APPEAL 2026

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



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HIGH COMMISSIONER'S FOREWORD

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on a very difficult year for human rights. On the one hand, people around the world continue to demand and support dignity, equality and justice. Young protestors, from Peru to Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal and beyond, show that our rights remain universal and unifying. On the other, these very rights are under growing threat as the international order established to protect them comes under strain.

In wars and violent conflicts, the need for a focus on human rights and international law has never been more urgent – in Sudan, where there are widespread reports of horrific atrocities; in Israel and Gaza, where we need accountability for grave crimes; in Ukraine, where civilians are paying an intolerable price for a deadly upsurge in Russian attacks.

Even in societies that are at peace, there are growing challenges to human rights. Inequalities expand by the year. Recent increases in defence budgets often come at the expense of investment in healthcare, education and other fundamental human rights. There is a wave of attacks and threats against independent media, civil society and human rights defenders across all regions, and against international institutions and officials. AI-assisted social media distribution enables disinformation to flood online spaces, while brands and influencers monetize hatred and negativity.

The response to these attacks cannot be to reduce support and funding for human rights. And yet, everyone working across the human rights system has been affected by severe financial shockwaves this year. My Office is no exception.

I thank those donors that have stepped up, contributing some US$257.8 million in total for 2025. Among many other projects and initiatives, these funds have enabled us to report on armed conflicts in 21 countries; to monitor treatment of human rights defenders around the world; to support more than 65,000 survivors of torture and modern slavery and their families; and to work with more than 35 governments on a human rights economy.

But as human rights emergencies proliferate, resources decrease, constraining our ability to deliver, including on critical additional mandates from the Human Rights Council. Donors have cut

their Official Development Assistance across the board – although human rights are historically underfunded, representing a tiny fraction of the regular budget of the United Nations.

We have stepped up our fundraising with some success. But in 2025, the Office faced a combined shortfall in regular and voluntary funding of US$65 million.

Our financial prospects for next year are alarming. The global human rights system is hanging by a thread, and the impact is already being felt by people around the world.

Fourteen of the accountability mechanisms supported by my Office are staffed at around half the required needs. The Commission of Inquiry on the urgent situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mandated by the Human Rights Council, is not financed at all.

The reviews by the Treaty Bodies of 35 state reports and over 230 individual complaints had to be postponed, as did four out of the eight planned visits by the Sub-Committee on the prevention of torture.

There is no funding to deploy human rights advisors requested by 12 UN Country Teams. We had to close eight such presences in 2025. Unfortunately, we are reducing our teams working on human rights situations around the world, including in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Tunisia and Yemen.

We are determined to do everything in our power to prevent any further cuts.

The process we began under the Organizational Effectiveness initiative – OE2.0 – laid a strong foundation for our contributions to the Secretary-General's UN80 reform effort.

Our efforts to strengthen regional offices are aimed at delivering results closer to the people we serve. Our Innovation Hub is creating analytical tools that reinforce our function as an early warning system for conflict and crisis. Our partnerships are helping us to reach new sectors and demographics.

But we cannot do this alone. We rely on our partners to step up.

Funding human rights means investing in social cohesion, easing the tensions that can lead to extremism and conflict. It means developing and promoting the human rights economy, which delivers for everyone.

It means holding war criminals accountable, scrutinizing autocrats, and applying pressure to influence the fate of political prisoners and detainees. It means working with tech companies to embed human rights in their products.

In the coming months, we will convene a Global Alliance for Human Rights; a cross-regional coalition of States, businesses, civil society, philanthropists, artists, and others, that will put human rights at the heart of public and political life. This will be a new kind of movement, building joint initiatives that engage diverse groups working for common goals.

I invite you to support the Global Alliance.

And I invite you to invest in human rights. This year, we will need US$400 million, to support Member States and protect all human rights – civil, political, cultural, economic, and social, the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Your investment in our Office, and in the UN human rights system, is an investment in prevention, peace, and progress, for everyone, everywhere.



Volker Türk

United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

2025 SNAPSHOT*



MEMBER STATES COOPERATION

2 ratifications

6 accessions

42 **country visits** by Special Procedures mandates took place in **34** **countries**

99 **State party reports reviewed** by the Treaty Bodies; **4** State parties visited by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture



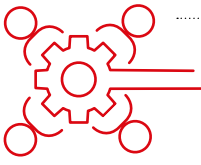
PEOPLE-CENTRED

69 **fellows (35 women, 34 men) from Indigenous, Afro-descendant and minority peoples** from **48** countries participated in the UN Human Rights Fellowship Programme

10,536 **survivors of contemporary forms of slavery and their families** in **33** countries received direct support

56,381 **survivors of torture and their families** in **93** countries received direct support**, with an additional** **4,645** survivors aided through emergency funding

Over **2,300** **individual complaints to Treaty Bodies were reviewed** and **277** cases decided by Treaty Bodies

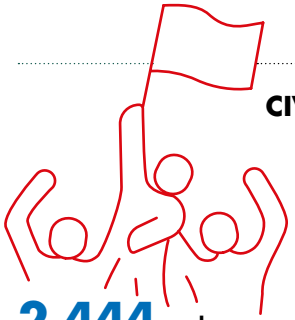


HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS SUPPORT

Support to the work of **172** **Treaty Body experts** during **26** **sessions,** and pre-sessions, for a total of **61** **weeks**

139 **texts adopted by the Human Rights Council,** including **94** **resolutions,** **44** **decisions** and **1** **President's statement**

Assistance to **59** **Special Procedures** (**46** thematic mandates and **13** mandates relating to countries or territories) with **86** **active mandate holders**



CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

2,444 **oral statements delivered by NGOs** during Human Rights Council sessions

1,195 **written statements submitted by NGOs** at the Human Rights Council sessions

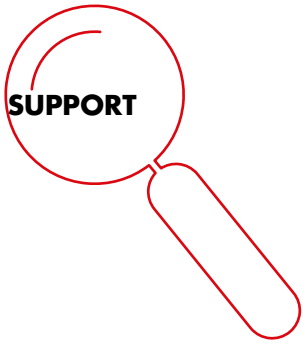
311 **NGO side events** held on the margins of the Human Rights Council and UPR Working Group sessions

4,650 **participants** from **146** **countries** attended the 14th Forum on Business and Human Rights in November, **3,610** in person and over **1,040** online

UN Human Rights supported **53** **organizations** in **26** countries **through grants** amounting to over **US$3,160,542 million**

*Data as of mid-November 2025

RIGHTS MONITORING, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT



UN Human Rights documented civilian casualties or violations of international law in

21 armed conflicts

UN Human Rights reported on

502 **killings** and

123 **disappearances** of human rights defenders in **58** **countries**

UN Human Rights provided

1,176 updates and alerts to the United Nations Operation and Crisis Centre (UNOCC), of which **80%** were included in UNOCC reports, enabling an enhanced UN-wide situational awareness and crisis coordination

UN Human Rights strengthened

46 UN country programmes by consistently engaging with UN Country Teams, enhancing their effectiveness and alignment with human rights standards to Leave No One Behind

UN Human Rights worked closely with

119 national statistical offices to measure discrimination

684 **communications sent** by the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council to Member States, private-sector companies and international organizations

Burkina Faso

UN Human Rights trained and sensitized **856** **members of the security and defence** forces on compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law in "counter-terrorism" efforts, **documented over 2,950 cases** of violations and abuses, and **interviewed more than 355 victims and witnesses** to ensure accountability and strengthen national protection systems.

Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Protection Cluster, led by UN Human Rights, trained **322** **Emergency Protection Responders**, who were deployed to IDP camps and distribution sites serving about **50,000** **people** to identify and refer for specialized support the most vulnerable people, including women, children, older persons and people with disabilities.

Sudan

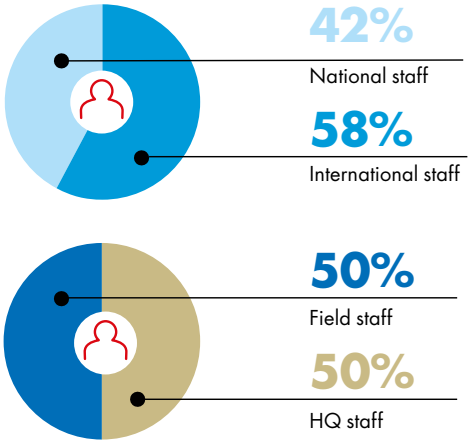
UN Human Rights in Sudan documented the killings of **over** **4,550** civilians, including more than **200** children, through extensive monitoring, analysis, and field engagement nationwide. Additionally, UN Human Rights verified **over** **335** incidents of conflict-related sexual violence, affecting **more than** **450** survivors. This work resulted in the publication of **4** public reports and **12** monthly confidential analytical reports, which provided real-time information to humanitarian partners and protection mechanisms, strengthened early-warning efforts, informed humanitarian responses, and supported protection for conflict-affected communities throughout Sudan.

Ukraine

UN Human Rights documented **13,508** **new cases** of international human rights and international humanitarian law violations, including unlawful killings, torture and other violations. UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) carried out **439** **missions** and **3,113** **interviews** that informed **20** **UN Security Council meetings, accountability mechanisms** and key deliberations on Ukraine.

Global workforce in 2025

STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY



1,875 staff

151 nationalities

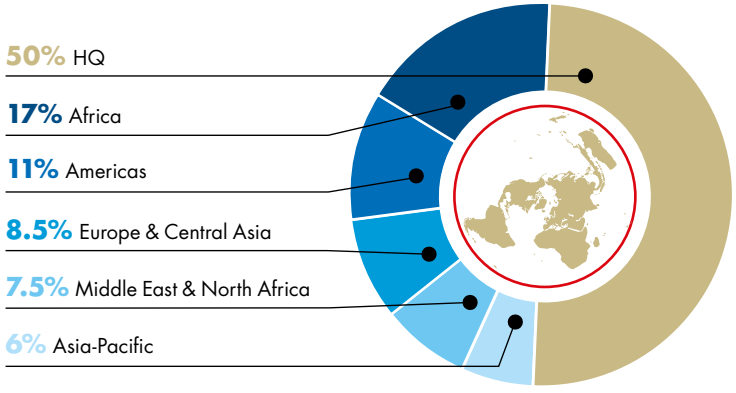
515 staff in Peace Missions

33 JPOs sponsored by **18** Member States

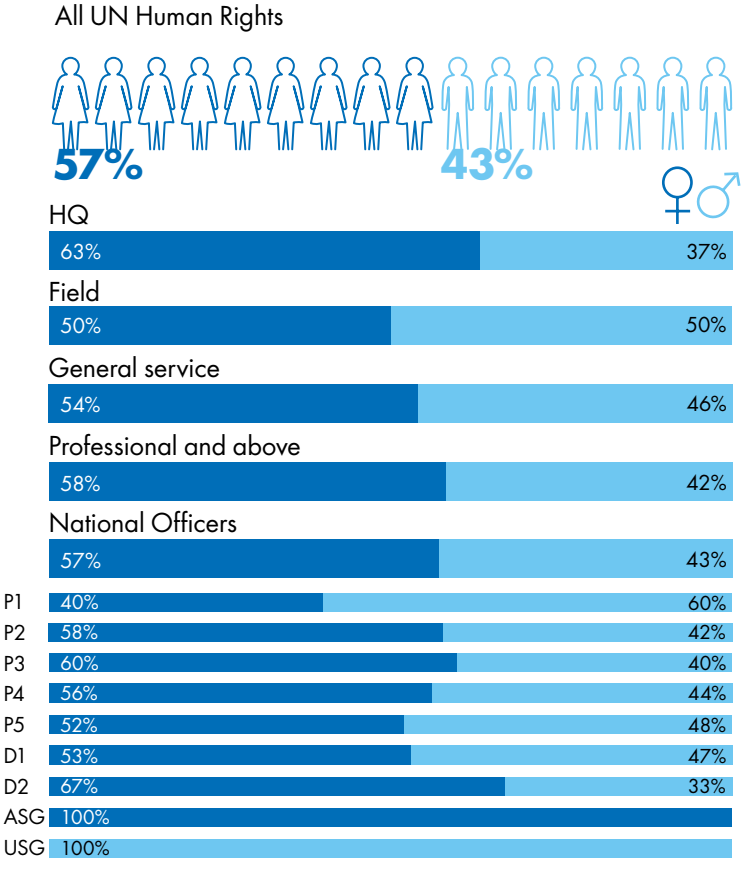
Notes: Data as of 31 Dec 2025. Figures reflect all OHCHR staff including UNDP-administered staff in the General Service, National Officer, Professional and higher categories holding permanent, continuing, fixed-term or temporary appointments.

HQ refers to staff located in Switzerland and the United States of America.

STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY LOCATION AT HQ AND IN THE FIELD



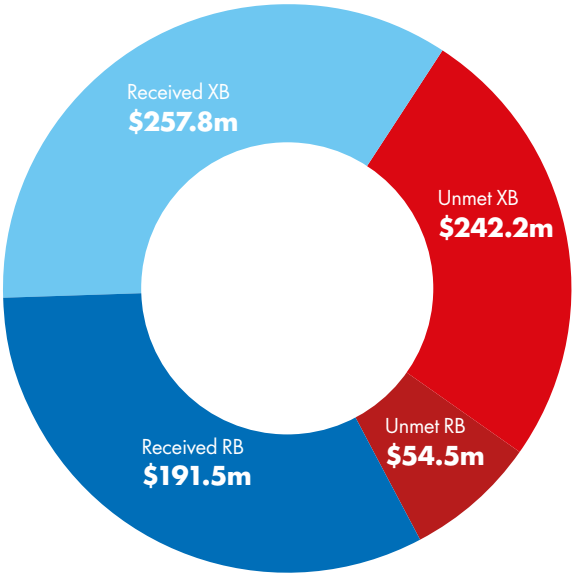
STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



Budget and funding in 2025

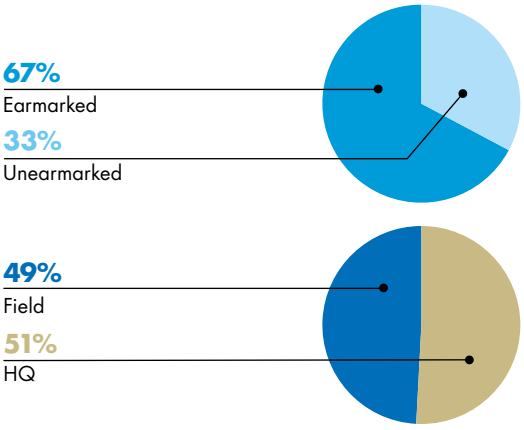
In 2025, UN Human Rights' aspirational budget amounted to US$746 million, including US$246 million from the UN regular budget and US$500 million to be funded by voluntary contributions from Member States and other funding partners.

BUDGET AND INCOME



XB VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Total received
$257.8m



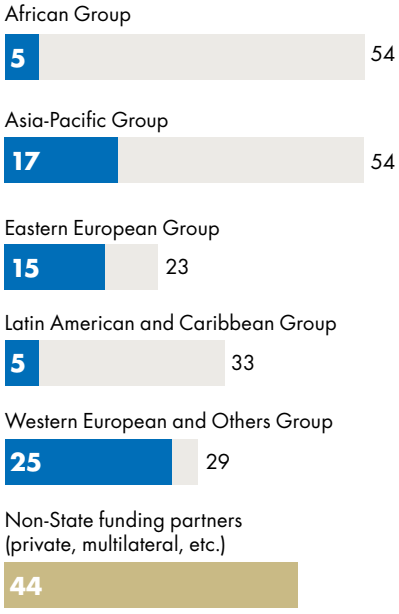
FUNDING PARTNERS

111 funding partners,
of which 67 are Member States

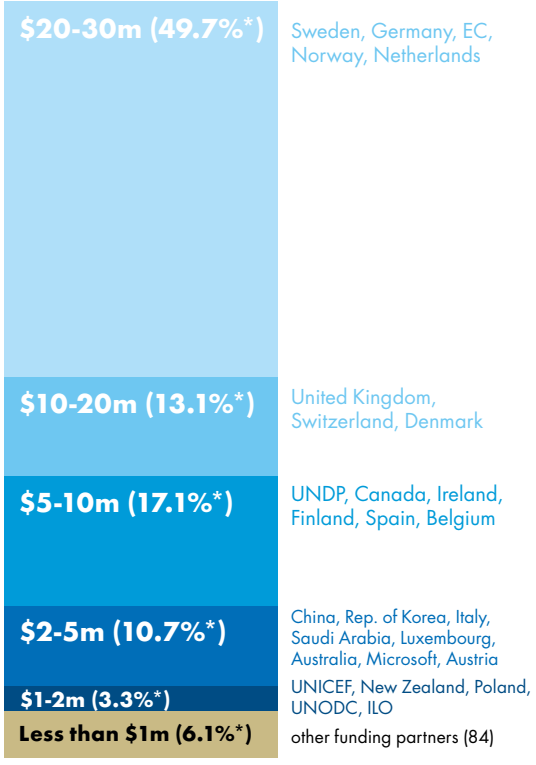
Figures are estimated as of 5 January 2026 and need to be adjusted and confirmed upon the closure of the 2025 accounts.

* Donors are listed according to their level of contribution.

Breakdown by geography:



Funding partners by brackets of contributions:



HUMAN RIGHTS IN TIMES OF TURMOIL

2025 marks a pivotal moment for human rights. As the climate crisis intensifies, violent conflicts proliferate, and digital technologies grow without oversight, people around the globe are calling for greater protection of their rights. From Peru to Kenya, Serbia, Madagascar, Nepal and beyond, young people have taken to the streets and to social media to lead the charge against inequalities and corruption, for freedom of expression, and for their everyday essential rights. People across the world have also been protesting against war and injustice in places far from home, expressing solidarity and pressuring their governments to take action.

This comes at a time when UN Human Rights is facing the most serious financial crisis in recent history, a consequence of funding cuts by key partners and of the UN regular budget liquidity crisis. In a context in which the Human Rights pillar of the UN is already underfunded, receiving less than one percent of the funding of the entire UN, the consequences for the UN Human Rights mandate, global human rights protection, and the wider human rights ecosystem, are immediate, severe, and system-wide.

Human rights are being starved of the resources needed to keep people safe, and the resulting gaps are deepening insecurity worldwide. At the very moment when global crises are multiplying and the demand for human rights support is surging, the resources required to uphold these commitments are shrinking at an alarming rate. UN Human Rights is now operating at an existential minimum, forced to scale back essential work that cannot be paused without real human consequences.

Against this backdrop, the world needs a strong, principled multilateral system. The Secretary-General's UN80 initiative aims to meet this moment by renewing and reinforcing the United Nations, while staying grounded in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so that it can effectively address the demands of a rapidly changing world. The Human Rights Working Group and the new Global Alliance for Human Rights, to be launched in 2026, are all converging to ensure UN Human Rights takes a proactive and innovative approach to maximize efficiency and impact with the limited resources available, with UN system and external partners.



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights meeting with IDPs and victims of sexual violence in the Bulengo near Goma, North Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo
© OHCHR/Anthony Headley

An Existential Financial Threat

UN Human Rights faced an exceptionally challenging financial situation in 2025, and the outlook for 2026 remains equally uncertain.

The regular budget approved for 2025 was US$246 million — the highest allocation ever for UN Human Rights. Yet the ongoing liquidity crisis meant the Office only received US$191.5 million, or 78 per cent of what Member States themselves had approved. This shortfall created a significant gap between requirements for mandated activities and available resources, undermining the Office's ability to carry out essential work and fulfil obligations across the UN system.

The prospects for this year remain worrying. As part of the UN80 reforms, the 2026 UN regular budget has been significantly reduced. For UN Human Rights, the revised estimate is US$224.3 million, or 91 per cent of the 2025 amount.

The outlook for UN Human Rights' voluntary budget is equally concerning. UN Human Rights received around US$12 million less in 2025 than in 2024, and prospects for 2026 are much worse, with an additional US$60 million reduction now projected. Cuts across the donor landscape make it clear that this is not a temporary fluctuation but a systemic trend that is establishing new baselines.

This combined effect on the regular and voluntary budgets hinders our ability to deliver. At the same time, the Office receives an increasing number of requests, either through mandates from the Human Rights Council, or directly from Member States, to assist with improving human rights records.

Looking forward, UN Human Rights is confronting significant uncertainty and unpredictability in 2026. Based on the projected extra-budgetary income for 2026, the Office will once again reduce its working budget in 2026 following similar cuts in 2025.

This situation not only undermines UN Human Rights' ability to uphold international standards but also erodes trust among Member States and the communities that rely on our support. The consequence is a deteriorating human rights landscape, as outlined below.

The Human Rights Consequences

The impact of such financial shortfalls is multifaceted, including staggering human costs, leaving vulnerable populations exposed to increased violence, discrimination and marginalization. Without adequate resources to address grievances, resolve conflicts, and promote social cohesion, tensions can escalate, resulting in unrest and violence. Preventative measures that could avert crises are sidelined, leading to situations that could have been avoided with proactive human rights interventions. Without sufficient funding for oversight and enforcement mechanisms, accountability becomes a significant issue.

In 2025, the consequences of the funding crisis for UN Human Rights, the human rights ecosystem and those whom we serve were debilitating:

- **UN Human Rights strategic review of operational effectiveness and impact;** UN Human has reduced several country offices' budgets and footprint, including in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Tunisia and Yemen. The Office has also cut our Human Rights Advisers in Barbados, Eswatini, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Paraguay and Tajikistan.
- **LGBTIQ+ rights pushed backward;** funding cuts have reduced UN Human Rights' LGBTIQ+ activities by 75% and staffing by 40%, dramatically weakening the UN's ability to safeguard communities facing rising violence and discrimination. The reach of the UN Free & Equal campaign has been effectively cut in half, limiting global advocacy at a time of escalating anti-LGBTIQ+ rhetoric. Work on the UN Secretariat's LGBTIQ+ strategy—meant to strengthen protection, inclusion, and accountability across the UN system—has been significantly delayed at a critical time.
- **Civic space offline and online under threat;** protecting human rights defenders and journalists from attacks and threats, including online harassment, digital surveillance, and censorship by state and private actors is at the core of what UN Human Rights does. Fewer resources ultimately result in reducing UN Human Rights' ability to do this vital work on the ground. This includes fewer rapid-response interventions, less advocacy around protection cases and concerns and reduced technical support. As a result, those working in increasingly repressive environments—often at great



UN Human Rights in Bangkok joined the UN Thailand Country Team at the annual Bangkok Pride Parade on 1 June 2025, marching through the city centre to advocate for equal treatment and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people following the legalization of same-sex marriage in Thailand in 2025. © OHCHR

personal risk—are left more exposed and with fewer avenues for safety and redress, and critical voices, indispensable for advancing all human rights, are silenced.

- **Transitional justice at risk;** in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UN Human Rights' withdrawal leaves fragile transitional justice processes without critical international oversight. Without UN Human Rights' presence to monitor proceedings, advise on victim participation, and ensure compliance with international standards, these mechanisms may move forward without the safeguards needed to prevent political interference or manipulation. This gap heightens the risk of impunity for grave crimes, weakens accountability measures, and undermines the trust of victims and affected communities in the justice systems meant to serve them.
- **The Treaty Body system pushed toward paralysis;** the cancellation of the third treaty body sessions in 2025 means that 35 State reviews have not taken place, creating a backlog that could take years to recover from. This suspension blocks the only formal avenue many NGOs, human rights defenders, and victims have to bring urgent concerns to the international stage. It also halts scrutiny of States with serious, ongoing violations, allowing patterns of abuse to deepen without independent oversight.
  In addition, 185 individual communications will remain undecided, leaving victims in legal limbo—deprived of remedy, recognition, and the international pressure that often compels States to act. The ripple effects are severe — accountability weakens, impunity grows, and trust in the UN's core human rights architecture erodes.
- **Prevention of torture dangerously undermined**; four of the eight planned Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) country visits were cancelled in 2025, stripping away one of the few global mechanisms with the mandate to enter without prior notice prisons, police stations, psychiatric wards, and other institutions. These visits are often the only independent access people have to the outside world, and their cancellation means countless cases of ill-treatment, inhumane conditions, and abuse, which will go unreported and unaddressed. Without SPT's presence, national oversight systems—already weak or obstructed in many countries—lose crucial support, increasing the risk of torture, enforced disappearances and deaths in custody. The setback is not just operational. It weakens a cornerstone of global prevention efforts and emboldens authorities who rely on secrecy to shield abusive practices.
- **Special Procedures significantly weakened;** mandate holders have been limited to one country visit instead of two, reducing their ability to investigate cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, discrimination, and other serious violations. With fewer visits and fewer on-the-ground assessments, critical patterns of abuse go undocumented, and victims lose one of the only rapid-response avenues available at the international level. This reduction not only curtails independent scrutiny in some of the world's most at-risk regions, it also diminishes early warning capacity—allowing crises to escalate unchecked and eroding one of the UN's most agile human rights mechanisms.

- **Economic, social and cultural rights and our work on the human rights economy under strain**; severe resource constraints are limiting UN Human Rights' capacity to provide support to Member States, follow-up and technical assistance, while leaving several regional staff positions, including economists, vacant. This is undermining the Office's ability to support inclusive education systems, protect cultural rights and safeguard the right to health, social security as well as to advise governments on human rights-based approaches to budgeting, taxation and development finance, while advocating for fiscal transparency and public participation. Meanwhile, crises driven by growing debt are deepening, while the protection of fiscal space for human rights is increasingly out of reach, with disproportionate consequences for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including in conflict and post-conflict settings.
- **Human rights investigations sharply scaled back;** staffing levels have been reduced to around half of required needs, while two-thirds of planned investigative missions have been cancelled, leaving major patterns of abuse unexamined and key evidence uncollected. This undermining of investigative capacity makes it harder to establish facts, identify perpetrators, and preserve information needed for future prosecutions. In contexts where atrocities may be unfolding, the absence of independent UN investigators weakens deterrence, emboldens those committing violations, and closes off one of the few pathways to truth and accountability available to victims. The long-term impact is profound: without timely documentation, opportunities for justice diminish, impunity deepens, and entire communities are left without recognition or redress.

These consequences of the UN Human Rights financial crisis are unfolding against the backdrop of an already minimal budget. As highlighted in the *UN80 Initiative: Shifting Paradigms – United to Deliver report*, only about 1 per cent[1] of total UN expenditures is devoted to human rights across the entire system. This chronic underinvestment risks hollow out the very functions that help prevent conflict, protect civilians and support accountability.

"It has been the UN HUMAN RIGHTS' analysis of the causes and consequences of political violence, social exclusion and marginalization, and armed conflict that has prompted the adoption of measures, strategies, and actions that have saved thousands of lives, curbed mass victimization, encouraged accountability efforts, and fought impunity in various parts of the country."
Colombian civil society representative – Plataformas de Derechos Humanos: Colombia Europa Estados Unidos; la Plataforma colombiana de Derechos Humanos Democracia y Desarrollo y la Alianza de Organizaciones Sociales y Afines.

1 https://www.un.org/un80-initiative/sites/default/files/2025-09/UN80_WS3-1_250921_1238.pdf

Organizational Effectiveness 2.0: Paving the Way for a More Efficient UN Human Rights

In this context, UN Human Rights has been adapting, notably through sustained implementation of our OE2.0 programme, an initiative launched by the High Commissioner in 2023, which is now converging with the Secretary General's UN80 initiative.

OE2.0 represented a pivotal shift in our approach, focusing on rethinking our operational methodologies to enhance our effectiveness. This innovative framework emphasizes flexibility and responsiveness in addressing the dynamic challenges within the human rights landscape. In 2025, our efforts focused on innovating the human rights work in the digital world, increasing accountability, and strengthening our regional presence and work in operations at the field level. We have also expanded partnerships with diverse actors towards the consolidation of a global movement for human rights.

INNOVATION AND ANALYTICS HUB

By integrating contemporary technologies and data-driven strategies, the Hub strengthens the Office to assess situations more accurately and respond more swiftly to emerging risks. Innovation is embedded in our way of working guiding how we engage with communities, apply digital and AI-enabled tools responsibly, and develop practical solutions to complex human rights challenges. Flagship initiatives such as the RightsX summit and the Human Rights Data Exchange (HRDx) exemplify this approach.

RightsX serves as a global platform to convene governments, civil society, technologists, and partners to co-create the next generation of human rights tools, partnerships and solutions. HRDx, a dedicated open data service for human rights, strengthens transparency, comparability, and evidence-based analysis by making trusted human rights data more accessible and actionable for everyone everywhere.

UN Human Rights is committed to harnessing innovation and technology to promote and protect human rights. By utilizing data analytics, digital platforms, and other technological advancements, we are reinforcing our capacity to monitor and anticipate violations, support early action, and engage rights-holders and duty-bearers, contributing to a more effective, resilient and future-ready human rights system.

HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES BRANCH

By mid-2025, the Human Rights Inquiries Branch (HRIB) completed its first full year of operations, following the consolidation of investigative support capacities of the Office into a unified structure, serving as a dedicated core capacity and enabling an office-wide integrated, coherent, and consistent approach to investigations and accountability. The HRIB delivers cross-cutting and coordinated expertise to support all investigative mandates—including those established by the Human Rights Council and those conducted under the High Commissioner's mandate pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141—thereby reinforcing OHCHR's central role in advancing accountability for serious violations of international law.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL OFFICES

As part of OE2.0, UN Human Rights conducted an in-depth analysis to support strategic resource allocation at regional and country levels as well as headquarters. Six regional offices located in Panama City, Yaoundé, Addis Ababa, Vienna, Beirut and Bangkok will ensure the following:

- **Integration with UN Regional Efforts;** regional offices are critical in integrating human rights into the UN's broader development, peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts. These offices engage closely with regional partners, including intergovernmental organizations at regional level, to address cross-cutting human rights issues and support States' engagement with international human rights mechanisms. Through their Regional Representatives, they also contribute to the UN's regional collaborative platforms, promoting a human rights-based approach to development programming and increasing opportunities for UN joint programming.
- **Regional and Country Support;** the regional offices strengthen UN Human Rights' ability to provide targeted policy, capacity-building and training tailored to the needs of countries in the region, including supporting States in fulfilling their human rights treaty obligations and implementing recommendations from various human rights mechanisms.
- **Specialized Expertise;** through these offices, UN Human Rights can engage more effectively on regional thematic priorities providing deeper expertise, analyses of regional issues and opportunities, and targeted responses to human rights challenges and Member States' requests for technical assistance.
- **Cost Efficiency:** proximity to stakeholders and partners, including through time-zone proximity, translate into cheaper travel options enabling more interaction and activities.

PARTNERSHIPS

In recent years, UN Human Rights as a recognized lead for dialogue and collaboration, significantly stepped up its work with a diverse range of partners including governments, civil society, private sector, high net worth individuals, influencers, academia, multilateral institutions, advocacy groups, and many others. This represented an effort to strengthen the human rights ecosystem and mobilize new constituencies. In 2025, UN Human Rights led a series of consultations around the Future of Human Rights, including:

- virtual dialogue with philanthropic leaders;
- retreat bringing together prominent human rights voices from across diverse sectors;
- high level UN General Assembly event "Human Rights for Everyone, Everywhere-Core of our Shared Humanity" with government and private sector leaders;
- RightsX Summit, bringing together prominent voices from the tech and innovation industry, together with governments and civil society and others.

All these cross-organizational efforts, and many discussions with other actors, have been feeding into the development of the Global Alliance for Human Rights, to be launched in 2026.

Global Alliance for Human Rights

UN Human Rights is committed to building global partnerships to advance human rights. To be launched by the High Commissioner in 2026, the Global Alliance for Human Rights proposes a shared framework for action that mobilizes diverse leadership, aligns advocacy and investment, rebuilding trust in human rights as a practical force in people's lives. It aims to unite governments, civil society, youth, artists, scientists, businesses, philanthropies and the wider UN system, as we inspire tangible action, thereby strengthening global human rights. The Global Alliance seeks to connect and amplify existing efforts and initiatives, while creating new opportunities for cooperation across regions, sectors, and generations, guided by innovation, inclusivity, and measurable impact. Its goal is to renew the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and build a world where accountability, dignity, and justice shape relationships between people and institutions.

Um Abdullah, who runs a Culture & Free Thought Association shelter, greets a Protection Cluster team member in Khan Younis, Gaza. © OHCHR/Olga Cherevko



Looking ahead: consolidating achievements for lasting impact

UN Human Rights will continue to engage to strengthen the protection of human rights worldwide. The examples below show how the Office will consolidate progress and deliver impact in high-risk and transition country contexts. They also highlight the role of core functions such as investigations and data-driven prevention, where UN Human Rights has a unique and critical role in monitoring, protection, accountability and prevention.

In **Sudan**, amid ongoing conflict and insecurity, UN Human Rights will provide survivor-centred documentation of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including conflict-related sexual violence and violations against children. Participation and civic space remain foundational priorities, and UN Human Rights will continue to strengthen the capacity and protection of Sudanese civil society, human rights defenders, community volunteers, lawyers and journalists to safely document and report violations, counter hate speech, and engage with international human rights mechanisms and in crisis response. Particular emphasis will be placed on supporting women, youth, persons with disabilities and displaced communities, and on social cohesion and rebuilding trust. On development and economic and social rights, UN Human Rights will reinforce human rights-based approaches and the centrality of protection in development, recovery and humanitarian efforts, ensuring the integration of non-discrimination and the principle of "leave no one behind" in planning and implementation.

In **Syria**, UN Human Rights will continue to support a Syrian-owned and Syrian-led transition aimed at addressing the legacy of the conflict, including serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Building on its engagement over 2025, UN Human Rights will provide targeted technical assistance to advance inclusive transitional justice processes, with a particular focus on preserving evidence and protecting victims and witnesses. This will include strengthening the capacity of the National Commission for Transitional Justice, supporting its access to regions, and providing direct technical support to the Commission and to victim groups. As credible transitional justice depends on strong accountability mechanisms, UN Human Rights will also support efforts to strengthen the administration of justice, including accountable law enforcement, an independent judiciary, and access to competent legal representation.



On 10 December 2025, UN Human Rights, in partnership with the Syrian Government, marked International Human Rights Day for the first time in Syria © OHCHR

In the context of continued armed violence and institutional fragility in **Haiti**, UN Human Rights will prioritize strengthening accountability and protection to help address impunity and safeguard the population, particularly women and children. UN Human Rights will scale up technical assistance to national authorities to operationalize Specialized Judicial Units tasked with investigating and prosecuting serious crimes, including sexual violence and child trafficking linked to gang activity. UN Human Rights will further reinforce the police internal oversight inspectorate, supporting effective investigations into human rights violations by law enforcement and contributing to the restoration of public trust. In parallel, the Office will continue to advise UN-mandated international forces, ensuring the systematic integration of human rights compliance into anti-gang operations. As meaningful change in Haiti's human rights situation is contingent on an empowered civil society, UN Human Rights will expand training and operational support to human rights organizations and youth groups to safeguard civic space and strengthen the protection of civil and political rights. These efforts will be particularly important in the context of the 2026 elections in Haiti.

At the global level, the **HRIB** will maintain its rapid-response investigative capacity, enabling the swift deployment of skilled investigators to evolving situations worldwide. The HRIB will ensure that teams are trained and equipped to collect, analyse and preserve information and evidence in a rigorous, impartial and victim-centred manner, producing objective and well-substantiated reports that support victim recognition and accountability. The Branch will modernize digital investigation workflows through secure, high-integrity technologies and specialized analytical tools, strengthening efficiency while safeguarding sensitive information. The HRIB will also increase the use of investigative findings through strengthened judicial cooperation and engagement with Member States, civil society and other accountability actors.

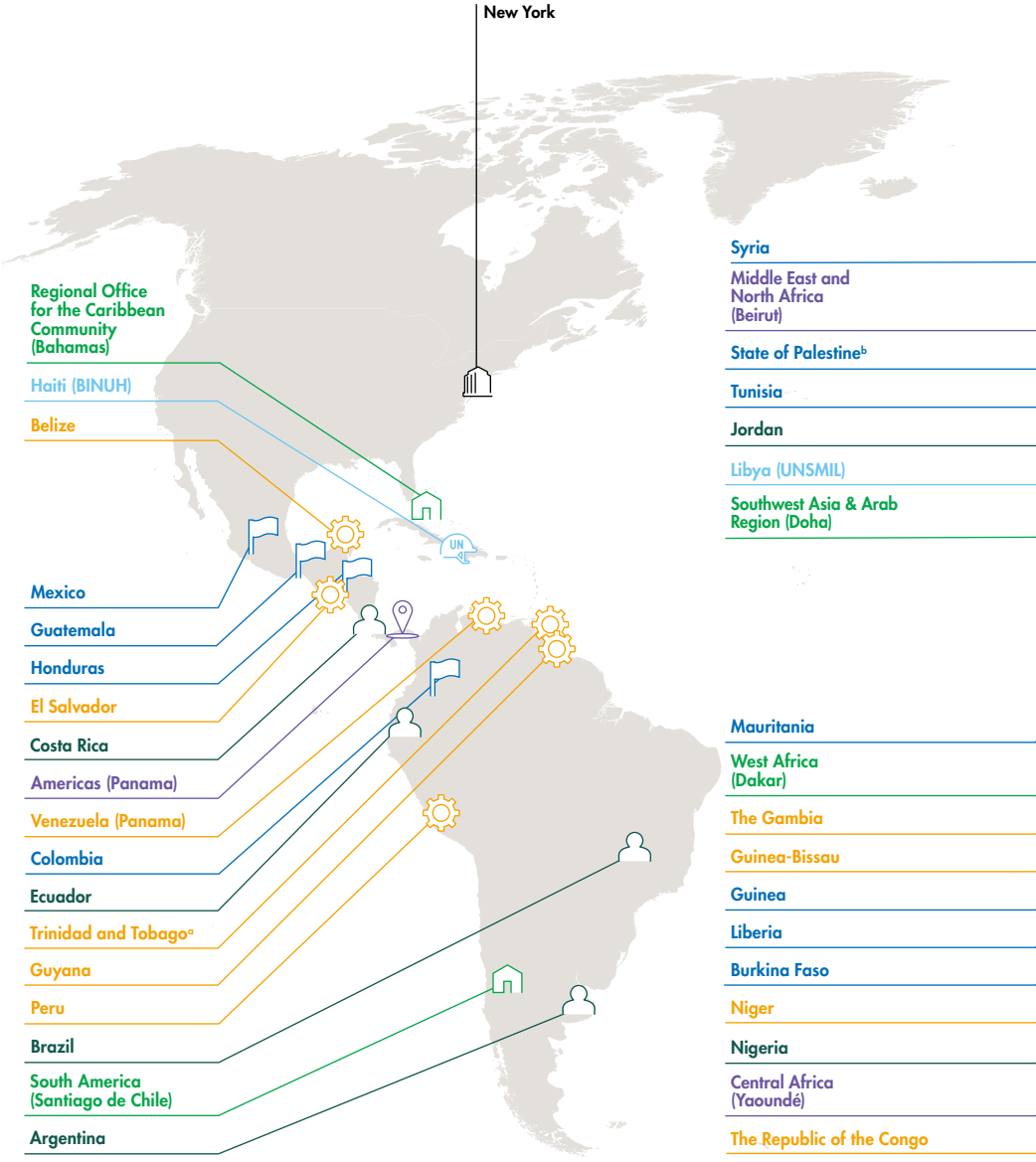
The **Hub** will strengthen UN Human Rights' and the UN System's ability to anticipate and prevent human rights crises by turning fragmented data into timely, actionable analysis. Using advanced analytical and AI-enabled tools, the Hub will integrate human rights information from field presences, open sources, statistical datasets, and trusted UN and partner systems into a shared analytical capability. This will improve system-wide situational awareness and early warning. Country-level signals, such as internet shutdowns, attacks on human rights defenders, or patterns of discrimination, will feed into UN prevention frameworks and national planning tools, including Common Country Analyses. By enabling faster, coordinated and human-rights-centred insights across development, humanitarian and peace actors, the Hub will help guide preventive action and support more effective responses.

"We have a collective responsibility to help ensure that the UN human rights system remains fit for purpose. After all, we're addressing the very foundation for achieving peace, security and development in the world."
David van Weel,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
The Netherlands.

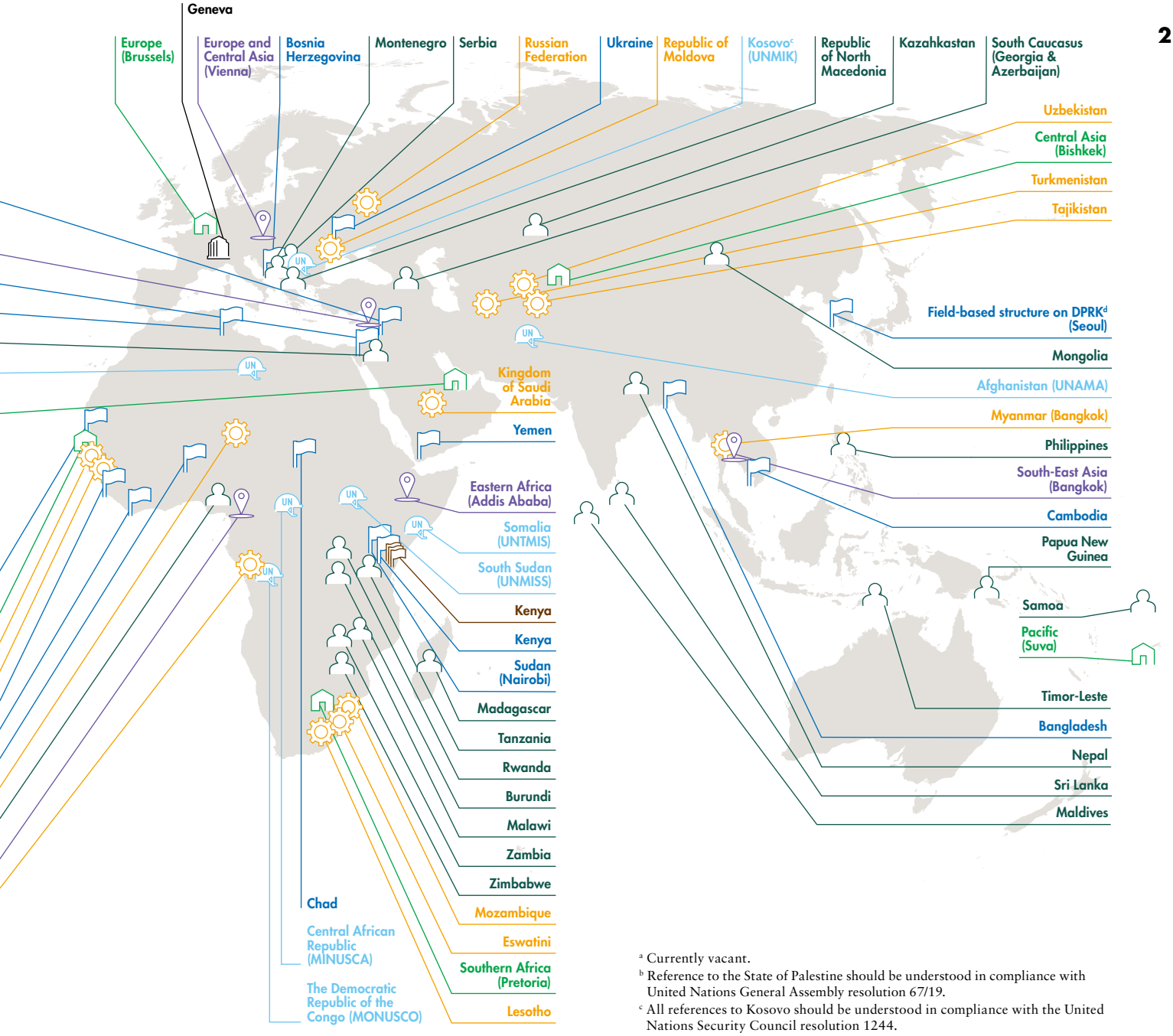
2026:
THE PATH AHEAD

2 HQ locations + **89** global presences

2	HQ locations
6	Regional Hubs
8	Regional Offices
1	Multi-country Offices
20	Country Offices
8	Human rights components in UN Peace/Political Missions
26	Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs
20	Other projects/ Special Presences



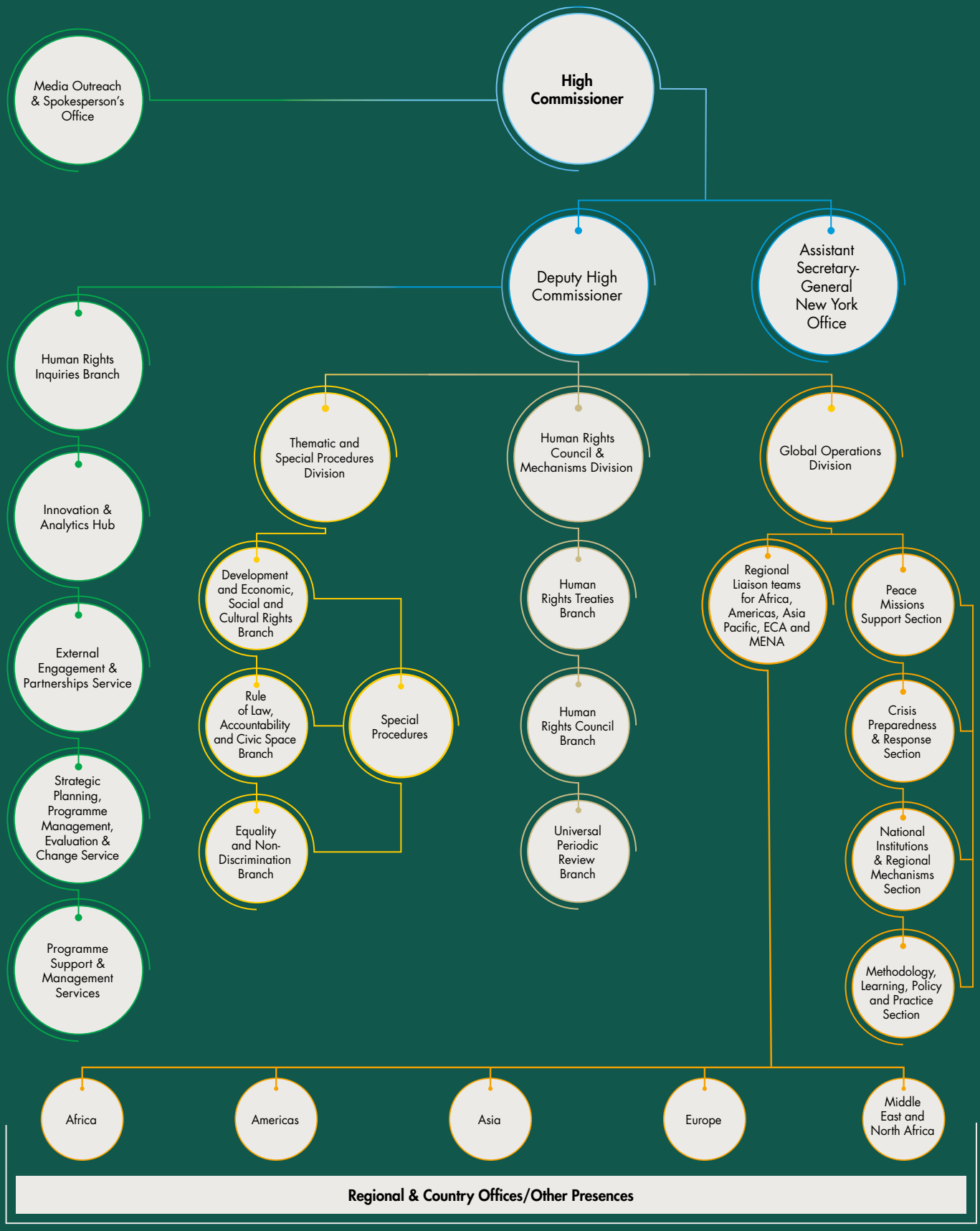
Global **presence**



[a] Currently vacant.
[b] Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
[c] All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.
[d] Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

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

Organization **chart**



Financial **requirements**

Our total extra-budgetary resources needed for 2026 amount to US$400 million, over and above our UN regular budget allocation, so that we can address all assistance needs, both requests received and those our Office has identified.

This Appeal covers the full extent of our financial requirements limited to what can realistically be implemented within a single year.

To deliver on its broad mandate of achieving human rights for all, **the Office needs to secure predictable, flexible, and sustainable funding through unearmarked and multi-year contributions.**

While all contributions are much appreciated, the ongoing trend toward increasingly tight earmarking constrains our ability to respond to fast-moving events by allocating resources where they are most urgently required. It also demands constant budgetary adjustments over the year. Earmarking makes us less effective, and we hope to see more **flexible contributions,** as well as more **multi-year commitments.**

Early payment is also important to minimize bottlenecks and cash flow constraints during the year.



A UN Human Rights Officer checks the safety conditions of a boat with migrants departing from Colón province on Panama's Caribbean coast to Colombia, as part of a mission to monitor the reverse migration (north - south) and the vulnerabilities that migrants face along the route. © OHCHR

Extra-budgetary requirements in 2026 **and regular budget allocation**

Overview

OPERATING RESOURCES

All figures in US$

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Programme of Work			
Subprogramme 1 Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis*	38,175,000	56,297,000	94,472,000
Subprogramme 2 Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies*	18,638,000	5,987,000	24,625,000
Subprogramme 3 Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation*	73,157,000	21,519,000	94,676,000
Subprogramme 4 Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures*	34,006,000	19,317,000	53,323,000
Headquarters			
Executive Direction and Management and New York Office*	10,009,000	32,156,000	42,165,000
Policymaking Organs	10,170,000	-	10,170,000
Other			
Human Rights Inquiries Branch	-	9,224,000	9,224,000
Innovation and Analytics Hub	-	8,652,000	8,652,000
Support to the Programmes	7,683,000	13,693,000	21,376,000
Subtotal Headquarters	**191,838,000**	**166,845,000**	**358,683,000**

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Field Presences			
Africa	8,879,000	78,314,000	87,193,000
Americas	5,450,000	48,081,000	53,531,000
Asia and the Pacific	6,399,000	26,641,000	33,040,000
Europe and Central Asia	3,342,000	32,560,000	35,902,000
Middle East and North Africa	5,282,000	38,194,000	43,476,000
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation	3,158,000	-	3,158,000
Subtotal Field Presences	**32,510,000**	**223,790,000**	**256,300,000**
Total Operating Resources (HQ + Field Presences)	**224,348,000**	**390,635,000**	**614,983,000**
OTHER TRUST FUNDS			
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	-	696,000	696,000
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	-	306,000	306,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	-	790,000	790,000
Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC's work	-	571,000	571,000
Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture	-	502,000	502,000
Total Other Trust Funds	**0**	**9,365,000**	**9,365,000**
Grand total	**224,348,000**	**400,000,000**	**624,348,000**

* Includes amounts from the Programme Budget for 2026 as approved by the General Assembly

Headquarters

SUBPROGRAMME 1 - HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING, RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

All figures in US$

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Coordination and Management	503,000	15,807,000	16,310,000
Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Branch	12,286,000	8,358,000	20,644,000
Equality and Non-discrimination Branch	5,075,000	17,053,000	22,128,000
Rule of Law, Accountability and Civic Space Branch	3,675,000	15,079,000	18,754,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	16,635,000	-	16,635,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 1	**38,175,000**	**56,297,000**	**94,472,000**

SUBPROGRAMME 2 - SUPPORTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

Coordination and Management	479,000	-	479,000
Human Rights Treaties Branch	18,159,000	5,987,000	24,146,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	-	-	-
Subtotal Subprogramme 2	**18,638,000**	**5,987,000**	**24,625,000**

SUBPROGRAMME 3 - ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

Coordination and Management	3,250,000	11,316,000	14,566,000
Africa Branch	1,507,000	2,325,000	3,832,000
Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch	1,822,000	2,251,000	4,073,000
Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa	1,666,000	5,627,000	7,293,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	64,913,000	-	64,913,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 3	**73,157,000**	**21,519,000**	**94,676,000**

SUBPROGRAMME 4 - SUPPORTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND ITS SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Coordination and Management	814,000	3,027,000	3,841,000
Human Rights Council Branch	4,650,000	3,767,000	8,417,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	8,307,000	-	8,307,000
Universal Periodic Review Branch	7,766,000	435,000	8,201,000
Special Procedures	12,469,000	12,088,000	24,557,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 4	**34,006,000**	**19,317,000**	**53,323,000**

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND NEW YORK OFFICE	**10,009,000**	**32,156,000**	**42,165,000**
POLICYMAKING ORGANS	**10,170,000**	**-**	**10,170,000**
OTHER			
Human Rights Inquiries Branch	-	9,224,000	9,224,000
Innovation and Analytics Hub	-	8,652,000	8,652,000
Support to the Programmes	7,683,000	13,693,000	21,376,000
Subtotal Other	**27,863,000**	**63,725,000**	**91,588,000**
Subtotal Headquarters	**191,838,000**	**166,845,000**	**358,683,000**
OTHER TRUST FUNDS			
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	-	696,000	696,000
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	-	306,000	306,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	-	790,000	790,000
Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC's work	-	571,000	571,000
Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture	-	502,000	502,000
Total Other Trust Funds	**0**	**9,365,000**	**9,365,000**
Total Headquarters and Trust Funds	**191,838,000**	**176,210,000**	**368,048,000**

Field

AFRICA

All figures in US$

	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS
Country Offices	
Burkina Faso	3,938,000
Chad	3,502,000
Guinea	4,295,000
Kenya	3,408,000
Liberia	3,045,000
Mauritania	2,574,000
Sudan	9,859,000
Regional Offices	
Central Africa, Yaoundé - Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy	956,000
East Africa, Addis Ababa	5,930,000
Southern Africa, Pretoria	2,958,000
West Africa, Dakar	6,681,000
Multi-country Offices	
Kenya	2,767,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Madagascar	1,905,000
Malawi	377,000
Nigeria	555,000
Rwanda	686,000
Tanzania	362,000
Zambia	370,000
Zimbabwe	334,000
Human Rights Components in Peace Mission	
Central African Republic	68,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	9,269,000
Somalia	9,000
South Sudan	-
Other	
Burundi	2,866,000
Eswatini	111,000
Ethiopia	6,138,000
Gambia	101,000
Guinea-Bissau	187,000
Lesotho	347,000

	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS
Mozambique	3,253,000
Niger	988,000
Republic of Congo	475,000
Subtotal Africa	**78,314,000**

AMERICAS

Country Offices	
Colombia	7,471,000
Guatemala	5,202,000
Honduras	6,349,000
Mexico	2,106,000
Regional Offices	
Central America, Panama City	4,737,000
South America, Santiago	2,420,000
Caribbean, Nassau	356,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Argentina	200,000
Brazil	177,000
Costa Rica	313,000
Ecuador	433,000
Human Rights Component in Peace Missions	
Haiti	10,586,000
Other	
El Salvador	843,000
Guyana	-
Peru	2,327,000
Trinidad and Tobago	-
Venezuela	4,561,000
Subtotal Americas	**48,081,000**

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS
Country Offices	
Bangladesh	5,073,000
Cambodia	2,034,000
Republic of Korea - Field-based structure	574,000
Regional Offices	
South-East Asia, Bangkok	8,233,000
Pacific, Suva	3,260,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Maldives	113,000
Mongolia	622,000
Nepal	585,000
Papua New Guinea	1,017,000
Philippines	1,034,000
Samoa	298,000
Sri Lanka	1,467,000
Timor-Leste	606,000
Human Rights Component in Peace Missions	
Afghanistan	198,000
Other	
Myanmar	1,527,000
Subtotal Asia and the Pacific	**26,641,000**

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Country Offices	
Bosnia Herzegovina	2,264,000
Ukraine	12,967,000
Regional Offices	
Central Asia, Bishkek	2,558,000
Europe, Brussels	1,574,000
Europe and Central Asia, Vienna	2,825,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Kazakhstan	275,000
Montenegro	279,000
Republic of North Macedonia	143,000
Serbia	261,000
South Caucasus (Georgia & Azerbaijan)	2,903,000

	EXTRA-BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS
Human Rights Mission	
Kosovo*	-
Other	
Republic of Moldova	4,878,000
Russian Federation	433,000
Tajikistan	400,000
Turkmenistan	400,000
Uzbekistan	400,000
Subtotal Europe and Central Asia	**32,560,000**
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	
Country Offices	
State of Palestine**	10,925,000
Syria	9,717,000
Tunisia	2,413,000
Yemen	3,308,000
Regional Offices	
Middle East and North Africa, Beirut	6,389,000
South-West Asia and the Arab Region, Doha - Training and Documentation Centre	2,521,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Jordan	370,000
Human Rights Components in Peace Missions	
Libya	94,000
Other	
Saudi Arabia	2,457,000
Subtotal Middle East and North Africa	**38,194,000**
Total Field	**223,790,000**

* Reference to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.
** Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with UN General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Trust Funds

Voluntary contributions to support UN Human Rights' practical work in specific areas are channelled and managed through nine United Nations trust funds and three special funds. The largest is the **UN Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.** Established in 1993 to supplement regular budget resources, it is used to manage approximately 80 per cent of all extra-budgetary funds received, including unearmarked funds.

OTHER UN TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Established in 1981, it awards grants to organizations working to alleviate the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The types of assistance provided by Fund-supported organizations range from psychological, medical and social assistance to legal aid and financial support.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Established in 1985, it provides Indigenous Peoples with the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities at the international level and participate in the development and implementation of international standards and national legislation for the protection of their rights. Funds are distributed in the form of travel grants that enable Indigenous Peoples to participate in UN meetings and events. The Fund also provides training to Indigenous Peoples to ensure their meaningful participation in UN meetings.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Established in 1987, it supports national efforts to build human rights protection frameworks, including strong legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, independent judiciaries and vibrant civil society organizations. The Fund supports programmes within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme administered by UN Human Rights and is funded through voluntary contributions. In 2025, the Fund supported technical cooperation programmes in 56 regions, countries and territories.

UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Established in 1991, the Fund distributes small grants to grassroots projects that provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund primarily focuses on projects that assist individuals who are suffering from the most severe forms of human rights violations occurring in the context of contemporary forms of slavery and other forms of exploitation.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Established in 2008, it facilitates the participation of official representatives from developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, in the UPR process and provides training for the preparation of national reports. Since its establishment, 260 delegates from 119 countries have benefitted from the travel assistance under this Voluntary Fund.

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

Established in 2008, it provides financial and technical support to implement recommendations issued under the UPR review process, at the request of and in consultation with the country concerned. Since its establishment, the Fund has supported activities in 102 countries in all regions of the world. In 2025 the Fund has supported activities in 30 countries, including Cabo Verde, Uganda, Lao PDR, Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay. For 2026, the Fund has received 49 project proposals.

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

Established in 2013 through Human Rights Council resolution 19/26, it enhances the institutional and human rights capacity of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States by providing targeted training courses, travel assistance for delegates attending Council sessions and fellowship programmes.

SPECIAL FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

CONTINGENCY FUND

Established in 2006, this Fund enables the Office to respond to human rights emergencies in a timely and adequate manner. The revolving Fund is maintained through voluntary contributions to facilitate, implement or carry out activities within the priorities, overall strategies and policies of the Office, in particular in the context of the establishment of a rapid response capacity. The Fund has greatly increased our capacity to provide legal and operational support to situations that require urgent response.

SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED BY THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE (OP-CAT)

Established in 2006 through article 26 of OP-CAT, this Fund helps finance the implementation of recommendations issued by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, following a visit of the Subcommittee to a State Party, as well as education programmes of national preventive mechanisms. Applications may be submitted by State Parties, national preventive mechanisms, NGOs and national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles. Projects supported by the Special Fund strengthen capacity of States as well as other actors in torture prevention, including through the establishment or improved functioning of national preventive mechanisms.

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

Established in 2013 by Human Rights Council's decision 24/118, this Fund aims to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in these important annual discussions about global issues. The Fund has prioritised support for local or national-level non-governmental organizations active in relevant fields, with a focus on participants from Least Developed Countries.

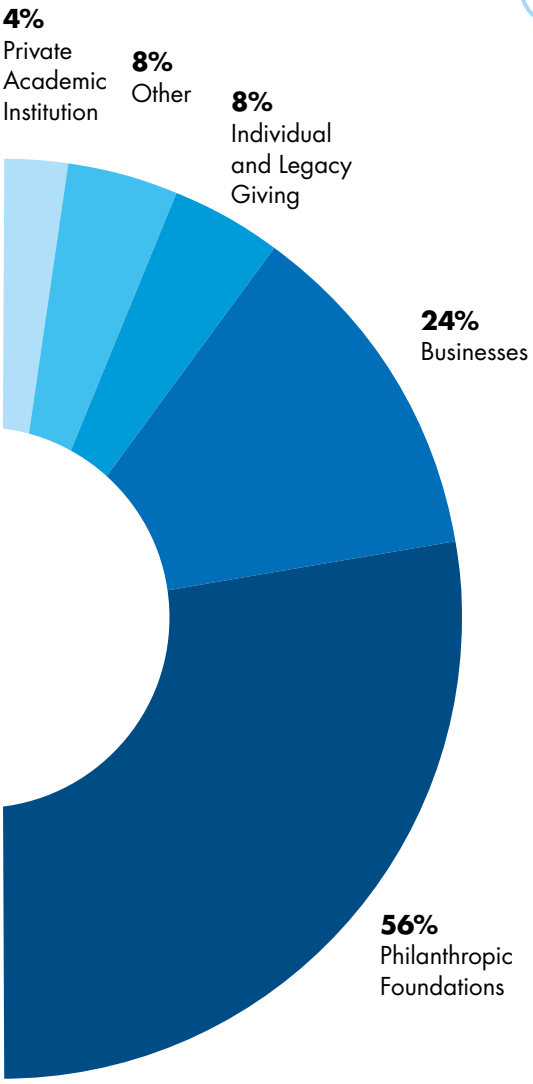
OUR PARTNERSHIPS, OUR MISSION, ONE SHARED FUTURE
OUR SHARED IMPACT

In recent years, a growing number of philanthropic and private sector partners have joined the Office in advancing the cause of human rights around the world. In 2025 alone, we were proud to count 25 private sector and philanthropic partners supporting our work through financial contributions, the highest number in the history of UN Human Rights. Notably, 10 of these partners joined us for the first time in 2025, reflecting a powerful and expanding commitment to human rights, equality and justice for all.

These collaborations have not only provided vital financial support, but have also amplified advocacy efforts, galvanized human rights movement building, and fostered innovation in rights-based tools.

We look forward to building on this momentum, inviting private sector and philanthropic leaders to:

- **Join our global alliance:** Be part of a global network championing human rights.
- **Provide flexible support:** Sustain UN Human Rights' core work and enable rapid responses to emerging challenges.
- **Invest in impact:** Support flagship initiatives that drive transformative change.



PHILANTHROPIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT IS MORE THAN A CONTRIBUTION, IT IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.

TOGETHER, WE:

Sustain global advocacy and expand initiatives that reach marginalized communities and **advance equality.**

Protect rights, amplify voices, and **drive systemic change.**

Deliver immediate impact and long-term sustainability, ensuring resources **reach those who need them most.**



A participant at the Informal Interactive Hearing with Indigenous Peoples in New York. Credit: © UN Photo/Manuel Elías

HOW OUR PARTNERSHIPS ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS

Discover how our partnerships are making a difference through these proven approaches to collaboration:

Indigenous Fellowship Programme:

Philanthropic support has been essential in broadening the participation and outreach of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme, supporting the inclusion of additional language groups and extending access to more Indigenous communities globally.

The Indigenous Fellowship Programme (IFP) is a comprehensive human rights training initiative that empowers indigenous representatives to engage effectively with the UN system and advocate for their communities. Through capacity-building and strategic engagement, in 2025 the programme has reached over 2,000 Indigenous leaders worldwide, strengthening their ability to protect and promote the rights of their peoples.

Tech & human rights:

UN Human Rights partners with leading technology companies to shape a digital future that is inclusive, equitable, and grounded in human rights. Through these collaborations, businesses help us develop trusted, rights-based digital tools and advisory mechanisms.

This support enables innovation, such as AI-powered platforms that strengthen accountability and early warning systems. Flagship initiatives include the Human Rights Data Exchange (HRDx), the world's first open human rights data service, transforming access to reliable information for advocacy and action.

Discover also our B-Tech project.

Work with and for young people:

Philanthropic contributions remain critical to expanding UN Human Rights' work with and for young people, especially those in vulnerable and conflict-affected contexts. This support empowers youth as key actors in advancing human rights and peacebuilding globally and amplifies their voices through advocacy and engagement. In 2025, over 1,600 youth participated in workshops, trainings, and advocacy initiatives, designed to build their capacities to engage in decision-making on issues affecting their lives. In collaboration with our partners, UN Human Rights developed an inclusive resource to strengthen their knowledge and skills, promoting meaningful youth participation in human rights processes at all levels.

TAKE ACTION: SUPPORT OUR WORK NOW

Your online contributions can directly support UN Human Rights, making it easier than ever to join our mission and drive impact. Digital giving is fast, secure, and impactful, every contribution helps us reach more people, more effectively.

You can contact UN Human Rights to receive more information on partnering with us:

Tel: +41 22 917 91 54
Email: OHCHR-dexrel@un.org
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10 – Switzerland

DONATE HERE

Women lead **search for victims of enforced disappearance in Colombia**



Human rights defender Katy Fuentes, in the center, poses with other victims of enforced disappearance in Colombia. © Katy Fuentes

Katy Fuentes was just 13 when her world changed forever. One day at school, during a reading exercise, she stumbled upon a newspaper clipping with a photo of her father. The headline revealed what her mother had kept from her: three months earlier, armed men had taken him from Pueblo Bello. He was among 43 farmers abducted and murdered by paramilitaries in northern Colombia. Katy never saw her father again.

That moment of shock and grief shaped Katy's life. Seven years later, she joined the Coordinating Committee of the Pueblo Bello Case, an organization of victims searching for thousands of people who disappeared during Colombia's armed conflict. "From that moment on, I became a leader and human rights defender," Katy says. "I haven't found my father, but helping others find their loved ones feels like finding him."

Her fight is part of a much larger struggle. Colombia has **132,877 missing persons** linked to decades of violence. Women—mothers, daughters, sisters—have led the search, often risking threats and violence. They demand truth, justice, and guarantees that such crimes never happen again.

Since 1997, the UN Human Rights Office in Colombia has stood by these families. It monitors violations, advises authorities, and supports

victims' organizations. For Katy, this support has been crucial: "The Office legitimizes our work. They push the State to listen to us and include us in policies."

Over the past three years, UN Human Rights has worked tirelessly with State authorities to develop a national policy for searching the disappeared and preventing future crimes. This advocacy led to a historic milestone: **Law No. 2364, the "Buscadoras Law," adopted in 2024**. With the Office's backing, the law recognizes the vital role of women searchers and the disproportionate impact enforced disappearances have on them. It guarantees their rights and acknowledges their contribution to memory and peace.

"This law is unprecedented," says Scott Campbell, UN Human Rights' Representative in Colombia. "It still needs implementation, and we're following up to ensure searchers' rights are respected."

For Katy, the law is more than words on paper—it's hope. "Without a State policy, we work tirelessly but without rights," she explains. "The State hasn't found all the missing persons or protected victims. This law means recognition, coordination, and a real chance to find our loved ones."

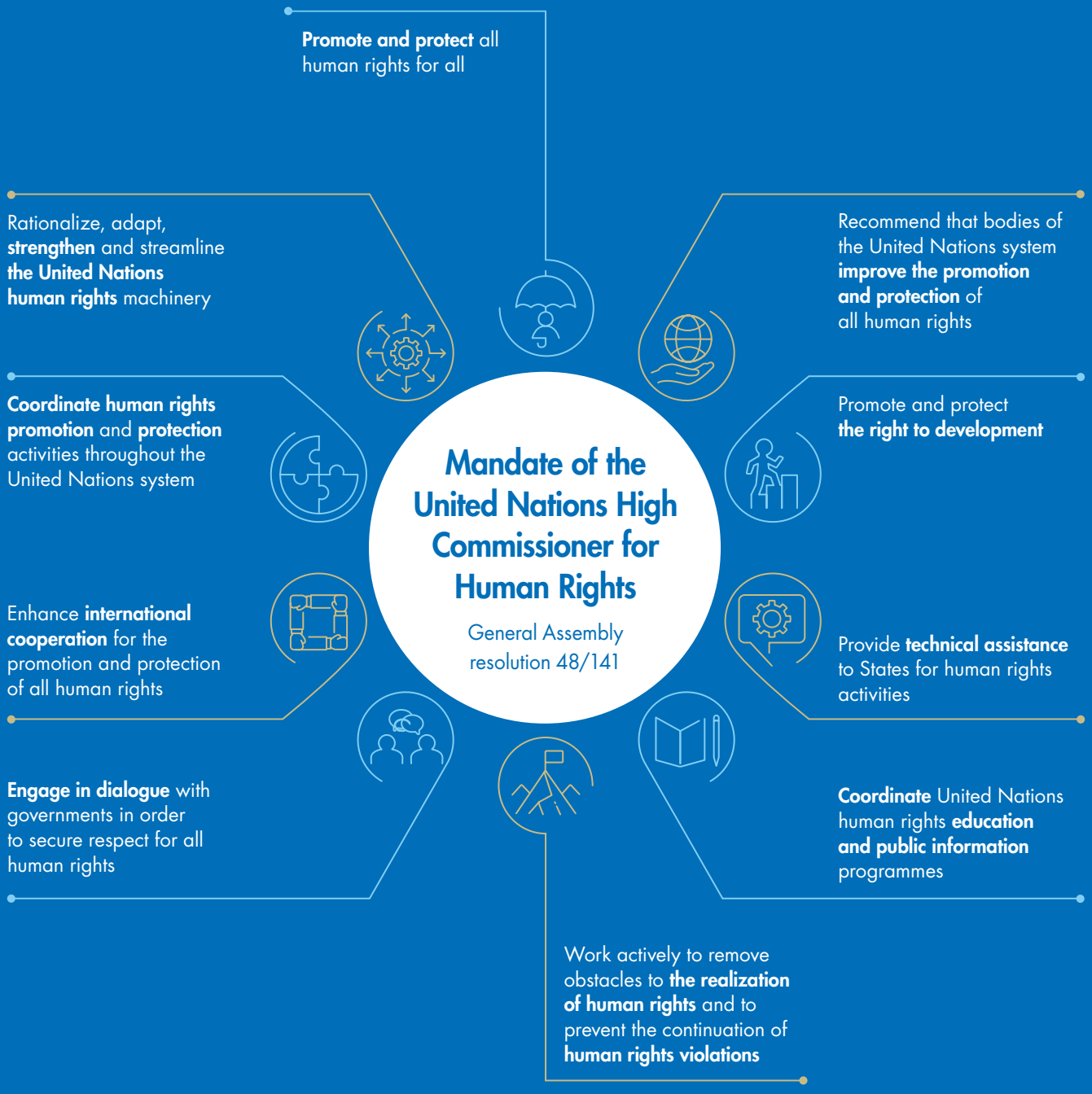
As Colombia moves to implement the policy in 2025, Katy continues her search—not just for her father, but for truth and justice for thousands of families. Her story is a testament to resilience and the power of partnership between victims and human rights defenders. Thanks to their efforts and the Office's support, Colombia is taking steps toward healing, memory, and peace.

But this progress is fragile. The UN Human Rights Office in Colombia, which played a key role in making the "Buscadoras Law" a reality, is now facing a significant reduction in size due to funding cuts. This means fewer hands to support victims, less capacity to ensure the law is implemented, and a real risk that families like Katy's will continue searching without answers. For Katy, and for thousands of women who have carried this fight for decades, international support is not just helpful—it is essential. Without it, the promise of truth, justice, and non-repetition could fade, and memory could be lost.



Wilson Fuentes, Katy's father, was disappeared on January 14, 1990, by an illegal armed group. She treasures the only photo of her father. © Katy Fuentes.

WHAT WE DO


Promote and protect all human rights for all
Rationalize, adapt, **strengthen** and streamline **the United Nations human rights** machinery
Recommend that bodies of the United Nations system **improve the promotion and protection** of all human rights
Coordinate human rights promotion and **protection** activities throughout the United Nations system
Promote and protect **the right to development**
Mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
General Assembly resolution 48/141
Enhance **international cooperation** for the promotion and protection of all human rights
Provide **technical assistance** to States for human rights activities
Engage in dialogue with governments in order to secure respect for all human rights
Coordinate United Nations human rights **education and public information** programmes
Work actively to remove obstacles to **the realization of human rights** and to prevent the continuation of **human rights violations**

UN Human Rights
Abbreviations and acronyms

BINUH
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti

CEDAW
Committee on the elimination of discrimination against women

CED
Committee on enforced disappearances

HQ
Headquarters

HC
High Commissioner

HRC
Human Rights Council

MINUSCA
United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

MONUSCO
United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

NGO
Non-governmental organization

OE2.0
Organizational Effectiveness 2.0

OHCHR
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OP-CAT
Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture

RB
Regular budget

SDG
Sustainable Development Goal

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

UN
United Nations

UNAMA
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

UNAMI
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

UNCT
United Nations Country Team

UNMIK
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

UNMISS
United Nations Mission in South Sudan

UNSMIL
United Nations Support Mission in Libya

UNSOM
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

UPR
Universal Periodic Review

XB
Extra-budgetary resources

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