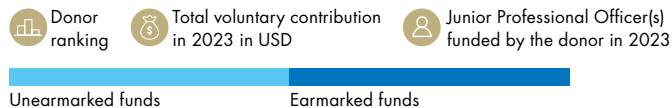


**RÉPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENEVE**

66/96

**57,143**  
50,000 (CHF)

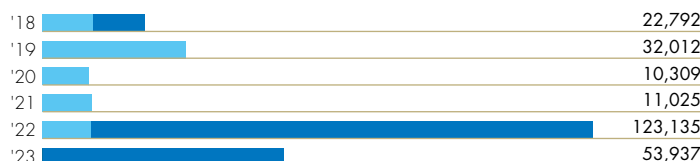
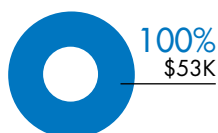




**SLOVAKIA**

67/96

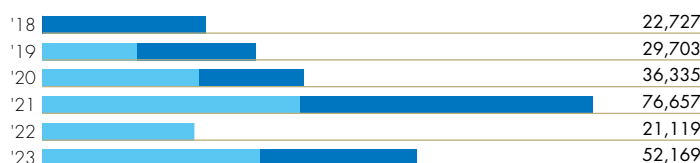
53,937  
50,000 (EUR)



**LITHUANIA**

68/96

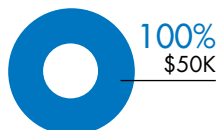
52,169  
47,500 (EUR)



**DAVID CLARK CAUSE, INC.**

69/96

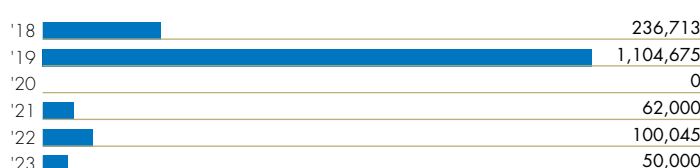
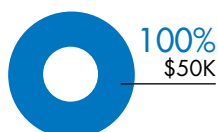
50,000



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES**

69/96

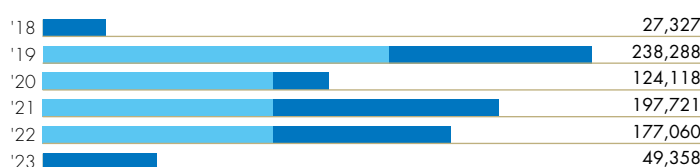
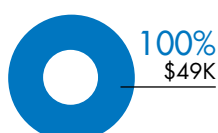
50,000



**MEXICO**

71/96

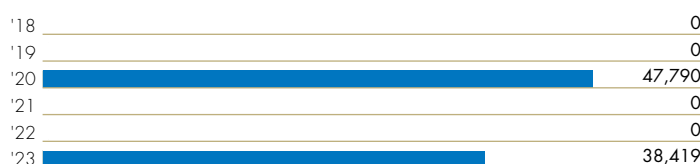
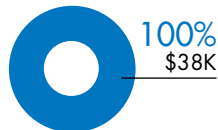
49,358  
868,705 (MXN)



**ROMANIA**

72/96

38,419  
35,000 (EUR)



371

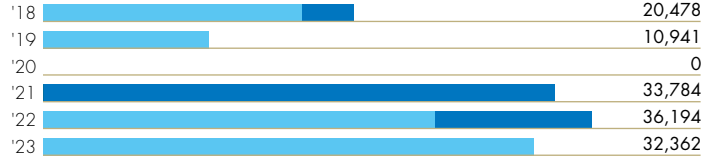
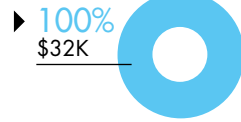
Donor ranking   
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD   
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023  
 Unearmarked funds    Earmarked funds



**SLOVENIA**

73/96

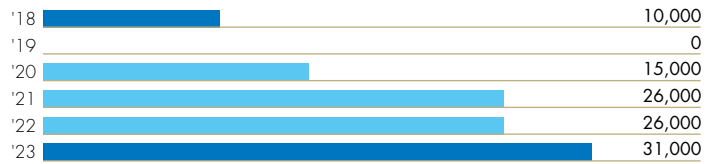
**32,362**  
30,000 (EUR)



**AZERBAIJAN**

74/96

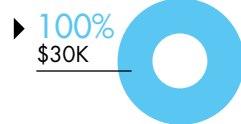
**31,000**



**BULGARIA**

75/96

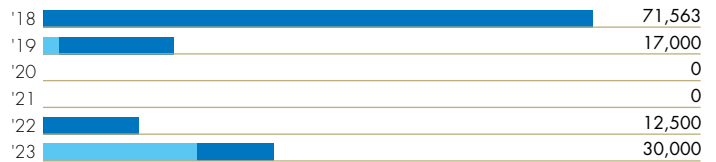
**30,000**



**CHILE**

75/96

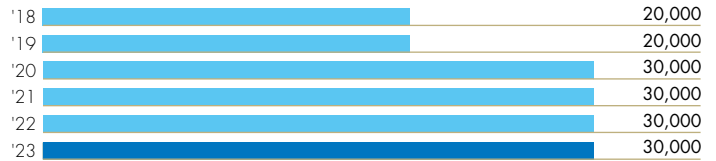
**30,000**



**MALAYSIA**

75/96

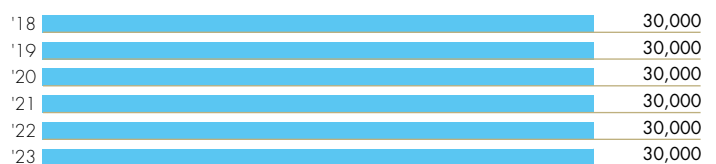
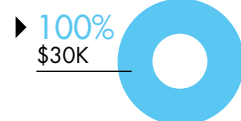
**30,000**



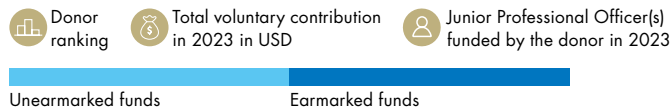
**URUGUAY**

75/96

**30,000**

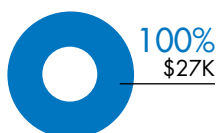






**VILLE DE GENEVE**

79/96  
 27,975  
 24,500 (CHF)



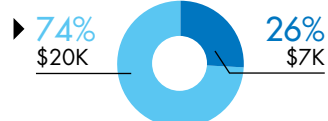
Year	Total Contribution
'18	41,068
'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	27,975

373



**PERU**

80/96  
 27,070

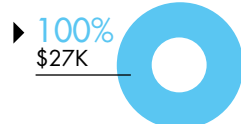


Year	Total Contribution
'18	0
'19	35,795
'20	28,187
'21	0
'22	27,075
'23	27,070



**ARMENIA**

81/96  
 27,000



Year	Total Contribution
'18	9,521
'19	2,500
'20	26,285
'21	30,000
'22	0
'23	27,000



**GEORGIA**

82/96  
 22,000

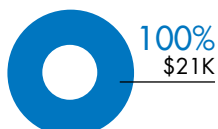


Year	Total Contribution
'18	20,000
'19	20,000
'20	0
'21	0
'22	22,000
'23	22,000



**ANDORRA**

83/96  
 21,345  
 20,000 (EUR)

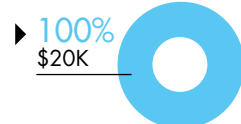


Year	Total Contribution
'18	23,844
'19	27,443
'20	29,658
'21	34,150
'22	20,576
'23	21,345



**THAILAND**

84/96  
 20,000



Year	Total Contribution
'18	20,000
'19	20,000
'20	20,000
'21	120,000
'22	20,000
'23	20,000

Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

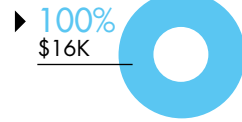
■ Unearmarked funds
 ■ Earmarked funds



**MALTA**

85/96

**16,112**  
15,000 (EUR)



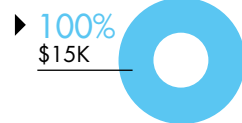
'18	0
'19	0
'20	17,815
'21	17,202
'22	24,535
'23	16,112



**LATVIA**

86/96

**15,940**  
15,000 (EUR)



'18	22,727
'19	11,001
'20	17,921
'21	11,261
'22	0
'23	15,940



**SALESFORCE**

87/96

**15,000**



'18	0
'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	15,000



**SINGAPORE**

87/96

**15,000**



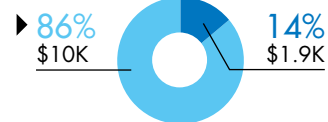
'18	15,000
'19	15,000
'20	15,000
'21	15,000
'22	15,000
'23	15,000



**MONTENEGRO**

89/96

**11,940**  
11,500 (EUR)



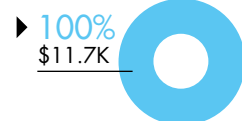
'18	5,787
'19	5,470
'20	5,501
'21	11,947
'22	11,628
'23	11,940






**COSTA RICA**

90/96

**11,791**




'18	10,295
'19	6,727
'20	13,938
'21	9,946
'22	9,828
'23	11,791

 Donor ranking
  Total voluntary contribution in 2023 in USD
  Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor in 2023

■ Unearmarked funds
 ■ Earmarked funds




### CROATIA

 91/96

 **10,787**  
10,000 (EUR)




### BRAZIL

 92/96

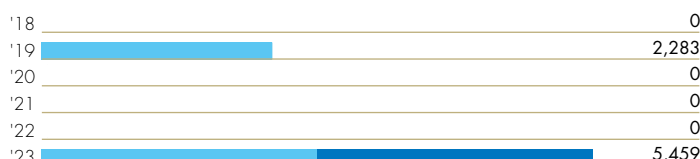
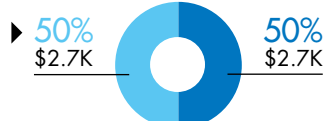
 **10,000**




### ALBANIA

 93/96

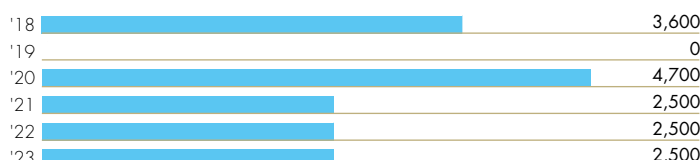
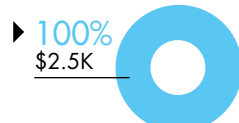
 **5,459**  
5,000 (EUR)




### NICARAGUA

 94/96

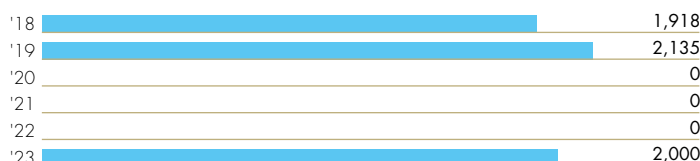
 **2,500**




### CUBA

 95/96

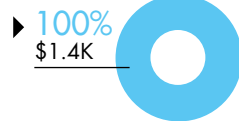
 **2,000**



### MAURITIUS

 96/96

 **1,461**  
1,385 (CHF)



375

# Extrabudgetary Income and Expenditure in 2023

## Overall summary (in US\$)

376

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
<b>HEADQUARTERS</b>				
<b>Executive Direction and Management and New York Office (EDM)</b>				
EO - Executive Office of the High Commissioner	1,652,485.00	112,651.98	1,425,800.00	1,463,393.00
EO - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 75th Anniversary	2,958,671.78	0.00	2,977,374.41	2,872,604.21
EOS - Communications Section	6,098,085.00	58,530.01	4,784,500.00	4,842,960.16
EOS - Donor and External Relations Section	4,122,589.00	292,429.81	3,510,200.00	3,670,774.80
EOS - External Outreach Service	665,773.00	23,467.86	526,300.00	530,467.72
EOS - Media and Public Positioning Section	3,072,088.00	174,429.51	3,200,900.00	3,188,126.65
EOS - Meetings, Documents, and Publication Unit	1,933,266.00	41,523.89	1,881,900.00	1,900,431.88
NYO - Human Rights Conflict Risk Tool Project	131,034.99	127,390.82	0.00	131,034.99
NYO - (MPTF) UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict	346,625.77	388,710.75	291,974.54	345,104.25
NYO - New York Office	4,297,811.00	162,370.72	3,699,026.23	3,472,699.87
NYO - National Human Rights-Based Counter-Terrorism Responses	1,028,033.60	1,138,656.01	0.00	786,920.29
NYO - UN's Response on Reprisals	520,704.00	276,661.10	451,874.02	601,695.39
PPMES - Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Service	2,880,793.00	116,214.93	2,367,400.00	2,626,701.33
<b>Sub-total EDM</b>	<b>29,707,960.14</b>	<b>2,913,037.39</b>	<b>25,117,249.20</b>	<b>26,432,914.54</b>
<b>PROGRAMME OF WORK (SUBPROGAMME 1 TO 4)</b>				
<b>Subprogramme 1 - Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis (RRDD)</b>				
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,747,582.00	188,583.00	1,649,700.00	1,507,085.20
Human Rights and Technology Issues (digital space)	365,341.51	69,496.60	419,174.72	395,185.36
Promotion and Protection of Digital Rights (EU)	635,651.00	0.00	2,109,929.00	154,248.85
METS - Human Rights Indicators	1,515,868.34	86,875.63	677,100.00	709,760.63
METS - Methodology, Education, and Training	2,142,841.34	205,305.14	1,656,400.00	1,830,776.38
BHRU - Business and Human Rights	782,268.00	707,450.49	870,106.19	509,516.19
BHRU - Making Smart Cities Right For Young People	530,503.00	0.00	704,505.84	274,673.55
CSU - Civic Space Unit	757,291.00	706,727.22	438,910.95	819,889.15
Human Rights Online, Innovation and Technology Outreach	1,774,381.32	9,223.46	2,300,000.00	1,703,186.36 ▶

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
HRESIS - Addressing Human Rights, Migration, and Climate Change	241,639.00	241,250.18	0.00	235,075.53
HRESIS - Child and Youth Rights	1,012,972.57	162,060.60	1,169,554.58	999,886.61
HRESIS - Human Rights of Youth (in vulnerable situations, insecurity)**	148,622.00	79,367.06	0.00	-1,051.92
HRESIS - Disabilities	663,629.41	69,017.89	955,729.59	701,676.64
HRESIS - Economic and Social Issues	643,851.27	364,622.45	629,998.50	566,779.19
HRESIS - Human Rights of Migrants at International Borders	589,641.00	257,492.85	230,000.00	363,446.16
HRESIS - Migration	629,789.56	6,196.29	662,303.65	627,634.14
HRESIS - Political Constituency Building on Human Rights Economy*	0.00	0.00	89,998.50	0.00
RTDS - Corruption and Human Rights	259,123.00	392,899.14	107,880.26	295,382.30
RTDS - Environment and Climate Change	796,295.18	332,839.60	686,085.42	681,281.86
RTDS - (MPTF) Climate Change, Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality Multi-Country Programme	4,544.00	0.00	199,835.00	8,342.05
RTDS - Right to Development	603,703.99	311,170.60	895,982.58	523,565.75
RTDS - SFP Participation of Civil Society at the Social Forum, Forum on Minority Issues, and Forum on Business and Human Rights	9,421.00	9,420.15	0.00	4,925.19
SDGs - MDGs and Human Rights-Based Approach	1,070,400.47	75,387.55	1,113,500.00	1,120,266.02
SDGs - Washington Liaison Office	426,135.00	37,496.56	453,500.00	454,516.31
ARDS - Anti-Discrimination	1,245,831.00	224,110.21	1,752,377.60	1,342,825.75
ARDS - (UNFPA) Contribution to the Implementation of the Mandate of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent*	0.00	0.00	1,166,813.34	0.00
ARDS - Supporting the Work on the Intersectionality of Race and Gender Issues*	0.00	0.00	404,304.00	0.00
IPMS - Indigenous Peoples and Minorities	2,451,692.00	543,814.99	3,244,351.07	2,565,700.72
IPMS - Protection of Religious Minorities	513,010.00	99,025.92	658,626.22	515,694.84
ROLDs - EOSG Renewing the UN Approach to Transitional Justice	20,236.00	21,168.52	0.00	7,615.99
ROLDs - Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information, and the Safety of Journalists	1,833,351.00	1,756,383.60	53,022.27	1,466,884.78
ROLDs - Rule of Law and Democracy	1,665,615.00	754,357.58	1,082,684.38	1,712,508.69
ROLDs - Support to OHCHR's Work on Accountability	272,539.00	167,971.84	426,665.75	260,074.24
ROLDs - (UNESCO) Promotion of Media Freedom and the Safety of Journalists in the Digital Age	30,000.00	0.00	200,000.00	6,697.08
WHRG - Criminal Laws Project	69,432.00	75,668.58	0.00	70,804.88
WHRG - Project for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (LGBTI rights)	1,821,231.00	479,243.23	1,469,199.48	1,650,559.90
WHRG - Women's Human Rights and Gender	2,360,914.00	1,329,053.38	2,469,844.82	2,509,377.12
<b>Subtotal subprogramme 1</b>	<b>29,635,345.96</b>	<b>9,763,680.31</b>	<b>30,948,083.71</b>	<b>26,594,791.49</b>

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
<b>Subprogramme 2 - Supporting the Human Rights Treaties Bodies (HRTB)</b>				
Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture	565,000.00	715,626.71	151,636.21	593,418.03
Support to Treaty Bodies and Organs	3,056,374.00	511,550.90	3,293,165.98	3,051,411.88
Support to Treaty Bodies - (MPTF) National Implementation of the CRPD	66,340.00	60,974.96	0.00	12,499.63
<b>Subtotal subprogramme 2</b>	<b>3,687,714.00</b>	<b>1,288,152.57</b>	<b>3,444,802.19</b>	<b>3,657,329.54</b>
<b>Subprogramme 3 - Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation (FOTCD)</b>				
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,303,010.19	38,809.97	1,309,700.00	1,316,429.95
Africa Branch	2,429,755.19	25,846.53	2,520,700.00	2,443,617.36
Americas Branch	559,911.61	75,558.18	633,842.64	646,842.94
Europe and Central-Asia Branch	2,215,795.53	216,658.97	2,007,821.40	2,142,681.21
Europe and Central-Asia - (UNOCT) Uzbekistan - Expert Adviser and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Project	23,365.59	16,816.80	694.57	17,491.83
Asia-Pacific Branch	2,716,979.85	71,708.23	2,514,060.84	2,215,267.43
Middle East and North Africa Branch	1,565,263.32	152,818.75	1,252,235.63	1,050,906.05
ERS - Emergency Response Section	1,317,178.12	252,656.81	1,335,758.30	1,270,836.34
ERS - (EU) Combatting Impunity	326,807.60	0.00	1,276,100.00	145,547.17
ERS - Investigative Capacity	2,947,176.00	1,033,009.80	3,333,767.70	2,988,656.53
ERS - Prevention and Early Warning Capacity - Emergency Response Teams	4,184,083.53	1,439,099.73	3,928,420.47	3,807,374.57
MENA - Protection of Human Rights in the Arab Region	523,015.98	553,602.05	399,988.30	348,713.33
MENA - Strengthening Human Rights in Egypt	251,767.39	83,893.24	218,840.00	158,576.93
MENA - (EU) Strengthening Human Rights in Egypt	205,907.59	0.00	1,007,862.00	142,112.03
MENA - Strengthening Human Rights in Iran	496,706.19	162,139.95	174,482.01	486,950.03
National Institutions & Regional Mechanisms	883,419.31	276,729.54	795,117.87	826,968.94
PMSS - Peace Missions Support Section	965,817.78	-10,375.47	1,018,000.00	1,002,443.66
PMSS - Human Rights Protection and Peace Operations	776,950.71	360,958.25	746,434.43	777,355.36
<b>Subtotal subprogramme 3</b>	<b>23,692,911.48</b>	<b>4,749,931.33</b>	<b>24,473,826.16</b>	<b>21,788,771.66</b>
<b>Subprogramme 4 - Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</b>				
HRCB - Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,864,493.00	258,916.99	1,629,300.00	1,803,834.65
HRCB - Human Rights Council Activities	2,622,016.00	107,827.63	2,446,279.21	2,324,720.26
HRCB - HRC and UPR Webcasting	147,805.00	17,021.53	129,500.00	54,383.91
UPRB - Universal Periodic Review Branch	334,711.00	1,418.14	355,900.00	375,575.30
Support to Special Procedures	6,673,986.00	518,766.24	6,054,792.21	6,615,451.81



	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
SPB - Coordination, Information and Communication Unit	239,322.00	195,572.55	98,742.08	155,503.57
SPB - Support to Special Rapporteur Mandates	3,831,355.96	2,620,006.08	3,759,720.10	2,877,966.57
<b>Subtotal subprogramme 4</b>	<b>15,713,688.96</b>	<b>3,719,529.16</b>	<b>14,474,233.60</b>	<b>14,207,436.07</b>
<b>Total programme of work (subprogramme 1 to 4)</b>	<b>72,729,660.40</b>	<b>19,521,293.37</b>	<b>73,340,945.66</b>	<b>66,248,328.76</b>

### Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS)

PSMS - Programme Support and Management Services	8,894,283.00	177,219.36	7,926,500.00	8,061,354.22
SSS - Safety and Security Section	1,374,112.00	168,973.62	1,093,200.00	1,247,731.13
<b>Subtotal PSMS</b>	<b>10,268,395.00</b>	<b>346,192.98</b>	<b>9,019,700.00</b>	<b>9,309,085.35</b>
<b>Total headquarters</b>	<b>112,706,015.54</b>	<b>22,780,523.74</b>	<b>107,477,894.86</b>	<b>101,990,328.65</b>

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### FIELD PRESENCES

#### Africa

Burkina Faso - Country Office	2,495,288.59	2,703,929.26	1,424,263.69	1,742,562.02
Burkina Faso - (PBF) Appui au Processus de Réconciliation Nationale	118,861.00	-15,737.76	100,000.00	72,757.75
Burundi - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	316,211.75	65,784.67	295,100.00	298,022.41
Burundi - Human Rights Adviser	689,248.02	108,114.78	352,100.00	407,362.76
Cameroon - (MPTF) Strengthening Disability Rights	116,120.68	131,698.50	0.00	116,120.68
Central Africa (Yaoundé) - Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy	528,013.97	-43,326.64	558,900.00	539,571.33
Central Africa (Yaoundé) - Integrating Human Rights into the COVID-19 Response and Recovery	39,846.06	73,423.53	0.00	34,781.93
Central African Republic - Support to Peace Mission	84,750.00	0.00	82,100.00	75,000.00
Chad - Country Office	1,601,180.74	843,511.84	840,006.12	1,114,599.51
Chad - (EU) Appui aux Organisations de la Société Civile Promouvant les Droits de l'Homme	1,254,619.43	0.00	1,245,945.00	492,124.04
Chad - (PBF) Appui à une Transition Institutionnelle et Politique Inclusive et Apaisée	314,101.86	311,580.49	0.00	309,195.32
Chad - (PBF) Appui à la Mise en Place d'un Observatoire de la Promotion de l'Égalité et de l'Équité de Genre	455,608.00	288,870.59	150,000.00	191,043.18
Chad - (PBF) Appui à la Promotion et à la Protection des Droits de l'Homme*	0.00	0.00	1,200,000.00	0.00
Congo-Brazzaville - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	323,101.48	20,852.41	370,200.00	332,280.09
DRC - (PBF) Appui aux Ex-combattants et Communautés au Kasai	374,436.01	374,282.99	0.00	262,359.35
DRC - Human Rights Promotion and Protection in the Electoral Context (Election II)	4,619,131.91	454,115.49	3,854,332.65	4,232,700.27
DRC - (MPTF) Inception Phase 4th Funding Round	138,387.00	-2,922.83	415,160.00	97,510.77

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
DRC - (MPTF) JAD Lutte contre la Violence basée sur le Genre	79,300.00	79,300.12	0.00	28,926.96
DRC - (PBF) Promotion de la Gouvernance Sécuritaire Inclusive dans la Province du Tanganyika	196,167.00	0.00	411,950.00	51,169.67
DRC - (PBF) Renforcer la Justice et la Réinsertion Socio-économique pour et par les Jeunes	199,245.00	192,826.30	0.00	197,469.87
DRC - (MPTF) UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict	570,235.55	354,945.76	0.00	353,748.93
DRC - Transitional Justice, Fight against Impunity, Protection	5,637.00	5,635.78	547,645.13	5,550.15
DRC - (UNTFHS) Promoting Human Security Approach for Empowerment of Most Vulnerable People and Communities Affected by Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Tanganyika	43,178.00	0.00	130,031.75	20,210.16
East Africa (Addis Ababa) - Regional Office	3,516,461.69	161,895.41	4,006,807.79	3,547,729.05
East Africa (Addis Ababa) - (EU) Enhancement and Operationalization of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework	5,099,032.45	1,928,991.31	3,971,987.00	4,542,273.64
Eswatini - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	254,474.89	27,608.94	259,000.00	250,924.19
Ethiopia - Human Rights Priorities	4,387,122.40	-217,572.54	5,668,994.64	4,250,138.93
Ethiopia - (OCHA) Protection Response in Underserved Areas of Southern, Western Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz Region	499,936.10	0.00	499,936.10	334,901.46
Gambia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	249,627.09	34,181.92	269,300.00	248,895.43
Gambia - (PBF) Support to the Implementation and Monitoring of the Truth	243,925.76	78,130.79	0.00	168,868.06
Guinea - Country Office	3,264,516.55	1,027,743.37	2,280,650.72	3,038,073.38
Guinea - (PBF) Projet d'appui au Renforcement de la Cohésion Sociale et à la Réconciliation Nationale	574,793.58	691,199.90	0.00	594,834.79
Guinea - (UNTFHS) Using Human Security Approach to Empower and Protect Individuals Against Human Trafficking	95,939.41	0.00	129,094.80	53,873.81
Guinea Bissau - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	315,756.97	10,752.22	373,000.00	330,209.88
Guinea Bissau - (PBF) Enhancing the Human Rights Protection System	255,046.00	239,007.29	364,930.35	250,340.39
Kenya - Human Rights Adviser	770,278.06	-133,177.37	856,920.84	717,260.66
Kenya - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	293,462.48	55,207.42	301,200.00	293,374.83
Kenya - (PBF) Countering Hate Speech and Incitement	0.00	-0.28	93,000.00	91,831.66
Kenya - (PBF) Promoting peace and Inclusive Development in Borderlands Countries in North-Eastern Kenya	350,000.00	0.00	350,000.00	214,000.00
Kenya - (UNDP) Consolidating Democratic Dividends for Sustainable Transformation	172,330.99	172,330.48	0.00	172,883.39
Kenya - (UN Women) Increasing the Role and Agency of Women Leaders	51,376.00	0.00	51,376.00	51,626.79
Kenya - (UN Women) Safeguarding the Rights of Women Through Strengthening Access to Justice for GBV Survivors	124,244.00	0.00	113,680.11	10,772.55
Lesotho - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	346,370.77	97,963.96	256,000.00	327,199.79
Lesotho - (PBF) Effective Implementation of NSS Reforms for Peacebuilding	83,256.00	108,493.02	0.00	82,556.87

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Liberia - Country Office	1,920,514.41	507,124.38	1,253,388.23	1,463,364.08
Liberia - (PBF) Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security	451,650.69	474,785.39	0.00	443,535.23
Liberia - (MPTF) EU Spotlight Initiative for Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) Programme	180,029.64	215,915.94	0.00	138,342.38
Madagascar - Human Rights Adviser	133,357.55	169,376.62	0.00	146,940.19
Madagascar - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	229,930.04	92,493.67	235,600.00	232,459.76
Madagascar - (PBF) Rapprochement de la Justice Traditionnelle et Formelle pour une Meilleure Cohésion Sociale*	0.00	0.00	843,209.00	0.00
Madagascar - (PBF) Soutien à la Protection des Jeunes Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme**	59,658.36	71,362.32	0.00	-133,334.76
Mali - (EU) Force Conjointe G5- Sahel	3,754,831.26	404,010.45	3,637,925.21	4,048,933.70
Mali - (EU) Force Conjointe G5- Sahel - Support to the Internal Security Forces	5,491,633.50	3,755,866.11	2,258,581.18	3,262,802.56
Mali - Force Conjointe G5- Sahel	1,285,250.70	333,809.06	98,742.08	291,857.50
Mali - Support to Peace Mission**	185,772.00	49,897.22	185,800.00	-4,623.53
Mali - (PBF) Approche Intégrée pour Lutter contre l'Impunité**	301,139.00	572,826.16	0.00	-13,724.69
Mauritania - Country Office	1,904,771.00	841,363.92	607,057.38	1,062,402.15
Mauritania - (PBF) Promotion de la Justice Sociale à Travers le Renforcement de l'Accès à l'Etat Civil, l'Exploitation de la Terre et aux Modes de Prévention et Règlement de Conflit Pour les Femmes et les Jeunes de la Région du Guidimakha	541,259.50	560,000.00	0.00	193,614.54
Mauritania - (PBF) Prevention des Conflits y Compris les Discours Haineux en Période Préélectorale	621,310.48	630,000.00	0.00	435,813.65
Mozambique - Advancing Human Rights Agenda	1,941,207.94	623,830.52	1,505,441.62	1,779,107.95
Mozambique - (MPTF) Disability Fund 4th Inception Phase*	0.00	0.00	180,541.00	0.00
Mozambique - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	248,970.00	31,953.17	234,600.00	226,608.12
Mozambique - (UNESCO) Protection and Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism	38,082.00	75,532.85	4,000.00	24,469.79
Mozambique - (UNESCO) Protection and Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism	40,200.00	0.00	79,849.00	3,316.15
Niger - Country Office	1,306,448.00	549,668.26	641,097.26	1,183,052.40
Niger - (PBF) Accélérer la Mise en Oeuvre de l'Agenda Femme, Paix, et Sécurité dans la Région de Tahoua et Zinder	361,109.00	375,783.00	0.00	179,437.62
Nigeria - (PBF) Strengthening the Conflict and Gender Sensitive Oversight Mechanisms of the Police Force	215,013.17	220,500.00	0.00	104,969.58
Nigeria - (UNDP) Strengthening Local and State Level Peace Architecture	187,931.79	200,000.12	0.00	43,243.56
Nigeria - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	340,659.42	48,302.57	320,400.00	276,251.81
Rwanda - Human Rights Adviser	511,814.67	787,308.38	0.00	501,425.74

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	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Rwanda - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	21,400.00	2,755.46	74,900.00	374.14
Rwanda - Strengthening the Capacities of the National Commission for Human Rights	606,753.50	86,893.83	430,000.00	514,318.63
Senegal - Response to Human Rights Violations against LGBTI persons**	26,503.02	7,663.89	28,472.06	-11,961.13
Sierra Leone - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	309,209.84	59,691.89	428,600.00	400,334.03
Somalia - Human Rights Activities (UNSOM)	363,957.18	185,514.32	363,400.00	322,086.00
South Africa - (MPTF) Strengthening Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion	285,019.00	319,857.71	0.00	267,526.23
Southern Africa (Pretoria) - Regional Office	1,346,528.00	163,042.49	992,177.85	1,155,739.57
South Sudan - Support to Peace Mission	121,073.00	-11,802.50	97,100.00	81,230.43
Sudan - Country Office	6,930,719.00	3,600,482.39	9,336,737.15	6,118,755.31
Tanzania - (MPTF) Human Rights and Gender Equality Activities	0.00	19,640.71	0.00	1,083.35
Uganda - Country Office	4,556,084.34	631,381.38	2,795,581.24	3,257,245.17
Uganda - (UNDP) Strengthening Electoral Processes (SEPU)	221,071.60	274,193.87	0.00	221,034.93
West Africa (Dakar) - Regional Office	1,252,282.16	234,643.82	801,537.43	861,044.50
West Africa (Dakar) - Appui à la Protection des Enfants	54,922.60	481,197.32	0.00	26,194.41
West Africa (Dakar) - Appui à la Protection des Enfants Victimes de la Violation de Leurs Droits (PAPEV Phase II)	346,791.00	0.00	1,347,880.98	118,793.69
West Africa (Dakar) - (UNODC) PROMIS Project Phase III	2,015,353.56	1,605,824.76	1,016,165.00	1,440,257.72
Zambia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	283,271.59	55,810.25	287,000.00	278,222.99
Zimbabwe - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	261,413.70	36,405.58	256,600.00	244,242.36
<b>Subtotal Africa</b>	<b>76,725,317.45</b>	<b>29,574,548.40</b>	<b>62,086,147.36</b>	<b>61,731,108.36</b>

## Americas

Argentina - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	125,887.64	33,428.41	117,700.00	107,634.77
Barbados - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	264,020.36	40,687.81	268,600.00	263,204.81
Belize - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	102,994.99	-219.43	128,700.00	89,873.49
Bolivia - (EU) Strengthening Respect for Human Rights	751,541.25	642,256.28	0.00	684,397.01
Bolivia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser**	0.00	106,100.59	-106,100.59	0.00
Bolivia - Strengthen Respect for Human Rights	210,879.47	14,704.38	304,575.94	191,148.43
Brazil - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	132,671.44	31,603.41	115,900.00	131,205.18
Colombia - Country Office	11,262,469.50	1,848,059.07	8,333,713.87	8,342,238.51
Colombia - (EU) Fortaleciendo la Garantía de los Derechos de Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos	680,278.47	-100,550.56	780,828.76	554,547.88
Colombia - (MPTF) Enabling Development of Community Support and Care Systems*	21,400.00	0.00	86,670.00	0.00

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Colombia - (PBF) Agile and Flexible Response Mechanism to Support Peace Dialogues*	344,019.98	0.00	690,251.00	0.00
Costa Rica - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	231,608.99	31,604.36	185,800.00	197,876.81
Chile - Regional Office for South America	1,470,133.39	384,514.73	984,837.43	1,331,846.72
Dominican Republic - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	252,270.69	29,792.46	220,200.00	251,743.27
Ecuador - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	179,418.67	26,380.74	184,200.00	183,481.58
Guatemala - Country Office	3,969,101.26	1,315,826.52	2,982,963.40	3,590,174.32
Guatemala - Increased Protection of Human Rights	645,382.54	700,778.91	642,582.72	464,860.17
Guatemala - (EU) Fortalecimiento del Espacio Civico para la Proteccion de las Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos	142,637.48	0.00	128,157.00	91,308.31
Guatemala - (MPTF) Establishing Preconditions to Institutionalize the Rights of Guatemalans with Disability	90,505.00	79,795.45	0.00	45,139.11
Guatemala - (PBF) Conflictividad Agraria en el Valle del Polochic	240,755.00	136,216.22	106,144.00	173,369.29
Guatemala - (PBF) Independence of Justice	290,552.00	326,149.49	0.00	105,502.86
Guatemala - (PBF) Juventudes Mayas y Mestizas Organizadas	199,814.52	319,501.80	136,929.34	32,758.28
Guyana - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	68,684.37	8,384.76	69,200.00	50,150.27
Haiti - Support to Peace Mission	1,254,110.16	290,425.54	1,004,531.48	1,119,803.47
Haiti - (CERF) Mécanisme de Protection des Populations	147,180.64	173,335.94	0.00	122,447.15
Haiti - (CERF) Renforcement des Mécanismes de Protection des Populations	299,405.26	0.00	299,405.00	289,868.96
Haiti - (PBF) Construction et Institutionnalisation des Fondations de l'Infrastructure Nationale de Paix	972,128.17	808,567.77	0.00	396,382.86
Honduras - Country Office	4,010,148.31	2,126,024.86	1,574,712.64	3,849,773.46
Honduras - (PBF) Abordaje de los Conflictos Territoriales y de Tierras de Comunidades Garifunas y Afrohondurenas	922,166.66	0.00	1,190,000.00	217,870.29
Honduras - (PBF) Prevenir y Gestionar la Conflictividad Social Vinculada a la Tierra y Territorio	1,097,951.56	704,715.48	386,488.31	1,057,000.04
Honduras - (PBF) Promoviendo Transparencia para la Prevención de Conflictos	237,263.66	235,618.22	0.00	235,528.57
Mexico - Country Office	2,807,975.42	-73,210.14	2,882,559.77	2,801,277.40
Mexico - (EU) Strengthening the Protection of Rights	154,373.18	0.00	205,247.00	132,029.73
Mexico - (MPTF) Spotlight Initiative for SGBV Programme	151,656.45	155,640.53	0.00	111,691.15
Nicaragua - Monitoring, Documenting, and Reporting on the Human Rights Situation	438,803.86	477,484.86	49,371.04	317,190.37
Panama - El Salvador - (PBF) Fortalecimiento de la Paz y los Derechos Humanos	634,220.03	721,380.37	0.00	606,417.22
Panama - El Salvador - Human Rights Engagement	520,293.81	540,865.45	133,290.32	519,146.25
Panama - OHCHR's Work in the Spanish Caribbean Region	325,704.42	0.00	556,832.21	306,167.76
Panama - Regional Office for Central America	870,521.49	72,412.59	799,625.62	700,982.37

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	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Panama - Strengthening the Regional Approach for the Protection of Specific Human Rights Concerns in LAC	1,334,048.62	0.00	965,703.38	944,291.69
Paraguay - Human Rights Adviser	197,112.68	3,818.52	161,200.00	165,371.71
Paraguay - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	105,831.56	-746.64	117,900.00	100,721.15
Peru - Promoting and Protecting Human Rights	892,107.88	132,233.28	2,186,774.01	741,231.22
Peru - (PBF) Fortalecimiento Institucional Descentralizado para la Prevencion y Gestion de Conflictividad	325,599.93	0.00	840,000.00	206,741.04
Peru - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser**	0.00	-18,376.84	1,000.00	-19,373.06
Trinidad y Tobago - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	187,233.95	19,807.91	168,800.00	141,116.71
Uruguay - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	195,630.24	-26,519.56	221,800.00	192,862.92
Venezuela - Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting on Human Rights Situation	3,031,904.13	2,326,130.33	3,521,806.54	2,216,021.73
Venezuela - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees	914,741.78	10,177.74	1,137,021.83	636,276.60
<b>Subtotal Americas</b>	<b>43,705,140.86</b>	<b>14,654,801.61</b>	<b>34,765,922.02</b>	<b>34,991,299.83</b>

### Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan - Support to Peace Mission	217,126.00	96,291.95	218,102.51	219,031.04
Bangladesh - National Human Rights Adviser	167,456.24	54,148.78	68,700.00	140,223.88
Bangladesh - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	277,181.36	35,390.43	262,900.00	263,024.47
Cambodia - Country Office	1,146,327.75	933,214.88	834,664.50	553,433.86
Cambodia - (EU) Human Rights-Based Prevention to Sustain Development	372,439.34	372,440.48	0.00	244,468.14
Cambodia - (MPTF) Accelerating Disability Rights	183,223.66	186,071.00	0.00	178,098.90
Cambodia - (UNESCO) Building Back Better through Participation	172,089.95	119,793.22	52,252.00	121,134.80
Cambodia - (UNESCO) Monitoring, Reporting, and Analysis of the Safety of Journalists and Freedom of Expression	125,750.50	98,040.86	50,141.38	78,056.94
DPRK - Field-based structure (based in Seoul)	342,043.00	255,552.44	109,308.00	136,460.01
Maldives - Human Rights Adviser	97,279.44	122,669.14	0.00	49,359.97
Maldives - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	307,856.84	34,627.47	279,100.00	268,061.35
Mongolia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	80,232.88	13,154.67	74,100.00	66,871.97
Myanmar - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	290,086.00	65,895.11	278,900.00	271,375.97
Myanmar - Promotion and protection of Human Rights	2,665,468.00	1,168,957.96	1,585,985.63	2,057,150.88
Nepal - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	86,670.98	3,953.37	91,400.00	76,894.35
Pacific Region (Suva) - Regional Office	1,225,419.46	404,457.73	866,829.22	1,049,437.46
Pacific Region (Suva) - (IOM) Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme Phase 2	101,424.00	0.00	154,747.20	57,500.73
Pacific Region (Suva) - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Disability Activities in Fiji	16,904.45	100,000.00	0.00	16,904.45



	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Pacific Region (Suva) - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Economic Transformation in South Pacific	131,181.03	207,928.00	207,928.00	125,865.88
Pacific Region (Suva) - (MPTF) Strengthen Social Cohesion Pathways, Human Rights, and Women's Civic Participation*	0.00	0.00	256,800.00	0.00
Pacific Region (Suva) - (UNTFHS) Strengthening Social Cohesion Post-COVID-19	84,764.53	439,300.27	0.00	84,764.53
Papua New Guinea - Human Rights Adviser	359,729.85	156,280.79	204,368.70	234,046.52
Papua New Guinea - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	183,723.26	35,630.66	63,400.00	57,417.12
Philippines - Human Rights Adviser	162,326.00	153,465.42	10,900.00	164,308.06
Philippines - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	234,904.00	7,656.89	215,900.00	205,345.09
Philippines - UN Joint Programme on Human Rights	88,392.00	-80,425.93	286,300.00	11,728.86
Philippines - (EU) Increasing Access to Justice Contribution to the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights	414,640.00	0.00	414,640.00	275,001.70
Philippines - (MPTF) UN Joint Programme on Human Rights	830,898.00	192,038.00	638,860.00	454,741.29
Samoa - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	254,412.26	24,107.60	259,200.00	248,782.56
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Regional Office	1,596,076.00	414,756.02	1,048,507.29	1,080,869.69
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - (UN WOMEN) Access to Justice for Women in Asia-Pacific	146,951.46	147,201.10	1,000.00	146,455.81
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - (EU) Strengthening the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	696,850.00	0.00	579,332.97	385,002.27
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Strengthening the Capacity of Regional Actors to Promote Human Rights Accountability	2,571,669.00	2,901,031.23	762,454.55	2,082,753.88
Sri Lanka - Human Rights Adviser	1,005,764.00	443,206.00	925,925.00	592,856.75
Sri Lanka - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	187,457.23	38,003.02	182,100.00	176,757.74
Timor Leste - Human Rights Adviser	281,308.11	100,583.43	144,359.97	221,534.49
Timor Leste - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	261,379.60	34,614.91	253,200.00	264,267.09
<b>Subtotal Asia and the Pacific</b>	<b>17,367,406.18</b>	<b>9,280,036.90</b>	<b>11,382,306.92</b>	<b>12,659,988.50</b>

### Europe and Central Asia

Azerbaijan - (EU) Protecting Human Rights of Vulnerable Groups	687,913.70	-18,860.13	776,121.47	474,406.59
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Human Rights Adviser	58,676.88	39,419.46	84,388.19	61,834.44
Bosnia and Herzegovina - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	240,186.00	64,053.79	208,600.00	235,304.09
Central Asia (Bishkek) - Regional Office	933,981.00	25,245.86	985,637.43	888,866.54
Central Asia (Bishkek) - (EU) Support to States in Central Asia for their Citizens Returned from Conflict Zones	114,061.98	89,218.12	0.00	93,248.47
Europe (Brussels) - Regional Office	700,051.95	150,354.95	384,100.00	498,273.58
Georgia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	273,496.28	64,627.64	289,300.00	289,963.97

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Georgia - (MPTF/EU) Human Rights for All	358,306.62	29,034.81	375,271.21	307,280.17
Georgia - (MPTF) Leave No One Behind, from Policy and Principles to Practice in Disability Inclusive Development	32,100.00	32,941.42	0.00	32,073.84
Kazakhstan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	204,563.54	20,976.30	206,200.00	199,756.67
Kyrgyzstan - (PBF) Inclusive Governance and Shared Identity for Sustainable Peace and Development	547,710.00	356,323.26	255,000.00	477,927.80
Macedonia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	105,081.00	-5,218.05	106,300.00	100,168.92
Moldova (Republic of) - Human Rights Adviser	315,421.23	355,625.32	0.00	286,462.37
Moldova (Republic of) - (EU) Improving Equal Access to Services and Assistance for Refugees	410,775.63	0.00	611,353.71	346,947.01
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	246,219.96	152,339.16	200,800.00	266,058.10
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) UN Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region	125,229.14	20,999.32	137,017.00	120,290.46
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) Paradigm Shift to Disability Inclusive Services	129,184.39	138,011.27	0.00	68,700.80
Moldova (Republic of) - (PBF) Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace, Strengthening Trust and Social Cohesion	565,033.00	547,678.53	255,000.00	360,462.71
Montenegro - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	301,945.44	28,475.15	281,300.00	269,212.19
Russian Federation - Human Rights Adviser	855,800.00	289,931.16	405,300.00	859,340.10
Russian Federation - Projects on Human Rights Awareness-raising and Training Activities	51,980.00	54,000.52	0.00	26,803.08
Serbia - Human Rights Adviser	268,729.00	46,687.23	195,800.00	239,443.80
Southern Caucasus - Human Rights Advisers	543,945.84	60,992.23	657,533.62	513,160.92
Tajikistan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	238,673.84	34,019.40	220,200.00	234,413.62
Ukraine - (MPTF) Mainstreaming a Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Response to the Refugee Crisis	135,662.09	134,999.00	0.00	123,502.92
Ukraine - (MPTF) Support to the work of the Human Rights Monitoring Mission	501,149.48	865,649.26	0.00	377,217.67
Ukraine - Human Rights Monitoring Mission (HRMMU)	13,105,118.50	11,935,714.05	11,522,721.55	9,951,753.97
<b>Subtotal Europe and Central Asia</b>	<b>22,050,996.49</b>	<b>15,513,239.03</b>	<b>18,157,944.18</b>	<b>17,702,874.80</b>

### Middle East and North Africa

Iraq - Support to Peace Mission - Accountability for Abduction and Torture	419,410.40	226,367.05	500,000.00	259,908.59
Iraq - Support to Peace Mission	273,182.02	12,369.41	140,000.00	158,788.94
Iraq - Support to Peace Mission - Rights of Religious Minorities	246,481.25	-21,817.55	93,671.04	128,852.67
Jordan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	296,342.52	41,053.77	248,400.00	247,433.06
Libya - Support to Peace Mission	139,126.00	59,992.08	85,015.94	99,183.74
Middle East (Beirut) - Regional Office	3,011,016.74	428,346.74	3,006,958.22	3,250,727.84

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Middle East (Beirut) - Rights of Religious Minorities	0.00	-16,447.27	34,700.00	0.00
Saudi Arabia - Financial and Technical Assistance through the Saudi Human Rights Commission (in coordination with ROME)	2,150,241.97	1,372,385.84	777,855.73	1,492,480.65
South West and Arab Region (Doha) - Training and Documentation Centre	1,508,511.30	531,328.88	399,991.20	583,054.67
State of Palestine**** - (EU) Implementing Palestine's Human Rights Treaty Obligations**	680,884.87	974,351.71	-250,000.00	679,102.15
State of Palestine - Stand-alone Office****	4,213,359.77	1,249,958.21	4,273,847.98	2,864,057.38
Syria - (CERF) Human Rights Protection	221,529.59	176,046.15	0.00	173,154.02
Syria - (EU) Strengthening Rights, Protection and Justice*	0.00	0.00	549,250.00	0.00
Syria - International Response to the Human Rights Situation in Syria (Refugees/IDPs/TJ)	3,993,867.55	709,292.57	4,369,286.02	3,902,097.33
Tunisia - Country Office	2,048,703.56	404,558.78	1,288,865.47	1,162,745.68
Tunisia - (MPTF) 4th Inception Phase - UNPRDP Disability Fund**	79,270.83	67,880.73	0.00	-5,628.21
Tunisia - (UNESCO) NAP-Empowering the Education System and School Communities through the Promotion of Human Rights	26,164.71	79,493.26	146,524.00	3,589.04
Yemen - Country Office	7,348,473.62	773,512.02	4,527,637.16	3,928,618.46
Yemen - Building Capacity on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting for Civil Society and the National Commission of Inquiry	794,271.07	0.00	821,804.00	679,902.89
Yemen - (EU) Protecting and Expanding Civil Society Space	340,341.32	0.00	267,361.00	258,585.84
<b>Subtotal Middle East and North Africa</b>	<b>27,791,179.09</b>	<b>7,068,672.38</b>	<b>21,281,167.76</b>	<b>19,866,654.74</b>

### Contingency Fund

Contingency Fund - Emergency Response Projects	269,761.75	520,369.83	447,512.53	285,131.80
<b>Subtotal Contingency Fund</b>	<b>269,761.75</b>	<b>520,369.83</b>	<b>447,512.53</b>	<b>285,131.80</b>
<b>Total field presences</b>	<b>187,909,801.82</b>	<b>76,611,668.15</b>	<b>148,121,000.77</b>	<b>147,237,058.03</b>

### Cross-Entities Global Projects

Human Rights Up Front Action Plan	963,819.00	55,729.44	873,684.15	943,031.62
OHCHR-Sustainable Environmental Management	219,826.00	-36,171.42	230,300.00	178,769.70
OHCHR Human Rights Disability Rights Strategy - Reasonable Accommodation Costs	39,550.00	3,077.26	32,100.00	28,929.90
Task Force ESCRs, SDGs and Prevention	1,859,610.50	528,572.88	1,360,250.00	1,859,577.01
Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief	550,008.00	480,055.59	90,276.58	498,810.30
Action for Organizational Effectiveness 2.0	180,874.09	0.00	427,054.71	464,791.71
Support to Digital Transformation of UN Human Rights	3,065,949.00	2,153,908.99	624,004.15	2,377,257.80
OHCHR Work on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine	2,234,007.74	1,149,292.97	783,000.00	1,830,451.84
Support to Human Rights Advisers (MPTF) - HQ Coordination	267,542.00	8,069.72	292,800.00	312,468.43

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
<b>Subtotal Cross-Entities Global Projects</b>	<b>9,381,186.33</b>	<b>4,342,535.43</b>	<b>4,713,469.59</b>	<b>8,494,088.31</b>
<b>Total headquarters and field presences</b>	<b>309,997,003.69</b>	<b>103,734,727.32</b>	<b>260,312,365.22</b>	<b>257,721,474.99</b>
<b>OTHER TRUST FUNDS</b>				
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	12,127,765.00	13,395,824.35	11,010,150.27	11,741,108.06
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,085,661.00	1,585,241.13	1,290,365.92	1,360,210.50
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	1,035,210.00	1,834,226.31	432,422.61	1,081,925.96
Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review	512,530.00	1,086,341.73	778,501.14	509,602.61
Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism	161,463.39	453,809.28	399,836.61	116,640.25
Trust Fund for the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Work of the Human Rights Council	1,133,058.00	1,937,860.51	386,665.87	1,015,883.68
<b>Total other trust funds</b>	<b>16,055,687.39</b>	<b>20,293,303.31</b>	<b>14,297,942.42</b>	<b>15,825,371.06</b>
<b>Other income/expenditure</b>				
Unearmarked reserves for allocations to project requirements (HCA trust fund)	0.00	30,645,262.20	1,466,193.14	0.00
Reserves for allocations to VFTC project requirements (AHA trust fund)	0.00	6,245,247.31	6,134,883.22	0.00
Other income/expenditure not reported above***	0.00	8,985,196.95	5,666,757.30	-522,395.05
<b>Subtotal other income/expenditure</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>45,875,706.46</b>	<b>13,267,833.66</b>	<b>-522,395.05</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>326,052,691.08</b>	<b>169,903,737.09</b>	<b>287,878,141.30</b>	<b>273,024,451.00</b>

Total Income 2023 = Voluntary contributions pledged to OHCHR in 2023 (US\$ 281,471,206), gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions and interest income US\$ 6,406,935).

\* New project with income from contributions received at year-end.

\*\* Includes prior period income and/or expenditure adjustments.

\*\*\* Includes miscellaneous income and interest for 2023, and prior period expenditure adjustments not reported above.

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

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT (EDM)

## Voluntary contributions in 2023

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
-	-	EDM
<b>(a) Total contributions to EDM</b>	<b>0</b>	
Australia	118,969	Response to reprisals
Australia	42,373	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Human Rights 75 in the Pacific)
Austria	133,404	Human Rights 75
China	500,000	Human Rights 75
Finland	63,627	Human Rights 75
Ford Foundation	500,000	Human Rights 75
France	327,154	Human Rights 75
Genève (République et Canton)	57,143	Human Rights 75
Genève (Ville)	27,975	Human Rights 75 (including Alhambra concert)
Germany	54,885	Human Rights 75
Ireland	370,763	Human Rights 75
Norway	139,237	Response to reprisals
Norway	278,474	Prevention
Open Society Foundations	393,240	Human Rights 75
Romania	10,977	Human Rights 75
Spain	21,459	Human Rights 75
Switzerland	150,000	Human Rights 75 (including high-level event)
UNDP (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence)	291,975	UN Team of Experts on sexual violence in conflict
Uzbekistan	100,000	Human Rights 75
Private donors	229,885	Human Rights 75
<b>(b) Total contributions to specific sections/ projects</b>	<b>3,811,539</b>	
<b>(c) Total contributions earmarked to EDM (a) + (b)</b>	<b>3,811,539</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to EDM	21,281,100	Unearmarked
<b>(d) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>21,281,100</b>	
<b>(e) Total XB funds available for EDM (c) + (d)</b>	<b>25,092,639</b>	

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT (EDM)****RB & XB funds made available for EDM in 2023**

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment for EDM	10,473,540	100.0%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>10,473,540</b>	<b>29.4%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds to EDM	0	0.0%
Earmarked funds for the Human Rights 75 Initiative	2,940,511	11.7%
Earmarked funds for other specific sections/projects	871,027	3.5%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to EDM	21,281,100	84.7%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	24,610	0.1%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>25,117,249</b>	<b>70.6%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>35,590,789</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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## RESEARCH AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (RRDD)

### Voluntary contributions in 2023

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
-	0	
<b>(a) Total contributions to RRDD</b>	<b>0</b>	
Australia	33,047	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section)
Austria	89,662	Civic space Unit
	52,743	Regional gender advisers
Azerbaijan	26,000	Right to development
Canada	393,701	Indigenous Fellowship Programme
	80,000	OHCHR's work on countering racism and discrimination in sports
	200,000	OHCHR's work related to business and human rights
	120,000	OHCHR's work related to combating racial discrimination
	560,000	OHCHR's work related to economic, social, and cultural rights (including regional consultations)
China	200,000	OHCHR's work related to religious hatred and intolerance
	620,000	OHCHR's work related to right to development
	200,000	OHCHR's work related to the rights of persons with disabilities
	200,000	Permanent Forum of People of African Descent
	120,000	Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
	90,000	Support to the work of DESIB-political constituency building on human rights economy
Christian Blind Mission	110,963	Human Rights Disability Unit (Programmatic project plan in support of the the global partnership community 2030)
Czech Republic	13,915	Promotion of the guidelines on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs
David Clark Cause	50,000	OHCHR's Environment Team
European Commission	525,850	Human rights-based approach to data
	2,109,929	Digital rights
Finland	63,627	Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section
	394,144	Women Human Rights and Gender Section
Fondation Botnar	669,643	Research study on making smart cities right for young people
Ford Foundation	134,637	Indigenous Fellowship Programme
France	106,045	OHCHR's activities related to media freedom and quality of information
	76,336	Women Human Rights and Gender Section

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DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
	607,804	Advancing the human right to a healthy environment
	1,099,585	Advancing gender equality and the rights of women and girls
	107,880	Anti-corruption and integrity
	109,649	Anti-racial discrimination
Germany	573,087	B-Tech project (in particular in the use of technology across the African continent)
	98,684	Child and Youth Rights Unit
	87,719	Human Rights and Disability Unit
	274,123	Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section
	76,754	Migration Unit
Iceland	100,000	UN Free & Equal
Liechtenstein	342,466	Accountability and transitional justice as means to prevent and remedy human rights violations and abuses
Malaysia	30,000	OHCHR's activities related to economic, social, and cultural rights
Microsoft	2,400,000	OHCHR's work relating to human rights online, innovation and technology, business and human rights, and advocacy
Morocco	150,000	Child and Youth Rights Unit
	371,299	Counter discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity
	278,474	Indigenous Peoples' rights
Norway	371,299	OHCHR's work for child and youth rights
	278,474	Protecting and expanding civil society space
	324,886	Support of freedom of religion and belief, and the protection of religious minorities
	371,299	Women's rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
	404,304	Anti-racial discrimination
Open society Foundations	98,310	Drug policy
	504,705	Women human rights and gender
Qatar	50,000	Child and Youth Rights Unit
	60,000	Right to Development Section (work on the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs)
	70,000	Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Section (activities for local government and human rights)
Republic of Korea	200,000	New and emerging digital technologies and human rights
Romania	27,442	OHCHR's work on anti-racial discrimination for developing countries
Salesforce	15,000	B-Tech project on new technologies and their impact on human rights
	120,000	Anti-racial discrimination
Saudi Arabia	40,000	Disabilities
	190,000	Right to Development Section (including regional seminars on North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation for the enjoyment of all human rights)
	80,000	Business and human rights in technology
Switzerland	40,000	Gender accreditation programme
	230,000	Migrants in Libya
The Schmidt Family Foundation	325,000	Human rights defenders and online civic space
Türkiye	100,000	OHCHR's activities related to combating Islamophobia

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
UNDP (UNPRPD)	199,835	Climate change and disability inclusion
	86,670	Enabling development of community support and care system
UNESCO	200,000	Media freedom and safety of journalists
UNFPA	1,166,813	Permanent Forum of People of African Descent
UNOPS	50,000	Supporting human rights-based approach in climate prosperity plans
Private donor	34,483	Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section
Private donor	1,071	Anti-racial discrimination
<b>(b) Total contributions to specific sections/ projects</b>	<b>19,587,355</b>	
<b>(c) Total contributions earmarked to RRDD (a) + (b)</b>	<b>19,587,355</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to RRDD projects*	11,425,250	Unearmarked
<b>(d) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>11,425,250</b>	
<b>(e) Total XB funds available for RRDD (c) + (d)</b>	<b>31,012,605</b>	

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## RESEARCH AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (RRDD)

## RB &amp; XB funds made available for RRDD in 2023

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment for RRDD	21,064,375	100.0%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>21,064,375</b>	<b>40.5%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds to RRDD - all projects	0	0.0%
Earmarked funds for specific sections/projects	19,587,355	63.3%
Unearmarked/softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to RRDD	11,425,250	36.9%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-64,522	-0.2%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>30,948,084</b>	<b>59.5%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>52,012,459</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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## HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES BRANCH (HRTB)

## Voluntary contributions in 2023

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Germany	324,472	HRTB
Qatar	35,000	HRTB
<b>(a) Total contributions to HRTB - all bodies</b>	<b>359,472</b>	
Czech Republic	9,276	OPCAT Special Fund
Denmark	143,287	OPCAT Special Fund 2022-2023
Chile	10,000	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
	218,103	Committee on Enforced Disappearances (including concert and world forum)
France	218,103	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (including special event and consultancy)
	54,526	Petitions Unit
Germany	38,377	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
	109,649	Petitions Unit
Mexico	39,773	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Open Society Foundations	98,310	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Spain	32,895	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>(b) Total contributions to specific bodies/projects</b>	<b>972,298</b>	
<b>(c) Total contributions earmarked to HRTB (a) + (b)</b>	<b>1,331,769,76</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to HRTB	2,136,100	Unearmarked
<b>(d) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>2,136,100</b>	
<b>(e) Total XB funds available for HRTB (c) + (d)</b>	<b>3,467,870</b>	

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**HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION (HRTD)****RB & XB funds made available for HRTD in 2023**

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment for HRTD	18,005,110	100.0%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>18,005,110</b>	<b>83.9%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds to HRTD - all bodies	359,472	10.4%
Earmarked funds for HRTD specific bodies/projects	819,734	23.8%
Earmarked funds to OPCAT Special Fund	152,563	4.4%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to HRTD	2,136,100	62.0%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-23,068	-0.7%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>3,444,802</b>	<b>16.1%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>21,449,912</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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**FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION (FOTCD)**

**Voluntary contributions in 2023**

DONOR	PLEDGE,US\$	EARMARKING
Australia	581,626	Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region
	593,940	Activities in the Asia-Pacific Region*
	130,378	The Philippines (UN Joint Programme)*
	231,328	National Human Rights Institutions
Austria	31,646	Bosnia and Herzegovina*
Belgium	539,374	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (transitional justice, fight against impunity, and protection in Kasai and Ituri)
	820,906	Guinea
	548,246	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine* **
	281,532	Uganda
Belgique/Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles	100,301	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
	221,239	Bolivia
	1,501,502	Ethiopia
Canada	1,182,677	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	269,912	Peru
	734,754	Venezuela
	13,915	Belarus
Czech Republic	23,191	Emergency Response Section
	13,915	Venezuela
Denmark	368,406	Ethiopia
	232,070	Fiji (prevention and early warning capacity)
	716,435	Human rights protection and peace operations
	3,744,240	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Estonia	32,895	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	933,607	Azerbaijan (protecting human rights of vulnerable groups)
	1,245,945	Chad
	849,863	Colombia
European Commission	3,971,987	East Africa (enhancement and operationalization of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework for African Union inclusive of peace support operations)
	1,007,862	Egypt
	4,899,247	G5 Sahel (establishment and implementation of human rights and humanitarian law compliance framework for the operations of the G5 Sahel Joint Force)

DONOR	PLEDGE, US\$	EARMARKING
European Commission	128,157	Guatemala
	205,247	Mexico
	599,572	The Republic of Moldova (assistance for refugees with specific needs and the most vulnerable host community members)
	1,276,100	OHCHR's work on combatting impunity
	414,640	The Philippines
	308,183	Regional Office for Central America (Spanish-speaking Caribbean)
	2,258,581	Sahel (international human rights law compliance of law enforcement operations in Chad, Mauritania, and Niger: strengthening the capacity of internal security forces)
	5,753,638	Sudan
	549,250	Syria
	579,333	Thailand
	653,781	Venezuela (Fortalecimiento de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en el contexto de las restricciones del espacio cívico y democrático)
	267,361	Yemen
	Finland	2,439,024
Ford Foundation	50,000	Human Rights 75 - Regional Office for Central America
France	54,526	Belarus
	305,344	Chad*
	545,256	Ethiopia
	327,154	Georgia*
	109,051	Haiti*
	763,359	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	87,241	Iran
	32,715	Liberia
	218,103	Mauritania*
	327,154	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
	272,627	Tunisia
	54,526	Venezuela
	567,686	Advancing the human right to a healthy environment (allocated to Mexico,* Peru,* Tunisia, Uganda, Regional Office for South-East Asia, and Regional Office for the Pacific)
Germany	219,539	Afghanistan*
	87,719	Contingency Fund/Armenia
	53,706	Bosnia and Herzegovina*

DONOR	PLEDGE, US\$	EARMARKING
	326,710	Colombia
	596,357	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers*
	65,789	El Salvador
	328,947	Guatemala
	328,947	Guinea
	164,474	Haiti*
	2,195,499	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	175,631	Iran
	82,237	Kenya*
	109,649	Liberia
	219,298	Mexico*
	1,153,706	Myanmar
	107,411	Myanmar*
	768,146	OHCHR's Emergency Response Section
Germany	2,195,390	OHCHR's Investigative Support Unit
	164,654	Peru
	54,825	Regional Office for Central America
	54,825	Regional Office for Central Asia
	324,472	Regional Office for East Africa
	328,947	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
	54,825	Regional Office for South America
	109,649	Regional Office for South-East Asia
	162,236	Regional Office for Southern Africa
	54,825	Regional Office for West Africa
	322,234	Sudan
	1,948,341	Syria
	109,649	Tunisia
	493,662	Venezuela
	1,994,731	Yemen
Greece	53,937	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
India	200,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
	154,747	Pacific climate change migration
IOM	79,533	Strengthen response and preparedness capacities of local actors in Ecuador in the context of migration flows

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DONOR	PLEDGE, US\$	EARMARKING
Ireland	269,687	Colombia
	755,124	Ethiopia
	110,011	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	109,529	Syria
Italy	2,023,783	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers*
	129,266	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	85,016	Libya*
	1,396,868	Regional Office for West Africa (appui à la protection des enfants PAPEV II)
	1,076,431	Syria
	342,349	Venezuela
	300,583	Ethiopia
Japan	315,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	205,927	OHCHR's work on accountability
	925,925	Sri Lanka*
Lithuania	21,906	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Luxembourg	440,044	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	323,625	Regional Office for East Africa
	1,096,491	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
The Netherlands	74,612	Colombia
	300,000	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
	2,105,263	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers*
	218,840	Egypt
	9,308	Field-based structure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (seminar on accountability)
	1,100,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	28,472	Senegal (response to human rights violations, LGBTI people)
	905,138	Tunisia
Norway	200,000	Venezuela
	821,804	Yemen
	1,392,370	Eastern and Southern Africa (The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan, and Uganda)
	701,403	Guatemala
	789,355	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	1,624,431	Latin America (Colombia, Haiti,* Nicaragua, and Venezuela) ▶

DONOR	PLEDGE,US\$	EARMARKING
	371,299	Myanmar
Norway	417,711	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	1,021,071	OHCHR's work on prevention, early warning, and emergency response
	1,345,957	Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, and Niger)* and G5 Sahel
Norwegian Refugee Council	118,894	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
OCHA/CERF	499,936	Ethiopia (protection response in underserved areas of Southern, Western Oromia and Benishangul Gumr region with serious human rights issues)
	299,405	Haiti (mécanisme de protection des populations dans les quartiers sous le contrôle de gangs, et de surveillance des abus et violences commis à leur rencontre)
Open Society Foundations	21,131	Colombia
Philippines	50,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
	11,238	Contingency Fund
Poland	33,713	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	11,238	OHCHR's work on accountability in Eastern Europe
	22,475	OHCHR's work on accountability in Ukraine
Portugal	32,362	Guinea-Bissau*
	26,969	Timor-Leste*
	26,969	Venezuela
Qatar	200,000	Middle East and North Africa
	25,000	National Human Rights Institutions
	150,000	Syria
Republic of Korea	400,000	UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region
	200,000	Asia-Pacific Branch
	100,000	Emergency Response Section
Saudi Arabia	100,000	Field-based structure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
	50,000	OHCHR's partnership activities with Justice Rapid Response
	500,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Save the Children International in Yemen	300,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	200,000	Technical assistance for the MENA region
Slovakia	777,856	Technical assistance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	108,000	Yemen
	53,937	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

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DONOR	PLEDGE, US\$	EARMARKING
Spain	438,596	Colombia
	54,825	Support to investigations (Afghanistan)
	142,544	Gender work in regional offices in Latin America
	164,474	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	332,963	Peru
	169,956	Regional Office in Central America (migration and Spanish-speaking Caribbean)
	652,412	Field work (including in Latin America, Afghanistan, Sahel, and State of Palestine)
	109,649	Technical cooperation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*
	1,066,098	Promotion and protection of human rights of Venezuelan migrants and refugees
	828,392	Venezuela
	1,273,190	Asia-Pacific (strengthening capacity of regional actors to promote human rights, accountability, democratic space, and gender equality)
	654,829	Burkina Faso*
	944,622	Cambodia
Sweden	1,187,296	Colombia
	1,524,545	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (enhancing and protecting the civic space, and responding to conflict-related sexual violence)
	919,118	Ethiopia
	468,080	Guatemala (countering racial discrimination and combating impunity)
	1,465,526	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	1,535,692	Mozambique
	2,409,174	Regional emergency response
	948,857	Strengthening the regional approach for the protection of specific human rights concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean
	3,145,785	Sudan
	1,180,777	Uganda
Switzerland	948,857	Yemen
	715,768	Burkina Faso*
	110,254	Colombia
	540,541	Honduras
	450,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	1,093,638	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
315,000	Regional Office for Central Asia (with a focus on Uzbekistan) ▶	



DONOR	PLEDGE, US\$	EARMARKING
Switzerland	15,000	Regional Office for Southern Africa (strengthening women human rights defenders)
	180,000	Rwanda*
	200,000	Syria
Türkiye	350,000	Contingency Fund
	150,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
United Kingdom	246,609	Colombia (enhancing institutional capacity and accompanying victims in the search for truth, justice, reparation, and non-recurrence)
	313,936	Ethiopia (leveraging the peace process for stronger support of human rights)
	1,850,755	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	4,951	Peru (accountability for violations committed during the protests)
	611,995	Syria
	4,500,000	Colombia
	1,000,000	Ethiopia (leveraging the peace process for stronger support of human rights)
United States of America	1,000,000	Guatemala
	1,000,000	Honduras
	987,654	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	500,000	Iraq (accountability for abduction, torture, and enforced disappearance)
	1,000,000	Mexico*
	1,300,000	Peru (focus on women, Indigenous Peoples, and migrants)
	1,150,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
	100,000	Burkina Faso (Peacebuilding Fund (PBF))
	1,350,000	Chad (PBF)
	690,251	Colombia (PBF)
	411,950	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (PBF)
	415,160	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD))
	207,928	Fiji (SDGs joint project)
256,800	Fiji (PBF)	
375,271	Georgia (Joint project)	
243,073	Guatemala (PBF)	
364,930	Guinea-Bissau (PBF)	
1,576,488	Honduras (PBF)	
350,000	Kenya (promoting peace)*	
UNDP (UN managed pooled and trust funds funding)		

DONOR	PLEDGE,US\$	EARMARKING
UNDP (UN managed pooled and trust funds funding)	93,000	Kenya (countering hate speech and incitement ahead of 2022 elections)*
	255,000	Kyrgyzstan (PBF)
	843,209	Madagascar (PBF)
	255,000	The Republic of Moldova (PBF)
	137,017	The Republic of Moldova (2030 SDGs Partnership)
	180,541	Mozambique (UNPRPD)
	840,000	Peru (PBF)
	638,860	The Philippines (Joint project)
UNESCO	5,000,000	UNDG-HRM - deployment of human rights advisers*
	142,128	Cambodia (freedom of expression and building back better through participation)
UN Women	146,524	Tunisia
	113,680	Kenya (strengthening access to justice for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors)*
UNODC	51,376	Kenya (increasing the role of women leaders)*
	1,016,165	Strengthening the capacities of West African states to develop a human rights-based response to smuggling of migrants and to effectively respond to human rights violations related to irregular migration
UNTF for Human Security	130,032	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (promoting the human security approach for the empowerment of GBV victims in Tanganyika)
	129,095	Guinea (using the human security approach to protect individuals against human trafficking)
World Bank	403,065	Ethiopia (strengthening the African Union's early warning methodologies through the integration of a human rights-based approach into the African Union Continental Early Warning System)
<b>Total earmarked contributions</b>	<b>147,358,413</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to FOTCD	31,034,583	Unearmarked
<b>Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>31,034,583</b>	
<b>Total XB funds available for FOTCD</b>	<b>178,392,996</b>	

\* Project funded and implemented through the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC).

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

## FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION (FOTCD)

### RB & XB funds made available for FOTCD in 2023

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment for FOTCD - Headquarters	63,472,137	75.8%
Regular budget allotment for FOTCD - Field presences	17,538,245	20.9%
Regular programme of technical cooperation for FOTCD - Field presences	2,733,500	3.3%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>83,743,882</b>	<b>32.3%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC)	9,179,755	5.2%
Earmarked funds for specific field presences/activities	137,729,701	78.6%
Earmarked funds for the Contingency Fund	448,957	0.3%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to FOTCD	31,034,583	17.7%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-3,161,434	-1.8%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>175,231,562</b>	<b>67.7%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>258,975,444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BRANCH AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW BRANCH (HRCB/UPRB)

## Voluntary contributions in 2023

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Private donor	62,701	HRCB
<b>(a) Total contributions to HRCB/UPRB</b>	<b>62,701</b>	
-	-	-
<b>(b) Total specifically earmarked contributions</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>(c) Total contributions earmarked to HRCB/ UPRB (a) + (b)</b>	<b>62,701</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to HRCB	4,145,300	Unearmarked
Unearmarked funds allocated to UPRB	355,900	Unearmarked
<b>(d) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>4,501,200</b>	
<b>(e) Total XB funds available for HRCB (c) + (d)</b>	<b>4,563,901</b>	

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BRANCH AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW BRANCH (HRCB/UPRB)

### RB & XB funds made available for HRCB and UPRB in 2023

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment for HRCB	3,756,900	41.0%
Regular budget allotment for UPRB	5,413,380	59.0%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>9,170,280</b>	<b>66.8%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds to HRCB/UPRB	62,701	1.4%
Earmarked funds for HRCB-specific activities	0	0.0%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to HRCB	4,145,300	90.9%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to UPRB	355,900	7.8%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-2,921	-0.1%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>4,560,979</b>	<b>33.2%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>13,731,259</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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## SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH (SPB)

## Voluntary contributions in 2023

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DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
Germany	434,121	SPB
<b>(a) Total contributions to SPB - all mandates</b>	<b>434,121</b>	<b>Mandate / earmarking</b>
Australia	88,005	Torture
Austria	21,097	Forum on Minority Issues
	200,000	Negative impact of unilateral coercive measures
China	130,000	Rights of migrants
	180,000	Working Group on discrimination against women
Cyprus	10,959	Cultural rights
Czech Republic	13,915	Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
	73,198	Extreme poverty
Finland	104,730	Rights of persons with disabilities
	47,297	Summary executions
	32,715	Sexual orientation and gender identity
France	109,051	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
	109,051	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
	54,526	Adequate housing
	54,526	Environment
	81,258	Environment (allocated from the contribution "Advancing the human right to a healthy environment")
Germany	54,526	Right to privacy
	54,885	Sexual orientation and gender identity
	54,526	Trafficking in persons
	54,526	Water and sanitation
	105,352	Working Group on business and human rights
India	50,000	Right to development
ILO	717,617	Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean
Ireland	32,017	Coordination Committee
Japan	16,036	leprosy
Monaco	31,780	Environment
Norway	92,825	Coordination Committee
	83,000	Adequate housing
Open Society Foundations	153,000	Foreign debt



DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
Portugal	21,575	Education
Qatar	30,000	Education
	32,895	Countering terrorism
	32,895	Human rights defenders
	32,895	Rights of persons with disabilities
Spain	32,895	Sexual orientation and gender identity
	10,965	Summary executions
	21,930	Trafficking in persons
	32,895	Water and sanitation
	32,895	Working Group on discrimination against women
	50,034	Countering terrorism
Switzerland	163,000	Right to food
	120,000	Trafficking in persons
<b>(b) Total contributions to specific mandates</b>	<b>3,425,289</b>	
<b>(c) Total contributions earmarked to SPB (a) + (b)</b>	<b>3,859,410</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to SPB	5,559,900	Unearmarked
Unearmarked funds allocated to specific mandates	72,000	Unearmarked
<b>(d) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>5,631,900</b>	
<b>(e) Total XB funds available for SPB (c) + (d)</b>	<b>9,491,310</b>	

**SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH (SPB)****RB & XB funds made available for SPB in 2023**

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment for SPB	19,112,299	100.0%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>19,112,299</b>	<b>65.8%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds to SPB - all mandates	434,121	4.4%
Earmarked funds for specific mandates	3,425,289	34.6%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to SPB	5,559,900	56.1%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to SPB specific mandates	72,000	0.7%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	421,944	4.3%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>9,913,254</b>	<b>34.2%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>29,025,553</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**CROSS-ENTITY PROJECTS**

**Voluntary contributions in 2023**

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
	0	
<b>(a) Total contributions to Cross-Entity projects</b>	<b>0</b>	
Canada	196,850	Digital transformation
Denmark	427,655	Action for Organizational Effectiveness
Germany	329,308	Digital transformation
Norway	185,649	Follow-up to the Secretary-General's Call to Action (Human Rights Up Front activities)
Switzerland	100,000	Digital transformation
<b>(b) Total contributions to specific Cross-Entity projects</b>	<b>1,239,463</b>	
<b>(c) Total contributions earmarked to Cross-Entity projects (a) + (b)</b>	<b>1,239,463</b>	
Unearmarked funds allocated to Cross-Entity projects	3,015,750	Unearmarked
<b>(d) Total unearmarked funds</b>	<b>3,015,750</b>	
<b>(e) Total XB funds available for Cross-Entity projects (c) + (d)</b>	<b>4,255,213</b>	

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**CROSS-ENTITY PROJECTS****RB & XB funds made available for Cross-Entity projects in 2023**

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
<b>RB funds</b>		
Regular budget allotment	0	0.0%
<b>Subtotal RB funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>XB funds</b>		
Earmarked funds for specific Cross-Entity projects	1,239,463	28.2%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to Cross-Entity projects	3,015,750	68.7%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	135,456	3.1%
<b>Subtotal XB funds</b>	<b>4,390,670</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total RB + XB funds</b>	<b>4,390,670</b>	<b>100.0%</b>


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## United Nations Human Rights Office

### Palais des Nations

CH 1211 Geneva 10 – Switzerland  
T +41 22 917 92 20 F +41 22 917 90 08  
ohchr.org

 UNHumanRights  
OHCHRPartners

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