REPORT 2024

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



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CREDITS

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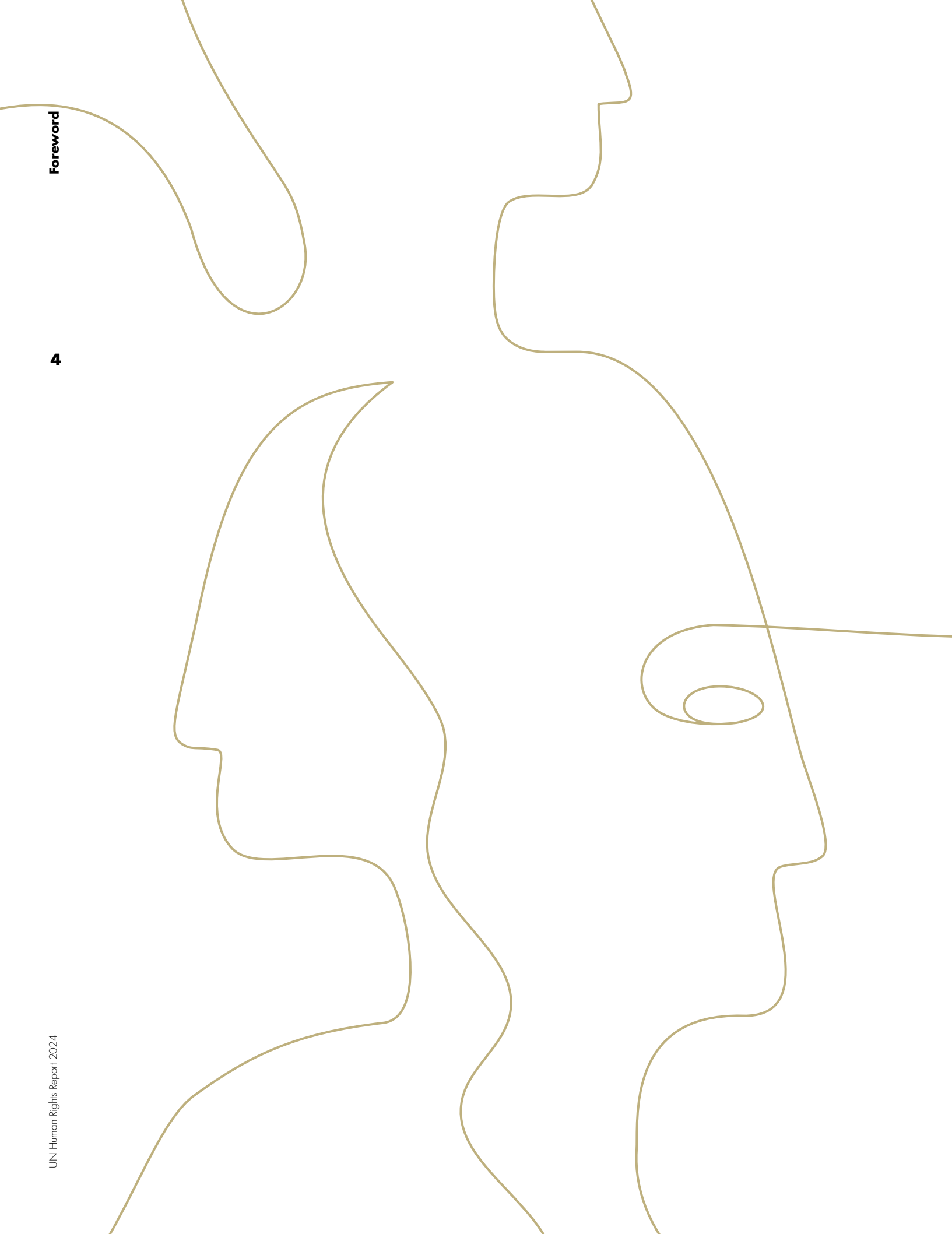
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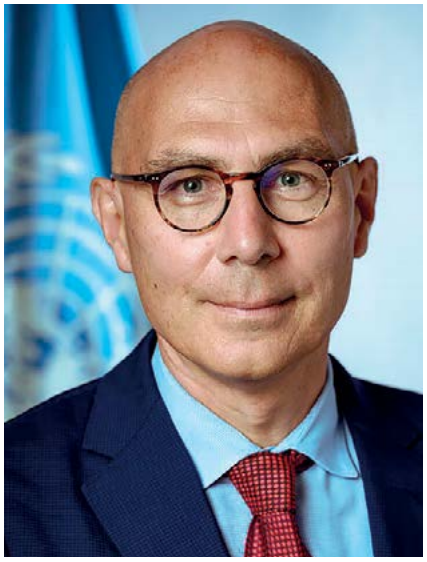
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FOREWORD
BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

The solutions to many of today's challenges and struggles lie in the principles of solidarity, equality and our common humanity; in short, they must be based on a greater, not lesser, respect for human rights.

This report covers 2024 – a challenging year for human rights around the world. Old conflicts ground on while new ones ignited; geopolitical tensions prevented progress on mediation and peace; the climate crisis gathered pace; inequalities widened; and the risks of unregulated technologies continued to grow. Against this backdrop, it was alarming to see several electoral processes unfold in soundbites, largely devoid of substance.

Throughout this turbulent year, UN Human Rights remained a steadfast voice for justice, equality and peace. We advocated around the world for human rights; documented and reported abuses and violations; supported governments in their reform efforts; and pursued our own reforms to strengthen our presence and make the most effective use of our resources.

We raised the alarm over grave violations and abuses from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Gaza, Haiti, Myanmar, Sudan, Ukraine and beyond. We supported States, national institutions, the private sector, regional bodies and the wider United Nations system to integrate human rights into their work. We are a key authoritative source for verified and disaggregated data, for example, our monthly reports and bulletins on Ukraine were cited during 20 meetings of the UN Security Council.

Our 2,000 staff members working in 92 teams around the world undertook some 11,000 human rights monitoring missions and observed close to 1,000 trials. Our advocacy contributed to the release of more than 3,000 arbitrarily detained people. We documented approximately 15,000 situations of human rights violations across the world and supported more than 10,000 survivors of contemporary forms of slavery and nearly 49,000 survivors of torture and their families.

We undertook 16 emergency deployments in response to human rights and humanitarian crises and in support of investigative bodies covering eight different countries or regions.

Human rights are essential tools to prevent the tensions that can lead to violence. In 2024, we supported countries from Burundi to Honduras to identify and monitor risks and provide early warning of human rights violations. We worked

closely with the United Nations-African Union Joint Task Team to ensure that human rights are central to African Union Peace Support Operations. We also established a UN inter-agency Task Force on Transitional Justice, co-chaired with the Department of Peacekeeping and Political Affairs, to coordinate UN support in this area of work.

Around the world, our country offices worked with governments to build their human rights capacities. In line with our initiative to promote a Human Rights Economy, we supported human rights-based approaches to taxation and public spending from Jordan to Kenya. In Colombia, we delivered training on the rights of peasants, contributing to the inclusion of peasant rights in national censuses and surveys and land restitution policies. In Zambia, following our study on the rights to food and education, the Government significantly expanded its School Feeding Programme. In South Africa, we made recommendations to update environmental regulations.

In Liberia, we provided technical and financial backing to the Government's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights – the fourth on the African continent. In Haiti, we provided advice to the Multinational Security Support Mission on implementing the Mission's human rights compliance mechanism and on preventing and responding to any form of misconduct involving the Mission's personnel.

In the Gambia and Somalia, my Office successfully advocated for legal protection against gender-based discrimination and violence, including female genital mutilation. In Panama, our technical support contributed to identifying abuses against migrants and refugees, including sexual violence in more than 400 cases.

In Mexico, our technical analysis and advocacy contributed to the adoption of a constitutional amendment that recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexicans to participate in decisions on development and land ownership.

We held six anti-racism events to train more than 450 people from 15 Member States of the European Union, resulting in policy recommendations related to its Anti-Racism Strategy.

My Office sent a multidisciplinary team to Bangladesh, at the request of the Interim Government, to pursue human rights investigations and provide support to the accountability and reform processes.

In Syria, our work over the past 14 years has laid the foundations for accountability and our support to facilitate transitional justice and healing.

And sadly, in Yemen, six of our staff were arbitrarily detained by the de facto Houthi authorities last year, in addition to two staff members who have been in detention since 2021. We continue to demand their immediate and unconditional release, together with all others arbitrarily detained.

We strengthened the support we provide to our operations by establishing an Inquiries Branch and an Innovation and Analytics Hub to make better use of digital technologies. The Hub supplies tools to predict, track, monitor and prevent human rights violations and assists governments to strengthen data systems.

Our contributions helped to put human rights at the centre of the Pact for the Future, the global agreement reached last September to update multilateralism and modernize international cooperation to address the realities of today and tomorrow.

And we continued to promote the treaties that are the basis of international human rights law. In 2024, a record 21 instruments of ratification were deposited with the Secretary-General.

These examples are just a snapshot of our value to countries in transition and a world in turmoil. The solutions to many of today's challenges and struggles lie in the principles of solidarity, equality and our common humanity; in short, they must be based on a greater, not lesser, respect for human rights. My Office is taking that abstract concept and helping to make it a reality for millions of people around the world. I am immensely proud of our dedicated staff and their efforts, in all of these areas and more.

At this difficult moment for human rights, we are all conscious of the need to increase our advocacy and effectiveness around the world. Human rights are a low-cost, high-impact investment to mobilize people for peace, security and sustainable devel-

opment and to build social cohesion. But funding for human rights – which represents less than five per cent of the total regular budget of the United Nations – remains woefully inadequate.

In 2025, we require US$500 million in extrabudgetary resources. If we do not meet this target, I fear we will leave many people to struggle and possibly fail, without adequate support.

We are very grateful for your partnership and we hope for your continued and stronger financial commitment in 2025.



Volker Türk

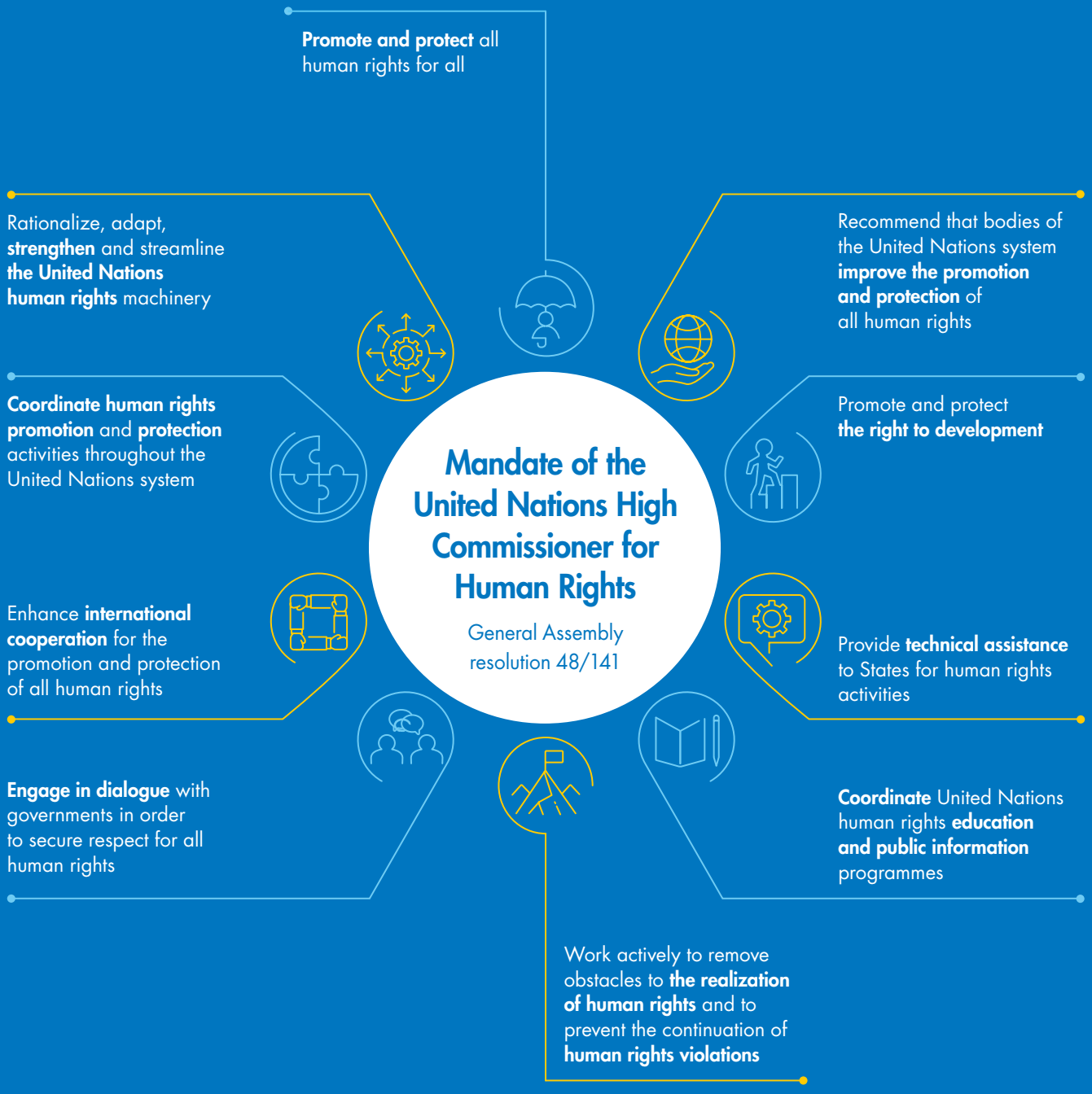
United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights



OVERVIEW

A training on human rights monitoring and the Kobocollect reporting tool was held for members of the regional observatory and local association leaders, in Menabe, Madagascar, in February 2025.
© Rakotonirina Lalaina Chantal

MANDATE


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

Mandated by General Assembly resolution 48/141, UN Human Rights' responsibilities include the promotion and protection of the effective enjoyment by all, of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, taking an active role in addressing challenges to the full realization of all human rights and preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world. To this end, UN Human Rights engages all governments in dialogue regarding the implementation of its mandate, with a view to securing respect for all human rights. It provides advisory services, technical and financial assistance at the request of the States and, where appropriate, supports actions and programmes in the field of human rights. Further, it strengthens international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights and coordinates human rights activities throughout the United Nations system, including through education and public information programmes.

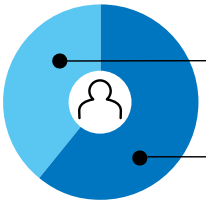
The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal human rights official of the United Nations and is appointed by the General Assembly for a fixed term of four years, with the possibility of one term renewal. Since October 2022, UN Human Rights is led by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 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.



OHCHR-Mexico staff accompanies Yadira González and Juan Carlos Trujillo, relatives of victims of disappearance, during National Search Day, in San Juan del Río, Querétaro, Mexico. © OHCHR/Vincent Tremeau

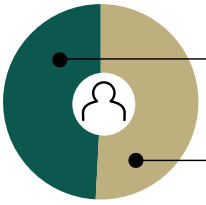
GLOBAL WORKFORCE IN 2024

STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY CATEGORY



39% National staff

61% International staff



49% Field staff

51% HQ staff

2,092 staff

153 nationalities

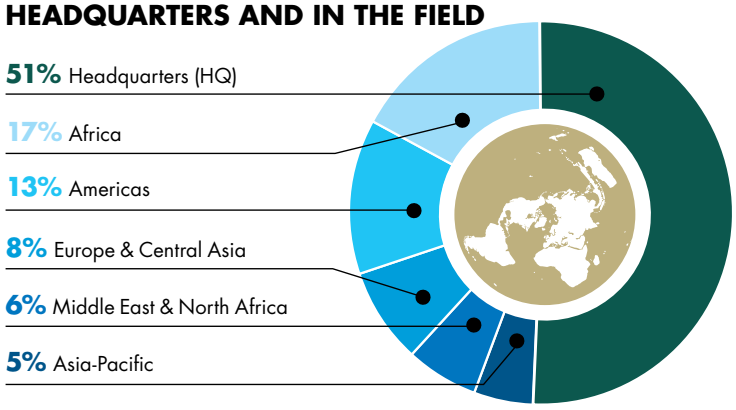
491 staff in peace missions

41 JPOs sponsored by **17** Member States

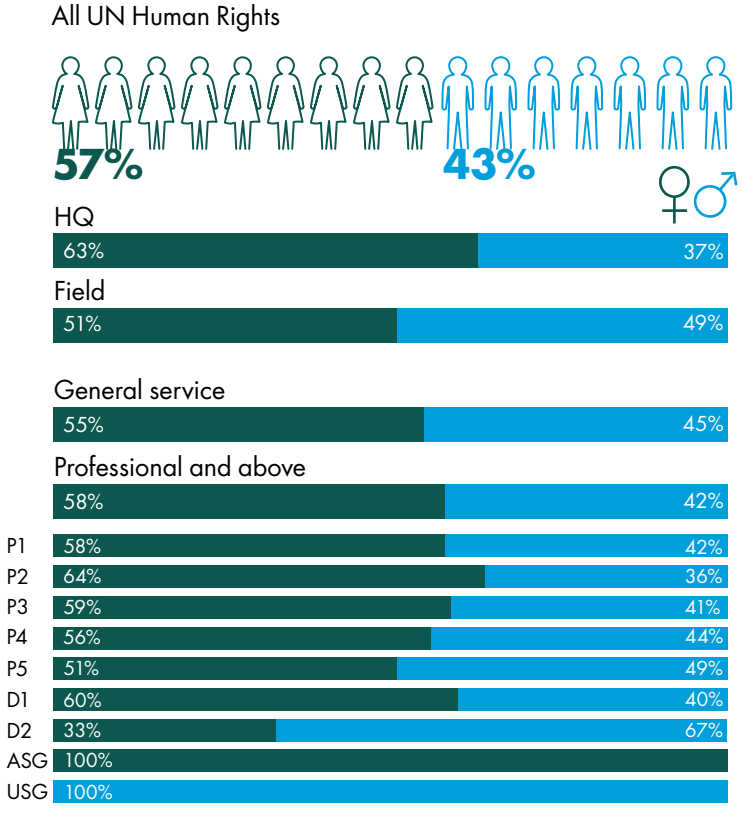
19 UNVs sponsored by **8** Member States

Notes: Data as of 31 December 2024. UNV figures represent those fully funded in 2024. Data includes 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 HEADQUARTERS AND IN THE FIELD



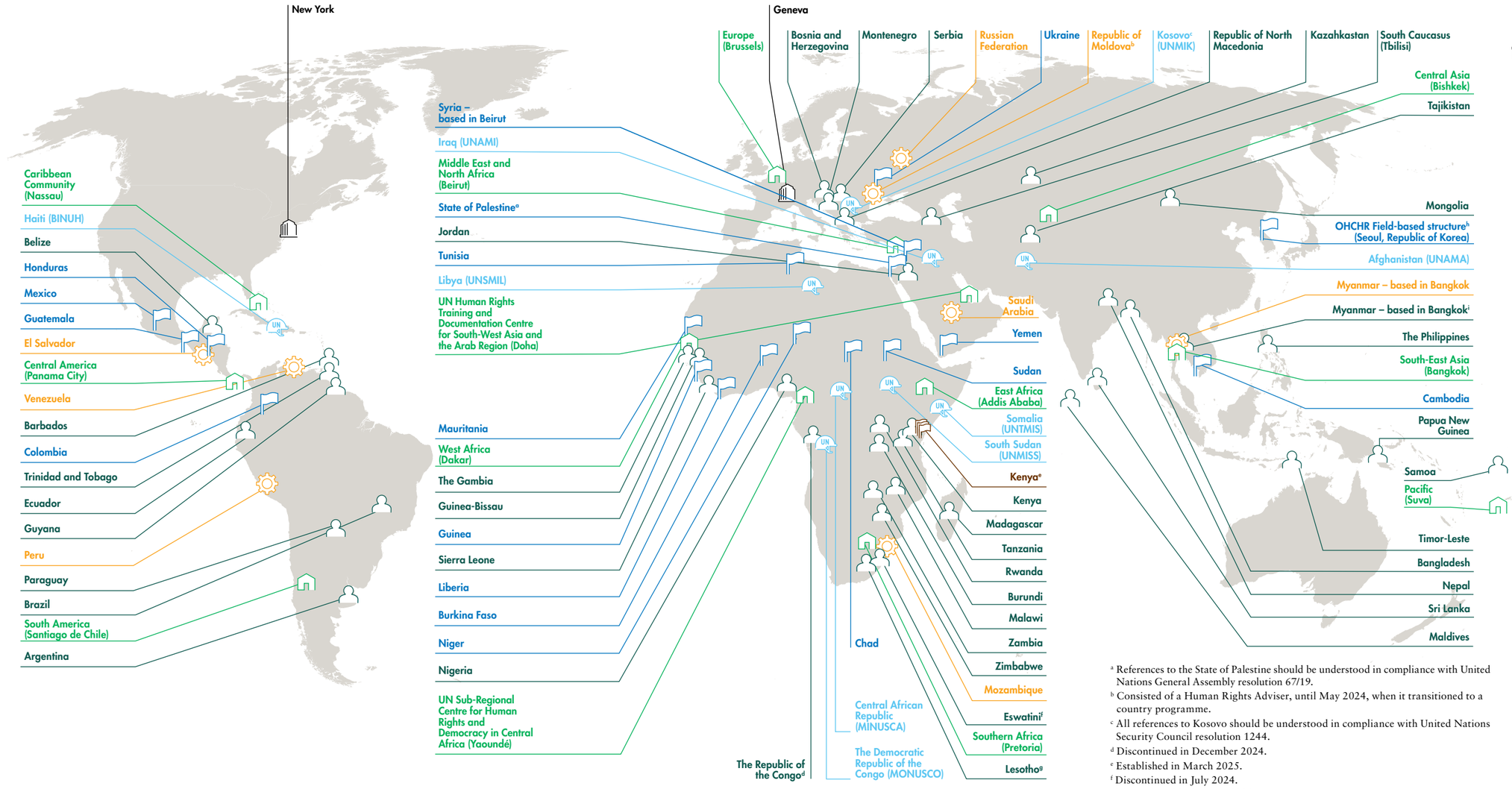
STAFF DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



Global **presence**

2 HQ locations + **90** Field presences

	2	Headquarters
	18	Country Offices
	1	Multi-country Office
	13	Regional Offices/ Centres
UN	**9**	Human rights components in UN Peace/Political Missions
	41	Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs
	8	Other Projects/ Special Presences



[a] References to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
[b] Consisted of a Human Rights Adviser, until May 2024, when it transitioned to a country programme.
[c] All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.
[d] Discontinued in December 2024.
[e] Established in March 2025.
[f] Discontinued in July 2024.
[g] Discontinued in January 2024.
[h] Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.
[i] Merged with the Myanmar country programme as of January 2025.

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

GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS TRENDS
A SNAPSHOT

In 2024, the worldwide human rights situation saw both progress and setbacks. While legal protection has expanded in some areas, available data demonstrates that violence against civilians in armed conflicts is on the rise, discrimination against many population groups persists and civic space remains under serious threat. This snapshot presents a number of illustrative global trends and patterns relevant to human rights and the activities of UN Human Rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (SDG INDICATOR 16.10.1)

41 National human rights institutions reported data on attacks against Human Rights Defenders (HRD) last year.

At least 1 HRD is killed or disappeared every day, worldwide.

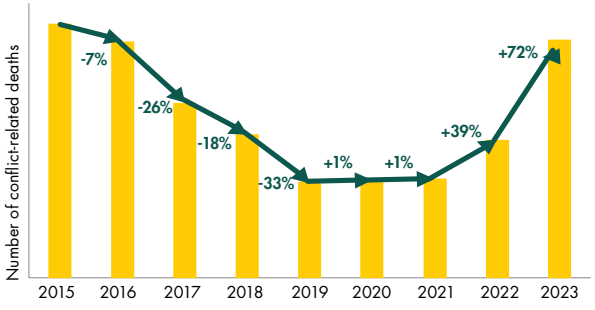


Source: OHCHR, SDG Global Database

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN ARMED CONFLICT (SDG INDICATOR 16.1.2)

OHCHR supported casualty recording in **14** armed conflicts.

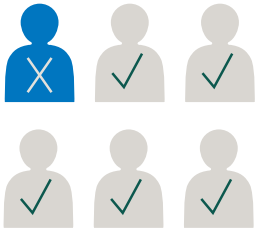
Civilian deaths in armed conflicts decreased after 2015, but surged by nearly 40% in 2022 and 70% in 2023.



Source: OHCHR, SDG Global Database

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY (SDG INDICATOR 16.B.1)

Nearly 1 in 6 people encounter discrimination. Racial discrimination is the most widespread.



1 in 3 persons with disabilities face discrimination.

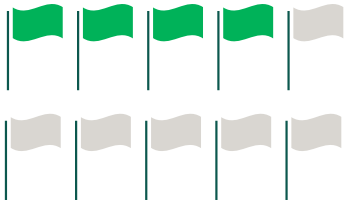
For every man who is a victim of discrimination, there are **4** women who are victims.

Source: OHCHR, SDG Global Database

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (SDG INDICATOR 16.A.1)

The majority of countries **(60%)** have an internationally accredited national human rights institution (NHRI), representing a **23%** increase since 2015.

Only 4 out of 10 countries have NHRIs that are fully compliant with the Paris Principles.



Source: OHCHR, SDG Global Database

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (FEMICIDE/FEMINICIDE RATE)

During the last decade, OHCHR and partners supported the adoption of more than **500** laws and policies to protect women from gender-based violence.

Source: OHCHR, UNODC, UN Women

Yet, every day, **140 women and girls are killed by family members, representing 60% of all female homicides.**



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS
(RATIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES)

More than half of countries have ratified at least **13 of the 18** core human rights treaties.



Five countries have ratified **all 18**.

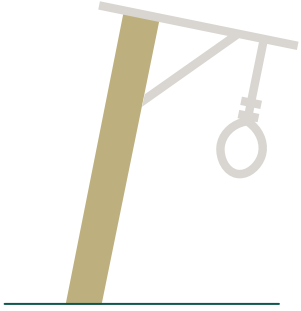


Source: OHCHR

DEATH PENALTY

In the past 30 years, the number of countries that abolished the death penalty for all crimes has doubled, bringing the total to **113** in 2024.

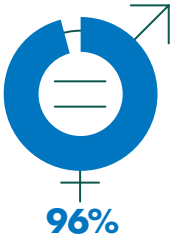
Executions, however, have risen by over **30%** annually since 2020 in the remaining practicing countries.



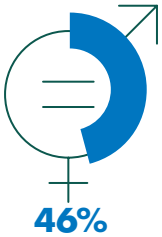
Source: OHCHR, Amnesty International

GENDER EQUALITY IN LAW
(SDG INDICATOR 5.1.1)

Since 1980, **the number of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has grown from 10 to 189**, representing **96%** of countries.



Yet, less than half **(46%)** have adopted national legislation for gender equality and non-discrimination in key areas, such as pay, marriage, divorce and protection from sexual violence.



Source: UN Women, WB, OECD

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION
(SDG INDICATOR 5.5.1)

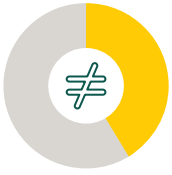
The proportion of women in parliamentary seats has more than doubled since the late 1990s, rising from **12%** to **27%**. Despite making up half of the world's population, women still occupy less than one-third of parliamentary seats.



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

DATA AVAILABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDG INDICATORS UNDER OHCHR CUSTODIANSHIP

Measurement of the prevalence of discrimination has tripled over the past decade, yet:



Only **42%** of countries measure discrimination



National institutions in just **21%** of countries report data on attacks against HRDs



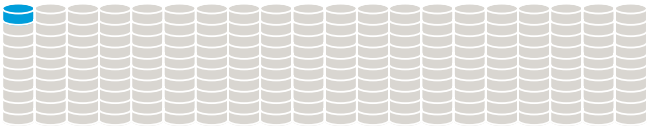
The UN data collection system tracks civilian deaths in **41%** of armed conflicts

Source: OHCHR, SDG Global Database

PROPORTION OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT AID (ODA) TO HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The amount of international aid in support of human rights programmes in low- and middle-income countries has tripled since the early 2000s.

Yet, the proportion of aid allocated to human rights remains below 0.5% of total OECD development assistance.



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System of ODA reported by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries

HIGHLIGHTS
of results

OHCHR staff met with Sudanese refugees in Chad to collect testimonies on human rights violations as part of the ongoing monitoring mission on the situation in Sudan. © OHCHR/Anthony Headley

2024 SNAPSHOTS

MEMBER STATES COOPERATION

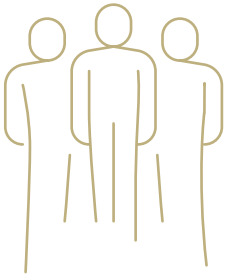
Human Rights Council
140 resolutions, decisions and President's statements adopted

Special Procedures
57 visits (hosted by 44 governments)

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
42 UPR outcomes adopted
42 national reports submitted and reviewed (with 100 per cent participation of States)

Human Rights Treaty Bodies
21 treaty actions (ratifications and accessions)
93 media statements, press releases and media advisories

PEOPLE-CENTRED



Humanitarian Funds
Direct assistance and rehabilitation provided to
48,800 survivors of torture (in 93 countries) and
10,800 survivors of contemporary forms of slavery (in 34 countries)

Fellowship Programmes
87 persons with enhanced capacities (**49** women and **38** men from communities of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and minorities)

Committee on Enforced Disappearances
369 new urgent actions registered



CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Participation in Human Rights Council sessions
2,395 oral statements by CSOs
86 statements by national human rights institutions

Engagement in the field
More than **4,500** partnerships established/enhanced (including with CSOs and human rights defenders)

Submissions to reviews by the human rights treaty bodies
1,416* received from CSOs, NHRIs and UN entities

UN PARTNERS COLLABORATION

UN Country Teams (UNCTs)
41 human rights advisers in UNCTs

UN Peace Missions
9 human rights components (**491** staff supported by UN Human Rights)

*Excluding confidential reports.



OHCHR meets with human rights defenders to discuss the impacts of business activities in Peru. © OHCHR

HUMAN RIGHTS 75 ONE YEAR LATER

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). A key objective of the HR75 Initiative was to generate pledges that bring about concrete change, leading to greater enjoyment of human rights for all. As of the end of 2023, nearly 800 pledges had been made by more than 150 stakeholders, including States, civil society, UN entities, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and businesses. Several of these promises were turned into action in 2024. The following is a snapshot of the many commitments that were honoured around the world.



For more information, see HR75: Advancing human rights through global pledges.

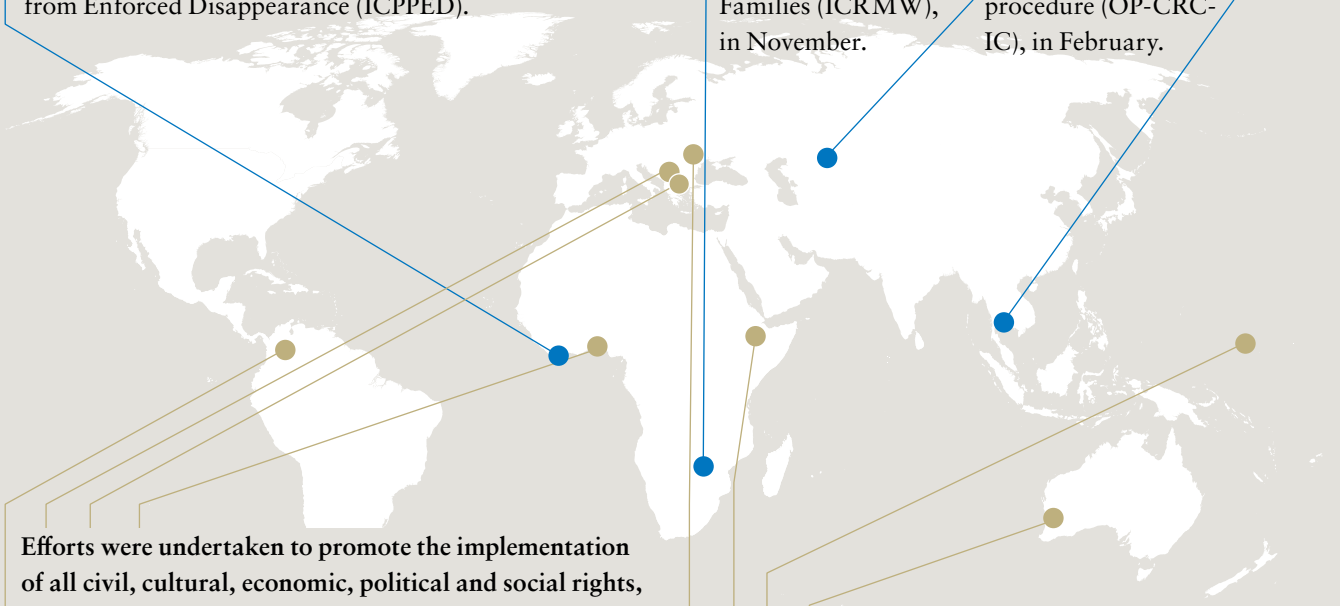
A record 21 new instruments of ratification were deposited with the Secretary-General by 15 States, including:

Côte d'Ivoire ratified four international human rights conventions in 2023 and 2024. It has now ratified all nine core international human rights treaties. In 2024, it ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2), as well as the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).

Zimbabwe ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), in November.

Kazakhstan ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC), in February.

Thailand ratified the ICPPED, in May.



Efforts were undertaken to promote the implementation of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including through legal reforms, institution building and public campaigns. For instance:

Benin adopted a decree, on 23 October, to facilitate access to justice. The decree is a critical milestone in the Government's efforts to establish a mechanism that will ensure equal access for all to an independent and efficient justice system, including legal assistance.

North Macedonia adopted a new Transparency Strategy and Action Plan (2024-2026), in December 2023, which is being implemented. The Strategy seeks to enhance access to public information and fiscal transparency.

In **Montenegro**, a National Strategy and Action Plan for Improving the Quality of Life of LGBTQI+ Persons (2024-2028) were approved by the Government, in June.

Colombia enacted Decree No. 665,[1] in May, to help dismantle criminal organizations and the structures supporting them.

Australia appointed an Anti-Slavery Commissioner, on 7 November, who is mandated to prevent and address the prevalence of modern slavery in companies, operations and supply chains.

Marshall Islands increased its efforts to combat climate change by sponsoring Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions. In May, it hosted a workshop on the implementation of pledges, enhancing capacities to pursue nuclear justice and the steps that need to be taken to establish an NHRI.

In **Ethiopia**, a Transitional Justice Policy and its Implementation Road Map were adopted, in April and August, respectively. The documents are aligned with international human rights standards.

The **Republic of Moldova** adopted, in March, a new programme in the field of human rights (2024-2027), which was developed by the Government following an inclusive and participatory approach. The programme was prepared with the support of UN Human Rights and informed by recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

1 Política Pública y Criminal y el Plan de Acción Permanente para el desmantelamiento de las conductas y organizaciones que trata el Decreto Ley 154 de 2017.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS 2.0

The High Commissioner's change management programme, Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0), was developed to make OHCHR fit for the future.

In 2024, nine new entities were created by consolidating existing resources, including an Innovation and Analytics Hub, a Human Rights Inquiries Branch, a Human Rights Education team, a Media Outreach and Spokesperson's Office, a Staff Well-being Unit, a Legal Support Unit and an Organizational Development Unit. A Multi-country Office was established in Nairobi, in March 2025, and the process began for the establishment of a second Multi-country Office, in Sarajevo. The multi-country offices are already positioning OHCHR to respond to more requests for support from Member States and UN partners across their respective regions. In addition, OHCHR reconfigured organizational structures, in particular its global operations, communications, resource mobilization, crisis preparedness and response and methodology and learning. It also overhauled administrative and operational processes to produce efficiency gains and enhance the allocation of its resources. During 2025, the efficiency and productivity gains of OHCHR's 2.0 reforms will be demonstrated through more strategic decision-making with data-driven insights and integrated budgeting for a comprehensive results-based financial overview, as well as quicker processes, such as recruitment, crisis engagement and grant disbursement.

These actions have harnessed existing resources to achieve gains in efficiency and effectiveness. They are practical initial steps that will ensure that OHCHR is fit for the future.

Efforts under OE 2.0 have been given fresh impetus under the UN Secretary-General's UN80 Initiative. The High Commissioner for Human Rights is a member of the UN80 Task Force.



With OHCHR's support, a Roma mediator in Moldova enables a Roma family to obtain identity documents and enjoy their human rights.
© OHCHR/Vincent Tremeau

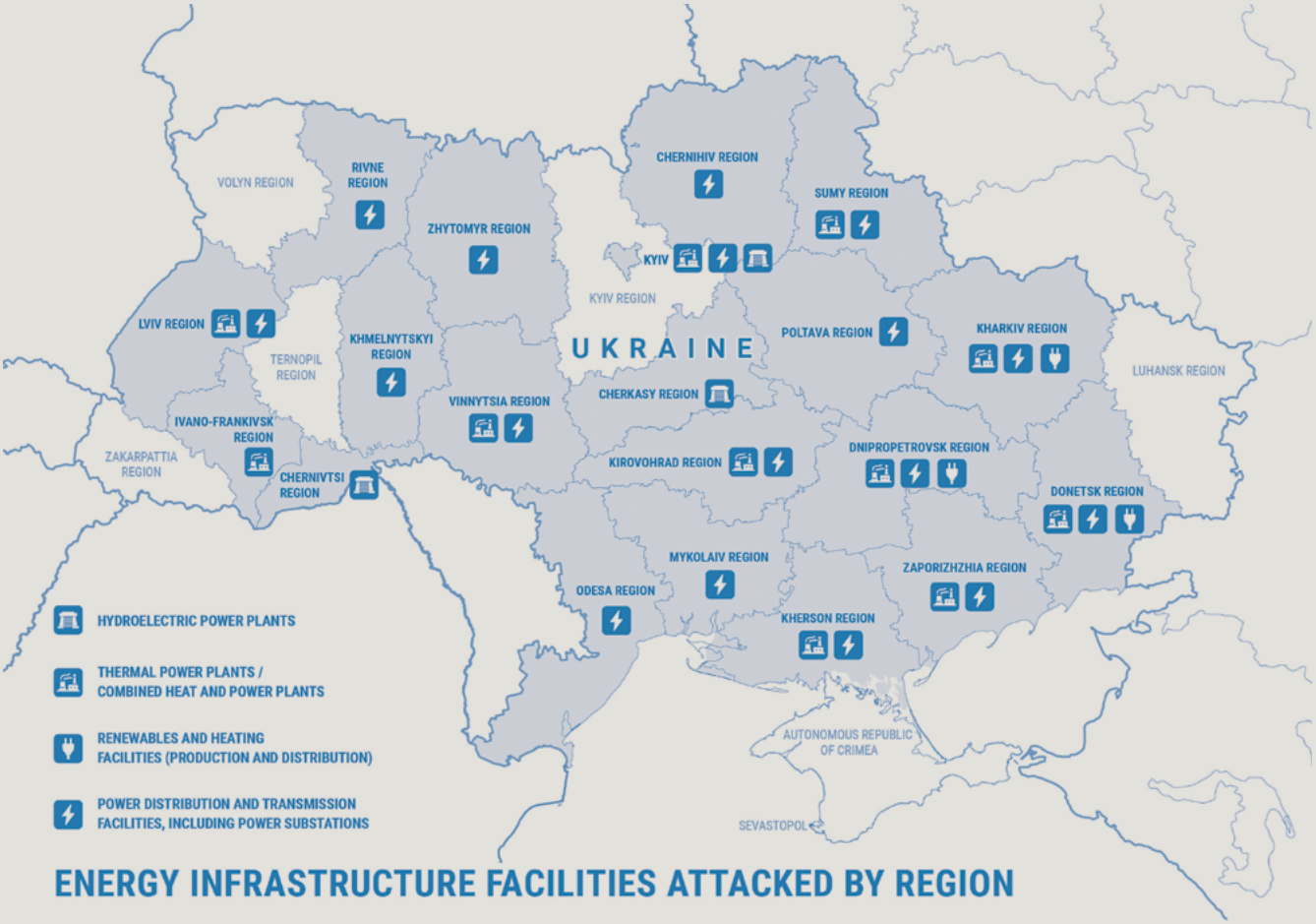
INNOVATION & ANALYTICS HUB

In June, OHCHR launched the Innovation and Analytics Hub. It brought together nearly 20 staff members, with competencies across the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change, to form a service centre for the Organization. The Hub spearheads the implementation of OHCHR's Digital Transformation Road Map (2024-2027), supporting the Organization's efforts to leverage digital technology for its work.

During the year, the Hub Team introduced tools to strengthen the Office's capacity to predict, track, monitor and prevent human rights violations and abuses across the globe. This led to more proactive responses and tangible achievements, for instance:

- **Human rights and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators** expanded data availability on the prevalence of discrimination in 83 countries, attacks against human rights defenders (HRDs) in 42 countries and UN-verified civilian deaths in relation to 14 armed conflicts.
- **National data systems** were strengthened through tailored training, including for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), Kenya and the Philippines, contributing to the ongoing development and validation of the Human Rights Engagement Barometer Prototype.
- **Automation and analytics** were used to develop over 20 data pipelines for receiving, transforming and managing large-scale human rights data, including from Amnesty International, Article19, Dataminr, the GDELT Project, Human Rights Watch, ILO and UNICEF, thereby enabling UN Human Rights to compare, monitor, analyse and act on a broader set of data than in the past.
- **Civic Space Pulse** monitored 45,105 protests (8,117 of which involved allegations of repression), documented 3,193 civic space records and tracked 2,463 internet disruptions. This provided the Office with actionable insights to better safeguard civic space and protect fundamental freedoms.
- **Field support** was provided from Bangladesh to Ukraine. Thirteen field presences benefited from tailored analytics and 62 field offices were supported with dashboards and risk analysis, improving efficiencies and decision-making capabilities. The Hub used "next gen" tools to merge online monitoring, data streams and artificial intelligence (AI) with human insight to support teams involved in monitoring human rights during election processes in Ghana, Mozambique, Tunisia and Uganda. This led to shorter timeframes and greater geographic coverage, while simultaneously managing an expanding array of sources and information.
- **Early warning** enabled OHCHR to provide 1,159 inputs to UNOCC reports, making it the largest contributor in 2024. It also provided 34 targeted inputs to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) early warning briefs.
- **Risk analysis** formed the basis for 23 Regional Monthly Reviews (RMRs) and 10 Horizon Scans. It was also used to identify 34 emerging risks and pilot innovative tools for a rights-based early warning system.

These advances grew out of more than 50 partnerships that were forged in 2024. They bridged data, digital transformation, innovation, foresight and behavioural science, which laid a strong foundation for a UN 2.0 future where collaboration, proactive engagement, evidence-based decision-making, data and information are central to realizing human rights for all.



In the spirit of OE 2.0 and UN 2.0, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the Hub are advancing innovation in the field through a next-generation information management architecture. As part of this, an interactive map was developed to show large-scale attacks on Ukraine's electric power system between 22 March and 31 August 2024, by Russian Federation armed forces, to enable visualizing the impact and support advocacy efforts. © OHCHR

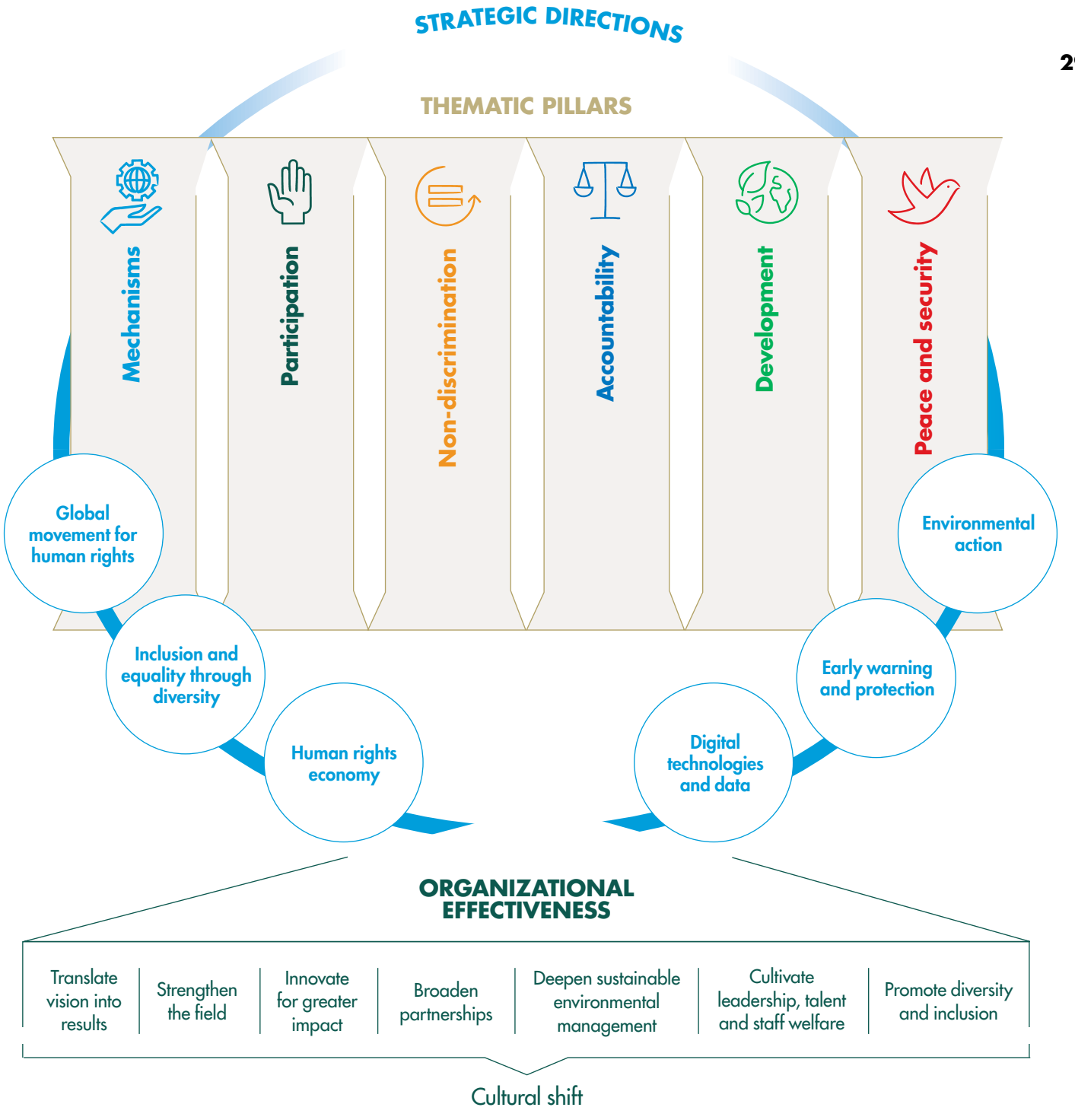
IMPLEMENTING THE OHCHR MANAGEMENT PLAN IN 2024

In 2024, OHCHR launched its new Organizational Management Plan (OMP) (2024-2027). This strategic planning document defines the results that the Organization aims to achieve by the end of the programming cycle. Its pillar strategies are informed by six strategic directions, seven Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs), as well as country and regional strategies and programmes. The new OMP preserves the six thematic pillars that were outlined in the previous OMP, which serve as the foundation for OHCHR's global initiatives to ensure the full enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights for all.

The six strategic directions were defined through broad consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including in the context of the Human Rights 75 Initiative (HR75), an analysis of the impact of major global trends on human rights and lessons learned from the previous programming cycle. These strategic directions will guide the implementation of the thematic pillars.

The OEAPs under the OMP reflect the Office's commitment to improve programme delivery and increase the impacts of its operations, in line with the organizational review initiative that was conducted in 2023.

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.



Overview of progress made towards achieving **OMP results in 2024**

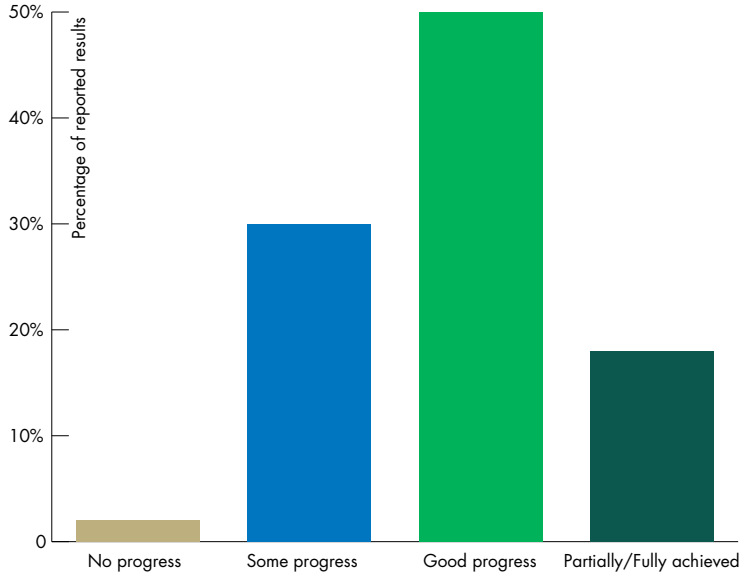
During the year, global challenges impacting on human rights have become increasingly complex, including the climate crisis, ongoing and emerging conflicts, growing inequalities and the unpredictable impacts of new technologies. UN Human Rights has aligned its planning with these evolving challenges by prioritizing key areas, while also maintaining the flexibility that is needed to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

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

PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNTRY RESULTS

In the first year of the new OMP cycle, the 2024 data demonstrates that most results are already on track. Eight out of 10 results have shown measurable progress, indicating OHCHR has made a solid start in the fulfilment of its commitment to deliver on its new OMP objectives.

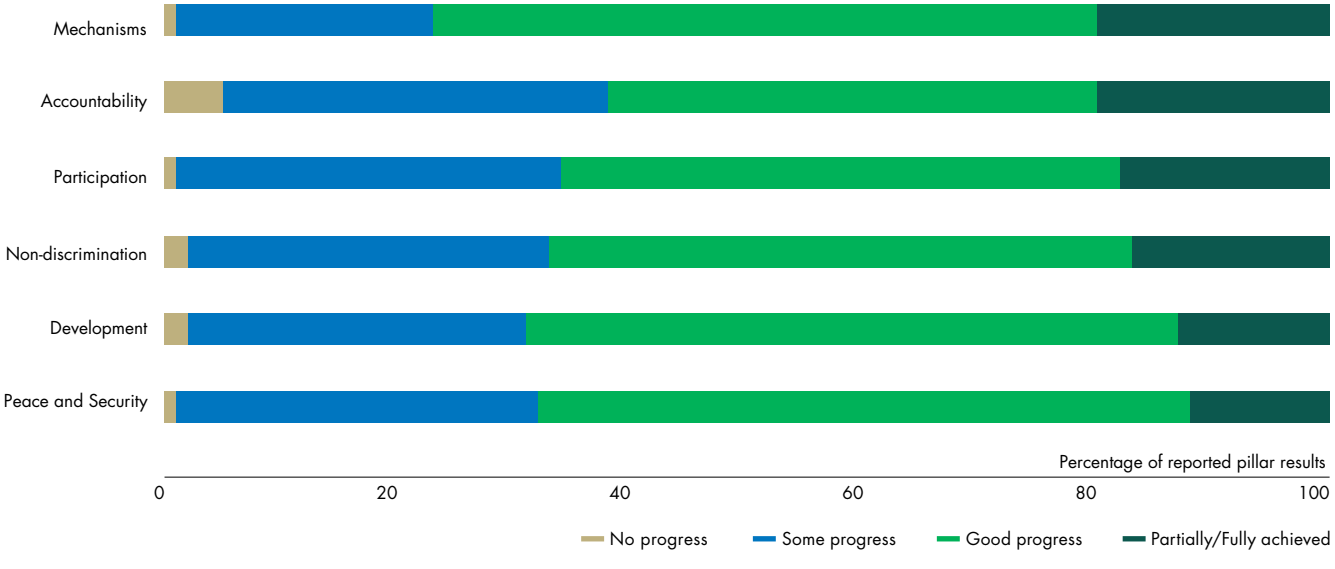
LEVEL OF PROGRESS REPORTED TOWARDS COUNTRY RESULTS 2024



All pillars reported progress, with over 60 per cent of results under each pillar showing good or partial progress or full achievement. The strongest performance was observed with respect to the Mechanisms pillar, under which more than 70 per cent of results reported good progress or were assessed as being partially/fully achieved.

The percentage of results with no progress is low across all pillars, which is a promising sign in the first year of the OMP's implementation. The Accountability pillar reported limited progress compared to the other pillars. Institutional fragmentation and political challenges were identified as factors hindering implementation.

LEVEL OF PROGRESS REPORTED UNDER PILLAR RESULTS IN 2024



PILLAR RESULTS

Mechanisms

Improving the implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

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

Recommendations
Adoption of **145** sets of concluding observations

Jurisprudence
Adoption of **622** views on individual complaints

General comments and recommendations
3 new adopted
(CEDAW on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making; CERD on racial discrimination and the right to health; CMW on implementation of the Convention and the Global Compact on Migration)

Capacity-building
134 activities (attended by more than **4,700** participants, including 1,140 women, to support engagement with the human rights treaty bodies, efforts to promote the ratification of treaties, implementation of recommendations issued by 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
140 adopted by the HRC

Sessions
84 UPR pre-session reports, **42** Working Group reports and **3** HRC reports (covering summaries of the UPR outcomes of 42 States)

REPORTING AND FOLLOWING UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS

National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up
12 established and/or strengthened

National Recommendations Tracking Database
rolled out in **12** countries

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Special procedures mandates
46 thematic and **14** country-specific

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

Reports
181 presented to the General Assembly/HRC (**64** on country visits)

Communications
655 communications sent (to **124** States and **145** non-State actors)
463 replies received (**417** of which were substantive)

Risking it all to stand up for human rights in exile: Nicaragua

"I had to flee Nicaragua under duress. I left with a backpack, my computer and the feeling that I was leaving my country for having defended other victims… I felt like I had committed a crime [for] defending human rights," said Wendy Flores, a human rights defender (HRD) from Nicaragua.

Flores is living in exile following a government campaign that was waged against those who participated in widespread protests from April to August 2018. The subsequent campaign severely limited civic space and was characterized by repression, violence and the harassment and detention of HRDs.

According to an OHCHR report, the public demonstrations had erupted due to the Government's slow and insufficient response to forest fires in the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve. This was exacerbated by a social security reform to reduce pension payments. Demonstrations were criminalized and protesters were identified as government opponents, leading to their detention.

"During the last five years in Nicaragua, more than 3,600 CSOs have had their status cancelled, including the Nicaraguan Centre for Human Rights (CENIDH)," Flores said. Her human rights work was at risk of being criminalized, thereby putting her family in jeopardy. "Leaving behind… my almost newborn son and my daughter was one of the hardest decisions I've faced," Flores said.

Flores reunited with her family nearly two and a half months after leaving Nicaragua. Many of the other women HRDs in exile are still waiting to reunite with their own families.



Wendy Flores, Nicaraguan human rights defender in exile and founder of the human rights collective "Nicaragua Nunca Más." © OHCHR

IN EXILE

Living in exile forced Flores to determine how to continue her work as an HRD. In cooperation with other HRDs in exile, she established the human rights collective, Nicaragua Nunca Más (Nicaragua Never Again). Over the past five years, the collective has documented more than 1,140 cases of rights violations in Nicaragua and provided ongoing support to victims. Their work sends a message that despite major obstacles, activists in exile are fighting against impunity and human rights violations.

"For us to be able to return to Nicaragua, we would need to see compliance with international obligations, a process of dialogue with international human rights mechanisms and evidence that the country is going to respect human rights," Flores said.

"The UN Human Rights Regional Office for Central America (ROCA) supports the work of defenders in exile through technical assistance to facilitate access to international human rights mechanisms and accountability at the international level, such as universal jurisdiction," said former ROCA Representative, Alberto Brunori.

Since 2019, the situation in Nicaragua has been addressed at Human Rights Council sessions through oral updates and reports presented by OHCHR. In 2022, the Council created a dedicated Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua to promote accountability.

"The Office has been instrumental in advocating for host countries to provide defenders fleeing Nicaragua with the protection they need, as well as the necessary support for their ongoing human rights work," Brunori said.

For Flores, the international community must continue to monitor Nicaragua so that HRDs can continue their work.

Highlights of Pillar Results

Mechanisms

The international human rights mechanisms – composed of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its special procedures, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and investigative bodies, as well as the human rights treaty bodies – are the backbone of the work carried out by UN Human Rights. The work of these mechanisms has a direct impact on people's lives. Collectively, they engage with a variety of stakeholders and individuals and play a crucial role in holding States accountable with respect to their human rights obligations. Their assessments and recommendations provide guidance on international human rights law and its implementation at the national level. In addition, their analyses help to identify and address human rights concerns as part of the UN's prevention system. Their complaints mechanisms enable individuals to seek redress for human rights violations. UN Human Rights provides secretariat assistance to the mechanisms and supports States in engaging with them.

A total of **13 new ratifications of core treaties and eight new ratifications of Optional Protocols** by 15 States Parties were recorded in 2024. For example, in September, **Burkina Faso** signed the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC); **Saint Kitts and Nevis** acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); and **Tuvalu** ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), in May.

UN Human Rights provided technical support and advice to the Government of **Mauritius** to promote the domestication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which contributed to the adoption of the **Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**, on 25 April. The Act established a national authority to serve as an independent monitoring mechanism, in line with article 33 of CRPD.

UN Human Rights' assistance, including through the development of training materials and advocacy, contributed to the establishment of a **National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up** (NMIRF) in **Fiji** and the strengthening of NMIRFs in 12 countries (the Central African Republic (CAR), Cambodia, Costa Rica, Gabon, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Vanuatu). Support to strengthen NMIRFs also included the roll-out of **National Recommendations Tracking Databases** (NRTDs), which was achieved in six countries, namely, Gabon, Guinea, the Maldives, Mauritius, the UAE and Uruguay. For example, in June, following the delivery of capacity-building initiatives by the Office, **Gabon** began using the NRTD, the first country in the Central Africa region to do so. In January, **Mauritania** established an interministerial committee to draft State Party reports and monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. During the year,

the interministerial committee began using the NRTD to track these recommendations. In 2025, the NRTD will be rolled out in an additional 10 countries and its reporting module will be expanded to include mid-term reporting for the UPR.

On 12 March, the **Ombudsperson Act** was published in **the Bahamas** to regulate the creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson. While efforts will continue to fully align the institution with the Paris Principles, it is the most progressive Ombudsperson institution in the Caribbean region. Moreover, in **Belize**, OHCHR worked closely with the Government to co-organize consultations on the establishment of a national human rights institution (NHRI), which is operating in accordance with the Paris Principles. The consultations contributed to the formation of an **NHRI Committee**, in December, that is mandated to coordinate the establishment of the NHRI.

In March, UN Human Rights supported a mission to **Gabon** of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) and various follow-up activities. In December, the country promulgated a **law to establish the National Preventive Mechanism** (NPM) to prevent torture and ill-treatment in places of detention.

UN Human Rights supported the development of **the Fourth Philippines Human Rights Plan**. This included support for Government-led consultations with civil society actors in eight regions, resulting in the participation of 485 civil society actors. On 10 December, the Government launched the Plan, which includes chapters on the implementation of the eight international human rights treaties that have been ratified by the country.

In **Azerbaijan**, OHCHR conducted a capacity-building programme for national CSOs to strengthen their ability to implement human rights initiatives and engage in international advocacy. This contributed to the submission of 21 alternative reports to the international human rights mechanisms. Also, **direct legal assistance**, primarily addressing social and economic rights, was provided to 5,606 individuals, including 2,789 women in vulnerable situations. More than 2,800 individuals reported that their cases were successfully resolved.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, UN Human Rights provided guidance to authorities at the Ministry of Justice (the NMIRF Secretariat), resulting in more effective preparations of the national UPR report, including several rounds of thematic consultations with civil society. Due to OHCHR's advocacy for the implementation of Views issued by the human rights treaty bodies on individual communications submitted regarding Kyrgyzstan, the Secretariat prepared an **internal repository of all Views issued** and improved its interactions with NGOs representing victims in several cases.

In **Oman**, UN Human Rights and the Oman National Human Rights Commission delivered a three-day workshop on human rights indicators for 40 participants (21 women), including representatives from ministries, the Statistics Office, the police, the media and CSOs. The workshop was followed by a four-day training of trainers (ToT) to introduce 27 participants (13 women), who had attended the previous training, to the OHCHR human rights training methodology. Upon the conclusion of the ToT, Oman issued Royal Decree No. 50/2024 establishing a **working group to develop human rights indicators** at the national level in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the CRPD Convention.

UN Human Rights provided financial and technical assistance for the development of the **African Union (AU) Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls**. Support included active participation in the High-level Reference Group, which was created by the African Union Commission (AUC) to guide the drafting process, and a recommendation to include current and former UN independent experts in the drafting committee to ensure alignment with international human rights standards. In February 2025, the Convention was adopted by AU Heads

of States, contributing to more coherent and comprehensive measures across AU Member States to better prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls.

Further to **Human Rights Council resolution 54/33**, the Government of the Bahamas and OHCHR signed agreements on "The Establishment of a Regional Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Caribbean Community," on 9 August, in Geneva, and on 20 August, in Nassau. This paved the way for the creation of the Regional Office for the Caribbean Community, which became operational on 7 October.

In 2024, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ) referred to the international human rights treaties and the work of the treaty bodies in several decisions**, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ICESCR and the CEDAW Convention. For instance, with respect to the State of Palestine,[2] the Court referred to the Human Rights Committee's "deep concern that the systematic practice of demolitions and forced evictions based on discriminatory policies have led to the separation of Jewish and Palestinian communities in the occupied Palestinian territory, which amounts to racial segregation" (para. 219).

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



A stakeholder consultation was held in Rwanda on the follow-up to recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). © OHCHR

Development

Advancing sustainable development through human rights

2030 AGENDA

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Data analysis on 4 SDG indicators
(under OHCHR custodianship, included in various reports. The 2024 report on SDGs reached **146.9** million users)

Training in 10 countries
(on a human rights-based approach to data and SDG indicators under OHCHR custodianship)

High-level Political Forum

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

Right to development and SDGs

224 persons completed a UN Human Rights e-course
(from **124** countries)

214 persons completed a training on the right to development and VNRs (from **115** countries)

HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

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

UN Country Teams

41 Human Rights Advisers
(in Resident Coordinator's Offices)

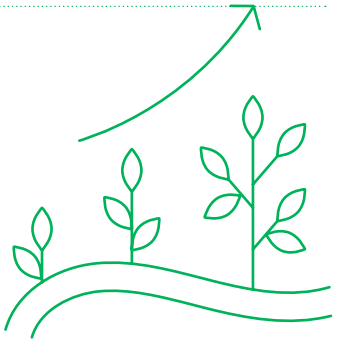
ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Climate change, environment, toxics and human rights

122 special procedures communications
(sent and made publicly available)

Business and human rights

Over 4,000 participants in the 13th Forum on Business and Human Rights
(from **156** countries, with **211** speakers in **25** sessions, under the theme "Realizing the 'smart mix of measures' to protect human rights in the context of business activities")



Data mapping drives a water revolution for a Roma community: Serbia

As a result of the country's first comprehensive data mapping exercise, hundreds of Roma living in informal settlements in Serbia now have access to safe drinking water.

This groundbreaking initiative, spearheaded by UN Human Rights at the onset of the pandemic, uncovered disturbing realities. Specifically, more than 30,000 Roma had little or no access to drinking water, over half lived without sewage services and approximately 24,000 had limited or no electricity. Representing nearly two per cent of Serbia's population, the Roma community grapples with high levels of unemployment, poverty and discrimination, all of which are exacerbated by underreporting due to the stigmatization of their identity.

In its 100 years of existence, the village of Gornja Grabovica, based in south-western Serbia, has never known the luxury of safe drinking water. "We had a well, but the water was unfit for drinking. On Fridays, we collected water in bottles and cans from the market in the city, six kilometres away. But in winter, traveling to the city was a formidable task," said Danijela Marković, a lifelong village resident.

The pandemic aggravated the situation, severing what little access they had to water and heightening the risk of disease.

"Almost immediately after the State of Emergency was declared, our phones were inundated with calls from all over Serbia, desperately seeking assistance," said Dragan Gračanin, the Coordinator for Roma Issues who was directly involved in the data collection effort. "Our goal was to leave no one behind, ensuring even the smallest and most remote Roma settlements were accounted for."

The villagers of Gorjna Grabovica and its surroundings did not have long to wait. Intervention was swift, providing water tanks, essential groceries and protective equipment to nearly 2,000 families across 19 settlements.

The six-month mapping effort identified 167,975 inhabitants in 702 Roma settlements and distributed 72,000 packages of essential food items and water protective gear to Roma households.

"These data have been used in the Social Inclusion Strategy for Roma Men and Women, the Belgrade Roma Inclusion Strategy and other important documents," said Slava Denić, former manager of the Government's Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU).

The initiative was successful largely due to the engagement of various partners, including UN Human Rights, SIPRU donors, 40 CSOs and 15 representatives of Roma United Nations Volunteers from 94 municipalities.

"We always had to bring water in large barrels for drinking and cooking, but the pandemic pushed the water issue to the forefront," said Danijela Janković, a teaching assistant at the Andra Savčić primary school in Gornja Grabovica. "The mapping helped to highlight our immediate needs and raised awareness about our village's existence and its challenges." Today, the school boasts a steady water supply.

"My life has changed dramatically," continued Danijela Marković. "We now have running water in our house. We live like normal people now."



Ms. Danijela Marković washing dishes at her home. © Stefan Vidojević / MaxNova Creative

Highlights of Pillar Results

Development

Sustainable development and human rights are inextricably linked and mutually supportive. This is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and subsequent texts, including the two international human rights covenants and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which guide the work of UN Human Rights. Human rights and development challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is more urgent than ever. Critical issues include the consequences of chronic underinvestment in economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), especially for individuals and groups in marginalized and disadvantaged situations; the triple planetary crisis; failures of the international financial architecture; and the lack of attention paid to human rights by businesses. The Office advances sustainable development through a comprehensive approach that highlights inequality and the need to leverage data to protect human rights. At the same time, it continues to work on multiple priorities, such as climate change, business and human rights, inclusive and participatory economies, accountable governance and implementation of the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB).

UN Human Rights advocated with authorities in **Burkina Faso** to advance economic and social rights, particularly for the most vulnerable populations in the country. This contributed to the adoption, on 3 July, of a **decree on the Presidential Health Initiative** to improve the enjoyment of the right to health in Burkina Faso. The five-year Initiative focuses on increasing the capacities of health infrastructures, equipping centres with quality equipment and deploying qualified personnel to communal medical centres.

The Office improved **access to services for child victims of human rights violations** in Africa. In **Guinea-Bissau**, 21 children, including one girl who had been exploited through forced begging in Senegal, were returned to their families. Follow-up visits were undertaken to meet with child victims of trafficking and forced begging who had been identified in **Senegal** and returned to **Guinea**, in 2021, with OHCHR's help. The project assisted them with socioprofessional reintegration into the fields of mechanics and carpentry. During the visits, two of the children were found in their learning environments; one was working in a carpentry factory and the other was working in a mechanical garage. Some of the other returned children have successfully developed socioprofessional activities. The children and their parents testified to the positive impact that OHCHR's support has had on their lives.

UN Human Rights undertook advocacy and extended technical guidance to the Environment and Land Court on applying a **human rights-based approach (HRBA) to climate change and environmental rights** and provided years of support for environmental HRDs seeking justice. On 6

December, the Supreme Court of **Kenya** handed down a landmark decision. In it, the Court agreed with the earlier ruling of the Environment and Land Court that the Government of Kenya and the two polluting companies were obligated to pay compensation to the residents of the Owino Uhuru settlement for the deaths and health impacts caused by lead poisoning from an adjacent smelter for recycling batteries and to restore the environment. In its ruling, the Environment and Land Court declared that the community's rights to life, a healthy environment, the highest attainable standard of health and to clean and safe water had been contravened. The Government and two companies were ordered to pay compensation.

With the Office's financial and technical support, **Liberia's first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights** was adopted, on 14 August. Since that time, UN Human Rights has supported several related activities to ensure its successful implementation.

UN Human Rights provided capacity-building and technical advice to **Zambia** through a study on advancing the **rights to food and education**, which also looked at the impact of debt servicing on these rights and suggested ways to re-organize the budget in order to free up resources to ensure the minimum essential levels of these rights. This contributed to a Government decision to increase the 2024 envelope for the school feeding programme from 39.7 to over 100 million Kwachas (approximately US$1.4 million to US$3.5 million) in 2024 and to scale up the Home Grown School Feeding Programme from 70 to 116 districts by 2026.

During the year, UN Human Rights delivered training to more than 100 public officials from various national institutions in **Colombia** to increase their knowledge about the rights of peasants. This contributed to the inclusion of **peasant rights** in national censuses and surveys and land restitution policies in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Bogotá, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Sucre.

In **Guatemala**, the adoption of a **Municipal Disability Policy** in Camotán, Chiquimula, marked a significant achievement in 2024. The Policy was developed with the participation of persons with disabilities and will directly benefit more than 700 persons with disabilities, along with their families, totalling approximately 1,500 people. The Policy, developed with the technical assistance of UN Human Rights and UNFPA, seeks to improve social coverage, in accordance with international standards for persons with disabilities.

In February, the National Congress of **Honduras** adopted Legislative Decree No. 18-2024, which was developed with technical assistance from the Office. The Decree represents an historic achievement for **environmental and social protection**, including by preserving the Montaña de Botaderos, Carlos Escaleras Mejía National Park and prohibiting mining concessions in protected areas, including areas with forests, covering over 50 per cent of the national territory. It also ensures access to environmental and social justice mechanisms and the meaningful participation of affected communities. Since the introduction of the Decree, on 3 July, three mining concessions have been cancelled and efforts to implement the Decree have continued.

The increase in environmental disasters, such as the severe floods in southern **Brazil**, necessitated OHCHR's support in coordinating humanitarian responses. OHCHR's recommendations were incorporated into high-level discussions, with a particular focus on securing the protection of the most vulnerable populations during emergencies. This instigated discussions regarding the establishment of a technical cooperation agreement with Brazil's Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship that is focused on **addressing climate change and responding to climate-related emergencies** through capacity-building, technical assistance and support for environmental emergency protocols. The agreement is in its final stage of formalization and an initial training was successfully conducted with the heads of the Ministry's divisions on protection and humanitarian response.

Significant results were achieved in relation to business efforts to implement the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** (UNGPs) in **Mexico**. With support from the Office, the Mexican Mining Chamber adopted a road map for the implementation of the UNGPs in 2025; the Mexican Association of Eolic Energy developed a sectoral guide on human rights for the national industry in alignment with the UNGPs; the Mexican Business and Human Rights Accelerator was developed in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact to guide the due diligence process of 34 Mexican and transnational companies, four of which had integrated relevant international human rights standards into their due diligence processes and business directives; and the Business Coordinating Council launched its Responsible Business Helpdesk, in April.

The 2023 visit to **South Africa** by the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes facilitated engagement with the Government and led to recommendations on the outdated **Fertilizer, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act** (1947). South Africa gazetted the new regulations under the Act, on 11 October. These regulations address a number of gaps that were identified during the visit of the Special Rapporteur.

Technical assistance was provided to public institutions in **Barbados** to support the development of constitutional, legal and policy frameworks. In 2024, the Barbados Constitutional Reform Commission formally recognized the **right to a healthy environment**, which OHCHR had recommended in a technical note that was sent to the Government in 2023.

UN Human Rights contributed to increased knowledge and the capacity to apply an HRBA in the development and implementation of national development plans, as well as other national plans, programmes and processes. In **Samoa**, OHCHR's human rights adviser (HRA) supported the development of the third **Voluntary National Review** (VNR) and ensured the effective participation of persons with disabilities by organizing a dedicated pre-consultation meeting and supporting the development of a disability-specific report on related SDGs to inform the VNR. In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, the Office participated in discussions on the elaboration of the **Strategic Development Plan**, which included inputs from the international human rights mechanisms. The Plan was subsequently adopted.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for the development of the first public policy on human rights in **Peru**, known as the **National Human Rights Policy 2040**. The Policy, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in December, focuses on reducing inequalities and establishes a framework of human rights commitments to guide national action for the next 15 years.

Following consultations with governmental and civil society actors, OHCHR developed a **framework for Human Rights Cities in the Philippines**. At an OHCHR workshop on this issue, held in April, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government expressed support for the programme and the establishment of local-level human rights desks. In December, Baguio City adopted the Baguio City Human Rights Defenders' Protection Ordinance. The Ordinance protects HRDs and prohibits 'red-tagging,' terrorist-labelling, harassment and intimidation, mandates city-level support services for victims of violations and allows for promotional activities.

In the **Republic of North Macedonia**, UN Human Rights led extensive research and consultations, resulting in the development of a comprehensive **LNOB analysis** on the human rights situation of 11 target groups. The analysis assesses how discrimination, geography, governance, vulnerability to shocks and crises and socioeconomic status affect the vulnerabilities of these respective groups and the root causes underlying their marginalization and exclusion. It also provides recommendations for the Government, the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the NHRI on the actions that need to be taken to tackle those root causes and advance the rights of persons in vulnerable situations. The

findings are timely given the development of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2026-2030).

In the **Republic of Moldova**, following the 2021 signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the National Bureau of Statistics, the People's Advocate Office (the NHRI) and the Equality Council and the 2023 completion of a set of indicators on the right to health, UN Human Rights supported the development and finalization of a second set of **indicators on the right to protection against torture and ill-treatment**. The process for their implementation is ongoing, as is the development of new sets of indicators on the rights to education and social security.

A joint publication that was issued in 2023 by the UN and the **Jordan** Economic and Social Council, with OHCHR's support, entitled *Domestic resource mobilization: A human rights-based approach to tackling inequalities*, informed Jordan's UN country analysis and programming, including a UN joint submission in anticipation of Jordan's fourth UPR cycle, in January. Notably, the submission included a chapter on a **Human Rights Economy**, making it the first UN submission to do so. The chapter garnered significant media attention and public visibility and led to a national debate on public financing for human rights.

In contributing to the efforts of Member States and the Secretary-General to reform the international financial and tax architecture to create a more inclusive, equitable and effective international system, in line with OHCHR's vision of a Human Rights Economy, the Office provided substantive inputs and assistance, for instance, through the organization of side events during the intergovernmental negotiation processes. This encouraged Member States to include international human rights law among the guiding principles articulated in the draft **Terms of Reference for the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation**. This influenced the move towards more representative governance of global tax policy and fairer rules, including to address tax evasion and avoidance that limits revenues for the realization of ESCRs. The General Assembly adopted the Terms of Reference, on 24 December, laying the groundwork for the next round of intergovernmental negotiations.

Peace and security

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

CONFLICT PREVENTION, EARLY WARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Emergency deployments

43 staff deployed
(in **8** countries with deteriorating human rights situations)

Emergency Response Teams

7 teams deployed (to work on risk analysis, early warning and crisis response 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 **1** new mandate operationalized for Belarus through the identification of experts, deployment of a start-up team, recruitment of Secretariat staff and coordination of the work of the team)

12 Human Rights Council mandated investigative bodies strengthened (including in relation to data management and digital forensics, reaching **110** Relativity users)

PEACE OPERATIONS

Role of human rights components

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

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

implementation supported in 5 UN peace operations
(MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNISFA, UNMISS and UNSOS)

Guidance and technical support

Human rights integrated into 34 DPPA-DPO-DOS policy and guidance documents for UN peace operations

Election is a boost for coup-prone region: Senegal

Despite a tumultuous electoral climate, the March 2024 elections in Senegal ran smoothly and featured a strong voter turnout, including among older persons, women and young people. No major incidents were reported and a peaceful transition of power took place. This represented a victory for Senegal's democracy and institutions in a region that has experienced recent violent upheaval.

Senegal has a long tradition of democracy and respect for human rights, however, the past three years have been scarred by violent social conflict, the erosion of civic space, limits on press freedom and peaceful assembly and opposition arrests.



Women and young people turned out in large numbers to vote in the presidential elections. © OHCHR/Habibou Dia

WOMEN OBSERVERS

Senegalese CSOs, such as the Women's Watch Platform for Peace and Security (Ëtu Jamm in Wolof), were key to the success of the electoral process.

Ëtu Jamm, which is composed of 50 Senegalese and pan-African women's CSOs, received training and support from the Office and provided on-site monitoring during the electoral process.

"The idea was to place human rights at the heart of the electoral monitoring process," said Rania El Rajji, OHCHR's Regional Gender Adviser. "Women play a central role within electoral processes and constitute a central pillar of peace, as recognized in Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security."

"Human rights-based monitoring involves the active observation of less visible elements, for example, whether polling centres are accessible to people with disabilities, if voting hours are scheduled when women are doing domestic chores during the Eid period or if they feel safe to go out and vote in a particular centre," she said.

Additionally, the inclusive organization of the vote was crucial to its uneventful conclusion. "The participation of women and young people in the organization of the ballot was high, with nearly 29 per cent of polling stations run by women and 67 per cent of political party representatives in polling stations made up of young people aged under 35," said Mouhamadou Sow, a Programme Analyst for the Office.



Women and young people vote at the Dieuppeul-Derklé 2 voting centre, in Dakar. © OHCHR/Habibou Dia

PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

To strengthen electoral supervision, the Senegalese Human Rights Committee (CSDH) deployed an observation mission under the Wotte ci Jamm (peaceful elections) Initiative. The mission was made up of 54 observers based in eight regions and 18 departments. With the support of OHCHR and UNDP, CSDH observers received training to monitor the participation of populations in marginalized and vulnerable situations, including older persons and persons with disabilities. "The observers verified security guarantees, the participation of women in the organization of the vote and the composition of the security workforce," said Jacob Seq Ngom, Head of the observation mission.

Highlights of Pillar Results

Peace and security

The UN Agenda for Protection affirms that it is the responsibility of the entire United Nations to ensure that people enjoy their human rights. It also emphasizes the primary protection responsibility of States and that this protection imperative should underpin the UN's work. Repeated violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law feed insecurity and result in more bloodshed. There is a critical need for a global recommitment to situate all human rights at the centre of prevention and peacebuilding efforts. More specifically, human rights must be respected, protected and fulfilled to create the conditions for peace, security and sustainable development. Human rights monitoring can also help to identify the root causes and drivers of conflict and crisis, thereby informing the design of solutions that are anchored in the UN's expertise in the fields of prevention, mediation, peacebuilding, transitional justice and accountability.

Following a workshop that was conducted by UN Human Rights and the Regional Office for Central Africa, an **Early Warning Unit** was established by the **Burundi** Independent National Human Rights Commission (CNIDH). In November, the President of the CNIDH announced that the Unit was operational and taking steps to prevent electoral violence and related human rights violations and abuses in the context of the upcoming 2025 elections.

In collaboration with UN Women and a CSO Network in **Kenya**, UN Human Rights enhanced the capacities of 370 women HRDs (WHRDs) and peace actors in Bungoma and Vihiga counties through training and peer-to-peer mentorship with regard to formal and informal peace processes. The objective of the training was to enable their effective participation in peacebuilding processes at the subcounty and ward levels. As a result, the WHRDs were inspired to establish county peace chapters and develop county action plans to increase **women's participation in peace processes** in Bungoma and Vihiga counties. They also engaged with duty bearers to facilitate the effective coordination and strengthening of gender-based violence (GBV) referral pathways and participation in peacebuilding coordination mechanisms (i.e. peace committees) to advocate for the implementation of county action plans that provide sustainable approaches to peacebuilding. These initiatives contributed to the de-escalation of a conflict that arose between two clans over land ownership in Cheptais subcounty, threatening to erupt into violent confrontations. The Bungoma Women's Peace Chapter intervened by organizing mediation sessions that brought together elders, local administrators and affected families. Through inclusive dialogue, they facilitated a mutually accepted settlement, preventing potential violence and setting a precedent for peaceful dispute resolution in the subcounty.

With the Office's technical support, the **AU's Continental Early Warning System** developed its first early warning products on human rights and gender issues. UN Human Rights contributed to this result by incorporating human rights risk factors into continental early warning data collection tools. This enhanced the capacity of CSOs that provide data to the AUC to apply an HRBA to data collection and strengthened the AU's capacity to undertake human rights-informed analysis.

In **Colombia**, OHCHR reviewed the **Human Rights Volume of the National Police**, proposing more than 700 recommendations to align the educational and operational documents with international human rights norms and standards. The recommendations were approved by the Technical Advisory Council on Human Rights of the National Police, initiating a process of incorporating them into the new text of the Human Rights Volume and the Institutional Education Project.

UN Human Rights worked closely with the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission deployed to **Haiti** on the establishment and implementation of the Mission's **human rights compliance mechanism**. OHCHR contributed to the development of key MSS documents, including the *Compliance, oversight and accountability policy;* the *Directive on search, detention and use of force;* the *Directive on disciplinary matters involving MSS personnel;* the *Standard Operating Procedure on the complaint and reporting mechanism;* and the *Standard Operating Procedure on the board of enquiry*. These are key tools to prevent and respond to any form of misconduct involving MSS personnel, including human rights violations and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Also in **Haiti**, the Office collaborated with eight implementing partners and **assisted more than 15,000 people**, including 12,592 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Victims, including survivors of sexual violence, were referred to protection partners and made aware of available resources, such as medical, psychosocial, legal relocation, livelihood and family unification support.

In **Afghanistan**, UN Human Rights partnered with UNAMA and UNICEF to ensure that **449 children** (84 girls, 365 boys) who had been maimed by explosive devices received **assistance**, such as referrals, medical treatment, psychosocial support and transportation.

Informed by 261 interviews with victims, witnesses and other first-hand sources, UN Human Rights documented incidents and patterns of human rights abuses in **Myanmar**, focusing on human rights violations and highlighting impunity as a root cause. The Office produced an oral update and two reports to the HRC, as well as a report to the General Assembly. The reports provide **comprehensive analyses of the human rights situation**, emerging patterns of violations and the dire consequences for civilians. They were further used to raise awareness about the human rights situation in Myanmar among Member States and to influence strategic responses, resulting in tailored recommendations, such as the halting of arms sales, the release of political prisoners and the enforcement of Security Council resolution 2669 (2022).

UN Human Rights has consistently advocated for the incorporation of an **HRBA in humanitarian responses** to emergencies caused by natural disasters in **the Pacific**. The Pacific Humanitarian Team, a network that includes UN agencies and NGOs, integrated human rights into its Strategic Plan for 2025-2030. The Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster committed to mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian responses, with a focus on the rights of vulnerable groups.

On 28 November, OHCHR co-organized a consultation on **reparations for civilian victims of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, in partnership with Trial International and the European Union (EU). The purpose of the event was to discuss reparations for all civilian victims of war (not for specific categories); provide space for victims to voice their perspectives; and generate concrete recommendations regarding a road map to advance the issue of reparations. This was the first time in many years that different categories of victims from across the country had gathered together. Among the 70 participants (36 women), 43 were

representatives of victims' associations and NGOs working on transitional justice and support for victims. An outcome document was produced at the end of the consultation, which will be used as an advocacy tool related to reparations.

UN Human Rights remained a key authoritative source for verified and disaggregated **data on civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure in Ukraine**. In 2024, it published: 12 monthly updates on civilian casualties and harm; a summary report on the two years since the full-scale invasion entitled *Two-year update – Protection of civilians: Impact of hostilities on civilians since 24 February 2022*; a dedicated bulletin on the impact on civilians of attacks on critical energy infrastructure; and regular analysis in its four periodic reports, which included an assessment of the overall scope and scale of torture and ill-treatment experienced by prisoners of war since February 2022. These efforts helped to preserve factual public records and informed high-level advocacy at the UN and other international bodies. For example, the Office's findings were cited during 20 meetings of the Security Council.

In **Gaza**, UN Human Rights continued leading the Protection Cluster and set up the **Emergency Protection Responders (EPR) programme** to scale up protection assessment and response activity. The programme is a protection model that was designed to create a pool of protection professionals that can provide time-critical, lifesaving and general protection assistance to new or existing services in designated points across the State of Palestine in a more coordinated and complementary manner, in consultation with affected communities. Tailored trainings by the Office equipped the staff of partners with essential EPR skills and improved their readiness to more efficiently address protection needs. As a result of these efforts, the Protection Cluster established a network of approximately 500 trained EPRs who are being deployed to IDP camps, distribution sites and within the community in order to provide frontline support, on the spot responses and referrals for specialized services.

Following the 19 February adoption of the **European Union Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Due Diligence Policy** (EU HRDDP) on security sector support to third parties, the Office supported the EU's first internal training on the EU HRDDP for 16 participants (nine women), which was based on the UN's experiences, good practices and lessons learned in implementing the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. OHCHR further assisted the EU with the development of the Policy's Implementation Guidelines.

Since the 2023 adoption of Security Council resolution 2719 (UNSCR 2719), OHCHR has been participating in the Joint AU-UN Task Team on the Operationalization of UNSCR 2719, which is mandated to oversee its implementation. This contributed to the development of the **Joint AU-UN Road Map on the Operationalization of UNSCR 2719**, endorsed by the AUC Secretary General and Chairperson, in October. The Road Map recognizes that human rights are crucial to the effective functioning of AU peace support operations. In July, the Office established an interdepartmental HRDDP Working Group on UNSCR 2719, under the auspices of the Joint AU-UN Task Team. The Working Group was set up to discuss the creation of mechanisms and procedures required to implement the HRDDP in situations where UN support is provided to African Union Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs) under UNSCR 2719.

In September, the development of a comprehensive **African Union Case Management System** was completed, tested and adopted at the AU's Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security, on 5 June. This marks a transformative step in ensuring that a systematic and reinforced approach is taken when managing allegations of misconduct and violations within AUPSOs. OHCHR contributed throughout the process, including during the review of the Case Management Guidelines and the guidance document on the submission of complaints by victims and third parties. More specifically, it ensured that an HRBA



Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Olga and Oleksandr, received hearing aids and glasses through an OHCHR programme that assists refugees from Ukraine. © OHCHR/Vincent Tremeau

was applied and that the documents were aligned with UN standards and good practices. Work is underway to finalize the hosting and technical specifications, after which the database will go live.

In 2024, a new **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Transitional Justice** was established to promote the effective operationalization of the *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on transitional justice: A strategic tool for people, prevention and peace*. Co-chaired by OHCHR and DPPA, the Task Force brings together 15 UN entities that are working on transitional justice issues and encourages strategic, innovative and coordinated UN support in this area of work. The Task Force undertook its first joint mission in support of the UNCT in Bangladesh to help develop a transitional justice support strategy that is politically sensitive, gender-responsive and incorporates an intergenerational perspective.

Non-discrimination

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

LAWS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES

Combating discrimination in all its forms

790 participants from 96 countries in the 17th session of the Forum on Minority Issues (under the theme "Minority representation and self-representation in public spaces and discourses")

1,000 participants from 90 countries attended the 3rd session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (under the theme "The second International Decade for People of African Descent: Addressing systemic racism, reparatory justice and sustainable development")

83 countries and territories reported data on SDG indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 (under OHCHR custodianship, on the prevalence of discrimination)

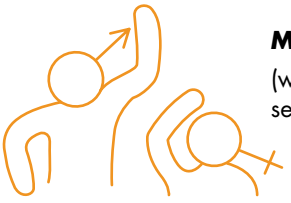
Acting upon complaints

Women: 102 communications (sent by the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls)

People of African descent: 27 communications (sent by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent)

Racial Justice: 3 communications (sent by the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement)

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



More than 12,600 victims assisted

(with essential services, such as shelter, referral, sensitization and training)

CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 47/21

Consultations held with 148 persons from 38 countries

(70% women, 83% people of African descent)

CAPACITY-BUILDING

Fellowship Programmes: Training provided to

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

48 Indigenous Persons
(26 women and 22 men from 33 countries)

29 persons from minority groups
(16 women and 13 men from 26 countries)

Officer fights for child victims of sexual violence: Mauritania

"Even at 4:00 a.m. I have to be present," says Commissioner Hindou Mohamed Laghdaf, who heads one of three Minors Brigades that urgently respond to cases of violence or abuse, in Nouakchott, Mauritania. Always ready, Laghdaf works to ensure the country's most vulnerable minors are heard, especially in a society where sexual and cultural taboos discourage many survivors from coming forward.

The Minors Brigades were established to address violence against children, including cases of child trafficking and domestic violence. "Every minor is a victim first, even when they are the authors of a punishable crime," Laghdaf said.

A SYSTEM IN CRISIS

Mauritania is grappling with a crisis of gender-based violence against women, girls and boys. Government data, which is believed to be incomplete, indicates that at least 10 per cent of girls and women between 15 and 49 years of age have experienced physical violence. Six per cent of those cases involve sexual violence. Yet, two-thirds of all cases are believed to go unreported.

"Sexual violence has always been taboo in Mauritania and families have typically settled matters in private. Thanks to the awareness-raising efforts of the media and in schools about our specialized Brigades, families know their rights better and are more willing to file a complaint," she said.

Despite progress, challenges remain. Many families withdraw complaints, especially in rape cases. "This doesn't stop investigations, but it does weaken our ability to take action," said Laghdaf.

In one notable case, Laghdaf's team tracked and eventually captured a serial rapist who was preying on young girls. "The girls were traumatized and we were on 24-hour alert and didn't sleep until he was caught," she said.

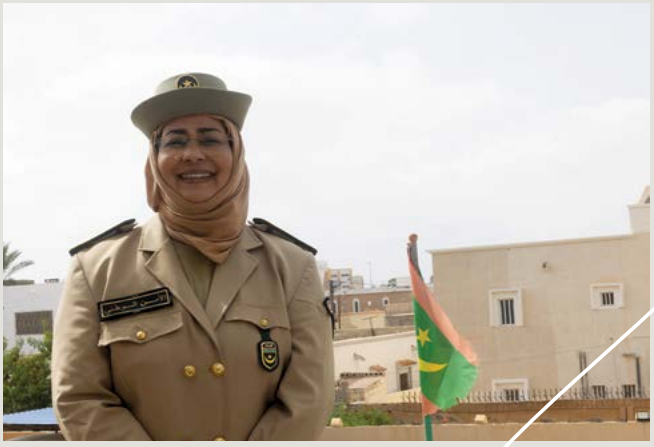
THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Proud of her Brigade's successes, Laghdaf emphasizes the role of partnerships with civil society groups and the importance of OHCHR's training on addressing humanitarian issues and women's right to effective police protection. As a result of this support, she has become a trainer and now educates officers on detecting cases of violence against children, including sexual violence, and providing trauma-informed responses.

OHCHR has also supported advocacy efforts regarding the adoption of legislation to prevent and facilitate redress for gender-based violence in Mauritania. Laghdaf's work is helping to bring this about, with an emphasis on shifting cultural attitudes.

For Commissioner Laghdaf, connections with survivors are essential and steps are being taken to ensure they receive ongoing support from NGOs and other social services. Nevertheless, the system struggles with a lack of resources, social stigma and protection gaps in rural areas. A fear of reprisals continues to silence victims of gender-based violence.

In light of these challenges, the leadership of Laghdaf and her Brigade colleagues is changing how Mauritania addresses violence against children and gender-based violence. "We do everything we can to protect the victim," she says.



Commissioner Hindou Mohamed Laghdaf outside the headquarters building. © OHCHR/Lamia Alami

Highlights of Pillar Results

Non-discrimination

Ensuring equality and combating discrimination are two of the bedrock principles of international human rights law. The right to equality and non-discrimination is the only right that is affirmed in all nine of the core human rights treaties. UN Human Rights supports efforts to counter socioeconomic inequalities and regressive anti-rights narratives, which reinforce intersecting forms of discrimination and constitute an underlying cause and provocation of poverty, violence and conflict. 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.

The Office supported the UNCT and the National Human Rights Commission of **the Gambia** in their **advocacy against the adoption of the Women's (Amendment) Bill 2024**. The Amendment Bill sought to repeal the Women's Amendment Act 2015, which would decriminalize female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). OHCHR's support included engagement with the special procedures to garner their assistance with advocacy efforts. The Bill conflicted with international human rights norms and standards and violated fundamental rights, including bodily integrity, life, health and protection against torture or other cruel and inhumane treatment and the principles of equality and non-discrimination. The Amendment was successfully rejected.

UN Human Rights helped the Government with the adoption and promulgation, in January, of Law No. L/2024/001/CNT on HIV **prevention, care and protection for persons living with HIV in Guinea**.

Throughout Southern Africa, the Office extended technical assistance and guidance in relation to the rights of migrants and refugees. For instance, OHCHR provided inputs on the White paper on citizenship, immigration and refugee protection, issued by **South Africa**'s Department of Home Affairs, which focuses on alignment with international human rights norms and standards. One of OHCHR's recommendations on ensuring that **refugee and migrant children have access to education** was adopted, resulting in a positive change between the draft and final version of the White Paper.

In April, **Law No. 10/2024 on Protection and Respect of the Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in Mozambique**. Over the past several years, UN Human Rights provided technical advice regarding the Law and engaged with the Government, civil society and the Parliament to advocate for legisla-

tion that is compliant with the CRPD Convention. Following its adoption, OHCHR and the Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Mozambique co-organized a workshop, in May, to develop a new strategy and action plan for the Association.

On 30 September, an important constitutional amendment was adopted in **Mexico**, recognizing **Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexicans as subjects of public law.** It also expands the scope of the recognition of their right to free, prior and informed consultation and consent; traditional medicine and the right to food; and the right of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women to participate in integral development and to own and possess land. To contribute to this result, UN Human Rights provided the Senate with technical analysis and inputs on international standards, while advocating for the adoption of the amendment.

UN Human Rights provided technical support to the Office of the Ombudsperson in **Panama**, which helped to enhance its capacities to **monitor and report on human rights violations against migrants at borders**. It also contributed to the development of an innovative tool to identify cases of GBV, patterns, protection gap abuses and human rights violations against migrants and refugees in transit through the Darién jungle, including migrants being detained and deported. Due to this monitoring work, the Office of the Ombudsperson documented more than 400 cases of sexual violence, advocated for prompt investigation by the Public Ministry and recommended actions that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Security should take to protect victims.

In a year of high migration movements through **Honduras**, UN Human Rights coordinated response strategies within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Protection Cluster, both of which were crucial to identifying humanitarian and protection needs and documenting human rights violations against **people on the move**. Notably, the Office worked with the Government and humanitarian actors to improve coordination mechanisms, including by implementing monitoring strategies for updated information and early warnings. OHCHR's coordinated advocacy with the HCT contributed to the extension of the Migration Amnesty Decree (Decree No. 79-2022) through December 2025, consequently helping to reduce the protection risks faced by people on the move.

OHCHR supported the development of the **Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia (2025-2030) and its Action Plan (2025-2027)** by providing substantive inputs to ensure their alignment with international standards. The Strategy was discussed during public debates and was adopted by the Government.

Following sustained advocacy by the Office and CSO partners, **Thailand adopted the Marriage Equality Act**, which was published in the Royal Gazette on 24 September. This landmark legislation entered into force on 23 January 2025, making Thailand the first country in South-East Asia to officially recognize same-sex marriage.

The Office built the capacities of CSOs, provided technical assistance and undertook advocacy to promote the adoption of **comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in Indonesia**, in line with international human rights standards.

The Office's advocacy and technical support contributed to the creation of a Commission on Women's Affairs by the Interim Government of Bangladesh. The Commission is mandated to present recommendations to improve the **protection of the rights of women and girls in Bangladesh**.

In **Georgia**, UN Human Rights assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs to close legislative gaps that hinder individuals with hearing disabilities from obtaining category B driving licenses unless they use hearing aids. To this end, the Office and UNDP developed a comparative analysis of international standards and good practices that promote **independent living and improve access to transportation for persons with disabilities**, which was shared with the Ministry. In October, the

Ministry of Internal Affairs revised the regulatory framework to allow persons with hearing disabilities to obtain driving licenses and drive category B vehicles, thereby promoting independent living and improving their access to transportation.

UN Human Rights provided technical and financial assistance to the **Roma Community Mediators**, in the Transnistrian region of the **Republic of Moldova**, an institution that was established in 2021 with OHCHR's support. Since its establishment, the institution's role and value in the promotion of Roma human rights and the support and professionalism demonstrated by the Mediators in handling cases have been widely recognized and secured a bond of trust with duty bearers and rights holders. Consequently, the number of Roma requesting the services of the Mediators has more than doubled since 2021. In 2024, in close cooperation with local authorities and the network of Roma Community Mediators, UN Human Rights enabled the Mediators to become operational in a town in the Security Zone, named Dubasari, that is densely populated by Roma. This facilitated access to key services for over 2,600 marginalized Roma across the Transnistrian region.

A new **Strategy for improving the quality of life of LGBTQI+ persons in Montenegro (2024-2028) and its Action Plan (2024-2025)** were approved by the Government, which committed to adopting the draft law on legal gender recognition. The Office shared the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the UPR with the drafters of the Strategy. As a result, the Strategy reflects those recommendations.

From 9 to 11 December, the Government of **Cuba** organized a meeting on the closure of the International Decade for People of African Descent. During the meeting, the Government presented a revised **National Action Plan against Racism**, "Cuban Color." The revisions followed OHCHR's guidance on the elaboration of action plans to combat racial discrimination.

Technical support was provided to the Secretariat of the Supreme Committee to Counter Hate Speech in **Iraq** to assist with the development of a draft **national strategy to counter hate speech** that is aligned with international standards. The draft, prepared in consultation with national and international civil society, was submitted and is being reviewed by the Minister of Communications.

UN Human Rights supported efforts to develop a draft **law to recognize sign language as an official language in Tunisia**. To that end, OHCHR collaborated with UNESCO to deliver a workshop, held in May, on a draft policy paper that identifies the legal and technical elements required for this legislation. A total of 20 people attended the event (nine women), including two Members of Parliament, the Regional Director of Social Affairs of Sfax and five young persons with disabilities. In June, the Office and UNESCO organized a second workshop on the draft policy paper. After the workshops, the Members of Parliament prepared a draft law proposing the recognition of sign language as an official language, which will be presented to the Parliament for adoption.

In **Lebanon**, UN Human Rights collaborated with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) to promote **non-discriminatory behaviour and equality in education and training**. This resulted in the integration of equality and anti-discrimination principles, including international standards, legal frameworks and practical approaches to addressing racial profiling, into the curricula of the ISF and the Lebanese Armed Forces. The ISF will begin using the curricula in their trainings in 2025.

In 2024, the CEDAW Committee adopted **General Recommendation No. 40** on the **equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems**, which was developed with the support of OHCHR. In the course of its elaboration, five regional consultation meetings were organized in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Bogotá, Cairo and Istanbul. The consultations involved over 300 experts, academics, civil society representatives and members of the UN, ensuring that the draft reflected existing challenges and solutions to advance women's participation in decision-making

across all regions. This milestone document underscores the importance of achieving parity between women and men in all decision-making systems, including in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. The General Recommendation provides comprehensive guidance to States Parties on addressing structural barriers, discriminatory practices and systemic inequalities that hinder women's equal and inclusive representation in decision-making.

The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) adopted **General Comment No. 6**. Two regional consultations were organized to discuss the convergence of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The General Comment provides **authoritative guidance to States Parties to the Convention on the implementation of their obligations** and their commitments under the Global Compact for Migration. It also addresses the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles between the Convention and the Global Compact, such as the management of irregular migration, the international protection of all migrants, family reunification, facilitating the return and reintegration of migrants and their children and the principle of non-discrimination.

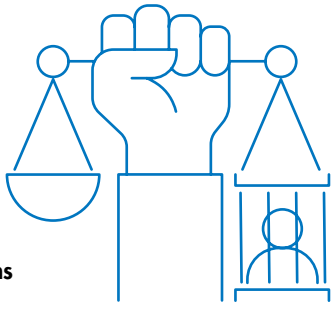
OHCHR and the international human rights mechanisms advocated for a **Second International Decade for People of African Descent** (2025-2034), which was proclaimed, on 19 December, through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/193. The Second Decade will provide continuity to the theme and objectives of the First International Decade for People of African Descent: "People of African descent: Recognition, justice and development." The resolution also extended its programme of activities. The High Commissioner for Human Rights will continue to serve as Coordinator of the Decade and support efforts towards the implementation of the programme of activities.

During the year, 10 fellows of African descent from 10 countries (seven women) participated in OHCHR's annual **Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent**, which formed part of the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

The new **UN Secretariat Strategy on the protection from violence and discrimination of LGBTQI+ persons** was adopted. The Strategy seeks to, internally, strengthen safety and security, equal treatment and an inclusive organizational culture, and externally, integrate the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons into programming. More specifically, it aims to ensure the safe and meaningful engagement of LGBTQI+ persons in programmes and policies that impact them and strengthen partnerships with diverse representative organizations of LGBTQI+ persons.

Accountability

Strengthening governance, the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations and abuses

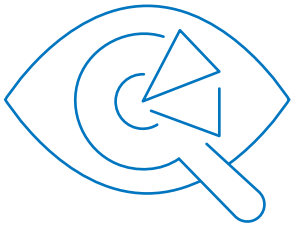


JUSTICE SYSTEMS, TRIALS AND PRISON CONDITIONS

Trials
963
court cases monitored

Places of detention
2,187
visits undertaken
110
reported improvements in conditions

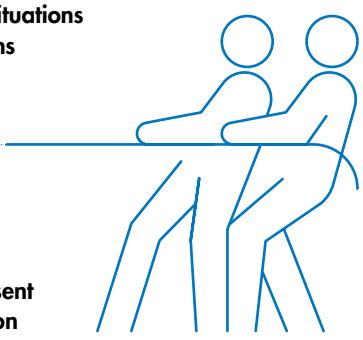
Detainees
More than **3,000**
unlawfully detained persons released



MONITORING

Missions
Over **10,900** monitoring missions undertaken

Reporting
More than **14,700** situations of human rights violations documented



NON-JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

Human rights mechanisms
71 opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (**30** urgent appeals, **101** allegation letters and **1** other letter initiated or joined)

111 communications sent by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (**23** urgent appeals, **84** allegation letters and **4** other letters initiated or joined)

177 communications sent by the Working Group on business and human rights (**174** allegation letters and **3** other letters initiated or joined)

Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institutions (NHRIs)
114 countries with established/enhanced NHRIs (including **91** accredited with "A" Status and **27** with "B" Status)

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

Legacy of enforced disappearances haunts families and communities of victims: Sri Lanka

"I have been looking for my son since 2009. I am now 72 years old and I will soon leave this world. Maybe I will get to see my son again or at least find out where he is buried," said Kamala.* Kamala is a member of the Association for the Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances in the North and East Provinces of Sri Lanka, a civil society group created to search for the tens of thousands of people who disappeared during the country's armed conflict.

Although Sri Lanka's war ended 15 years ago, families of the disappeared have continued to advocate for truth, justice and reparations. Not knowing the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones haunts the families and communities of victims of enforced disappearances, further undermining the country's efforts for reconciliation.

The majority of the disappeared were men. It is primarily their mothers and wives who are leading the search and fight for accountability. In the process of doing so, Kamala, and mothers like her, have battled numerous legal and procedural obstacles, endured a campaign of harassment and intimidation and weathered financial difficulties.

"It is very difficult to explain the pain of mothers," said Laxmy,* 62, who is looking for her disappeared son. "We have fought for a long time without knowing if our children are alive or dead," she said.

ACCOUNTABILITY

"Sri Lanka must confront the legacy of enforced disappearances by holding those responsible to account and taking action to disclose the fate of the disappeared," says a report from UN Human Rights.

From the 1970s to the end of the conflict, in 2009, enforced disappearances were primarily committed by Sri Lankan security forces, targeting tens of thousands of individuals, most of whom were Tamil. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also engaged in abductions, which the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has described as "tantamount to enforced disappearances."

Thousands of suspected left-wing insurgents from the Sinhalese community were also forcefully disappeared.

"We have to keep putting pressure on the Government and the international community for accountability," said Fernando Brito, President of the Families of the Disappeared organization and a member of the Sinhalese community. "Families from the North, East and South are fighting together for justice, to make sure this does not happen again and to demand truth and compensation."

While the Government has taken a number of steps, such as the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations, victims' groups assert that these initiatives have not produced results.

Within the context of implementing Human Rights Council resolutions 46/1 and 51/1, the Office is collaborating with victims to find comprehensive and inclusive solutions to address these violations. The OHCHR Sri Lanka accountability project (OSLap) collects evidence of human rights violations, develops strategies for future accountability processes, supports relevant judicial proceedings and advocates for victims and survivors.

"Those responsible should be punished and human rights violations should stop," Kamala said. "If this does not happen, the conflict will not go away."

*Their names have been changed to protect their identities.



Families of the disappeared hold regular demonstrations and sit-ins, asking for answers. © Kumanan Kanapathippillai

Highlights of Pillar Results

Accountability

Responsive governance, the rule of law and accountability are the foundations of effective human rights prevention and protection. These foundations are increasingly being challenged by actors that selectively apply, restrictively reinterpret or fundamentally challenge international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Globally, international organizations and civil society continue to defend and promote the rule of law and principles of justice, fairness and accountability. SDG 16 explicitly asserts that effective and inclusive institutions must be established and access to justice must be facilitated. UN intergovernmental bodies have taken significant steps to facilitate accountability for human rights violations and abuses. In addition, UN Human Rights works to develop human rights-compliant institutional frameworks. It also promotes the adoption of laws and policies that domesticate international human rights standards that guard against violations and abuses, including through the misuse of criminal law, arbitrary detention, torture, gender-based violence and censorship. Moreover, UN Human Rights supports the creation of independent, impartial and fair courts and non-judicial mechanisms that address claims and grant remedies. It also facilitates accountability through supporting commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other investigations mandated by intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, as well as investigations that are conducted under the High Commissioner's own authority, as provided in General Assembly resolution 48/141.

In **Chad**, the Office helped to enhance **access to justice and the fight against impunity** by facilitating access to legal aid and assistance for 40 victims of GBV (10 women, one man, 23 girls, six boys). It also provided financial and technical assistance to five mobile court hearings in relation to 40 cases of sexual violence, in partnership with the Chad Bar Association.

The President of **Somalia** signed amendments to the first four chapters of the Provisional Constitution. Following advocacy efforts by OHCHR, the Provisional Constitution retains 18 years of age as the age of majority and maintains the **ban on all forms of female genital mutilation**.

In **Colombia**, following six months of dialogue at the Roundtable for Police Reform, which was facilitated by OHCHR, **Presidential Decree No. 1231** (2024) was adopted, in October. The Decree establishes the use of force as a last resort, reflects international principles on the use of force and strengthens accountability measures for public security forces. Further, with OHCHR's support, Congress adopted Law No. 2364 (2024), known as the "**Buscadoras Law**." This Law recognizes the essential role of women in searching for the disappeared and the disproportionate impact that enforced disappearances have on them.

In **Ethiopia**, OHCHR provided technical advice resulting in the adoption of the **National Transi-**

tional Justice Policy and its implementation road map, in April and August, respectively. These policy instruments are in line with international human rights standards, and promote greater accountability by addressing the rights of victims to truth, justice and reparations and reiterating guarantees of non-recurrence.

With the Office's support, the Government of **Nepal adopted an amendment to a draft law on transitional justice**, in August. The amendment has been under discussion since the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling that the 2014 Transitional Justice Act violated the Constitution and Nepal's international human rights obligations. The definition of gross human rights violations was broadened and refined and the types of violations were expanded to include arbitrary killings, rape and grave sexual violence, without any statutory limitation on initiating legal proceedings regarding rape and grave sexual violence. Further, a clause was deleted that required that violence had to have been targeted towards unarmed persons or civilians or committed on a systematic basis.

From 23 January to 2 February, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression conducted a country visit to **the Philippines**. The Special Rapporteur engaged with the Government on a number of emblematic cases and the patterns observed, including red-tagging, killings, detention and harassment of journalists. In May, the Philippines Supreme Court ruled that the **practice of red-tagging** "threatens a person's right to life, liberty, or security, which may justify the issuance of a writ of amparo."

OHCHR provided capacity-building and technical assistance in **South Sudan**, contributing to the **establishment of transitional justice mechanisms**. This was further facilitated on 11 November when the President assented to the Bill on the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Bill on Compensation and Reparation Authority.

With OHCHR's financial and technical assistance, the judiciary of **Kenya** developed guidelines on the definition of case types, which are aligned with international human rights standards, and reviewed the draft Practice Directions for the Gender Justice Court (formerly known as the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Courts), which were officially gazetted on 7 February 2025. These rules and procedures will govern the operation of the **specialized courts that were established to deal with sexual and gender-based violence** (SGBV) cases, standardize judicial processes, guarantee consistency in court experiences and promote access to justice for survivors.

In **Madagascar**, the Office supported the integration of an HRBA into the **National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2025-2030)**, in partnership with the National Committee for the Protection of Integrity. The Strategy was adopted in early 2025 and addresses multiple human rights concerns, such as the need to develop protection measures for whistleblowers. In 2025, OHCHR will be involved in the elaboration of laws and processes on these issues.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Office led the UN's support for the reform of Sierra Leone's justice sector, which included the development and launch of the **Fifth Generation Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan (2024-2028)**. The objective of the new Justice Sector Strategy is to support legal services in order to enhance access to justice, mobile courts, institutional and technical capacity-building, public engagement on legal rights and to promote accountability and oversight.

In **Mauritania**, OHCHR contributed to the **creation of a specialized court**, in September, to handle cases of slavery. This action was one of the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, during a May 2022 country visit. The Office also participated in a mechanism that was set up by the Government to follow up on recommendations and provided technical expertise to the drafting of the court's establishing law to ensure its alignment with international human rights standards.

With OHCHR's technical support, the judiciary of **Costa Rica** developed a guide on **applying a gender perspective to sentencing in cases of sexual crimes and domestic violence**. The guide was officially endorsed on 31 October and has been shared with 47 judges and magistrates during four workshops across the country.

In **Haiti**, in July, following OHCHR's advocacy, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MSPJ) established a three-member **Commission against sexual and gender-based violence** to prioritize all SGBV cases pending in courts across the country. On 7 August, the Judicial Affairs Department of the MSPJ published an official note that instructed all Public Prosecutors to prioritize the prosecution, without a jury, of cases involving sexual violence. As of 1 December, 28 rape cases had been adjudicated, resulting in 17 convictions.

In **Honduras**, in promoting **gender-sensitive justice**, the Office delivered a diploma course entitled "Applying a gender perspective and conventionality control in judgments," reaching 40 professionals (32 women), including judges, magistrates, prosecutors, psychologists and social workers. During the year, judges and magistrates incorporated gender standards and perspectives that they learned about during the course in at least seven rulings, as evidenced by the accurate classification of crimes, such as femicide. In April, OHCHR coordinated with the Supreme Court of Justice to launch a strategy to combat impunity in GBV cases by revising the judicial training curriculum on gender and human rights and integrating it into the judicial career path.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue that resulted in a series of recommendations, which contributed to preventing the introduction of an article in the Criminal Code on the responsibility for public calls for extremist activity. The recommendations also led to tougher penalties regarding calls for the forcible seizure of power. In addition, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Interior in preparations for a human rights-compliant risk assessment tool on GBV, which was introduced through **new legislative amendments**, in August. The amendments were adopted to help the Ministry and police officers systematically identify and assess potential dangers to survivors of GBV. They also aim to facilitate the prioritizing of cases requiring urgent action, the tailoring of safety plans to individual needs and the operation of follow-up mechanisms to ensure that identified risks are managed and mitigated, for instance, through protection orders and correctional programmes.

The unsealing of six International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants, in October, with regard to persons linked to the Al Kaniyat militia group, marked a significant step in securing **accountability** for alleged war crimes in Tarhuna, **Libya**. For its part, the Office issued an earlier report that documents mass graves and serious human rights violations committed in Tarhuna from 2013 to 2022 by members of Al Kaniyat. It also urges accountability for years of violations and actions that need to be taken to address impunity for human rights violations and abuses, including evidence on patterns of atrocities, such as murder, torture and enforced disappearances committed by Al Kaniyat.

OHCHR's implementation of HRC resolution 51/35 on the **legacy of nuclear testing in the Republic of Marshall Islands** (RMI), including technical assistance, capacity-building workshops and its 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, laid the groundwork for increased engagement by human rights mechanisms on these critical issues and explored the application of elements of transitional justice, including truth, to environmental crises. OHCHR also organized an enhanced interactive dialogue enabling panel discussions on the report with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, representatives of the National Nuclear Commission and civil society and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. OHCHR supported the November visit to the Marshall Islands of the Special Rapporteur on the human

rights of internally displaced persons. In the delivery of capacity-building initiatives for RMI authorities and civil society, the Office secured the online participation of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights and the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. A statement by 14 mandate holders urged States to address the human rights impacts of nuclear testing.

In **Mexico**, OHCHR played a critical role in strengthening the legal framework and key processes related to **disappearances and human rights** in the country. In Baja California, a Law on Disappearances was adopted on 31 March. In Puebla, the Law on the Special Declaration of Absence for the Disappearance of Persons in the State of Puebla was enacted on 20 August. In Oaxaca, the State Citizen Council for the Search for Disappeared Persons was established, thereby ensuring the active participation of family groups and civil society in search efforts. In Coahuila, a state programme on disappearances that focuses on prevention, search, identification and victim protection was adopted, on 12 November. At the federal level, the update to the Standardized Protocol for the Search of Disappeared and Unlocated Persons is pending adoption.

In the **State of Palestine**, OHCHR is the **lead on fatality tracking and verification** for the UNCT, which is also one of its responsibilities as the Coordinator of the Protection Cluster. From 7 October 2023 to 31 December 2024, the Office applied its standard methodology to independently verify over 11,000 fatalities in Gaza, which were caused by alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In the West Bank, the Office conducted 360 in-person missions in 2024. As a result of its interventions, five Palestinians were released from unlawful detention.

The work of the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in **Ukraine** (HRMMU) served as an authoritative reference on applicable international standards, contributing through its work to strengthen **justice and accountability**. For instance, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine directed his Office to align the prosecution of "collaboration activities" with international law. This instruction makes detailed reference to the HRMMU's findings and recommendations on this topic. In 2024, the HRMMU documented a reduction in convictions for "collaboration activities" that are not in conformity with international law. In addition, judgments handed down by international courts extensively cited the HRMMU's findings. For instance, in January, in contentious proceedings on the application of ICERD, the ICJ cited the HRMMU's reporting at length, finding that the Russian Federation had violated ICERD by restricting access to education in the Ukrainian language in Crimea.

OHCHR provided capacity-building and technical support for the **establishment or enhancement of NHRIs** in 117 countries. For instance, **Benin** adopted Law No. 2024-22 on the NHRI, which introduced innovations on the selection process of members of the institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and provides that adequate human, financial and material resources necessary for the work of the NHRI shall be put at its disposal through the ordinary State budget. In **Gabon**, on 21 November, Law No. 023/2024 was promulgated, replacing Law No. 19/2005. The new Law recognizes the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as an independent institution that is mandated to undertake consultations, monitoring, evaluation, dialogue, conciliation and deliberation in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Law designates the NHRC as the NPM, and tasks it with ensuring the alignment of Gabon's legislation with international legal instruments. In **Lesotho**, the National Assembly adopted the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution, on 23 September, which included the establishment and entrenchment of the Lesotho Human Rights Commission. In **Senegal**, in September, the Parliament adopted Law No. 2024-14 to establish the NHRC, replacing the Senegalese Human Rights Committee, and moving towards the recovery of its "A" Status.

OHCHR undertook advocacy regarding **overcrowding and human rights violations in detention centres**, contributing to the release of more than 3,000 unlawfully detained persons in 2024. For instance, in November, the Government of **Burundi** launched a campaign to decrease the country's prison population of 13,000 by more than 40 per cent in 11 prisons. In the **Central African Republic**, OHCHR engaged with authorities with respect to the implementation of recommendations made in the joint OHCHR-MINUSCA report, *Analysis of deprivation of liberty in the Central African Republic: Current situation, challenges and responses*, which contributed to the Ministry of Justice issuing a penal policy,[3] on 14 May. The report emphasizes the importance of judicial independence, adherence to procedural timelines and timely case resolution, particularly for minors and persons with disabilities. In **Liberia**, OHCHR helped to secure the release of 39 pretrial detainees from Monrovia Central Prison, in August, after their prolonged detention without an indictment. It also improved the well-being of detainees in prisons across the country by donating personal care packages, dignity kits, blankets and mosquito nets. In **Madagascar**, following OHCHR's advocacy with the Ministry of Justice, emergency food supplies were sent to the Manakara Prison and the Mananjary Prison to deal with acute malnutrition among detainees.

In **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) provided logistical and technical assistance to the work of the follow-up committees on human rights violations for the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the Congolese National Police (PNC) in order to **strengthen investigations on cases of human rights violations** that were identified by the committees. In 2024, 304 disciplinary measures were taken against security and defence forces and law enforcement officials, including 241 from the FARDC and 63 from the PNC. Further, the UNJHRO played a key role in the protection of victims and witnesses before, during and after the trials of emblematic cases to ensure that the right to a fair trial was upheld and a victim-centred approach was implemented. This enabled 234 victims and witnesses to appear before the courts to testify, including 127 women, 96 men, eight girls and three boys. A total of 195 perpetrators were sentenced, including 82 from the FARDC, 19 from the PNC, 48 from armed groups and 46 civilians.

In **Guinea**, OHCHR supported national authorities to ensure **accountability for crimes** committed during the 28 September 2009 protests and to combat impunity. On 31 July, the Dixinn Criminal Court concluded its first trial related to these crimes and found eight individuals, including the former Head of State, Moussa Dadis Camara, guilty of crimes against humanity. The sentences ranged from 10 years to life in prison. Four other defendants were acquitted. Additionally, the Court mandated reparations for victims and their families.

In the aftermath of the 28 July elections in **Venezuela**, the Office was on the frontline of receiving **cases of violations** against HRDs and others at risk. A total of 89 cases, involving 132 persons, were documented and assistance was provided, including referrals for legal aid and resettlement.

In **Bangladesh**, following the Interim Government's request for an OHCHR **fact-finding mission** regarding the human rights violations that were committed during the July and August mass protests and immediately after the fall of the former regime, an OHCHR multidisciplinary team was deployed. A comprehensive report was produced that contains findings on human rights violations and abuses, concerns regarding possible international crimes and recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure accountability and non-recurrence. The report has been shared with the Interim Government and will inform the country's reform process and transitional justice. Further, the Interim Government ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from **Enforced Disappearance** (ICPPED), in August, and established a national Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance. With OHCHR's technical assistance, the Commission has documented and analysed more than 1,600 cases of enforced disappearance.

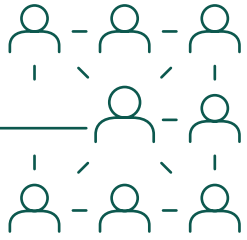
3 *Plaidoyer pour la reproduction de la circulaire relative aux instructions de politique pénale* n°258/MCJPDHBG/DIRCAB-24.

In July, the Office issued a report entitled *Forced labour by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*. The report concludes that people in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (DPRK) are "controlled and exploited through an extensive and multilayered system of forced labour" that is "directed towards the interests of the State rather than the people," within a system that "acts as a means for the State to control, monitor and indoctrinate the population." OHCHR's documentation has also been cited in the **rulings of regional human rights courts**, notably the 2024 ruling of the European Court in a repatriation case of a DPRK escapee from Russia. In that case, the Court found that by repatriating the man to the DPRK, the Russian Federation had put him at real risk of death or ill-treatment, in violation of the prohibition of torture and his rights to life, liberty and security of the person.

The **Global Digital Compact**, to which OHCHR has contributed extensively, was adopted, in September. The Compact establishes commitments for the global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI). OHCHR's efforts ensured that upholding and advancing human rights was recognized as a cross-cutting principle. As a result of its contributions, OHCHR was designated as one of the five UN entities to support Member States in their implementation of their commitments. In this capacity, OHCHR will provide advisory service on human rights in the digital space, expert advice and practical guidance on human rights- and technology-related issues. Further, OHCHR will prioritize a number of key policy issues, including: protecting online civic space and participation; the right to privacy in the digital age; human rights due diligence for the use of technology; the application of the UNGPs in the technology sector; and technical standard-setting processes.

Participation

Enhancing participation, protecting civic space and human rights defenders



PUBLIC MOBILIZATION

Global campaigns

12 million followers on social media (across all UN Human Rights platforms, 2.6% more than in 2023)

Over 2,900 posts across platforms (including videos and stories on human rights, the work of OHCHR and messages to inspire people to take action to promote human rights)

4.4% average engagement rate (22.2% increase over 2023)

The "#FightRacism" Campaign reached 48 million views on X and 10 million views on Instagram (in collaboration with footballer Vinicius Jr.)

In the field

Over 1,500 UN Human Rights-related advocacy campaigns

Over 36 million reached in-person and online



INFORMATION AND OUTREACH MATERIALS

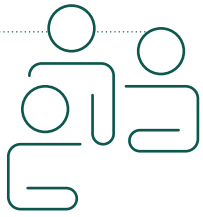


Publications

111,111 publications downloaded from the UN Human Rights website (in various official UN languages)

84,896 print publications and advocacy materials distributed to 58 countries (in various official UN languages)

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



With CSOs

1,790 women's rights organizations

1,070 youth-led organizations

1,120 organizations of persons with disabilities

With 30,400 Human Rights Defenders

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Human Rights Concil (HRC) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Voluntary Trust Funds

14 States' delegates supported to attend UPR reviews and/or HRC outcome adoptions

63 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 32 countries

Social Forum

669 participants attended online and in person (from **99** countries, including **407** CSO representatives and **29%** under the age of 30, under the theme "The contribution of financing for development to the advancement of all human rights for all")

I always wanted to be the voice of my people: Mexico

In June 2017, Marcela de Jesús Natalia, an Indigenous Ñomndaa journalist and human rights advocate, was shot three times outside the radio station where she worked. Marcela survived the attack and, with the support of lawyers, advocates and UN Human Rights, continues to fight for accountability for the crime.

A FEARLESS JOURNALIST

Marcela's path to becoming a human rights advocate is rooted in her upbringing as an Indigenous woman in Xochistlahuaca, in the state of Guerrero, on Mexico's Pacific coast. From a young age, she witnessed the perpetuation of violence by men in positions of power, including the military. As a student, she migrated to the state of Oaxaca where she carried on with her studies and landed a job at a radio station that was seeking a bilingual Ñomndaa-Spanish speaker.

When she later returned to Guerrero, she worked as a radio announcer and manager before becoming a radio personality and advocate for Indigenous rights. Marcela's work focuses on informing Indigenous Peoples about their rights, including access to education, justice, addressing violence against women and empowering them to fight historical discrimination. In response, powerful vested interests have unsuccessfully sought to silence her through punitive lawsuits.

"Journalists who expose wrongdoing and show us the horrific reality of conflict are human rights defenders," said Volker Türk, UN Human Rights Chief, in a statement commemorating the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, on 2 November. "In 2023, 71 journalists and media workers were killed and over 300 imprisoned" around the globe and in 2024, "61 journalists… lost their lives in the line of duty," Türk continued.

In Mexico, one of the main factors contributing to the lack of accountability for crimes against journalists is the failure to consider their work in criminal investigations, said Jesús Peña Palacios, Deputy Representative of UN Human Rights in Mexico.

IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPUNITY: PROTECTION AND JUSTICE

In Mexico, one of the most dangerous countries for journalists worldwide, at least six journalists were killed during the year and another media worker was disappeared. As a result of the persistent danger faced by journalists, international and regional human rights mechanisms recommended the creation of a Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. Since its operationalization in 2012, OHCHR has provided the Mechanism with ongoing support, including through the publication of an analytical report on its operations, the creation of a Working Group to implement its findings and the facilitation of mediation among authorities, civil society representatives and beneficiaries.

Following the armed attack, Marcela was relocated, with the assistance of the Protection Mechanism. This protection, however, came at a cost. Marcela is now separated from her family and was forced to leave her radio advocacy work. Although the gunman was arrested and sentenced for his crime, she is hopeful that the intellectual authors will eventually be brought to justice.

"Three bullets cannot take away my desire to be the voice of my people," she said.



Marcela de Jesús Natalia, Mexican Indigenous Ñomndaa journalist and human rights advocate. © OHCHR

Highlights of Pillar Results

Participation

Robust legal and regulatory frameworks that promote meaningful, inclusive and safe participation are central to building trust and resilient societies. The UN Agenda for Protection underlines that the UN must do everything it can to reduce risks to people and ensure their protection. The Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda emphasize that "listening to the people and building trust" are preconditions for overcoming current challenges. Nevertheless, many people around the world remain excluded from conversations that are relevant to them. Those who speak up, including human rights defenders, independent journalists, trade unionists and environmental activists, are often subject to attacks. Online space has improved access to information and made it easier to mobilize individuals, but it has also created new avenues for censorship, intrusions into privacy, disinformation and hate speech. UN Human Rights is uniquely placed to monitor and protect civil society space.

UN Human Rights took steps to **enhance participation and protect civic space and HRDs across East Africa**. In particular, the Office provided financial and technical assistance to the Eastern Africa Network of Women Human Rights Defenders, which launched its first Strategic Plan, in November. The Strategic Plan will guide the Network's activities over the next five years (2025-2029). It was developed through a comprehensive consultative process with members of the Network and prioritizes legal protection, institutional capacity-building and response mechanisms to counter shrinking civic spaces and specific gendered risks and threats faced by WHRDs. OHCHR will support its implementation through technical and financial assistance, partnerships and policy advocacy so that WHRDs can operate safely and effectively.

In **Sudan**, the Office led the development of a one-year **road map to enhance support for HRD** protection, capacity-building and coordination. This work was carried out in collaboration with Sudanese HRDs and members of the Sudan Human Rights Defenders Protection Network, which was established in 2022 and is being facilitated by OHCHR. In this context, the Office undertook assessments involving 30 at-risk HRDs, leading to referrals to protection service providers for 14 individuals, 10 of whom received protection grants.

UN Human Rights and its partners collaborated with media professionals across Central Africa to develop the **Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention of and Response to Hate Speech in Central Africa**. It was adopted in Bangui, at the Regional Forum of Ministers of Communication and Information and Communication Technologies in Central Africa, held on 31 January. OHCHR and UNOCA mobilized media professionals in the subregion to support the drafting of the Strategy and Action Plan and UN Human Rights provided technical assistance, ensuring

that human rights considerations were taken into account.

In **Chile**, the Office provided technical support for the development of the first **Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders** under the Escazú Agreement. The Protocol, which was adopted in April, enables the identification of risk factors and vulnerable groups and strengthens the Government's capacity to ensure safety for environmental HRDs.

In **Colombia**, the Office advocated for the **protection of municipal-level ombudspersons** in Antioquia, Arauca, Cauca and Norte de Santander. This advocacy resulted in the adoption of a Law that provides more resources for municipal ombudspersons, enabling them to work in the municipalities that have the highest incidence of violence and poverty. The Law was adopted after more than five years of efforts by associations of municipal ombudspersons.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to **Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala** to enhance their engagement with relevant decision-making processes at the national and international level. For instance, the Office contributed to dialogues with Indigenous groups, leading to the congressional adoption, on 25 November, of a framework policy on advancing the social and economic development of Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala.

In **Honduras**, the Office implemented a comprehensive **monitoring and documentation system for attacks against HRDs**, journalists and other persons of concern. A total of 284 cases affecting 319 victims, composed of 219 HRDs and 100 journalists, were registered. The system enhanced the Office's capacity for early warning and early action and contributed to the release of 28 HRDs and journalists.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to authorities, CSOs, HRDs and journalists in relation to more than 650 cases before the Governing Board of the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in **Mexico**. This translated into **improved protection measures for HRDs and journalists at risk**, in line with international obligations. For instance, OHCHR presented an analysis of a case involving an Indigenous community, including the risk context and the different situations faced by its inhabitants, and recommended the maintenance of protection measures. The recommendation was accepted and implemented by the Government, positively impacting on approximately 75,000 inhabitants in 40 Indigenous communities.

Human rights education is essential to increasing awareness and participation. In **Guyana**, UN Human Rights supported the Government in piloting a hybrid certificate **course on international human rights law**, with expert presentations on various international treaties. The course sought to introduce participants to the fundamental concepts of international human rights law and Guyana's human rights architecture. Over 200 participants from all 10 administrative regions registered and more than 160 participants from across the country successfully completed the course. Based on its success, authorities announced that the course would be offered annually, while the establishment of a Human Rights Academy may be pursued to meet long-term demands.

The Office's technical assistance to and advocacy with the new Interim Government of **Bangladesh** contributed to the **repeal of the 2023 Cyber Security Act**. The Act was widely instrumentalized by the previous Government to unduly restrict civic and democratic space. During its fourth UPR cycle in November 2023, eight of the recommendations that Bangladesh received related to its Cyber Security Act.

The **Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network** received technical assistance and guidance from the Office to support its country networks in the **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** and its members in **Fiji**. In addition, focal points from 10 Pacific Islands were appointed. OHCHR collaborated with the Network to deliver three regional capacity-building trainings to 105 members (61 women), enhancing their understanding of the rights and responsibilities of HRDs. Some of

the participants were from remote islands and rural areas and received formal training for the first time.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Office undertook advocacy in cooperation with the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT, civil society and members of the independent media, which led the President to withdraw from the Parliament a restrictive draft **law on the mass media**. OHCHR provided expert inputs during discussions of a working group of the Ministry of Culture that included representatives of civil society and the independent media. A subsequent version of the draft law was more closely aligned with the principles of ICCPR. On 31 December, the Presidential Administration endorsed the revised draft law and sent it to the Parliament for adoption.

Through a number of events that were organized during the year, CSOs working on transitional justice in **Montenegro** and the region raised awareness about past human rights violations, paid tribute to victims and discussed accountability and prevention with decision makers and peers. Civil society played an important role in drafting the new **War Crimes Investigation Strategy**, which the Office provided inputs to in 2023 and was adopted in June 2024. The Strategy includes various recommendations issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies.

Through a technical cooperation programme with the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, UN Human Rights finalized a project proposal to develop a framework for the **empowerment of NGOs in the field of human rights**, which was approved by the Saudi Human Rights Commission. As part of the project, a normative study was undertaken to explore how NGOs and associations in the field of human rights can more effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

In the **Syrian Arab Republic**, UN Human Rights prioritized engagement with CSOs and HRDs as part of broad-based efforts to **encourage participation and protect civic space**. More specifically, the Office expanded its engagement through 26 new partnerships with CSOs working on both human rights and humanitarian issues. OHCHR increased the knowledge and capacities of its CSO partners at workshops on international human rights mechanisms, monitoring and reporting human rights violations, ESCRs and HRBA programming. Following the workshops, five CSOs submitted mid-term reports in anticipation of Syria's fourth UPR cycle.

OHCHR's **Civic Space Pulse** was instrumental in tracking the **state of civic freedoms worldwide** and was awarded a Bronze Medal at the Microsoft Hackathon. Utilizing open source data, the platform monitored 45,105 global protests, 8,117 of which involved allegations of repression. This initiative provides actionable insights to safeguard civic space and protect fundamental freedoms.

OHCHR contributed to the **Plan of Action for the Fifth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2025-2029)**, which will serve as guidance for national-level implementation and as an advocacy tool for all stakeholders. As requested by the HRC in 2023, the Plan of Action focuses on human rights education for children and youth, with a special emphasis on human rights and digital technologies, gender equality and the environment and climate change. Between January and March, OHCHR prepared a preliminary draft based on related UN instruments and documents and the plans of action from the previous phases. In April, on the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the Office undertook two in-person consultations on the preliminary draft, gathering more than 65 children and youth. It also organized a two-day expert consultation with 32 participants, including representatives of UN entities, CSOs and networks, as well as children and youth. In May, OHCHR circulated a consolidated text to Member States, UN entities, NHRIs and civil society and invited them to submit their views and comments. OHCHR received 34 submissions and all comments were integrated into the final text that was submitted to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/57/34).

Together with UNODC, the Office supported the Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful

assembly and of association in developing a **Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests**, which was presented to the HRC during its fifty-fifth session (A/HRC/55/60). The aim of the Model Protocol and its accompanying toolkit is to enhance the capacities and practices of law enforcement agencies to fulfil their duty to promote and protect human rights in the context of peaceful protests.

During the year, OHCHR implemented new tools to facilitate the **participation of civil society and NGOs in the sessions of the HRC**. Notably, an information note was developed for NGOs participating in each HRC session and subsequently translated into French and Spanish. The document provides a comprehensive overview of all steps that need to be taken to ensure that interventions, including those delivered via pre-recorded video messages, are duly processed. The Office facilitated regular exchanges between NGOs and the President of the HRC and sought to ensure that civil society had opportunities to raise concerns directly with the President. This contributed to enhancing existing child safeguarding measures to enable the inclusive and safe participation of children in the work of the HRC.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
RESULTS SUMMARY

UN Human Rights defined eight interrelated Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs) in its new OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) (2024-2027). These plans were developed to reflect and guide UN Human Rights' commitment to improve programme delivery and increase the impact of its operations.

The following section highlights progress made in their implementation during the year. More examples can be found on pages 370-385 of the online report.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS ACTION PLANS (OEAPS)



TRANSLATING VISION INTO RESULTS

- The capacities of staff in relation to results-based management (RBM) and monitoring was increased through interdivisional workshops. This work will continue to bolster OHCHR's ability to leverage data and evidence.
- The Office improved its analysis of the outcomes of its programmatic implementation and the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the work accomplished through 10 evaluations. This resulted in a better understanding of good practices, lessons learned and the generation of recommendations.

STRENGTHENING THE FIELD, ALIGNING HEADQUARTERS, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION

- In accordance with the OEAPs on Translating Vision into Results and on a Cultural Shift, a six-month process of inclusive and extensive in-house consultations was concluded. As a result, a renewed field structure was adopted to provide enhanced support in order to increase OHCHR's human rights impacts at the operational level.
- Programme and resource mobilization officers were deployed to the Regional Offices of Central America, the Middle East and South-East Asia. In implementing Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 51/30, OHCHR deployed nine regional Universal Periodic Review (UPR) advisers (two more are under recruitment), complementing the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme (TBCBP).

INNOVATING FOR GREATER IMPACT

- In September, OHCHR adopted its first Digital Transformation Road Map, which sets out a comprehensive vision for a digitally-enabled organization that delivers more value through the responsible use of frontier technology. By providing streamlined governance and boosting enablers, the Road Map allows the Office to embrace a more digital office, unlock the power of transformative digital technologies and scale up innovation. In addition, it provides a strategic lever for new data, technology and partnerships, 50 of which were established in 2024.

BROADENING PARTNERSHIPS

- UN Human Rights received US$269.4 million in voluntary contributions in 2024, accounting for 61.4 per cent of total income. A total of 95 partners contributed, consisting of 66 Member States and 29 non-State partners, including other international organizations and private sector organizations. OHCHR stressed the importance of unearmarked funds with all partners. As a result, 21 Member States increased their unearmarked funds and multi-year agreements were signed with 13 partners.
- Strengthening OHCHR's visual identity and focus on impact communications led to increased engagement on social media and the web, reaching over 26 million people across the Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X platforms, representing a 36.7 per cent increase over last year.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Green Fund projects were implemented in: Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the Syria Office in Beirut, Lebanon; the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa; Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso; Mexico City, Mexico; and Bogotá, Colombia. Projects targeted energy efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness. At headquarters in Geneva, a project was initiated to replace personal bins with recycling stations, which was underpinned by a waste management audit.
- The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in: the Third 2050 Today High-level Meeting; the Geneva Climate Action Forum, which adopted its Climate Action Plan with recommendations for decarbonizing Geneva; and a high-level panel on the impacts of climate change on health, human rights and refugees.
- A 57 per cent increase in field office reporting of environmental data, compared to 2023, enhanced the accuracy of OHCHR's environmental footprint reporting.

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP, TALENT AND STAFF WELFARE

- Strengthening of the OHCHR community of practice for leadership and management continued in 2024, primarily through convened sessions on Leadingnet, a forum that gathers senior and mid-level managers to share information, good practices and experiences on leadership- and management-related topics. A total of six Leadingnet sessions brought together more than 200 staff

members to address a range of issues, including internal communication, performance management, talent management and career support. The sessions also provided an enabling environment for innovation.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Strengthened competency-based recruitment practices, including through improved assessments and outreach, helped to improve regional group diversity, particularly among countries that are unrepresented or underrepresented, and to address geographical imbalances.
- Gender parity has been achieved across all levels in the Office and OHCHR's Recruitment Framework is being updated. The Framework uses more granular data to support and inform the hiring of managers, which has had a positive impact on recruitment and promotion decisions in the Professional and General Service categories.

CULTURAL SHIFT

- Enhanced staff awareness and engagement in Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0) initiatives was achieved through various activities, including a series of town halls and briefings on approved OE 2.0 changes. As of the end of 2024, five all staff town halls had taken place, with an average of 350 participants at each meeting who joined from around the world. Positive culture change was promoted during several events and trainings dedicated to the innovative spirit of the Quintet of Change. More than 900 staff from the Office participated in at least one cultural shift event.



The Eastern Africa Women Human Rights Defenders Network launched its first Strategic Plan at its annual meeting, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 11 November. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights
Gender Accreditation Programme

UN HUMAN RIGHTS
GENDER
ACCREDITATION
PROGRAMME





Initiatives for the first Indigenous women's organization for the Jiw people, Colombia. © OHCHR



Project with women in Apurímac, Ayacucho and Puno, Peru. © OHCHR



OHCHR staff with Indigenous women human rights defenders from the Awajún and Wampis Women's Council, Peru. © OHCHR

The implementation of the UN Human Rights Gender Accreditation Programme advanced steadily in 2024. The Programme aims to strengthen gender equality and diversity both within OHCHR's institutional environment as well as throughout its substantive work. OHCHR rolled out the Programme in Mauritania and Peru, and Cambodia underwent a reassessment that resulted in an upgrade of its accreditation level. In Colombia, the Office contributed to the establishment of the first women's organization within the Jiw community, known as Jamino, honouring the first Amazonian Indigenous woman. The organization advocates for women's rights and actions to address the impacts of gender-based violence (GBV).

In **Peru**, through its Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project, OHCHR supported women in Apurímac, Ayacucho and Puno who had been injured or lost family members during the 2022-2023 protests. The project provided women with tailored legal assistance to help them navigate complex judicial processes and pursue reparations and psychosocial support, including art-based interventions. The project benefited 49 women, empowering them to take on leadership roles in victims' associations. OHCHR's ongoing efforts underscore the importance of amplifying women's voices and ensuring their pivotal role in the pursuit of justice and remedies for human rights violations.

In October, the Office conducted a mission to a remote area of Amazonas, Peru, to address alarming levels of sexual violence against children. The region struggles with victim protection due to its isolation and limited State presence. OHCHR met with authorities to discuss challenges and promote good practices in combating violence against children, while helping to build the capacities of 20 Indigenous WHRDs from the Awajún and Wampis Women's Council.

In collaboration with **Cambodian** civil society, OHCHR organized the Pride Festival to promote gender equality, diversity and inclusion. The joint effort, undertaken in partnership with the Resident Coordinator's Office, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and WFP gathered over 1,000 attendees. Working closely with the Gender Technical Group and

the United Nations Communications Group, the Office led a national "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, with messages in Khmer and English.

In **Mauritania**, the Office organized workshops and community-based campaigns with women's associations. This strengthened leadership and electoral knowledge and contributed to expanded participation in the 2024 presidential elections, during which women were elected to approximately 20 per cent of parliamentary and municipal seats. Data from the National Independent Election Commission showed a significant increase in the percentage of voters who were women, particularly young women aged 18-30 years, from 31.86 per cent in 2019 to 54.35 per cent in 2024. OHCHR also launched a campaign with the Network of Journalists to tackle GBV and enhance the visibility of elected women through digital platforms, reaching over 32,000 people, primarily women and youth.

During the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, OHCHR and its partners raised the awareness of university students and young researchers about the societal impacts of GBV. OHCHR also leveraged the networks of bloggers, influencers, youth peace champions and early warning systems, which were set up by the Office in 2024, and mobilized men and boys advocating for gender equality. The campaign reached over 7,000 people (80 per cent women).

Further, a mobile clinic was launched in Guidimakha, to facilitate women's access to civil status documents and land tenure rights, leading to the resolution of close to 20 cases.



"16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, in Cambodia. © OHCHR



Pride festival in Cambodia, June 2024. © OHCHR

FUNDING

OHCHR speaks to Yoreme communities, human rights defenders and academics during a mission to Topolobampo, Sinaloa, in November, to monitor violations due to an ammonia plant and other projects. © OHCHR

FUNDING OVERVIEW IN 2024

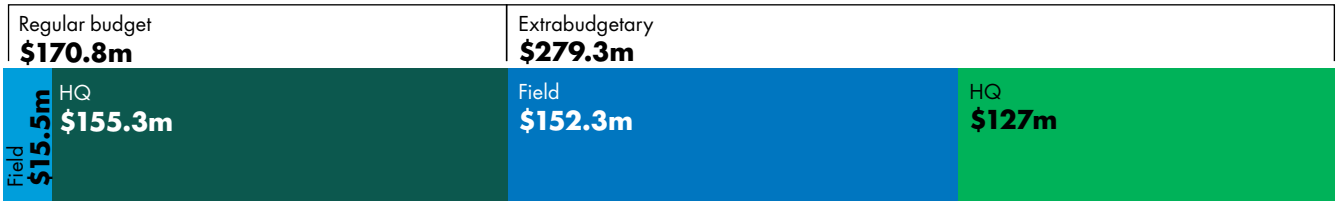
This chapter presents an overview of UN Human Rights funding in 2024 and of funding trends identified since 2016.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

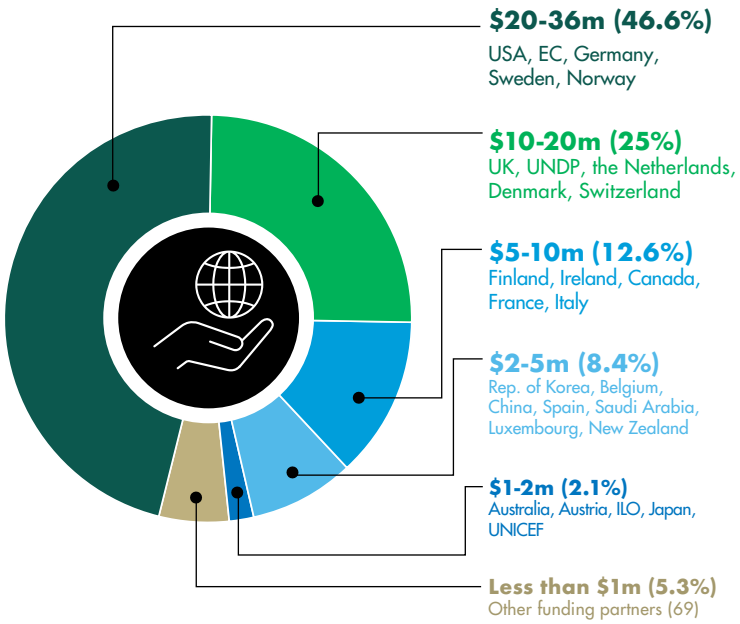
Income



Expenditure



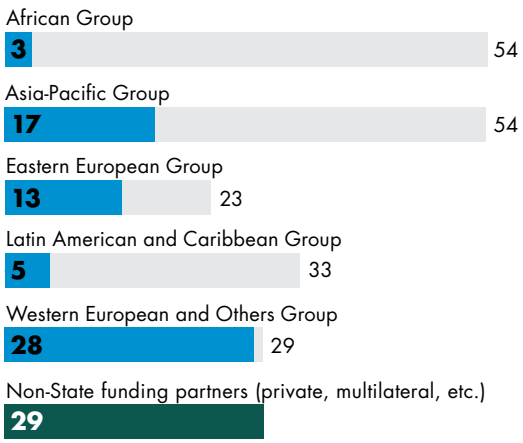
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS



FUNDING PARTNERS

95 funding partners
including 66 States

Breakdown by geographic group



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).

Income

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

In 2024, UN Human Rights' total income was US$438.9 million. Of this total, 61.4 per cent came from voluntary contributions and 38.6 per cent came from the United Nations regular budget.

REGULAR BUDGET

During the year, the total regular budget allotment received was capped at US$169.5 million and included US$2.6 million in funds received for the regular programme for technical cooperation. This represents a decrease from 2023 levels and only accounts for approximately five 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 the Human Rights Council (HRC). The regular budget allocation, however, does not keep pace with the growth in the number and scope of General Assembly human rights mandates. During the year, the HRC adopted 74 resolutions that have programme budget implications. At the end of the year, these new mandates were presented to the General Assembly in the summary of all resolutions adopted by the Council.

Further, due to the liquidity crisis, all Secretariat entities, including OHCHR, received a reduced allocation for the year and were primarily limited to hiring temporary staff. Likewise, certain mandated activities had to be postponed and their pace had to be scaled down to fit within the available resource envelope.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2024, UN Human Rights received US$269.4 million, short of the US$500 million in extrabudgetary requirements outlined in the 2024 Annual Appeal. These extrabudgetary requirements are the funds that UN Human Rights needs, in addition to its regular budget allocation, to positively respond to the requests for assistance it receives in a given year. The level of earmarking slightly decreased from 70 per cent in 2023 to 65 per cent in 2024. Nearly 65 per cent of the voluntary contributions were received during the latter half of 2024, compared to 60 per cent in 2023.

FUNDING PARTNERS/DONOR BASE

In 2024, UN Human Rights received funding from a total of 95 funding partners, compared to 96 in 2023.

Contributions from multilateral organizations, including the European Commission (EC) and UN partners, decreased to US$43.9 million, compared to US$54.6 million in 2023.

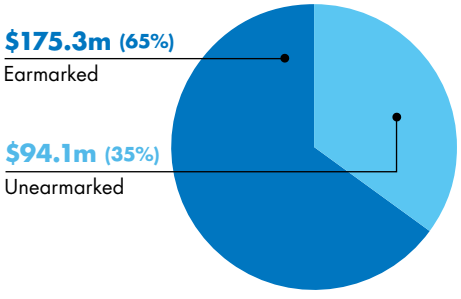
In 2019, the Funding Compact was established by Member States and members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), including UN Human Rights, to ensure more predictable and flexible funding for UN development activities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In line with the Funding Compact, the 2024 contributions received by

EARMARKED VERSUS UNEARMARKED FUNDING IN 2024

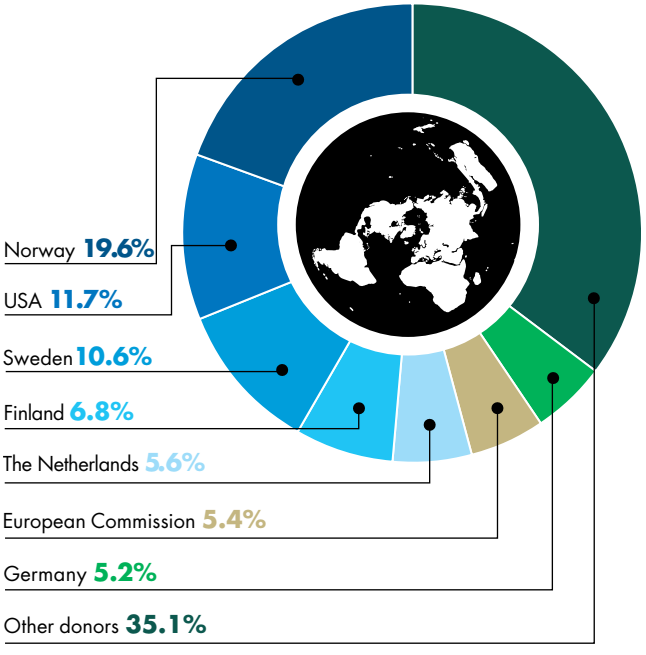


Total amount of voluntary contributions received

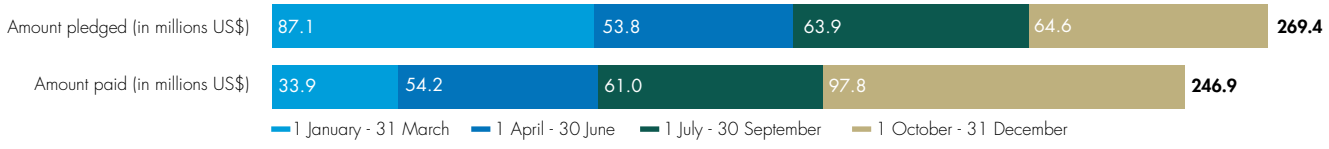
$269.4m



TOP SOURCES OF UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS



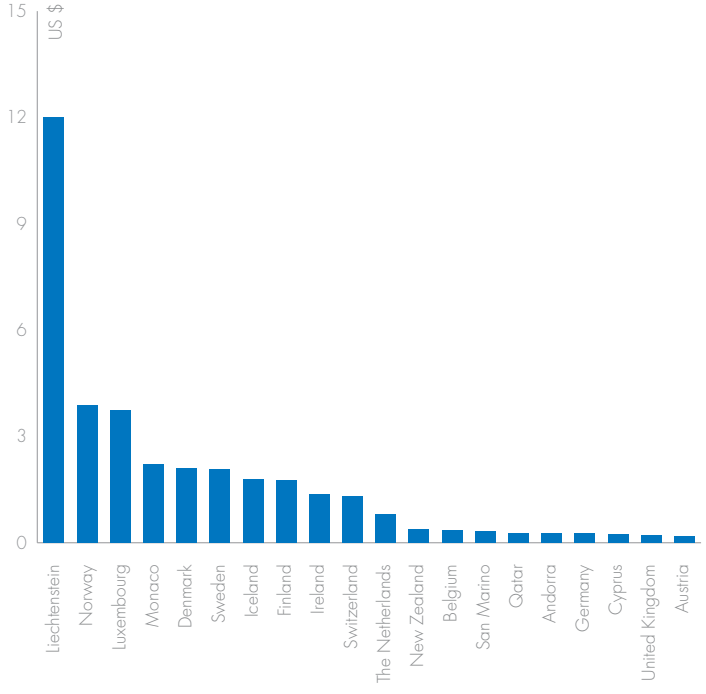
2024 - TREND IN PLEDGES AND PAYMENTS



UN Human Rights through the inter-agency pooled funds and trust funds amounted to US$14.5 million.

The Funding Compact calls for Member States to increase their multi-year commitments. UN Human Rights began 2024 with only US$66.3 million of predictable and sustainable income from pledged contributions that were annual instalments of multi-year funding agreements. During the year, UN Human Rights had such agreements with 24 donors, including 15 Member States (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America), the EC and eight other donors (the Asia Foundation, Belgique/Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Coventry University, Education Above All Foundation, the Ford Foundation, ILO, UNODC and the World Bank). Among the 24 donors, 15 made additional pledges during the year. As of the beginning of January 2025, US$77.2 million had been registered by 25 donors as part of multi-year agreements.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TOP 20 DONORS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS PER CAPITA IN 2024



* Source: Based on 2024 voluntary contributions from OHCHR's donors (Member States) and 2023 population figures from the World Bank data profiles.

UNDP AND UN MANAGED POOLED AND TRUST FUNDS FUNDING RECEIVED BY OHCHR IN 2024 THROUGH UNDP

DONOR	US$
Burundi Multi-Partner Trust Fund	1,462,795
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	203,514
Joint Programmes (the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Georgia, the Philippines)	1,289,506
Joint SDGs Fund (DRC, Kenya, Tanzania)	428,002
Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership Fund	222,275
Papua New Guinea UN Country Fund II	194,740
Peacebuilding Fund (DRC, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone)	5,576,797
UNDG-Human Rights Mainstreaming Trust Fund	3,619,017
UNDP (Niger, Global and Interregional)	403,000
UNPRPD - Disability Fund (Cambodia, Cameroon, Georgia, Guatemala, Jordan, State of Palestine,* Global and Interregional)	1,086,978
Total	**14,486,624**

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

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2024

MEMBER STATE	NATURE OF IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION	ESTIMATED FAIR VALUE US$
Cameroon	Rental of premises	496,134
Colombia	Rental of premises	315,596
	Provision of armoured vehicle and running costs	52,300
Senegal	Rental of premises	96,519
Qatar	Rental of premises and running costs	180,451



A workshop on human rights and movie screening on the history of human rights were held with 58 students, including 28 women, at the University Nazi Boni in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, in September. © OHCHR

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OHCHR IN 2024

	DONOR	TOTAL IN US$	% UNEARMARKED
1	United States of America	36,028,662	31%
2	European Commission	23,670,300	21%
3	Germany	22,891,886	21%
4	Sweden	21,709,513	46%
5	Norway	21,099,728	87%
6	United Kingdom	14,549,122	27%
7	UNDP (UN pooled and trust funds funding)	14,486,624	0%
8	The Netherlands	14,452,464	36%
9	Denmark	12,352,900	32%
10	Switzerland	11,593,323	32%
11	Finland	9,732,214	66%
12	Ireland	7,005,976	69%
13	Canada	6,537,219	11%
14	France	5,446,623	55%
15	Italy	5,097,082	15%
16	Republic of Korea	4,900,000	50%
17	Belgium	4,109,773	72%
18	China	4,000,000	5%
19	Spain[a]	2,618,204	0%
20	Saudi Arabia	2,593,476	0%
21	Luxembourg	2,435,305	9%
22	New Zealand	2,006,689	100%
23	Australia	1,652,682	0%
24	Austria	1,636,216	46%
25	ILO	1,264,456	0%
26	Japan	1,214,520	0%
27	UNICEF	1,180,409	0%
28	UNDOS	999,316	0%
29	Qatar	750,000	100%
30	Iceland	685,525	84%
31	IOM	643,988	0%
32	India	600,000	0%
33	Kuwait	552,600	90%
34	Microsoft	505,000	0%
35	OCHA/CERF	499,966	0%
36	Portugal	483,001	53%
37	Liechtenstein	472,255	13%
38	Poland	472,050	0%
39	Education Above All Foundation	405,205	0%
40	The Schmidt Family Foundation	375,000	0%
41	UN Women	356,265	0%
42	Morocco	330,000	91%
43	UNRCO	302,308	0%
44	Cyprus	300,454	87%
45	United Arab Emirates	283,680	0%
46	World bank	282,145	0%
47	Ford Foundation	265,363	0%
48	Türkiye	260,000	0%
49	Nia Tero Foundation	223,089	0%
50	Latvia	212,089	25%
51	The Philippines	200,000	0%
52	Czech Republic	195,993	56%
53	Unilever	190,928	0%
54	UNODC	176,236	0%
55	Mexico	174,085	57%
56	Thailand	120,000	17%
57	Kazakhstan	115,000	0%
58	Inditex	109,409	0%

a Includes a contribution of EUR 20,000 from the Basque Government and a contribution of EUR 289,995.54 from the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation.

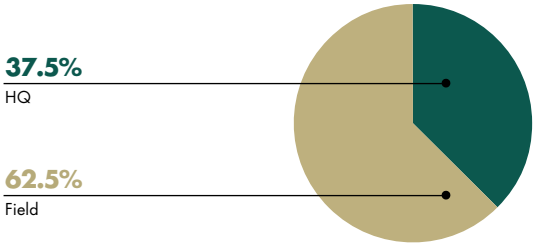
	DONOR	TOTAL IN US$	% UNEARMARKED
59	Greece	108,460	100%
60	Belgique/Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles	100,301	0%
61	Algeria	100,000	100%
-	Open Society Foundations	100,000	0%
-	Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	100,000	0%
64	Rockefeller Brothers Fund	95,000	0%
65	The Asia Foundation	90,843	0%
66	Estonia	81,609	47%
67	Monaco	81,277	54%
68	Coventry University	61,831	0%
69	Indonesia	60,000	50%
70	David Clark Cause	50,000	0%
71	The United Nations Foundation	49,819	0%
72	Lithuania	48,207	44%
73	UNTFHS	40,130	0%
74	Loterie Romande	35,294	0%
75	Republic of Slovenia	33,040	100%
76	Azerbaijan	31,000	0%
77	Malaysia	30,000	0%
-	Uruguay	30,000	100%
79	Peru	27,029	74%
80	Malta	26,795	100%
81	Hungary	26,657	0%
82	Andorra	21,906	0%
83	Montenegro	19,668	84%
84	Ville de Genève	17,321	0%
85	Albania	15,834	66%
86	Singapore	15,000	0%
87	Slovak Republic	11,669	100%
88	San Marino	10,846	100%
89	Armenia	10,000	100%
-	Bangladesh	10,000	100%
91	Costa Rica	9,993	100%
92	Georgia	7,000	0%
93	Mauritius	5,000	0%
94	Kyrgyz Republic	4,912	100%
95	The Bahamas	1,133	0%
	Individual donors/ miscellaneous	70,784	21%
	Total	**269,444,668**	**35%**

Expenditure

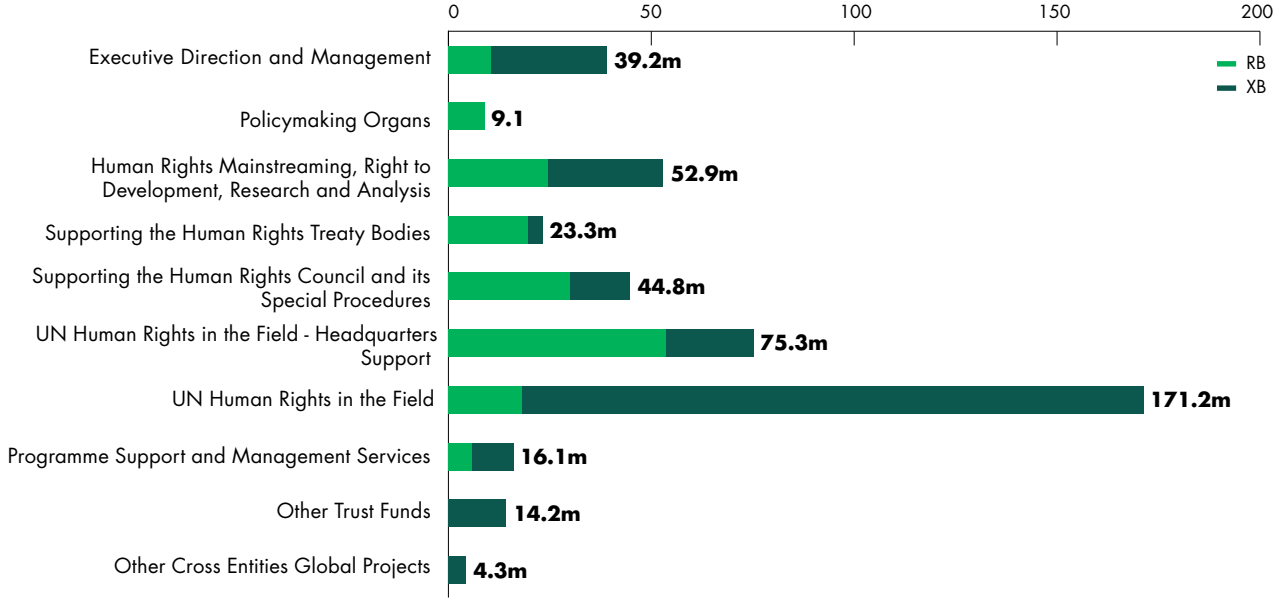
In 2024, 55.7 per cent of total expenditures (US$450.1 million), including regular budget and voluntary contributions, were allocated to fieldwork and work carried out at headquarters to support the field, particularly for capacity-strengthening projects and human rights monitoring. These activities were predominantly financed through voluntary contributions.

Further, approximately 62.5 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 provided by the regular budget.

EXTRABUDGETARY EXPENDITURE



COMBINED REGULAR BUDGET (RB) AND EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME (XB) EXPENDITURE BY MAIN ACTIVITY IN 2024 (IN MILLIONS US$)



RB EXPENDITURE BY MAIN ACTIVITY IN 2024 (IN MILLIONS US$)



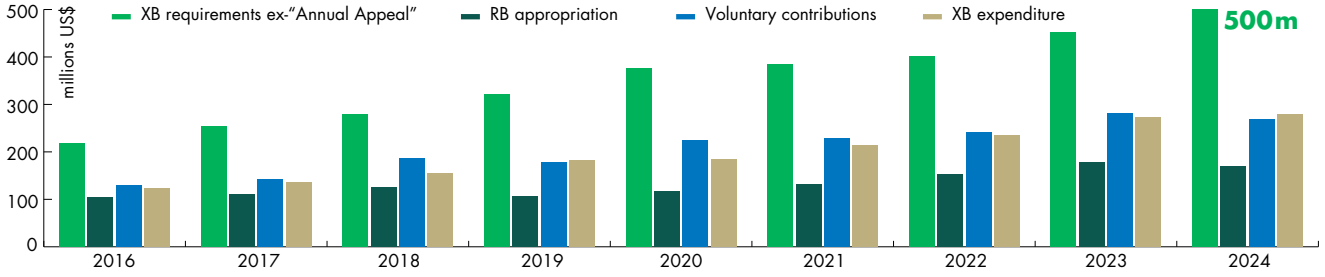
XB EXPENDITURE BY MAIN ACTIVITY IN 2024 (IN MILLIONS US$)



FUNDING TRENDS
2016-2024

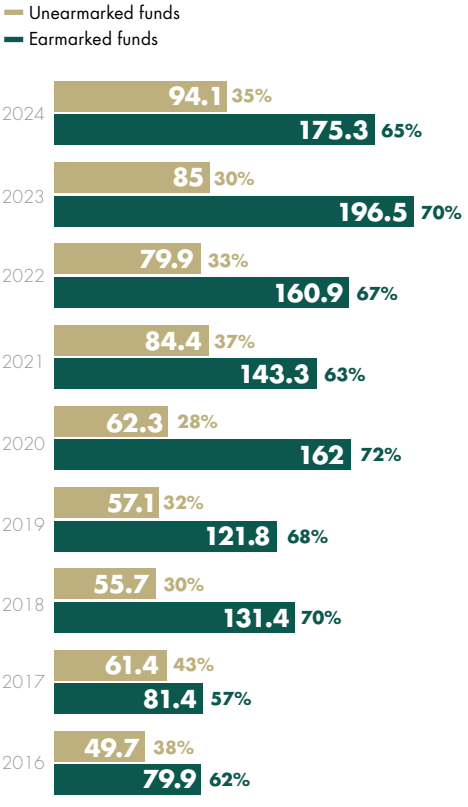
FUNDING NEEDS, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Extrabudgetary (XB) requirements, regular budget (RB) appropriation, voluntary contributions and expenditure evolution 2016-2024 (in millions of US$)



FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDING

Earmarked versus unearmarked funding (in millions of US$)

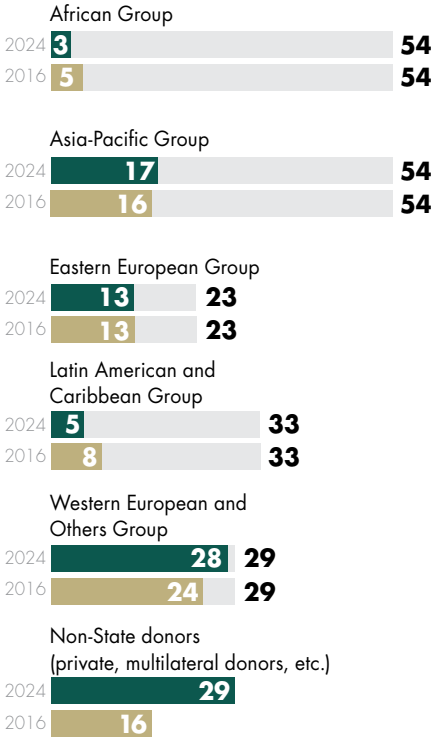


DONORS

Number of donors (including Member States)



Breakdown of donors by geographic group



REGULAR BUDGET AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the last 10 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.

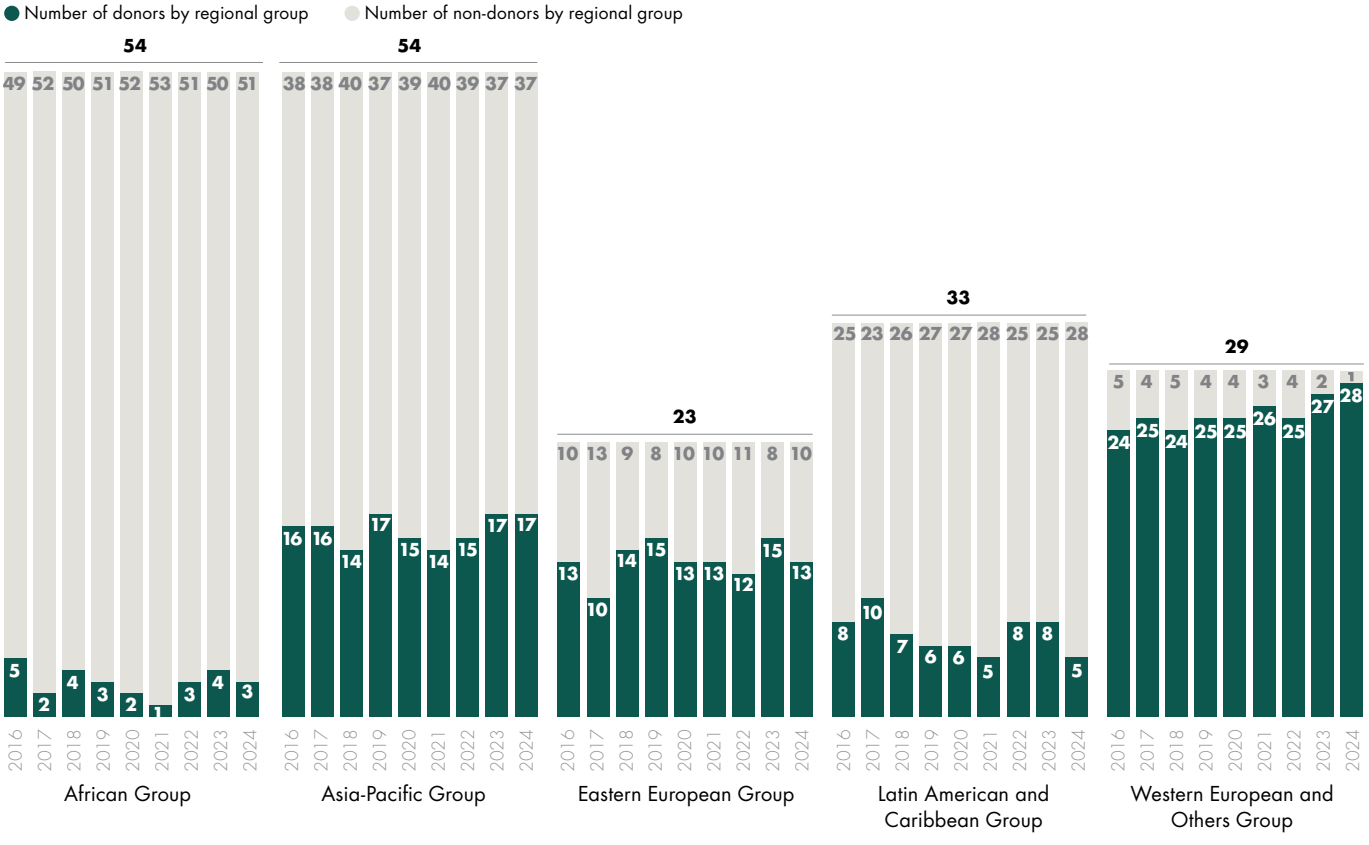
In the past several years, the increased share of the United Nations regular budget for UN Human Rights activities came from additional resources that were allocated to cover the human rights treaty body strengthening process. These were based on entitlements of the resource formula of General Assembly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

NUMBER AND TYPOLOGY OF FUNDING PARTNERS/DONORS

While the total number of funding partners has increased overall since 2016, it has decreased compared to 2023, particularly with regards to Member States partners.

Among the 66 Member States that contributed in 2024, five renewed their support after at least one year of financial inactivity. Another 10 Member States left the list of funding partners, despite the repeated appeals of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to broaden the UN Human Rights donor base. Since 2020, only 50 Member States have provided a contribution every year and 24 others have contributed at least once in the same four-year period.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS DONOR BASE 2016-2024, BROKEN DOWN BY REGIONAL GROUP



EARMARKED VERSUS UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2024, UN Human Rights received US$94.1 million in unearmarked funds from 49 donors. While the level of earmarking reduced to 65 per cent in 2024 from 70 per cent in 2023, this continues to be a proportionally high level, making it difficult for the Office to efficiently implement the OMP. This results in reduced flexibility, higher transactional costs and additional constraints on OHCHR's ability to effectively respond to emerging needs.

The increase in earmarking can be partially 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.

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS AND UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Some Member States provided indirect financial support to UN Human Rights by contributing to the United Nations Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme, which is administered by UN DESA, in New York. In 2024, 41 JPOs (31 women, 10 men) were working at UN Human Rights and were supported by 17 governments, namely: Australia, Austria, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. The Netherlands also funded JPOs who were nationals of developing countries. Two of the 41 JPOs were non-nationals. In terms of location, 30 JPOs were deployed to headquarters and 11 were deployed to the field (one in the Africa region and 10 in the Asia-Pacific region).

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS 2020-2024

SPONSOR	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2020	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2021	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2022	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2023	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2024
Australia					2
Austria				1	1
Bahrain			1	1	
Belgium	1	(+1)	1(+1)	(+1)	
People's Republic of China		1	3	5	4
Denmark	4(+1)	1(+1)	3	3	4
Finland	2	1	1	1	1
France					1
Germany	1		3	4	3
Hungary	1	1			
Iceland		1	1		
Italy	3	1	3	3	2
Japan	1	1	1	1	2
Luxembourg					1
The Netherlands	3(+4)	2(+2)	5(+1)	4 (+2)	4 (+2)
Norway	2	2	3	1	2
Republic of Korea	1	1	2	2	1
Saudi Arabia	1	1	3	4	2
Spain				1	1
Sweden	2	3	2	1	
Switzerland	4(+1)	6	9	8	7
United States of America				1	1
Total	**32**	**26**	**43**	**44**	**41**

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS 2020-2024 (FULLY FUNDED BY MEMBER STATES)

SPONSOR	UNVS NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+NON-NATIONALS) 2020	UNVS NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+NON-NATIONALS) 2021	UNVS NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+NON-NATIONALS) 2022	UNVS NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+NON-NATIONALS) 2023*	UNVS NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+NON-NATIONALS) 2024
Czech Republic		1			
Finland	1	2	2		1
France	1	2	1		1
Germany	1		(+2)		
Ireland	1		1		2
Italy		2			
Japan					1
Luxembourg					
Norway		1	1		
Republic of Korea	2	1			3(+1)
Spain		1	3		3
Sweden	2	3(+1)	3(+2)		1
Switzerland	7(+2)	5	4		6
Total	**17**	**19**	**19**		**19**

* Due to changes in the UNV database system, information could not be provided in 2023.

UN Human Rights benefited from indirect financial support through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme, which is administered by UNDP. As of 31 December, there were 19 UNVs working with UN Human Rights who were fully funded by eight governments. One of those individuals was a non-national.



With the full support of her father, Binta, the youngest of seven children, plays midfield for her local team in Nouakchott, Mauritania. OHCHR is working with the Government to promote girls' participation and counter gender stereotypes in Mauritania. © Lamia Alami

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, which are not trust funds as defined by the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules. Additional financial information related to these funds can be found in the extrabudgetary income and expenditure report for 2024 (pages 114-117 and page 430 of the online report).

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. In 2024, the Trust Fund managed 83.5 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds. 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. In response to government requests, the VFTC extends financial support for technical cooperation initiatives that are 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 offered administrative and operational guidance. More specifically, it outlines the global vision of the work of the Fund and provides advice on policy orientation and strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level. From 2013, the Secretary-General entrusted the Board to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In 2024, the Board members included: Ms. Azita Berar Awad (Iran, Chair for the fifty-eighth session); Mr. Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico, Chair as of the fifty-ninth session); Ms. Nozipho January-Bardill (South Africa); Ms. Maggie Nicholson (UK); and Mr. Danius Puras (Lithuania).

During the year, the Voluntary Fund received a total income of US$30.4 million, composed of paid contributions, pledges receivable, miscellaneous income and interest. A high level of specific contributions continued to be made in relation to projects. The ongoing support for the Voluntary Fund, including funds earmarked for the human rights adviser (HRA) programme, partially compensated for the closure of the Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund. The VFTC received its last payment from that Trust Fund, which totalled US$3.6 million. When combined with the reserves of US$25 million, the VFTC had a budget of US$39.2

million in 2024, compared to US$34.4 million in 2023. In 2024, the total expenditure amounted to US$30.5 million, compared to US$28.3 million in 2023. Due to cautious management, OHCHR secured an adequate balance that will ensure the continuity of work in 2025. As of 31 December, the reserve balance of the VFTC amounted to US$25.4 million.

In 2024, the Voluntary Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes that support strong national human rights frameworks in 56 regions, countries and territories, compared to 59 in 2023. The Voluntary Fund offered critical assistance with respect to the expansion of in-country human rights expertise through the joint UNSDG framework for the deployment of HRAs. This was also achieved by responding to increased demands for in-country presence, despite the decrease in the number of countries supported since 2023. Available resources were used to fund technical support that ensured international human rights standards were integrated into national laws, policies and practices in the countries covered. To this end, particular emphasis was placed on the human rights dimensions of the global crisis, including inequalities, climate change and global pandemics.

Moreover, the Voluntary Fund contributed to the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities to facilitate greater adherence to international human rights standards in the following countries:

- In **Ecuador**, OHCHR **improved data collection and information management** by building the capacities of CSOs working on the rights of persons deprived of liberty, thereby strengthening data-based advocacy to safeguard the rights of those in detention.
- In **Niger**, OHCHR **strengthened the capacities of local actors** with regard to monitoring, reporting and awareness-raising on various issues, such as migration and contemporary forms of slavery. These initiatives led to the development of local networks and groups that advocate for the protection of human rights.
- In **Kenya**, the HRA spearheaded efforts to promote a **Human Rights Economy**. In collaboration with the OHCHR regional macroeconomist, the UNCT produced a human rights-based analysis of the 2023-2024 national programme budget, focusing on key social sectors and exploring allocations of financial resources to support the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The HRA and OHCHR built on these efforts at the subnational level in three counties to support the application of a participatory human rights-based approach (HRBA) to budget development processes. In doing so, they worked closely with county government officials, members of county assemblies, civil society and communities.
- In **Nepal**, the Office provided technical assistance and engaged with the Government and political parties regarding the amendment of a draft law on transitional justice that was adopted, in August. OHCHR advocated for the draft law to **strengthen accountability** by promoting closer alignment with international human rights norms and standards, including by broadening the definition of gross human rights violations and expanding the types of violations to include arbitrary killings, rape and grave sexual violence. These suggestions were largely incorporated. In addition, the statutory limitation on initiating legal proceedings in relation to rape and grave sexual violence was removed.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Denmark	4,093,390	VFTC
Finland	2,439,024	VFTC
India	100,000	VFTC
The Philippines	40,000	VFTC
Republic of Korea	700,000	VFTC
Thailand	100,000	VFTC
United States of America	1,150,000	VFTC
(a) Total contributions earmarked to VFTC	**8,622,415**	
Australia	493,003	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Human Rights Advisers)
Austria	54,054	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Belgium	274,123	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
France	108,932	Chad
	54,466	Haiti
	544,662	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Germany	55,928	Bangladesh
	106,952	Georgia
	1,069,684	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
Indonesia	30,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Ireland	172,786	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
	108,932	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Luxembourg	778,660	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	272,331	Rwanda
The Netherlands	1,100,605	Burkina Faso
	1,000,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	90,043	The Philippines
	63,643	Rwanda (implementation of CEDAW recommendation)
Norway	440,249	The Philippines
Open Society Foundations	100,000	Bangladesh
Portugal	31,480	Guinea-Bissau
	52,466	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	26,233	Timor-Leste
Saudi Arabia	310,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Spain	174,886	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	104,932	Technical cooperation in Small Island Developing States
Sweden	320,161	Bangladesh

Switzerland	1,481,111	Burkina Faso
	850,340	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
	1,376,942	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	200,000	Rwanda
The Asia Foundation	90,843	Bangladesh
Türkiye	150,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
UN Resident Coordinator Office	302,308	Myanmar
UN Women	52,727	Kenya (increasing the role of women leaders)
	303,538	Kenya (strengthening access to justice for gender-based violence survivors)
UNDP	3,619,017	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
	150,000	Kenya (promoting peace)
	100,000	Tanzania
UNICEF	100,000	Montenegro
	1,080,409	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
United Kingdom	31,807	Bangladesh
	130,039	Barbados
	133,480	Malawi
	19,255	Niger
	101,781	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
United States of America	1,064,255	Bangladesh
	709,450	Equatorial Guinea
	1,000,000	Mexico
Ville de Genève	17,321	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
(b) Total contributions earmarked to specific projects	**21,003,835**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	738,397	Unearmarked
(c) Total unearmarked funds	**738,397**	
Total (a) + (b) + (c)	**30,364,647**	
Expenditure	**30,517,323**	

* 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 2024, the Trust Fund received US$944,622 in voluntary contributions. For more information, see pages 248-249 of the online report.

UN TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Sweden	944,622
Total	**944,622**
Expenditure	**2,035,788**

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



In November, a panel discussion on press freedom and challenges in Cambodia took place as part of a joint OHCHR-UNESCO initiative to promote freedom of the press and the safety of journalists. © OHCHR/Hammad Ahmad

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review 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. It also ensures sponsorship for delegates to participate during the sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review when their country is under consideration, as well as the HRC plenary session that adopts the outcome of their country's review. Fund-supported participation enables States to contribute to a universal and interactive dialogue with recommendations that are constructive, specific, action-oriented and implementable. Facilitating the participation of LDCs and SIDS delegates increases awareness about the need for coordinated implementation efforts at the national level.

The Voluntary Fund supports information briefings prior to the Working Group sessions to assist countries with the preparatory process. During the briefings, the UPR's policies, procedures and modalities are examined. Further, 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 take place during the sessions of the Working Group and the HRC.

Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has received contributions from 23 Member States totalling US$4.3 million and provided travel assistance to delegates from 119 Member States. In 2024, the Fund facilitated the travel to Geneva of delegates from 14 Member States (Afghanistan, Belize, Bhutan, the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Mauritius, Senegal and Vanuatu) in order to attend the proceedings of three UPR Working Group sessions.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Albania	5,313
China	45,000
France	5,447
Iceland	36,080
Saudi Arabia	59,866
Total	**151,706**
Expenditure	**163,682**



His Excellency, Mr. Julius Rufin Ngouade-Baba, Head of Human Rights in the Ministry of Justice of the Central African Republic, participated in the forty-fifth UPR session, with the support of the Voluntary Fund. © OHCHR



Mr. Ibrahim Abdu, Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea participated during the forty-sixth UPR session, with the support of the Voluntary Fund. © OHCHR

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

The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established in 2007, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. It was later strengthened by resolution 16/21 in 2011. The Fund provides financial and technical assistance to help countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS, to implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, with their consent and in consultation with them.

Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has received contributions from 26 countries, totalling US$8.57 million. To date, it has supported projects in 93 countries in all regions of the world. Technical assistance has focused on five priority areas, namely: implementing key recommendations issued by the UPR; strengthening the institutional capacities of governments to ensure comprehensive follow-up and reporting on progress, including by providing assistance to NMIRFs; enhancing the role of parliaments; and enabling the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to support national efforts to integrate UPR recommendations into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and the SDGs. Policy guidance on the operationalization of the Voluntary Fund is provided by the Board of Trustees, which is composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the VFTC.

Throughout the year, the Voluntary Fund provided vital technical support to 18 Member States (Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Lesotho, Peru, Rwanda, South Sudan, Suriname and the United Republic of Tanzania) to support their implementation of UPR recommendations.

In 2024, the Voluntary Fund received a total of US$434,605 in contributions from 10 Member States. Requests received for support in 2025 amounted to US$1,200,000, three times more than the voluntary contributions received.

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

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Canada	37,092
China	30,000
France	5,447
Iceland	36,080
India	150,000
Kazakhstan	15,000
The Philippines	40,000
Saudi Arabia	90,000
Singapore	10,000
Spain	20,986
Total	**434,605**
Expenditure	**318,609**



NMIRF members attend a capacity-building session on human rights protection mechanisms and results indicators, in Gabon, delivered by OHCHR, in November. © OHCHR



Government officials attend a seminar on human rights, in March, held as part of a joint workplan on human rights activities implemented by OHCHR and the Department of Treaty and Law in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR. © OHCHR



Delegates from LDCs and SIDS participated in the fifty-sixth regular session of the Human Rights Council, with the support of the Trust Fund. © OHCHR

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 Trust Fund became operational in 2014. Its objective is to enhance the institutional and human rights capacities of LDCs and SIDS through tailored training courses and travel assistance for delegates who attend regular sessions of the HRC and participate in the Fellowship Programmes. The Trust Fund also provides training sessions for government officials, in accordance with the HRC mandate outlined in resolution 19/26. Regular updates on HRC discussions are shared with the former and current delegates of the Trust Fund.

In 2024, the Trust Fund facilitated the participation of 43 government officials (23 women) in the HRC's regular sessions, namely, the fifty-fifth (26 February to 5 April), fifty-sixth (18 June to 12 July) and fifty-seventh (9 September to 11 October) sessions. All 43 delegates received the necessary support for their participation through the Trust Fund's delegates programme. Of these government officials, 21 were from Africa, 13 were from Asia and the Pacific and nine were from the Caribbean and Latin America. Six representatives were from States without a permanent representation in Geneva and 14 were from States that were members of the Council at the time.

From 3 to 5 December, the Trust Fund also organized a regional workshop for government officials and former delegates in Asia, in Malé, Maldives, providing a platform to reflect on the Trust Fund's impact and assessing its role in supporting the engagement of LDCs and SIDS with the Council. This was the first in a series of workshops that were organized in accordance with HRC resolution 49/32.

In 2024, the Trust Fund received US$896,359 in voluntary contributions, compared to US$302,757 in 2023. A total of 25 countries contributed to the Trust Fund.

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

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Australia	31,807
Azerbaijan	15,500
Bahamas	1,133
China	100,000
Cyprus	22,676
Estonia	10,493
France	10,893
Georgia	7,000
India	100,000
Ireland	53,996
Italy	15,740
Kuwait	20,000
Luxembourg	21,097
Mauritius	5,000
Morocco	30,000
The Netherlands	45,000
The Philippines	40,000
Poland	49,689
Portugal	62,959
Republic of Korea	150,000
Singapore	5,000
Spain	20,986
Türkiye	10,000
United Arab Emirates	25,000
United Kingdom	42,391
Total	**896,359**
Expenditure	**1,218,706**

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.

More specifically, the Voluntary Fund provides grants to the representatives of Indigenous Peoples to facilitate their participation in the sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the human rights treaty bodies and the HRC, including its UPR. Following the 2019 expansion of the Voluntary Fund's mandate, it also facilitates the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Forum on Business and Human Rights (FBHR) and meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 2024, the mandate of the Voluntary Fund was expanded to support the participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples in meetings related to the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

In addition, the Voluntary 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. During the year, the Voluntary Fund delivered 15 online trainings and two in-person trainings, in four official UN languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) and in Portuguese, as part of preparatory trainings for grantees. Over 2,000 individuals benefited from the trainings, which were also opened to interested individuals.

In 2024, the Voluntary Fund supported the participation of 188 Indigenous representatives (100 women, six LGBTQI+ persons and one person with disabilities) in 20 UN meetings and processes that were specific or relevant to Indigenous issues. Moreover, the Voluntary 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.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Australia	31,807
Finland	64,378
Mexico	8,619
Norway	94,949
Peru	5,033
The Philippines	40,000
United States of America	250,000
Total	**494,785**
Expenditure	**960,109**

In 2024, the Voluntary Fund received a total of US$494,785 in voluntary contributions, compared to US$353,313 in 2023. The total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US$960,109 in 2024, compared to US$1,081,926 in 2023.

Participant story: **Liudmyla Korotkykh**

In July and October, through support from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, Liudmyla Korotkykh, a member of the Crimean Tatar Youth Centre, in Ukraine, participated in the First and Second Intersessional Meetings of the Human Rights Council. The Meetings, held in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council. The support of the Voluntary Fund also enabled Liudmyla to attend a two-day preparatory session. This session provided Indigenous attendees from different regions with an opportunity to exchange perspectives and coordinate positions on key issues, leading to more effective participation in the Intersessional Meetings.

During the Intersessional Meetings, Liudmyla delivered seven statements on topics related to improving the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council, including accreditation principles and criteria, accreditation mechanisms, participation modalities and preventing and addressing reprisals. Her involvement in these processes was supported and coordinated by the Representative Assembly of the Indigenous Crimean Tatar People, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People.

Liudmyla's participation also contributed to her postgraduate research, which is focused on the theme "Participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes and protection of their rights."



© Liudmyla Korotkykh

THE INDIGENOUS AND MINORITIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AND SENIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes are OHCHR's flagship training and capacity-building initiatives, which were established in 1997 and in 2000, respectively. From 17 June to 12 July 2024, 48 Indigenous representatives (26 women) from 33 countries participated in the Indigenous Fellowship Programme. From 30 October to 30 November, 29 minority representatives (16 women) from 26 countries participated in the Minorities Fellowship Programme.

During the year, OHCHR also recruited 17 former Indigenous and Minority Fellows, including former Fellows of the Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent. The Senior Fellows were offered on-the-job training opportunities at OHCHR headquarters and regional and country offices, including in several UNCTs, for periods of six months to two years.

Fellow story: **Sadie Heckenberg**

Associate Professor Sadie Heckenberg is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Aboriginal Leadership, Academic Director (Aboriginal Engagement) and Director of the Indigenous Research Institute at the University of Tasmania. As a member of the Wiradjuri Nation from Australia, Heckenberg participated in the English-speaking component of the 2024 Indigenous Fellowship Programme. She is also the President of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium and sits on the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium Board of Accreditation and the Australian Research Council's College of Experts.

Following her participation in the Fellowship Programme, Sadie delivered training and information sessions on the EMRIP and the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Mechanism. To raise awareness about the EMRIP and its work, she developed a UN Indigenous participation resource kit for her organization, hosted a UNESCO Chair Lecture and created a scholarship to enable Australian Indigenous law students to attend EMRIP sessions.

"I was incredibly honoured to visit and learn from UN agencies and to be elected by my peers to co-Chair the Indigenous Caucus of the EMRIP," Heckenberg said. "The Fellowship was the most rewarding and challenging experience of my life. The Fellowship taught me how to navigate and negotiate with the United Nations and its bodies." Sadie stated that she left with a deeper understanding of how to effect change and give her community, and their experiences, a voice on the international stage and within the international human rights mechanisms.



© Sadie Heckenberg

Fellow story: **Azad Mustaffa**

Azad Mustaffa, a human rights lawyer and representative of the Muslim religious and ethnic minority from Sri Lanka, participated in the 2024 cohort of the OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme. "My involvement in the Programme served as a transformative experience, equipping me with essential knowledge and tools to champion human rights in my community," he said.

Following his completion of the Fellowship, Azad organized a two-day training programme for Muslim youth in the Puttalam district of Sri Lanka's North Western Province. The district is home to communities that were forcibly displaced from the Northern Province and have continued to face significant challenges. The training focused on critical human rights themes, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the four pillars of minority rights protection, international and national human rights complaints mechanisms, the role of youth in promoting and protecting human rights and the functions of the human rights treaty bodies. Using interactive and engaging teaching methods, Azad empowered participants to better understand their rights and their role in advocating for justice and equality.

Building on this impactful initiative, Azad collaborated with the Eastern Social Development Foundation (ESDF) to launch the "Minority Professional Hub" (MPH). This think tank is dedicated to promoting and protecting minority rights in Sri Lanka. The MPH is a diverse network of professionals, including medical doctors, engineers, lawyers, university professors, teachers, journalists, cartoonists, storytellers, graphic designers and IT specialists. Remarkably, 22 of Sri Lanka's 25 districts are represented in the MPH, ensuring a broad and inclusive approach to addressing minority issues.

As part of his leadership role in the Hub, Azad developed a needs assessment tool to identify the priorities and requirements of its members. He also conducted a two-day introductory training, covering topics such as minority rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the role of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the benefits of engaging with the Forum on Minority Issues and other international human rights mechanisms.



© Azad Mustaffa

Azad is working closely with ESDF to draft guidelines and terms of reference for the Minority Professional Hub to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness as a platform for advocacy and action. His dedication and initiatives exemplify the far-reaching impact of the OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme and capacity to foster local leadership and advance minority rights globally.

THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The UN Human Rights Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent is a human rights training programme. It is implemented within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent to empower HRDs of African descent from the diaspora, including young female activists, by strengthening their capacities to combat racism and advance the human rights of their communities. The Programme has been instrumental in building the capacities of young activists and leaders of African descent, especially women, to engage with the UN system, including the international human rights framework.

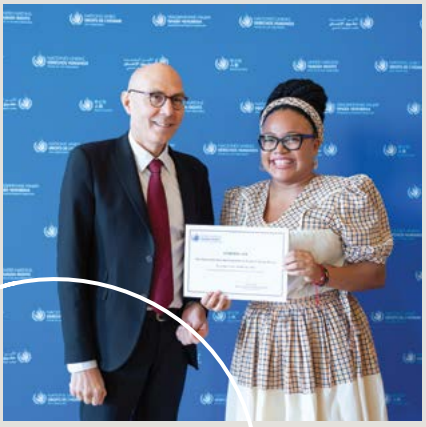
From 11 to 29 November, a group of 10 Fellows of African descent (seven women) from 10 countries (Austria, the Bahamas, Brazil, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) participated in the Fellowship Programme. Since its establishment in 2011, 160 Fellows of African descent from 50 countries have participated in the Programme.

Jeniffer's journey: A milestone recognition for Garifuna women of African descent

In 2024, Jeniffer Eunice Vera, 27 years of age and from Guatemala, participated in the UN Human Rights Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent, in Geneva, Switzerland. She is the first Garifuna woman of African descent who benefited from the three-week training, which was implemented within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and was chosen from more than 700 candidates of African descent living in the diaspora.

"It was an incredible experience. I am the first Afro-descendant Fellow from Guatemala in this Programme, which is very important, not only for me, but for the whole nation. That truly is a recognition of the fact that we do exist."

"With the knowledge and experience I gained, I can support and mentor other people from my community to use the UN mechanisms to advance our rights. The Fellowship Programme really gives us a route to enhance and organize every aspect of our struggles. Now I am an ambassador for human rights in Guatemala and I will continue the work of my ancestors, building on their legacy. Wabaruagoun" (Let's move forward in the Garifuna language).



Jeniffer Eunice Vera with the High Commissioner for Human Rights during the closing ceremony of the 2024 Fellowship Programme. © OHCHR/ Irina Popa

Former OHCHR Fellows have made significant contributions to the advancement of racial justice and equality for people of African descent in their respective countries. In addition, they have proven to be valuable resource persons for the work of UN Human Rights and the international human rights mechanisms that focus on combating racial discrimination.

The 160 Fellows who participated in the Programme are part of an extensive network of former Fellows who are equipped with the necessary tools to effectively carry out their work. Their roles will continue to be critical to supporting UN Human Rights in its efforts to implement the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025-2034), which aims to achieve "recognition, justice and development" for people of African descent around the world.

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 Special Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three forums. In 2024, the Special Fund did not receive any financial support.

The seventeenth session of the **Forum on Minority Issues** took place from 28 to 29 November under the theme "Minority representation and self-representation in public spaces and discourses." Approximately 790 participants from 96 countries registered for the session, including representatives of Member States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, regional mechanisms and organizations in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other national bodies, academics and experts on minority issues, as well as representatives of minorities and NGOs.

From 25 to 27 November, the thirteenth **Forum on Business and Human Rights** was held under the theme "Realizing the 'Smart mix of measures' to protect human rights in the context of business activities." Nearly 3,000 individuals attended in person and more than 1,000 individuals from 156 countries were registered to participate online. The attendees represented a broad range of stakeholders from civil society (workers, Indigenous Peoples and academics) (46 per cent), the private sector (34 per cent) and Member States (seven per cent). The Forum's agenda included 211 speakers in 25 sessions. The Forum is the largest annual gathering dedicated to business and human rights. It 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), which underpin the authoritative global framework for States and businesses to prevent, address and remedy human rights abuses committed in the course of business activities.

Each year, the Human Rights Council convenes the **Social Forum**. The 2024 Forum took place from 31 October to 1 November under the theme "The contribution of financing for development to the advancement of all human rights for all." The latest session featured 42 speakers and a total of 669 participants from 99 countries registered, including representatives from 407 CSOs. Individuals under the age of 30 accounted for 29 per cent of all participants.

United Nations **Humanitarian Funds**

UN Human Rights provides joint secretariat support for two grant-making funds, namely, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the United Nations 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 annual 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 2024, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received a total of US$1,362,096 in contributions, compared to US$1,229,947 in 2023. In 2024, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture received a total of US$11,402,749 in contributions, compared to US$10,543,906 in 2023.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established by General Assembly resolution 46/122 in 1991, with a mandate 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, 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, are brought to light on a regular basis.

UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Andorra	10,953
Australia	120,865
Germany	858,714
Luxembourg	16,234
The Philippines	40,000
Portugal	10,493
Saudi Arabia	85,000
Spain	10,493
United Kingdom	209,344
Total	**1,362,096**
Expenditure	**1,284,889**

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded 45 annual direct assistance grants in 34 countries, covering all five of the world's regions, thereby assisting approximately 10,800 individuals in 2024. Similarly, during the twenty-ninth session, in November, the Board recommended 45 annual grants for CSOs in 2025, in 35 countries, to assist an estimated 10,500 slavery survivors.

For the first time, on 22 November, the Trust Fund hosted an on-site project visit to enable funding partners to witness the impacts of their support. The visit, organized by OHCHR, was held at the Open Gate/La Strada premises and shelter for victims of human trafficking, in Skopje, North Macedonia. The Board of Trustee members from Australia, Germany, Greece, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America engaged with stakeholders and learned how the

Supporting survivors in North Macedonia

In 2024, Morena,* a 19-year-old survivor of sex trafficking, began living independently after nearly four years in the only shelter for trafficked victims in North Macedonia. The shelter, which has on-site social workers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is operated by Open Gate/La Strada and is a grantee of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Forced to beg at the age of five and later sex trafficked, she found the courage to report her captor to authorities. Her journey to healing started when she was placed in a shelter that has become a beacon of hope for girls like her. She is now married and back in school, hoping to become a chef. The shelter accommodates six women/girls and may take in several more during emergencies. Part of La Strada International, a network of 33 advocacy groups across 27 countries, the organization offers survivors a 24-hour hotline, legal, psychosocial and medical support, hygiene products, food, clothing and help with social reintegration. It also conducts empowerment workshops covering topics such as CV writing and preparation for job interviews. In the first half of 2024, following Open Gate's efforts, three beneficiaries gained formal employment with labour protections and four beneficiaries gained practical work experience at the Open Gate/La Strada office. The workshops provide residents with a platform to professionally engage with experts in the field of social protection in North Macedonia.



Jasmina Rajkovska, Executive Director and co-founder of Open Gate/La Strada, North Macedonia. © OHCHR/Vincent Tremeau

*Their names have been changed to protect their identities.

hotline, shelter, medical, psychological and legal support and vocational training facilitate their recovery and reintegration into society. The visit was preceded by a roundtable discussion with national stakeholders to raise awareness and promote cooperation and action to combat human trafficking, in accordance with the UN Human Rights country strategy.

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 Voluntary Fund awards annual and emergency grants to CSOs, supporting rehabilitation centres and strengthening survivor-led and grassroots organizations and legal aid programmes.

In 2024, the Voluntary Fund awarded 183 annual direct assistance grants, seven capacity-building grants and eight emergency grants in 93 countries in the world's five regions, thereby assisting approximately 48,800 survivors of torture and members of their families. During its sixtieth session, in October, the Voluntary Fund's Board of Trustees recommended 182 annual direct assistance grants and five capacity-building grants for CSOs in 2025, in 93 countries, to assist an estimated 56,000 survivors of torture.

In March, the Board of Trustees held a thematic workshop on mental health services for victims of torture. Project stakeholders and international partners gathered from Colombia, Denmark, France, Georgia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda and the United States of America. The participants discussed challenges and exchanged good practices related to four aspects of rehabilitation services, such as guaranteeing the meaningful participation of beneficiaries, tailoring services for individual and contextual diversity, assessing their impact and caring for caregivers. The workshop outcomes were shared with partners, including representatives of 14 Member States, during a dialogue marking the fortieth anniversary of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Andorra	10,953
Austria	329,730
Canada	44,215
Denmark	741,778
France	54,466
Germany	167,785
India	50,000
Ireland	269,978
Italy	7,870
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	59,032
Luxembourg	16,234
Mexico	10,000
Montenegro	3,148
Norway	189,897
Peru	1,862
Portugal	10,493
Saudi Arabia	65,000
Switzerland	330,000
United Arab Emirates	30,000
United States of America	9,000,000
Private donors	307
Total	**11,402,749**
Expenditure	**10,296,640**

The impact of the United Nations **Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 2024**

The work of the Voluntary Fund is decisive in helping thousands of individuals and their families to recover from torture by facilitating their access to comprehensive services and to justice through legal assistance. In particular, strategic litigation projects enable victims of torture to access redress, while potentially preventing torture and protecting the broader community through legal precedents. For instance, in 2024, the Court of Appeal of Paris convicted and sentenced a Liberian rebel commander to 30 years in prison for crimes committed, including torture and subjecting two men to forced labour. The high-profile legal case was carried out with the support of a project implemented by Civitas Maxima, a grantee of the Voluntary Fund. The organization and its partner, the Global Justice and Research Project, have provided critical resources for Liberian victims of torture and other gross human rights violations and have assisted them in pursuing accountability for war crimes in courts outside of Liberia when they have been unable to access justice locally. The Civitas Maxima model is founded on empowering victims to seek justice in national and other courts and leverage judicial decisions handed down in other jurisdictions. The crucial support of Civitas Maxima includes documenting atrocities, holding perpetrators accountable, building the capacities of local partners and advocating for justice.

SPECIAL FUND OF 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 OPCAT, is a unique mechanism that was created to help prevent torture and is the only operational fund that was set up in accordance with an international human rights treaty. Its support for the creation of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), which is a core obligation under OPCAT, has been crucial to the prevention of torture at the national level. The Special Fund 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), following a visit to a State Party, and supports the development and implementation of training programmes for NPMs.

In 2024, the Special Fund awarded a total of 11 grants to projects aimed at implementing recommendations issued by SPT, with an emphasis on establishing or strengthening NPMs. The grants were also used to support training programmes for NPMs in 10 eligible States, namely, Argentina, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Liberia, Mongolia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo, for a total of US$285,683.

OPCAT SPECIAL FUND

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Czech Republic	17,422
Denmark	141,483
Germany	429,779
Total	**588,684**
Expenditure	**285,683**

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 Fund's inception, the capacity of UN Human Rights to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring rapid response has increased significantly.

In 2024, OHCHR implemented 16 emergency deployments in response to human rights and humanitarian crises and to support investigative bodies covering eight different countries or regions. In total, 43 staff members (16 women) were deployed.

Due to the escalation in hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)[4] and Israel, nine staff members were seconded to provide temporary surge support to the OHCHR Office in oPt, the OHCHR Contingency oPt Task Force and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

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 a team to Armenia to collect information about their situation and inform the short- and mid-term response by the UN. The 2024 deployment followed a similar response that was undertaken by the Office in 2023.

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

A team of human rights officers was also deployed to Senegal during the year to monitor the human rights situation during elections.

At the invitation of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, OHCHR deployed an independent fact-finding team to investigate alleged human rights violations and abuses that occurred between 1 July and 15 August in the context of anti-government protests and their immediate aftermath. A total of 13 OHCHR staff members and seven externally recruited experts were part of the fact-finding team and were based in Geneva or deployed to Bangladesh.

In 2024, the Fund received a total of US$124,224 in pledges and contributions. As of 31 December, the remaining balance of the Fund was US$412,320, well below the reserve target of US$1 million and negatively impacting on OHCHR's capacity to implement rapid response deployments.

CONTINGENCY FUND

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2024

Donor	US$
Poland	124,224
Total	**124,224**
Expenditure	**401,927**

FINANCIAL REPORTS
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2024 (IN US$)

This summary financial report indicates total funds available for activities in 2024, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during the period and total funds balance at the end of the fiscal year 2024.

	EXTRABUDGETARY	REGULAR BUDGET	TOTAL
SUMMARY			
Opening balance[a]	186,458,058	n/a	186,458,058
Adjustment[b]	(1,018,370)	n/a	(1,018,370)
Income from contributions/allotments[c]	269,444,668	169,525,300	438,969,968
Other income[d]	5,524,768	n/a	5,524,768
Total funds available	**460,409,124**	**169,525,300**	**629,934,424**
Expenditure[e]	279,287,772	170,804,079	450,091,851
Closing balance[f]	**181,121,352**	**(1,278,779)**	**179,842,573**

Notes:
a Corresponds to the final fiscal year 2023 closing balance, as reported in the UN Human Rights Annual Report 2023.
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 2024; excludes future donor pledges and commitments. Regular Budget corresponds to the amount allotted to OHCHR for 2024.
d Gain/(Loss) on exchange from contributions received, and interest income.
e Includes disbursements and commitments for fiscal year 2024; 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 2024.

The above summary financial report of income and expenditure in 2024 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 2024.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT OF EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2024 (TRUST FUNDS, IN US$)

This summary financial report indicates total funds available for activities in 2024, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during the period and total funds balance at the end of the fiscal year 2024.

SUMMARY	CHA VF for Victims of Torture	SHA VTF on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	IHA VF for Indigenous Peoples	VPU VF for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review	UPR VF for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review	VTA TF to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Work of the Human Rights Council	AHA VF for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights	CIA TF for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia	HCA TF for the Support of the Activities of OHCHR	TOTAL Total OHCHR Trust Funds
Opening balance[a]	12,664,867	1,515,396	1,184,723	737,006	1,355,240	1,308,643	24,972,181	1,354,369	141,365,633	186,458,058
Fund balance	*12,664,867*	*1,515,396*	*1,184,723*	*737,006*	*1,355,240*	*1,308,643*	*24,971,181*	*1,354,369*	*140,863,098*	*185,954,523*
Unpaid pledges past period	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1,000*	*0*	*502,535*	*503,535*
Adjustment[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0	(46,643)	0	(970,727)	(1,017,370)
and write-off (unpaid pledges)[b]	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,000)	0	0	(1,000)
Income from contributions[c]	11,402,749	1,362,096	494,785	151,706	434,605	896,359	30,364,647	944,622	223,393,099	269,444,668
Paid contributions 2024	*11,402,749*	*1,339,370*	*486,166*	*151,706*	*434,605*	*896,359*	*30,084,608*	*944,622*	*212,336,819*	*258,077,004*
Unpaid pledges 2024	*0*	*22,726*	*8,619*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*280,039*	*0*	*11,056,280*	*11,367,664*
Other income available[d]	276,245	29,333	36,605	34,530	92,773	49,166	924,456	(95,861)	4,177,521	5,524,768
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	*(20,630)*	*(11,014)*	*(7,479)*	*544*	*(433)*	*2,295*	*(318,584)*	*(171,740)*	*(1,827,999)*	*(2,355,040)*
Interest income	*296,875*	*40,347*	*44,084*	*33,986*	*93,206*	*46,871*	*1,243,040*	*75,879*	*6,005,520*	*7,879,808*
Total funds available[e]	**24,343,861**	**2,906,825**	**1,716,113**	**923,242**	**1,882,618**	**2,254,168**	**56,213,641**	**2,203,130**	**367,965,526**	**460,409,124**
Expenditure[f]	10,296,640	1,284,889	960,109	163,682	318,609	1,218,706	30,517,323	2,035,788	232,492,026	279,287,772
Closing balance[g]	**14,047,221**	**1,621,936**	**756,005**	**759,560**	**1,564,008**	**1,035,462**	**25,696,318**	**167,342**	**135,473,500**	**181,121,352**

a Corresponds to the final fiscal year 2023 closing balance, as reported in the UN Human Rights Annual Report 2023 (with rounding adjustments).

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 2024; 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 2024; excludes future commitments and liabilities.

g Corresponds to all funds held in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts at the end of the fiscal year 2024.

The summary financial report of extrabudgetary income and expenditure in 2024 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 2024

(Summary by programme, in US$)

	ALLOTMENT	EXPENDITURE
HEADQUARTERS		
Executive Direction and Management	11,986,616	10,411,568
Policymaking Organs	9,128,979	9,088,586
Programme of Work		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	24,454,113	24,404,513
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	18,458,870	19,578,988
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation[a]	53,096,346	53,519,639
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		
- Human Rights Council and the UPR	10,703,023	12,310,087
- Special Procedures	17,572,508	17,524,826
Total programme of work: Headquarters	**124,284,860**	**127,338,053**
Programme Support and Management Services	5,960,501	5,841,635
Subtotal: Headquarters operating resources	**151,360,956**	**152,679,842**
FIELD PRESENCES		
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities[b]		
- Africa	4,380,485	4,381,572
- Americas	2,044,749	2,044,449
- Asia and the Pacific	3,174,093	3,171,638
- Europe and Central Asia	1,817,457	1,816,949
- Middle East and North Africa	4,127,060	4,126,126
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Sec. 23)	2,620,500	2,583,503
Subtotal: Field presences operating resources	**18,164,344**	**18,124,237**
Grand total	**169,525,300**	**170,804,079**

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 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.

Remark: The total initial budget appropriation amount approved for 2024 was US$195,418,100. Due to the liquidity crisis, only US$ 169,525,300 could be allotted to OHCHR programmes for 2024, equivalent to a budget reduction of 13 per cent (US$ 25,892,800).

EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2024

(Summary by programme, in US$)

	REQUIREMENTS	EXPENDITURE
HEADQUARTERS		
Executive Direction and Management	33,571,968	28,749,630
Programme of Work		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	32,510,750	28,483,307
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	4,322,752	3,694,098
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation	26,607,831	21,731,174
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		
- Human Rights Council and the UPR	5,607,333	4,659,708
- Special Procedures	11,739,503	10,302,656
Total programme of work: Headquarters	**80,788,169**	**68,870,943**
Programme Support and Management Services	11,863,516	10,260,714
Subtotal: Headquarters operating resources	**126,223,653**	**107,881,287**
FIELD PRESENCES		
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities		
- Africa	78,881,625	59,531,348
- Americas	48,386,969	36,568,099
- Asia and the Pacific	18,334,835	14,758,761
- Europe and Central Asia	22,508,721	18,726,137
- Middle East and North Africa	31,681,477	23,102,229
Contingency Fund - Emergency Response Projects	714,795	401,927
Subtotal: Field presences operating resources	**200,508,422**	**153,088,501**

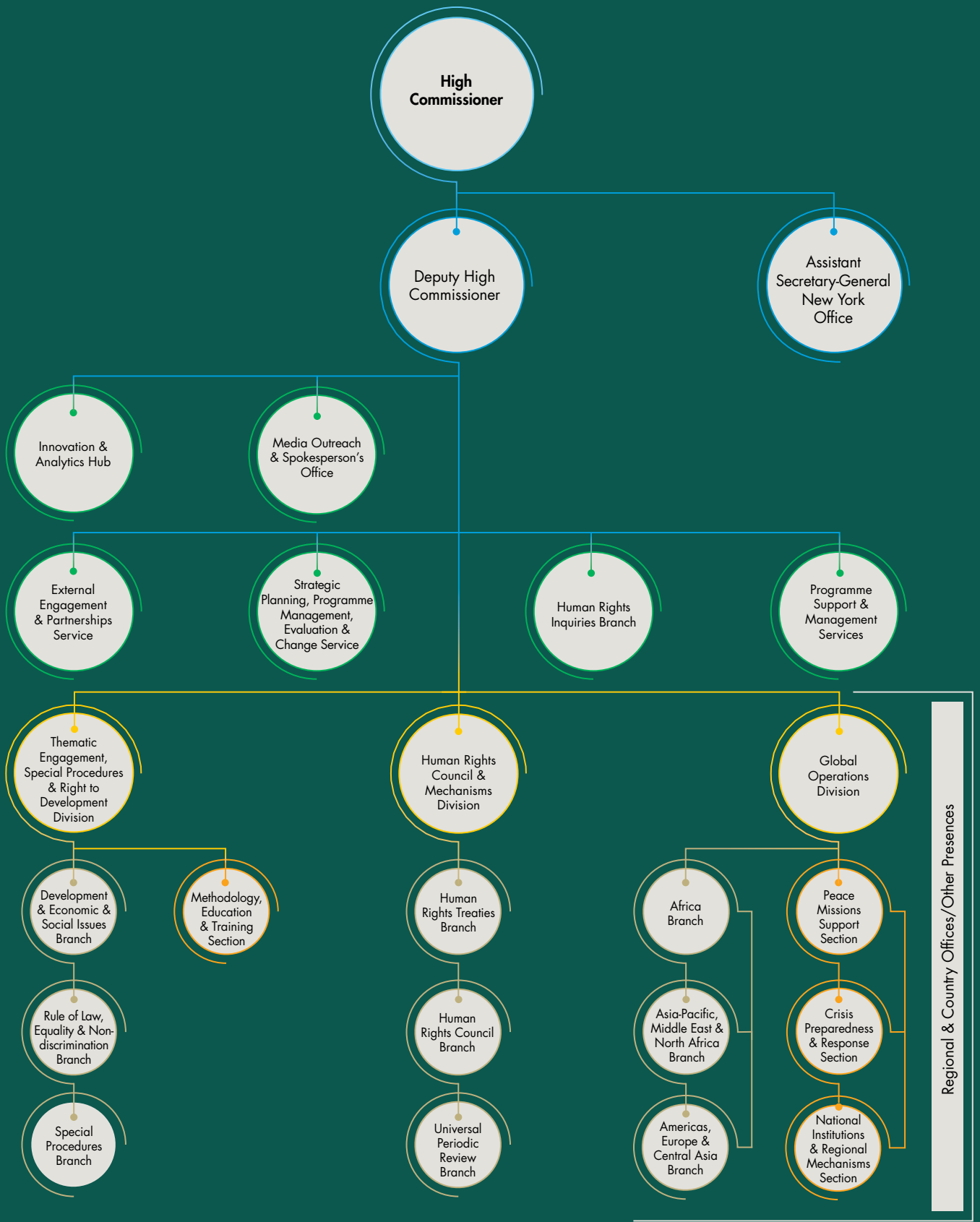
	REQUIREMENTS	EXPENDITURE
CROSS ENTITIES GLOBAL PROJECTS		
Cross Entities Global Projects (not reported above)[a]	4,444,557	4,311,854
Total: Headquarters and field presences	**331,176,632**	**265,281,642**
OTHER TRUST FUNDS		
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	11,054,929	10,296,640
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	1,035,210	960,109
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,315,430	1,284,889
Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review	519,800	318,609
Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review	213,234	163,682
Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council	1,242,297	1,218,706
Total: Other trust funds	**15,380,900**	**14,242,635**
Other expenditure and adjustments not reported above	-	(236,505)
Grand total	**346,557,532**	**279,287,772**

a Includes Human Rights Up Front Programme; support to digital transformation of UN Human Rights; OHCHR's Task Forces on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Prevention.

ANNEXES

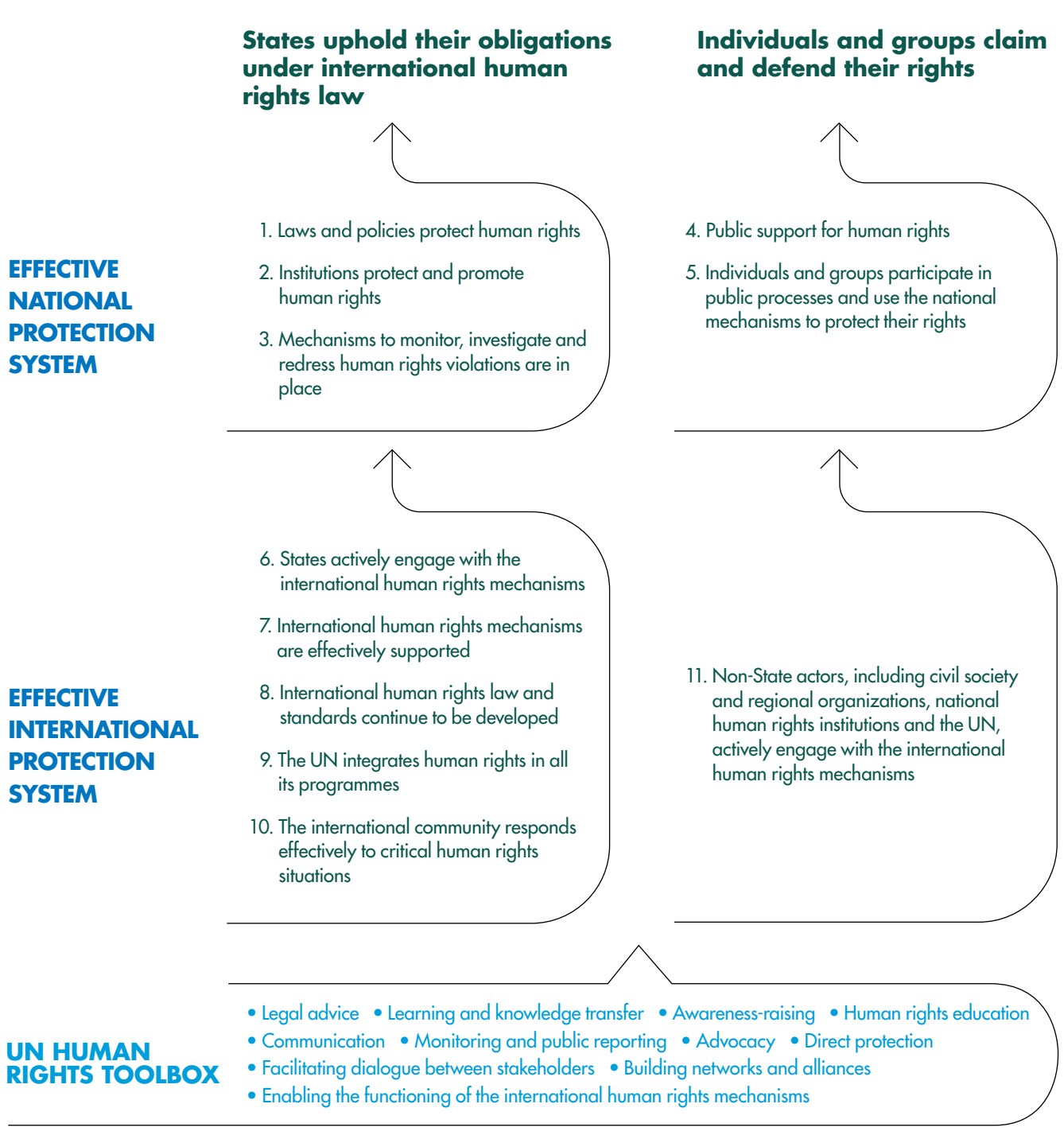
James Heenan, Head of the OHCHR field-based structure on the DPRK based in Seoul, Republic of Korea, meets with former Korean prisoners of war at an event for Korean war abductees and victims that was held at the War Memorial of Korea, in June. © OHCHR

UN HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZATION CHART



UN HUMAN RIGHTS THEORY OF CHANGE

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.



PROGRESS IN 2024 TOWARDS OMP TARGETS FOR 2027

RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTED TO	WHAT WE EXPECT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BY 2027 IN COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERS	REPORTED PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT[a]
Legislation, policies and programmes comply with international human rights standards.	In 66 countries,*[b] laws and policies have better protected the human rights of individuals and groups.	2024: 22
Institutions support the implementation of human rights standards and are adequately resourced.	In 21 countries,* national human rights institutions (NHRIs) have more effectively promoted and protected the human rights of the population.	2024: 7
	In 43 countries,* State or private sector institutions have undertaken measures to promote and protect the human rights of individuals and groups.	2024: 17
	In 20 countries,* human rights education or training programmes have been institutionalized.	2024: 4
Protection systems and accountability mechanisms effectively monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations.	In 46 countries,* human rights oversight and protection mechanisms, or transitional justice mechanisms, have been established or are functioning effectively.	2024: 15
Increased public support for human rights.	In 25 countries,* public support for human rights has improved.	2024: 8
Individuals and groups participate in public processes meaningfully, safely and in an inclusive manner.	In 22 countries,* individuals and groups have increased their use of a national protection system to protect their rights.	2024: 7
	In 57 countries,* selected groups have increased their participation in public processes.	2024: 20
Member States and other actors, including regional organizations, NHRIs, civil society and UN entities, actively and constructively engage with the international human rights mechanisms.	In 31 countries,* National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms have been established or strengthened.	2024: 10
	75 additional international human rights treaties have been ratified.	2024: 21
	5 reservations have been withdrawn by States Parties from international human rights treaties.	2024: 0
	75 per cent of due State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies have been submitted.	2024: 18%

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

b The use of * after 'Countries' 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.

RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTED TO	WHAT WE EXPECT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BY 2027 IN COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERS	REPORTED PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT[a]
	60 per cent of State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies that were overdue at the beginning of 2023 have been submitted.	2024: 5.3%
	80 per cent of recommendations made by other States in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) have been supported by States under review.	2024: 79%
	50 countries* include Members of Parliament in their delegations for participation in the UPR by the end of the fourth cycle.	2024: 13
	80 countries* have submitted mid-term national reports for the UPR review.	2024: 2 new submissions in 2024, bringing the total to 49
	130 countries* have issued a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders.	2024: No new standing invitations in 2024. The total remains at 128.
	5 countries* that did not receive a visit of a special procedures mandate holder in the last five years have accepted a visit.	2024: 7
	80 country visits have been undertaken on an annual basis by special procedures mandate holders.	2024: 57
	43 per cent of communications submitted by special procedures mandate holders have received a response from governments.	2024: 47%
	In 53 countries,* the number of submissions to the international human rights mechanisms has increased significantly.	2024: 17
	27,000 substantive submissions to the international human rights mechanisms have been received from NHRIs, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals.	2024: 1,416
	10 joint initiatives of different international human rights mechanisms have been issued.	2024: 10 joint statements by special procedures and treaty bodies issued.
International human rights mechanisms operate with a high degree of coordination.	4 new landmark conclusions have been reached by the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies (TBs) on the harmonization of their work.	The Chairs of TBs concluded: a) the simplified reporting procedure will become the default procedure, with the possibility for States Parties to opt out for all committees with a periodic reporting cycle for both initial and periodic reports; b) the list of issues prior to reporting will be the default and the list of issues and themes will be discontinued; c) the submission deadlines, postponement rules and reviews in the absence of reports and other procedures in constructive dialogues will be standardized; and d) an advisory mechanism will be created to ensure the alignment of procedures, the sharing of good practices and substantive coordination.

RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTED TO	WHAT WE EXPECT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BY 2027 IN COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERS	REPORTED PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT[a]
	The number of joint press releases, statements and contributions by special procedures mandate holders has increased.	2024: Two joint contributions by the special procedures to the Summit for the Future and its implementation. Increase in press releases compared to 2023.
The international community and the international human rights system respond to human rights challenges in an agile manner.	In 25 countries,* UN Human Rights initiatives, systems and procedures have led to cases of human rights violations being positively addressed.	2024: 6
	In 20 countries,* the international community has engaged objectively and constructively on human rights issues raised by UN Human Rights.	2024: 6
The United Nations system integrates human rights in all of its policies, programmes and activities.	17 UN peace, political or humanitarian operations have significantly integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, and/or the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work.	2024: 4
	60 UNCTs have significantly integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, and/or the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, into their work.	2024: 17
	45 UN global policies and programmes have significantly integrated a human rights-based approach.	2024: 10

UN HUMAN RIGHTS ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACHPR
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

ACtHPR
African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

ADR
Alternative dispute resolution

AGO
Attorney General's Office

AI
Artificial intelligence

ASEAN
Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASG
Assistant Secretary-General

ATMIS
African Transition Mission in Somalia

AU
African Union

AUC
African Union Commission

AUCF
African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework

BHR
Business and Human Rights

BINUH
United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti

CARICOM
Caribbean Community

CAT
Committee against Torture

CAT
Convention 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

CEDAW
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms 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

CoP
Community of practice

CRC
Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC
Convention on the Rights of the Child

CMD
Human Rights Council and Mechanisms Division

CRPD
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CRPD
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CRSV
Conflict-related sexual violence

CSO
Civil society organization

DCO
Development Coordination Office

DESA
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

DFS
Department of Field Support

DHC
Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

DMSPC
Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

DOS
Department of Operational Support

DPA
Department of Political Affairs

DPO
Department of Peacekeeping Operations

DPPA
Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

ECA
Europe and Central Asia

EC
European Commission

ECHR
European Convention on Human Rights

ECLAC
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECOSOC
Economic and Social Council

ECOWAS
Economic Community of West African States

EDM
Executive Direction and Management

EMG
Environment Management Group

EMRIP
Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

EMS
Environmental Management System

EOSG
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

ERT
Emergency Response Team

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCRs
Economic, social and cultural rights

EU
European Union

FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization

FBHR
Forum on Business and Human Rights

FFM
Fact-finding mission

FGM
Female genital mutilation

GANHRI
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

GBV
Gender-based violence

GCM
Global Compact for Migration

GEWE
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

GLO
Global Operations Division

GLT
Global Leadership Team

GPRAF
General and Preliminary Risk Assessment Framework

HC
Humanitarian Coordinator

HCT
Humanitarian Country Team

HR75
Human Rights 75 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

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

HRS
Human Rights Section

IACHR
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

IACtHR
Inter-American Court of Human Rights

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee

IBC
Issue-Based Coalition

ICC
International Criminal Court

ICCPR
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICCPR-OP2
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

ICERD
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

ICESCR
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICJ
International Court of Justice

ICPPED
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

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
Improved explosive device

IFAD
International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO
International Labour Organization

IMM
Independent Monitoring Mechanism

INGO
International non-governmental organization

IOM
International Organization for Migration

IRMCT
International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

JPO
Junior Professional Officer

LDCs
Least Developed Countries

LGBTQI+
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Persons

LNOB
Leave/Leaving No One Behind

LoI
List of Issues

LoIPR
List of Issues Prior to Reporting

LT
Leadership Team

MARA
Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements

MENA
Middle East and North Africa

MERCOSUR
Southern Common Markett

MINUJUSTH
United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

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

MINUSMA
United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

MINUSTAH
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

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

MoU
Memorandum of Understanding

MPTF
Multi-Partner Trust Fund

MSS
Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti

NAP
National Action Plan

NAPBHR
National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

NGO
Non-governmental organization

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 Recommendations Tracking Database

NYO
New York Office

OCHA
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OE 2.0
Organizational Effectiveness 2.0

OEAPs
Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans

OECD
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

OG
Operations Working Group

OHCHR
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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

OP-CRC-IC
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

OPDs
Organizations of persons with disabilities

OPESG
Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General

OSCE
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PAPEV
Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations

PBF
Peacebuilding Fund

PBRB
Programme and Budget Review Board

P-DDRCS
Demobilization, Disarmament, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme

PFII
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

PIF
Pacific Islands Forum

PMS
Performance Monitoring System

POW
Prisoner of war

PSEA
Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

R2HE
Right to a healthy environment

RB
Regular budget

RBM
Results-based management

RC
United Nations Resident Coordinator

RCO
United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office

REC
Regional Economic Community

RMR
Regional Monthly Review

SADC
Southern African Development Community

SAMIDRC
Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

SDGs
Sustainable Development Goals

SEM
Sustainable environmental management

SET
Senior Executive Team

SGBV
Sexual and gender-based violence

SIDS
Small Island Developing States

SLAPPs
Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation

SOPs
Standard operating procedures

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

SRSG
Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General

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

TBCBP
Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme

TESPRDD
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division

ToRs
Terms of reference

ToT
Training of trainers

UDHR
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UNAIDS
United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNAMI
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

UNCT
United Nations Country Team

UNDIS
United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

UNDP
United Nations Development Programme

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

UHRI
Universal Human Rights Index

UNICEF
United Nations Children's Fund

UNIFIL
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

UNISFA
United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

UNITAMS
United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan

UNJHRO
United Nations Joint Human Rights Office

UNMIK
United Nations Mission in Kosovo

UNMISS
United Nations Mission in South Sudan

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

UNSCR
United Nations Security Council resolution

UNSDCF
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UNSDG
United Nations Sustainable Development Group

UNSOM
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

UNTMIS
United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia

UNV
United Nations Volunteer

UNVFVT
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

UPR
Universal Periodic Review

UPRB
Universal Periodic Review Branch

UUNV
University United Nations Volunteer

VNR
Voluntary National Review

WGAD
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

WGEID
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

WHO
World Health Organization

WHRD
Women human rights defender

XB
Extrabudgetary

ONLINE CONTENT



UN HUMAN RIGHTS

IN-COUNTRY



Introduction

The deployment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR or UN Human Rights) in countries and regions through in-country 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 of all human rights, by all people, everywhere. The impartial work of OHCHR's regional and country presences is critical to supporting the High Commissioner's independent, objective voice in dialogues and advocacy on human rights with all counterparts.

The regional and country engagement of UN Human Rights 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, humanitarian counterparts, 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 (HRDs). As impartial interlocutors, the Office's regional and country presences serve as conveners and foster dialogue among different stakeholders.

OHCHR regional and country 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 in-country engagement ensures the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to UN country and regional programming and advocacy.

UN Human Rights operates through two main categories of in-country 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) in UN Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), as well as Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and other types of presences, such as country programmes.

In 2024, OHCHR was operating in 89 presences around the world, consisting of 13 regional offices, 18 country offices, 41 HRAs, nine human rights components in UN peace operations and eight other types of country presences. A Multi-country Office was established in Nairobi, Kenya, in March 2025.

TYPES OF REGIONAL AND COUNTRY PRESENCES

Country and stand-alone offices

UN Human Rights country offices are established in accordance with an agreement between the High Commissioner for Human Rights 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, HRDs, victims of human rights violations and other counterparts through tailored technical cooperation activities, capacity-building initiatives and public reporting. Country offices are primarily funded through voluntary contributions.

OHCHR's 18 country offices are based in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, the State of Palestine,[5] Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut), Tunisia and Yemen; one field-based structure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea[6] is based in Seoul; and there is a Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

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 13 regional presences, including 11 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), South America (Santiago de Chile) and the Caribbean (Nassau). Regional offices are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions. A Multi-country Office was established in Nairobi, in March 2025, and the process began for the establishment of a second Multi-country Office, in Sarajevo.

Regional offices focus on cross-cutting 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. 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 eight UPR regional advisers in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Bishkek, Brussels, Dakar, Panama City, Pretoria and Yaoundé. In total, there are nine regional offices, including Santiago de Chile, with an increased capacity to provide technical cooperation services to advance the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The two positions that will be deployed to Beirut and Suva are under recruitment.

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 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. Through HRC resolutions 57/19 and 57/28 on the right to development and on biodiversity and human rights, respectively, eight new positions will be created in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Fiji, Panama City, Pretoria, Suva and Yaoundé.

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

6 Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

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

Peacekeeping operations and special political missions contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights as part of their mandates. 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 Policy 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 2024, UN peace missions in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo,[7] Libya, Somalia and South Sudan had a human rights component as part of their structures. These human rights components were responsible for implementing a Security Council mandate to promote and protect human rights by monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and abuses and providing technical assistance to State authorities and other stakeholders. The head of the human rights component serves as the principal adviser to the head of mission on human rights issues and is the representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Human rights components in peace missions undertake monitoring and investigations of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, engage in humanitarian mechanisms to ensure protection is at the centre of the humanitarian response, provide early warning analysis for the protection of civilians, engage with duty bearers and rights holders and report publicly on violations and abuses. Human rights components provide capacity-building and technical cooperation to governments, national institutions, NHRIs, civil society, HRDs and victims of human rights violations; advocate for accountability and support transitional justice programmes; provide training for military, police, law enforcement and justice officials; conduct advocacy for legislative and rule of law reforms; and support the implementation of peace agreements and the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) by peace operations.

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

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 on human rights.

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 assistance and capacity-building to State actors, NHRIs and civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights, including on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations. HRAs support the national-level implementation of the SDGs and the development and implementation of Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).

HRAs are funded by extrabudgetary contributions to OHCHR. In 2024, the Office deployed 41 HRAs who supported 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,[8] Ecuador, Eswatini,[9] the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya,[10] Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, the Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar (based in Bangkok),[11] 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, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Other types of field presences

OHCHR deployed teams to implement technical cooperation programmes and projects in El Salvador, Mozambique, Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand), Peru, the Republic of Moldova,[12] the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

8 Discontinued in December 2024.

9 Discontinued in July 2024.

10 A Multi-country Office was established in March 2025.

11 Merged with the Myanmar country programme as of January 2025.

12 Consisted of a Human Rights Adviser, until May 2024, when it transitioned to a country programme.

ENGAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2024, nearly 300 million people around the world were affected by humanitarian crises that were due to conflicts, climate disasters and other situations of violence causing and/or exacerbating protection issues.

Following the endorsement of the Humanitarian Action Strategy, in May 2023, UN Human Rights increased its engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field level, including by strengthening its protection efforts in preparedness, crisis response and protection environment-building. This was undertaken in collaboration with humanitarian partners and through its bolstered participation in humanitarian mechanisms. In addition, OHCHR increased its outreach to partners to raise awareness about the Organization's added value in protection and contributed to strategic meetings and the preparation of key policies and documents to support the collective humanitarian response. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights participated in the 2024 European Humanitarian Forum, in Brussels, in March, and in the 2024 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in New York, in June. Further, UN Human Rights participated in workshops for the development of the induction package for Protection Cluster Coordinators in Budapest, in November; the internalization of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action, in Rome, in November; and regarding access to healthcare for populations affected by Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA), in Brussels, in November. When the Office began to participate in the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) (a global humanitarian tool for the analysis and estimation of humanitarian needs and protection risks of populations in crises) in 2023, it became part of the Global Experts Group, chaired by OCHA, to support field presences.

In 2024, OHCHR continued its strategic engagement 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, Localization and Preserving Humanitarian Space). The Office attended the RC/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) retreat that was organized by OCHA, in Istanbul, which provided OHCHR with an opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices with respect to protection issues with HCs. Throughout 2024, the Deputies Group actively supported the work of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, particularly with regard to the Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement and the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP).

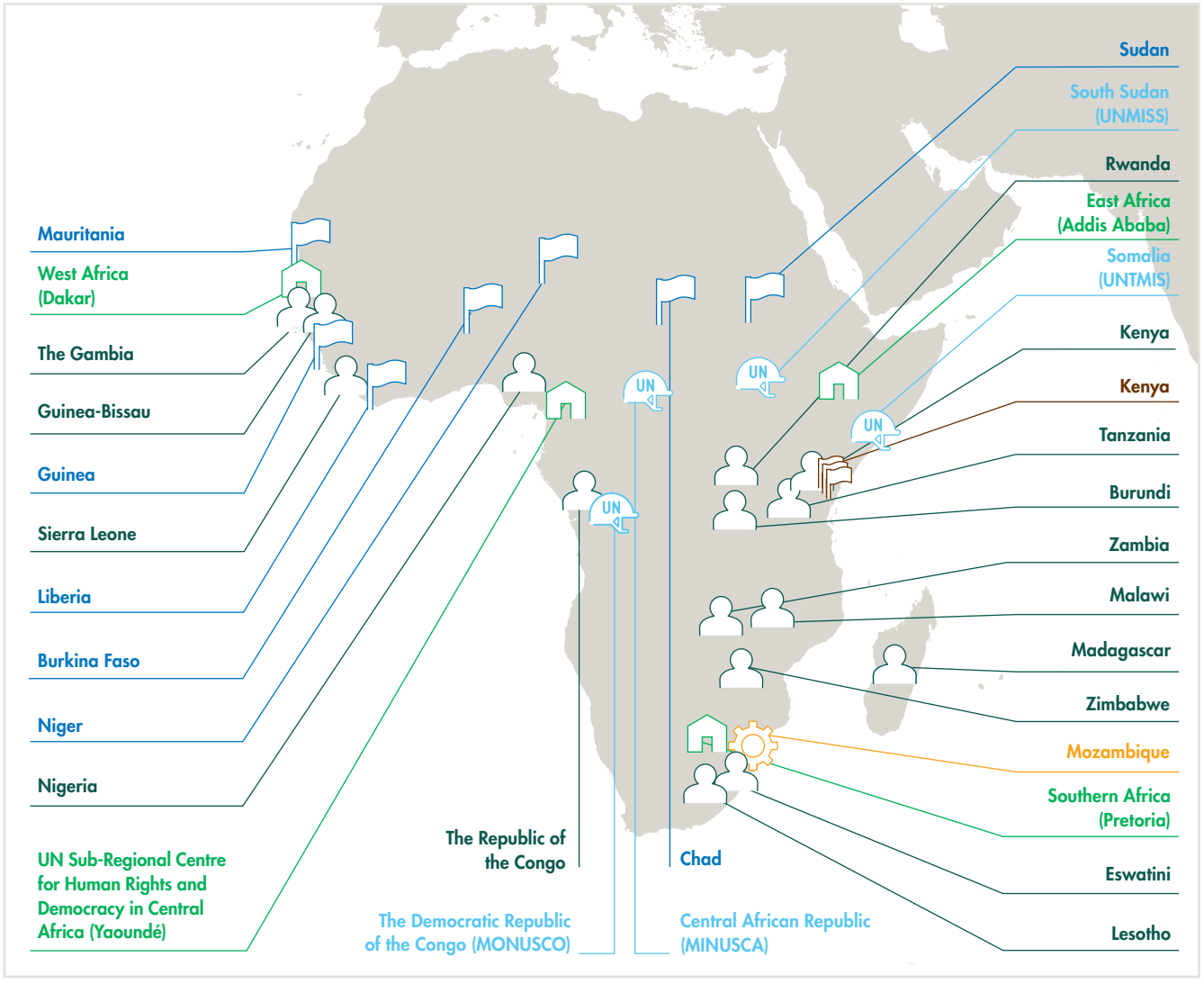
The Office participated in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle at the field level, in the 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview at headquarters and provided inputs to the Guiding Principles on Sanctions, Compliance and Human Rights. At the country level, OHCHR supported the humanitarian response in Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Pacific Island countries, the Republic of Moldova, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen. OHCHR provided surge capacity in Lebanon, after the November outbreak of violence, and in Brazil, after the floods in Rio Grande do Sul. It also provided remote surge capacity to the Protection Cluster in Gaza. OHCHR continues to lead Protection Clusters in Haiti and in the State of Palestine.

OHCHR offered support to HCs, HCTs and Protection Clusters, including through the delivery of protection services and creation of accountability mechanisms, to ensure an adequate response for affected communities. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which recognizes OHCHR's human rights activities as lifesaving, granted US$499,966 in funding for operations in Ethiopia, in 2024, and US$943,472.50 to the OHCHR presence in Haiti, in January 2025. OHCHR also received US$1,080,408.72 in grants from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) for protection activities related to the Protection Cluster in the State of Palestine (through an agreement with UNICEF) and US$686,374 for the protection of refugees and vulnerable groups in the Republic of Moldova.

UN Human Rights **in Africa**



A capacity-building workshop on the participation of women and girls in political and social life was co-organized by OHCHR and the NGO REPPAD, in Niamey, Niger, from 10 to 11 June. © OHCHR



TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Country Offices	Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger and Sudan
Multi-country Office	Kenya[a]
Regional Offices/Centres	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)
Human rights components of UN Peace/ Political Missions	Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO/UNJHRO), Somalia (UNTMIS) and South Sudan (UNMISS)
Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs	Burundi, the Republic of the Congo,[b] Eswatini,[c] the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho,[d] Malawi, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Other projects/Special presences	Mozambique

a Established in March 2025.
b Discontinued in December 2024.
c Discontinued in July 2024.
d Discontinued in January 2024.

The UN Human Rights Africa programme covers 50 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and is composed of four regional offices (in Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa); seven country offices (in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger and Sudan); 15 human rights advisers (HRAs) (in Burundi, the Republic of the Congo,[13] Eswatini,[14] the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya,[15] Lesotho,[16] Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe); four human rights components in UN peace missions (in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia and South Sudan); and three project teams (the African Union (AU)-United Nations project to support the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF), the Internal Security Forces (ISF) Project in Chad, Mauritania and Niger[17] and the technical cooperation programme in Mozambique).

The Sudan Country Office, operating out of Nairobi, with a small presence in Port Sudan, delivered on its mandate through remote monitoring and reporting, which was complemented by monitoring missions to Sudan's neighbouring countries, including Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan and the Abyei Area. The Sudan Office is also establishing a subregional office in Abéché (eastern Chad).

Following the discontinuation of the HRA roles in Eswatini (as of July) and Lesotho (as of January), OHCHR supported Eswatini from its Geneva headquarters and the Regional Office for Southern Africa. A national Human Rights Officer in Lesotho provided support to the Resident Coordinator (RC)/UN Country Team (UNCT).

Presences in the region contributed to the application of a human rights-based approach (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. In March 2025, a Multi-country Office was established in Nairobi, Kenya, that covers Djibouti, Eritrea, Tanzania and Uganda and reports to OHCHR's East Africa Regional Office (EARO).

Following the closure, in February, of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission (UNITAMS) (Sudan), the Secretary-General appointed a United Nations Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan (PESG-Sudan). The UN Human Rights Africa programme provided technical support to the PESG-Sudan on issues related to the protection of civilians. During the year, the Security Council renewed the mandates of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) for an additional year. Following a decision by the Security Council, outlined in Security Council resolution 2753, a transition began, on 1 November, from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) to the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS). On 6 August, the Security Council adopted resolution 2746, requesting that the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), through the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), provide comprehensive technical advice and support to the Southern African Development Community Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC) in fulfilling its obligations to respect international law, including by establishing and implementing a robust compliance mechanism, in line with the AUCF. The Office is supporting the UNJHRO to engage with relevant actors for the design of SAMIDRC's human rights compliance framework.

In 2024, UN Human Rights focused on governance, the rule of law, peace and security, development and accountability at the country and regional level. The UN Human Rights Africa programme engaged with the AU and the Regional

13 Discontinued in December 2024.

14 Discontinued in July 2024.

15 Transitioned into a Multi-country Office in March 2025.

16 Discontinued in January 2024.

17 Ended on 31 October 2024.

Economic Communities (RECs) through monitoring, reporting and analysis of the human rights situation at the regional, subregional and country level and by identifying opportunities, challenges and risks for interventions. Such engagement contributed to the consolidation of institutional cooperation across the continent with respect to the UN's three pillars (peace and security, development and human rights). Following the 28 November 2023 signing of the AU-UN Joint Framework on Human Rights and the AUCF, a Joint AU-UN Steering Committee was established, in 2024, to develop an implementation matrix for the Joint Framework. The matrix was endorsed at the 2024 AU-UN Annual High-level Dialogue between the Secretary-General and the Chair of the AU and will guide all joint AU-UN initiatives on human rights for the next four years.

The Office strengthened accountability processes and mechanisms in Africa, including by providing support to the Human Rights Council (HRC) special procedures country-specific mandate holders focused on Burundi, CAR, Eritrea, Mali and Somalia; the OHCHR Designated Expert on human rights in the Sudan; the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan; the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS); and the International Team of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The conflicts in the East and Horn of Africa have had a devastating impact on civilians, resulting in internal displacement and refugee flows. In Sudan, the armed conflict that erupted on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continued to ravage the country. During the year, the conflict became a multi-theatre crisis that has been marked by severe international human rights violations and included renewed SAF offensives and entrenched RSF control in several regions. Large-scale attacks on non-Arab communities by RSF and allied militias led to thousands of deaths and a deepening protection crisis. Survivors lacked access to services and justice, while international mediation, such as the Jeddah and Geneva talks, failed to secure ceasefires or peace. Clashes in El Fasher, Khartoum and Sennar complicated the conflict. OHCHR expanded its monitoring into new regions, integrated human rights into humanitarian action, strengthened civic space and conducted monitoring missions to Abyei, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan to collect first-hand accounts of human rights violations in Sudan. In Ethiopia, intensive efforts were undertaken by the Office, including enhanced monitoring of human rights in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray and the provision of support for the roll-out of transitional justice, thereby contributing to the June release of the Transitional Justice Policy.

The crisis in the Sahel region further deteriorated. Regional dynamics restricted the enjoyment of human rights in the region as a result of: increased attacks by armed groups; the commission of serious human rights violations, with widespread impunity, during counter-terrorism operations; weakened governance and State presence; poor management of scarce resources; environmental degradation, including due to climate change and rapid population growth; expanding humanitarian needs; and the dissolution of the G5 Sahel. Through its field presences in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger and remote monitoring in Mali, OHCHR documented a surge in gross human rights violations and abuses, as well as grave violations of international humanitarian law, including extrajudicial executions and other killings of civilians and increasing humanitarian needs. The Office advocated for transparent, consultative and inclusive political transition processes in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali and Niger. Moreover, OHCHR observed an alarming deterioration of civic space in the Sahel countries, where members of civil society, such as human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists, were arrested and detained. This curtailing of the civic space was extended to Western and Central Africa. The Office engaged with authorities to find human rights-compliant solutions to the challenges being faced.

OHCHR focused on the compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law of national security forces in Chad, Mauritania and Niger through the ISF Project, which ended on 31 October. It also remotely monitored the human rights situation in Mali and Uganda, following the 2023 closure of both the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the Uganda Country Office.

The human rights situation in eastern DRC deteriorated considerably, particularly due to attacks by various armed groups, including the M23 and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), violent inter-community conflicts in the West, hate speech and incitement to violence and the shrinking of civic and political space.

In CAR, the protection of civilians remained a major concern. Activities of armed groups and operations by other security personnel and State actors caused insecurity in some parts of the country, negatively impacting on respect for human rights. Following the publication of a joint MINUSCA/OHCHR report entitled *Analysis of deprivation of liberty in the Central African Republic: Current situation, challenges and responses*, the Government took steps to address identified challenges. Engagements were undertaken with authorities at the central and regional level to accelerate the implementation of recommendations outlined in the report.

Numerous member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), namely, Angola, Comoros, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, faced ongoing challenges in strengthening the protection of economic, social and political rights. These challenges were exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change and its humanitarian repercussions.

The situation of LGBTQI+ persons remained deeply troubling and was marked by violence, harassment, discrimination and barriers to accessing healthcare services, including HIV treatment and prevention. Some countries adopted or introduced discriminatory laws and policies, including criminal sanctions for same-sex relations and restrictions on the activities of HRDs who were working to combat these issues. These measures undermined international human rights standards and reinforced the exclusion of LGBTQI+ individuals across the region.

OHCHR supported the integration of human rights into early warning and prevention efforts in the context of elections in Botswana, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania. From 12 March to 7 April, OHCHR deployed two human rights officers to Senegal to undertake monitoring, analysis and preventive actions concerning human rights within the context of the presidential elections that took place on 24 March.

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 2024	22

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

During the year, OHCHR undertook advocacy with a view to advancing economic and social rights, particularly for the most vulnerable populations in the country. On 3 July, the Council of Ministers adopted a decree on the Presidential Health Initiative (IPS) to improve the enjoyment of the right to health in Burkina Faso. The five-year Initiative focuses on increasing the capacities of health infrastructures, equipping centres with quality equipment and deploying qualified personnel to communal medical centres. The objective is to build and equip a total of 55 community health centres and five anesthesia/intensive care departments. On 29 October, the Minister of Civil Service, Labour and Social Protection held a press conference and announced that more than 1,500 people had received their provisional registration cards and certificates for the universal health insurance scheme. He added that 12 structures were affiliated with the scheme and that 199,112 people had been preregistered. To prevent mismanagement, the Minister announced the Government's intention to set up anonymous hotlines and offices to enable people to register complaints and denunciations. To qualify for benefits, workers in the informal sector will be required to contribute 4,000 CFA francs (approximately US$6.50) per month, self-employed workers in the formal sector will be required to contribute 15,000 CFA francs (approximately US$25) and civil servants will be required to contribute 2.5 per cent of their gross monthly income. This operationalization comes nine years after the adoption of the Law on the Universal Health Insurance Scheme.

Mechanisms

On 26 September, following OHCHR's technical assistance and advocacy, Burkina Faso signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC). In collaboration with UNICEF, OHCHR will continue to provide technical assistance and undertake advocacy for the ratification of the Optional Protocol.

Participation

OHCHR's advocacy led the Government to accept 11 recommendations that were issued during the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) relating to civic space, including the need to refrain from undue government restrictions on freedom of the press and freedom of expression. Throughout 2024, OHCHR provided technical and financial support on the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) (2024-2028) to implement the recommendations issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies. Ongoing technical assistance and advocacy will encourage the validation of the NAP. Despite these efforts, authorities took steps to further curtail civic space under the guise of "fighting terrorism."

Peace and Security

In Burkina Faso, OHCHR's prevention and early warning analysis was a trusted reference among the diplomatic community, the UN system, the Protection Cluster, the National Human Rights Commission and CSOs. In May, OHCHR became a statutory member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), enabling it to better contribute to the humanitarian response with its prevention and early warning analysis.

Due to the Office's advocacy and technical assistance, human rights were fully integrated into various strategic documents, such as the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the joint protection analysis and the quarterly protection analysis.

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 2024	4

Key OMP pillars in 2024



PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In May, the Government amended the Code of Persons and the Family, in line with international human rights standards, particularly with respect to the minimum age of marriage and birth registration. To bring this about, OHCHR and UNICEF undertook advocacy and extended technical assistance, including through the OHCHR-led Joint Human Rights Programme. The Code is pending consideration by the Parliament.

The Early Warning, Prevention and Protection Mechanism, functioning under the auspices of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH), was operationalized with technical and financial support from the Office. With OHCHR's guidance and facilitation, monthly meetings were held to discuss human rights priorities, including the prohibition of enforced disappearances, the right to adequate housing and the right to education, as well as safeguards and measures to protect these rights. The CNIDH relied on the Mechanism's members to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of addressing and following up on cases of human rights violations.

In November, due to OHCHR's advocacy and technical support that was provided to national institutions, the Government launched a campaign to decrease the country's prison population of 13,000 by more than 40 per cent in 11 prisons. This represents an important step in light of widespread overcrowding and the prevalence of poor detention conditions, which increase the risk for grave human rights violations. These actions also contributed to the implementation of UPR recommendations and one of Burundi's Human Rights 75 (HR75) pledges to reduce prison overcrowding.

Participation

Protection of HRDs remained a priority. OHCHR engaged in advocacy with relevant authorities, which contributed to the release of 30 HRDs and members of CSOs who had been arbitrarily detained.

In collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsperson, OHCHR facilitated a dialogue between the authorities and HRDs who had fled the country during the 2015 political and electoral crisis. Twelve individuals living in exile had been sentenced to life in prison for their alleged participation in an "insurrectional movement." The dialogue was held to secure their pardons and enable their return to Burundi or, at the very least, end the threat of imprisonment.

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 Principe
Year established	2001
Field office(s)	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Staff as of 31 December 2024	21
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR has been collaborating and advocating with relevant partners in **Gabon** for several years. In 2023, a draft revision of the national human rights institution (NHRI) Law, which would facilitate the NHRI's alignment with the Paris Principles, was submitted to the Parliament. OHCHR initiated the reform process to bring the legislation's provisions in line with international standards. It also actively participated in the drafting process, advocated for an inclusive consultation with stakeholders, provided capacity-building support to the National Assembly and the Senate and offered technical and financial assistance to ensure the participation and contribution of experts. On 21 November, Law No. 023/2024 was promulgated, replacing Law No. 19/2005. The new Law recognizes the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and expands its role in safeguarding human rights. This represents a milestone achievement in strengthening the national human rights infrastructure and is a significant advancement for human rights and democracy in Gabon. More specifically, this legislation outlines the composition, structure and functions of the NHRC and recognizes it as an independent institution for consultations, monitoring, evaluation, dialogue, conciliation and deliberation in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Law also designates the NHRC as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), which is mandated to undertake regular visits to all detention facilities. Its functions include preventing torture, investigating human rights violations, educating the public on human rights issues and cooperating with international bodies. The NHRC is also tasked with ensuring the alignment of Gabon's legislation with international legal instruments.

Joint advocacy by OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) led the Government of **Sao Tomé and Principe** to commit to establishing an NHRI that respects international standards. OHCHR will support ongoing consultations and the drafting and validation of the supporting legislation in 2025.

Participation

OHCHR and its partners collaborated with media professionals across the subregion to develop the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention of and Response to Hate Speech in Central Africa. It was adopted in Bangui, at the Regional Forum of Ministers of Communication and Information and Communication Technologies in Central Africa, held on 31 January. OHCHR and UNOCA mobilized media professionals in the subregion to support the drafting of the Strategy and Action Plan and OHCHR provided technical assistance, ensuring that human rights considerations were taken into account. The United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) recommended that the Central African Heads of State and governments endorse the document. In anticipation of its endorsement, OHCHR undertook initiatives, such as the issuance of guidelines on preparing NAPs to combat hate speech, to support and sensitize national stakeholders in the subregion with regard to the Strategy and Action Plan.

Due to OHCHR's technical support, the fruits of engagement and the development of the Strategy and the Action Plan, a regional network of media professionals from the Central African subregion (PROMEDAC) was set up. The network is the first of its kind in the subregion. It is focused on combating hate speech through various media outlets, both online and offline, and promoting

peace and social cohesion. In 2025, the network will partner with OHCHR, UNESCO, UNOCA and the Government of Rwanda to launch a regional prize for the best content against hate speech.

Mechanisms

Following a series of capacity-building activities and advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, the RCO and other UN agencies, the President of the **Republic of Equatorial Guinea** instructed the Government to create a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) and appoint its members. This mechanism is expected to address the backlog in reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, poor planning and a failure to follow up on their recommendations. In 2025, OHCHR will cooperate with the RCO and the UNCT to provide further technical support on the establishment of the NMIRF. Exchanges are underway with the OHCHR Regional Office in Latin America to gather good examples of terms of reference and standard operating procedures (SOPs) from other Spanish-speaking countries. Moreover, OHCHR will work with the Government to fulfill its obligations under the international human rights treaties and submit its overdue State Party reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In 2024, OHCHR provided trainings and technical expertise to the Government in preparation for its fourth UPR cycle. The Government subsequently drafted and submitted its State report and successfully participated in the UPR session. In 2025, OHCHR will support a plan to implement the Government's accepted UPR recommendations.

In **Cameroon**, the **Republic of the Congo**, the **DRC** and **Gabon**, OHCHR assisted States in preparing for their fourth UPR cycles and regarding the outcome decisions and follow-up. During the third quarter of 2024, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and Gabon developed road maps for the implementation of their recommendations.

In June, following the delivery of capacity-building initiatives by OHCHR, **Gabon** received and began using the National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD), the first country in the Central African region to do so. Between June and December, three workshops on the NRTD were carried out. Each workshop combined a reporting and strategic planning activity, including the creation of a UPR action plan within the NRTD, the drafting of a UPR mid-term report and the finalization of State Party reports to CESCR and the Human Rights Committee. In 2025, the action plan on the implementation of UPR recommendations will be used to apply for funding for human rights activities that will be provided by the European Union (EU) and other stakeholders.

In March, OHCHR supported a mission of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) to **Gabon** and follow-up activities. In December, the country promulgated a law to establish the NPM to prevent torture and ill-treatment in places of detention. As required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), the NPM will provide independent oversight through regular visits. The creation of the NPM demonstrates a commitment to transparency, accountability and protecting the rights of detainees, while also strengthening its human rights framework and international credibility. To this end, OHCHR will support the Government, including by sharing lessons learned in the recruitment of members. In 2025, OHCHR will offer training and guidance on advocacy to two NGOs that received OPCAT Special Funds.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the **Republic of the Congo**, which resulted in its ratification of OPCAT, on 26 April. It also received technical support on the process of establishing an NPM, which will take place by April 2025. OHCHR will continue to support the process.

Peace and Security

In **Rwanda**, OHCHR's engagement and discussions between the High Commissioner for Human Rights and high-level authorities contributed to the alignment of some provisions of a draft law on NGOs with international human rights standards. In June, Law No. 058/2024 was enacted, although some NGOs remained concerned about its content. OHCHR will collaborate with NGOs and continue to monitor its implementation.

OHCHR worked closely with MINUSCA, UNOCA and the Francophone Association of National Human Rights Commissions (AFCNDH). Together, they delivered trainings and advocated before line ministries in the **Central African Republic** on the need to enhance the institutional and operational capacities of the National Commission of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Government subsequently pledged to take action and provide financial and human resources to the Commission to enable it to function effectively and implement its mandate.

Trainings offered by OHCHR, the AFCNDH, MINUSCA and UNOCA enhanced the understanding of members of the **Burundi** Independent National Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) about risk analysis, early warning and prevention. The participants pledged to integrate early warning into the structure and key aspects of the work of the Commission, in line with the Paris Principles and good practices. Following a workshop that was conducted by OHCHR and UNOAC, an Early Warning Unit was established by the CNIDH. In November, the President of the CNIDH communicated that the Unit is operational and taking steps to prevent electoral violence and related human rights violations and abuses in the context of the upcoming 2025 elections.

Development

As part of a mapping of gold mining actors in the East Region of **Cameroon**, OHCHR undertook advocacy and capacity-building activities to support assessments of the impacts of gold mining on human rights. This contributed to the creation of a working group to consider the application of international standards to mining activities in order to protect human rights. The working group, which is composed of ministerial departments, parapublic bodies, CSOs, the Cameroon National Human Rights Commission and a mining company, will serve as a forum for dialogue and enable mediation and the creation of frameworks for dialogue among mining companies and communities affected by their activities. OHCHR will continue to advocate for the adoption of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAPBHR). OHCHR will launch a baseline study on business and human rights in 2025.

Following the promulgation of **Cameroon**'s forestry law, in July, OHCHR collaborated with the Centre for Environment and Development, UK aid and Fern and initiated a series of webinars. A monitoring group was set up to receive amendments from academics, government officials and CSOs to ensure that there is consistency in legislation related to the exploitation of natural resources and that implementing decrees include human rights. In 2025, workshops will be organized to discuss and compile recommendations.

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 2024	61
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR carried out approximately 450 visits to detention centres and facilities to monitor conditions and engage with relevant authorities. This resulted in the publication, in July, of a joint OHCHR-MINUSCA report, *Analysis of deprivation of liberty in the Central African Republic: Current situation, challenges and responses*. OHCHR engaged with authorities for the implementation of the report's recommendations and the Government undertook efforts to enhance respect for human rights and the rule of law. More specifically, to address detention-related challenges, the Ministry of Justice issued a penal policy,[18] on 14 May, emphasizing judicial independence, adherence to procedural timelines and timely case resolution, particularly for minors and persons with disabilities. Further, 138 individuals, including 20 children and nine women, were released after being unlawfully detained for minor offences.

In collaboration with the Senior Women's Protection Adviser, who is integrated into the Human Rights Division of MINUSCA, and the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, OHCHR assisted with the adoption of an updated National Action Plan on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which was informed by recommendations emanating from a 2023 high-level roundtable.

OHCHR provided capacity-building assistance to various national partners. In March, the Office facilitated workshops with the High Authority for Good Governance (HAGG), the National Committee for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (KNC) and CSOs, with a focus on minority rights, gender-based violence (GBV) and the prevention of mass crimes. Over 630 participants attended, including a significant proportion of women and girls, leading to an enhanced sense of human rights ownership at the local level and the establishment of a response network. The network coordinated and followed up on the implementation of the Central African Republic's legislative framework relating to human rights. Through the network, the Law on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders was adopted on 27 December.

A training was delivered to 20 members (four women) of the Network of Central African Parliamentarians for Human Rights (RPCDH). It emphasized the promotion and protection of human rights and fostered collaboration between the UN, the Government and the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (CNDHLF). It also urged the alignment of national legislation with international commitments to ensure greater accountability with regard to human rights issues. The training is part of the new cooperation framework between OHCHR and the RPCDH and led to discussions on the involvement of parliamentarians in the implementation of the National Human Rights Policy (PNDH) (2023-2027) and of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies.

In June, OHCHR facilitated strategic meetings between CAR's Division of Human Rights authority and the CNDHLF to review recommendations emanating from an OHCHR evaluation. As a result, monthly follow-up meetings were held to develop a road map to align CNDHLF operations with the Paris Principles.

In September, the Office helped the Government to establish and deploy a judicial Commission of Inquiry to investigate serious human rights violations committed in Zemio, in the Haut-Mbomou

18 Plaidoyer pour la reproduction de la circulaire relative aux instructions de politique pénale No. 258/MCJPDHBG/DIRCAB-24.

Prefecture. This led to the initiation of judicial cases and represented a step forward in increasing the accountability of perpetrators for human rights violations.

OHCHR provided critical support to UNCT members tasked with analysing the human rights situation in CAR and mainstreaming human rights into programming. In addition, the Office conducted a series of outreach events to promote a better understanding of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, particularly among relevant MINUSCA staff and their national counterparts.

The Office documented 2,862 violations and abuses of human rights affecting 4,463 victims, including 488 women, 543 boys and 307 girls. The majority of violations related to the right to physical and mental integrity, the deprivation of liberty and conditions of detention, the right to property, the right to life and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Efforts were undertaken to ensure that victims were referred to essential services.

Non-discrimination

As co-Chairs of the UNCT Working Group on Gender, Human Rights and Inclusion, OHCHR and UN Women undertook strategic engagements and trainings, including a workshop on human rights and the protection of women human rights defenders (WHRDs). A total of 44 women representing national women's organizations attended. OHCHR's advocacy contributed to strengthening the efforts of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN-RCA) to boost women's involvement in advancing human rights and peace.

In order to counter discrimination, OHCHR supported and participated in a workshop on the protection of persons with albinism, which was organized by the Presidential Adviser on Human Rights. The workshop brought together 50 participants, including 15 women and 10 individuals with albinism. It resulted in the adoption of a final report, with recommendations for developing a national strategy to prevent discrimination and ensure the protection of persons with albinism. In accordance with the regulations of the PNDH, which stipulate that a new national human rights strategy should be developed and reviewed by one of the thematic groups created to strengthen the implementation of the PNDH, the recommendations will be shared with the thematic groups on solidarity and specific group rights. OHCHR will continue to engage in advocacy regarding the implementation of recommendations.

Peace and Security

OHCHR oversaw the training of nearly 4,200 ISF personnel and members of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) on human rights, civilian protection, civil-military relations, child protection and the prevention of CRSV and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The Office conducted an additional 35 training sessions on the HRDDP and its implementation for defence and security forces, UN entities, NHRIs, CSOs and local authorities. In November, OHCHR collaborated with the CNDHLF and the MINUSCA HRDDP Integrated Secretariat to train 81 high-ranking officers (23 women) from the ISF on international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international refugee law and the HRDDP. The trainings, organized in different parts of the country, provided avenues for engagement with defence and security forces on the responsibility to prevent and respond to human rights violations.

OHCHR undertook efforts to address insecurity and prevent violence, including through the establishment of 30 local human rights forums across CAR to serve as early warning systems and protection mechanisms. These local human rights forums are umbrella groups of CSOs that have been trained by OHCHR. Their presence and proximity to the population are essential to collecting information for human rights monitoring, analysis, reporting and early warning. Through regular trainings and mentoring, the Office increased local capacities on monitoring and reporting, which bolstered a sense of communal ownership.

Mechanisms

OHCHR organized briefing sessions for representatives from key ministries and the CNDHLF to support meaningful State engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

In September, the Office supported the Ministry of Justice in developing a comprehensive NAP to facilitate the implementation of recommendations issued during CAR's fourth UPR cycle. More specifically, OHCHR organized a workshop, under the guidance of international experts, for 52 attendees, including parliamentarians and CSO representatives. The draft NAP was presented to the diplomatic community and the UNCT for endorsement.

To advance the implementation of recommendations issued during the UPR, OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of Justice and delivered workshops, in April, to draft an action plan on the creation of an NPM, in accordance with CAR's commitments under OPCAT.

OHCHR provided the Government with technical assistance, including workshops and working sessions, to revitalize the National Drafting Committee and enhance its capacities to fulfil CAR's reporting obligations. As a result, CAR submitted its initial report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), in July, addressing the list of issues (LoIs) the Committee had prepared, in 2023, in the absence of CAR's initial report.

The Office provided substantial technical and financial assistance to human rights CSOs to support their preparation of alternative reports to CESCR, in anticipation of the Committee's review of CAR's second periodic report. In a significant milestone, the country's first such report was successfully submitted.

CHAD

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	N'Djamena
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	17

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The Office contributed to strengthening governance, the rule of law and accountability through a series of training workshops on the protection of victims and witnesses of human rights violations. Participants included 83 magistrates and judicial police officers (20 women) from the regions of Koundoul, Moundou and N'Djamena. The workshops provided the judicial actors with an opportunity to share good practices and were instrumental to the implementation of judicial protection measures that were supported by OHCHR.

OHCHR offered capacity-building and technical assistance to newly appointed members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). These initiatives were held to enhance their understanding of the transitional justice process in Chad and their roles in it and to facilitate its implementation.

In the same vein, OHCHR increased the knowledge and capacities of judicial actors in the Abéché, Ati and Sarh regions to effectively address GBV and human rights issues, including during electoral processes. Approximately 75 judicial actors (five women), including magistrates, lawyers and judicial police officers, participated in trainings on combating impunity and applying an HRBA during judicial processes.

In the course of 20 monitoring missions, OHCHR documented 47 situations of human rights violations involving 154 victims. The majority of the violations were related to torture or cruel,

inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the right to physical and moral integrity; SGBV; the right to life; the right to a fair trial and access to justice; the right to freedom of movement; the right to freedom of expression and opinion; and forced labour, slavery, human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants.

OHCHR carried out 18 visits to detention facilities, including in Abéché, Ati, Bitkine, Bongor, Kelo, Korotoro, Lai, Mao, Moissala, Mongo, Moundou, N'Djamena and Oum-Hadjer, and undertook advocacy with judicial authorities and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights with regard to overcrowding, inadequate detention conditions and a lack of access to medical care. The Office also advocated with authorities regarding the detention of individuals, including political opposition militants, by defence and security forces, notably during national elections. As a result, 94 detained individuals were released.

In its efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), the Office provided a training workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) for 25 representatives (six women) from line ministries, CSOs and private companies. The training provided participants with the opportunity to adopt a road map on the development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNGPs. Since 2023, OHCHR has coordinated the process of implementing the UNGPs in Chad through trainings and the facilitation of meetings among actors from the private and public sectors and CSOs.

In 2024, OHCHR conducted a study on the extractive sector and its impacts on human rights, with a specific emphasis on ESCRs. The objective of the study, which engaged 364 stakeholders (86 women) from various professional and social groups, was to examine the perceptions of local populations and public authorities at extractive industry sites with regard to existing measures. The study includes recommendations for various actors to ensure that the ESCRs of host communities are respected and implemented. A report on the study's findings and recommendations will be launched at an official ceremony during the third quarter of 2025. Further, it will be used to raise awareness and serve as the basis for advocacy with authorities to promote and protect ESCRs.

Non-discrimination

The Office provided ongoing administrative, operational and technical support to the Observatory for the Promotion of Equality and Gender Equity (OPEG), which was established in July 2022. In 2024, OHCHR assisted with the development and finalization of the OPEG's manual on administrative, accounting and financial procedures. A total of 565 individuals from the Doba, Koumra and Sarh regions engaged in consultations on the OPEG and its role in promoting women's rights and gender equality. In cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, OHCHR organized a high-level roundtable on women and political transition in Africa. It also participated in an awareness-raising campaign on the OPEG and women's participation in electoral processes.

The Office helped to enhance access to justice and the fight against impunity by facilitating access to legal aid and legal assistance for 40 victims of GBV (10 women, one man, 23 girls and six boys). It also provided financial and technical assistance to five mobile court hearings in relation to 40 cases of sexual violence, in partnership with the Chad Bar Association.

OHCHR collaborated with 12 youth organizations and three youth-led networks on a variety of topics, including the promotion of human rights principles, non-violent and gender-sensitive communications, trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, as well as advocacy efforts to combat hate speech and disinformation. Following these efforts, presidential elections and legislative, provincial and communal elections were held. No serious cases of hate speech were documented.

Participation

OHCHR engaged with 70 CSOs and helped to develop their capacities in relation to monitoring, protection and advocacy. In August, OHCHR delivered training to 32 CSO representatives (six women) in the Bol and Lai regions on human

rights monitoring, including trial monitoring. Despite being responsible for monitoring the trials of incarcerated individuals whose cases they were following, none of the participants had received prior relevant training. The sessions better equipped the participants to monitor trials and their human rights implications and incorporate the techniques and methods into their daily work and reporting.

OHCHR collaborated with the Union of Chadian Journalists and held five workshops in the Abéché, Koundoul, Mongo, Moundou and Sarh regions, thereby providing approximately 125 journalists and other media activists with the tools to address hate speech during electoral periods. The trainings focused on how to identify and deconstruct hate speech and its impacts on human rights and peace-building efforts.

In partnership with the CSO, Coordination Nationale Des Jeunes Pour La Paix Au Tchad (CONAJEPT), the Office organized information sessions in the Abéché and Bongor regions for approximately 60 representatives of women and youth associations, community leaders and students. The information sessions emphasized human rights principles and non-violent and gender-sensitive communications.

Peace and Security

The Office worked closely with the UNCT and RCO to conduct and validate the General and Preliminary Risk Assessment Framework (GPRAF) for the implementation of the HRDDP. Previously, OHCHR provided support and guidance to the UNCT, leading to its adoption of an SOP on the Policy. The GPRAF is a critical tool that enables UN agencies to help facilitate the implementation of the HRDDP. More specifically, it allows UN agencies to assess potential risks of violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law in relation to the planned provision of support to non-UN security forces and to implement mitigation measures.

Mechanisms

Following Chad's fourth UPR cycle, in January, OHCHR offered technical and financial support to the Government in drafting a three-year plan for the implementation of recommendations. The Office also assisted the Government in drafting its three periodic reports to the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC). The reports will be submitted in 2025.

Further, the collective of human rights associations received technical and financial support from the Office to draft alternative reports to CERD and CMW. To this end, it advised civil society actors on the guidelines and content of the reports and covered the expenses related to their elaboration. The reports are expected to be submitted to the respective committees after the Government's reports are submitted in 2025.

The Office assisted the Government in carrying out legislative and institutional reforms, including the development of a national human rights policy that will be validated during the latter half of 2025, as pledged by Chad within the framework of the HR75 Initiative. In addition, OHCHR extended technical support and undertook advocacy for a draft law on the protection of HRDs, which was technically validated by various stakeholders in 2024. Advocacy is underway for its adoption in 2025. Finally, OHCHR assisted the Government with drafting a bill to address the smuggling of migrants.

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 2020-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	1
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

In January, the Republic of the Congo underwent its fourth UPR cycle and, in October, adopted an action plan to implement the UPR's recommendations. The country was also reviewed, in January, by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in relation to its combined fifth and sixth periodic reports and, in June, by CMW in relation to its initial report. Further, in February 2025, the CEDAW Committee reviewed the Congo's eighth periodic report.

Since the Republic of the Congo ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 1983, the Government has not submitted a report to the Committee. Following the HRA's advocacy with the Government, a workshop was delivered, in November 2023, on reporting to CESCR. In December, drafting was initiated on the Government's initial report, in line with one its HR75 pledges. It is anticipated that the report will be finalized in 2025.

During the year, the HRA undertook advocacy on the establishment of an NMIRF to coordinate the drafting of periodic reports and the implementation of recommendations issued by international and regional human rights bodies. In addition, the Minister of Human Rights committed to the creation of an NMIRF, by December, in accordance with its HR75 pledges. Despite OHCHR's technical assistance, the NMIRF has yet to be established.

OHCHR supported a working mission to the Republic of the Congo, in October, by the President of the African Group of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. The mission was the subject of significant media interest. In April, following OHCHR's advocacy and technical support, the mission team met with national authorities to discuss the implications of Congo's ratification of OPCAT. The authorities welcomed the mission and committed to establishing the NPM in 2025, in compliance with article 17 of OPCAT.

Accountability

With OHCHR's assistance, the 2018 Law on Attribution, Organization and Functioning of the National Human Rights Commission was reviewed to bring the NHRI into compliance with the Paris Principles. The Office has supported the development of the revised Law since 2023, undertaking advocacy: at the ministerial level regarding its parliamentary adoption; before the National Assembly; and during the CRC Committee's review of the Republic of the Congo, in January. The Office will send a revised version of the Law to the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Promotion of Indigenous Peoples to begin the approval process. After receiving guidance from the HRA on how to draft alternative reports, the NHRI interacted with members of the human rights treaty bodies and attended sessions of the UPR and the CMW Committee.

The HRA supervised the finalization of a guide entitled *Evaluating public policies with a human rights lens* for the Court of Accounts and Budgetary Discipline. The guide is tailored to the region and has generated interest on human rights issues among other constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly and the Senate, both of which requested similar support for 2025. The HRA also organized two workshops, in May and October, for judges and staff of the Court of Audit. The guide was adopted by the participants of the May workshop.

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

Type of engagement	Human Rights Component in Peace/Political Mission
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Beni, Bukavu, Bunia, Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi and Uvira
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2024	135
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The UNJHRO helped to facilitate the implementation of transitional justice in the post-electoral period, which began in January. Since 2023, the Office has supported the collection of data on the needs and perceptions of victims and communities about transitional justice to enable the development of a more tailored national transitional justice policy. With OHCHR's support, nearly 370 consultants who received training on data collection were deployed to the provinces of Kasaï and Tanganyika to gather data through focus group discussions with 108 victims and community members (45 women). In addition, the UNJHRO brought together a group of scholars and representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights and of the Ministry of Justice. In October, it also supported the Ministry of Human Rights to organize a workshop, in Zongo, on the draft national transitional justice policy. The workshop was held to integrate the findings of national consultations, advocate for the strengthening of existing transitional justice mechanisms and develop a road map that is aligned with international standards. Key recommendations focused on the finalization and implementation of the policy, bearing in mind the cross-border dimension of conflicts and the preparation of a financing and communication strategy to ensure the process is effectively coordinated. The policy is being finalized and is expected to be presented at the next session of Council of Ministers in 2025.

During the year, the Office increased the knowledge of civil society about international standards relating to transitional justice. A total of 40 civil society actors (15 women) attended a session on transitional justice, in Ituri, and 34 civil society actors (20 women) attended a session in Kinshasa. With support from the Fédération des Radios de Proximité du Congo in the province of South Kivu, an awareness-raising campaign on transitional justice was broadcast 466 times on 43 community radios, in French and Swahili, from 28 August to 6 September. More than 500,000 people were reached through the campaign.

The UNJHRO supported a strategic meeting between the provincial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CPVJR) in Kasaï Central and the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Crimes Against Peace and Security (FONAREV). The objective of the meeting was to discuss their respective mandates, identify areas of complementarity and define opportunities for collaboration through the development of a joint road map that will be implemented in Kasaï Central and aligned with international standards on transitional justice.

The UNJHRO began advocating for the establishment of FONAREV in 2021 and its administrators were nominated in 2023. In 2024, the UNJHRO provided technical support to FONAREV to enable its effective functioning. More specifically, in February, the Office trained FONAREV agents prior to their deployment to several provinces to support incident mapping, the identification of reparations stakeholders and the creation of victims' identification centres. In May, a capacity-building workshop was held for 23 FONAREV directors, heads of departments and staff on international standards, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of reparation projects.

Further to the technical cooperation agreement between the UNJHRO and the CPVJR, signed on 25 July 2023, the UNJHRO undertook advocacy in 2024 to support the CPVJR. Consequently, its initial three-year mandate was renewed for another three years, in August, by the Provincial Assembly of Kasaï Central. This enabled the CPVJR to plan its activities and begin its operational phase in January 2025.

The UNJHRO collaborated with Trial International to assist the CPVJR with a mandated mapping exercise of serious crimes, as well as the preparation of a related report. Together with UN Women and Trial International, the UNJHRO delivered trainings on various topics, including the right to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the link between transitional justice and the Demobilization, Disarmament, Community Recovery and Stabilization Programme (P-DDRCS) and gender considerations that need to be taken into account when interviewing victims. With support from the UNJHRO, the CPVJR is preparing to undertake awareness-raising campaigns, investigations and public hearings in the city of Kananga and the five territories of Kasaï Central. It will also take depositions from victims, witnesses and alleged perpetrators of the Kamuina Nsapu insurgency.

The UNJHRO provided assistance to the provincial prosecution as it developed prioritization strategies. As a result, in 2024, 39 new cases were added to the 107 prioritized cases of 2021, bringing the total number of cases to 146. In the latest emblematic case, which was prosecuted with the support of the UNJHRO, Donat Kengwa Omari, a warlord and self-proclaimed general and founder of the Raia Mutomboki (RM) armed group in South Kivu, was convicted, on 4 November, for his involvement in serious international crimes.

In anticipation of the deployment of two Joint Investigation Teams and the holding of nine mobile courts, the Office offered logistical and technical support to military and civil justice authorities, the Bar Association, victims and witnesses. The UNJHRO played a critical role in the protection of victims and witnesses before, during and after the trials of emblematic cases to ensure that the right to a fair trial was upheld and a victim-centred approach was implemented. This judicial protection scheme was instrumental to the success of the mobile courts and enabled 234 victims and witnesses to appear before the courts to testify, including 127 women, 96 men, eight girls and three boys. A total of 195 perpetrators were sentenced, including 82 from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), 19 from the Congolese National Police (PNC), 48 from armed groups and 46 civilians.

Finally, the UNJHRO supported the work of the follow-up committees on human rights violations for the FARDC and the PNC by providing logistical and technical assistance to strengthen investigations on cases of human rights violations that were identified by the committees. In 2024, 304 disciplinary measures were taken against security and defence forces and law enforcement officials, including 241 from the FARDC and 63 from the PNC.

Participation

The UNJHRO worked closely with the DRC's National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) in the face of institutional and human resources challenges. During its review of the CNDH for re-accreditation, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Sub-Committee on Accreditation decided to postpone the review until the first session of 2026 as it considered the CNDH's responses to be insufficient with respect to its internal functioning, the implementation of its human rights protection mandate, its public stance on the death penalty and its interactions with the international human rights mechanisms. The UNJHRO will continue to build the capacities of the CNDH, including to handle complaints and report human rights violations. The UNJHRO regularly engaged with the CNDH leadership and offered guidance on the promotion and protection of human rights.

Since May 2022, the Office has provided technical and financial assistance for a project that supports protection networks. The project facilitates monitoring of human rights protection, with a particular emphasis on the situation of HRDs, journalists, whistleblowers, pro-democracy activists and victims and witnesses of serious human rights violations. It also helps to improve collaboration between networks and among network members, the authorities and the UNJHRO. This has enabled the networks to document individual and collective protection cases and advocate for preventive and remedial actions.

Peace and Security

The UNJHRO provided capacity-building assistance to foster respect for human rights among non-UN security and defence forces and regional forces, namely, the FARDC, the PNC, the SAMIDRC and the Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism receiving MONUSCO support. During 2024, the HRDDP Unit conducted 81 trainings and awareness-raising sessions, reaching more than 3,700 members of security and defence forces, including 2,700 from the FARDC (400 women), 850 from the PNC (110 women) and members of the national security and defence forces. More than 150 SAMIDRC personnel (45 women) attended. The sessions enhanced their knowledge about international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the practical application of HRDDP procedures.

Throughout the year, 344 decisions were undertaken, including on the implementation of mitigating/corrective measures to prevent the commission of human rights violations by the FARDC, the PNC, the SAMIDRC and the Ad Hoc and Reinforced Ad Hoc Verification Mechanism. For instance, the UNJHRO conducted more than 100 risk assessments. The implementation of mitigating and corrective measures played an important role in the prevention and reduction of human rights violations committed by security forces and strengthened the compliance of security operations with international human rights standards and international humanitarian principles.

Within the framework of projects of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the UNJHRO cooperated with IOM and UNDP to support an initial six-month training of 120 newly recruited police officers (seven women). This included a specialized training of trainers (ToT) for officers from the PNC on the application of an HRBA in the implementation of their mandate and to prevent human rights violations. The UNJHRO organized nine workshops on human rights, community policing and security, in Kalemie and Nyunzu in the Tanganyika province, to develop the capacities of 69 officers (five women) from the PNC, 85 members (13 women) of Local Security Committees (CLS), 58 civil society representatives (28 women), 38 journalists (nine women) and 26 security trainers (17 women). The CLS validated their local safety diagnosis and local safety plan and were equipped with laptops and solar panels to optimize their operations.

The first joint programme to support police reform of the DRC (2024-2028) was signed on 5 June, with the participation of MONUSCO/UNPOL, IOM, UNDP, UN-Habitat, the UNJHRO and UNMAS. The UNJHRO is the lead in the fight against impunity under pillar 3 of the programme.

Mechanisms

The UNJHRO supported local actors, strengthened the capacities of national authorities and facilitated engagement between the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDH) and the international human rights mechanisms. In anticipation of the DRC's fourth UPR cycle, the UNJHRO assisted the CIDH with data collection and the development and validation of the national report. The Office also acted as the Technical Secretariat for the drafting of the UNCT report for the UPR. Technical support was provided for the preparation of an exceptional report, requested by the CEDAW Committee, to respond to allegations of conflict-related sexual violence committed in the context of the conflict in eastern DRC.

The UNJHRO facilitated the delivery of a workshop on the role and contribution of an NPM in implementing OPCAT. Participants were informed of good practices and NPMs operating in Rwanda, Senegal and Tunisia. A total of 32 participants (11 women) from the Ministry of Human Rights, the CIDH and CSOs attended. Following the workshop, the Ministry of Human Rights committed to establishing a working group to bring stakeholders together to determine an appropriate NPM model for the DRC.

Development

The UNJHRO conducted training and awareness-raising activities in the pilot provinces of the Haut-Katanga and Lualaba, on the UNGPs and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, to ensure that business actors respect human rights in the course of their

activities. As part of these efforts, the Office strengthened cooperation with one of the largest cobalt and copper producers, Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM), in Fungurume, Lualaba province. A ToT was delivered to 50 persons, including agents and managers at TFM, representatives of civil society and communities, the provincial CNDH coordinator, the mining police and members of the army. The training focused on the right to development, the UNGPs, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, corporate social responsibility, social auditing, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of an HRBA and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). The UNJHRO and TFM initiated discussions about the company's internal documents, namely, the complaints management mechanism, the due diligence report and the non-discrimination report, with a view to encouraging their alignment with international human rights norms. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TFM is being discussed. It is expected that it will be signed by mid-2025.

Non-discrimination

The UNJHRO continued to support the Ministry responsible for persons with disabilities, as part of the fight against discrimination against persons with disabilities. The Office provided technical support on the draft statutes of the Consultation Framework of Associations of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the Order regarding the organization and operation of the National Consultative Council of Persons with Disabilities, to ensure their alignment with CRPD, the Paris Principles and Organic Law No. 22/003 on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

EASTERN AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Addis Ababa
Staff as of 31 December 2024	35

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR made notable progress in strengthening governance, the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations through a regional approach. Recognizing the interconnectedness of conflicts and the importance of regional collaboration in fostering sustainable peace, the Regional Office for Eastern Africa established a strategic partnership with the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This collaboration sought to integrate human rights principles into conflict resolution and transitional justice frameworks across the East and the Horn of Africa. In January, OHCHR, the AU and IGAD convened a consultation with transitional justice and human rights experts from **Djibouti**, **Ethiopia**, **Kenya**, **Somalia**, **South Sudan**, **Sudan** and **Uganda**. The consultation defined the roles of OHCHR, the AU and IGAD in mediating conflicts, resolving disputes, preventing human rights violations and supporting transitional justice mechanisms, leading to several outcomes. IGAD committed to establishing a regional human rights and transitional justice mechanism aimed at promoting accountability and reconciliation among its member states. It also committed to the adoption of a binding protocol on transitional justice, representing a groundbreaking step towards embedding human rights into regional conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes. The EARO will provide technical and financial assistance for the drafting of the protocol.

OHCHR assisted the AU with mainstreaming human rights into its continental early warning

systems, integrating the standards of international human rights law and international humanitarian law into AU peace operations and implementing the "African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework project." In February, the AUCF Project Management Unit (PMU) engaged with senior officials from key ministries in **Somalia**, including the Ministries of Defence and of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, to provide a briefing on the project and express its commitment to support Somalia's efforts to ratify international and regional instruments, develop protection frameworks, such as military rules of engagement, and establish a Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell (CCTARC). The Government outlined its priorities, including to build a professional military force capable of protecting civilians and in order to align its policies and procedures with standards of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Federal Government of Somalia proposed the establishment of an interministerial unit to ensure coordination. In collaboration with the PMU, it also committed to the development of a road map for compliance and accountability frameworks.

Since the 2023 adoption of Security Council resolution 2719 (UNSCR 2719), OHCHR has participated in the Joint AU-UN Task Team on the Operationalization of Security Council Resolution 2719, which is mandated to oversee its implementation. This contributed to the development of the Joint AU-UN Road Map on the Operationalization of UNSCR 2719. The Road Map recognizes that human rights are crucial to the effective functioning of AU peace support operations. It was endorsed by the African Union Commission Secretary General and Chairperson, in October. In July, the Office established an interdepartmental HRDDP Working Group on UNSCR 2719, under the auspices of the Joint AU-UN Task Team, to discuss the creation of HRDDP mechanisms and procedures required to implement the HRDDP in the event that UN support is provided to AU Peace Support Operations (AUPSOs) under UNSCR 2719.

As part of the AUCF project, the response and remedy system was strengthened through the finalization of two pivotal documents, namely, the *Guidance document for a standardized complaint and reporting mechanism for reporting cases of misconduct in peace support operations (PSOs)* and the *Guidelines on communication between the AU, PSOs and troops- and police-contributing countries (T/PCCs) on allegations of misconduct*. The documents will be crucial to operationalizing the AU Policy on Remedial Actions and are pending approval by AU decision-making organs.

Further, the development of a comprehensive AU Case Management System (CMS) was completed, tested and adopted at the AU's Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security, on 5 June. This marks a transformative step in ensuring that a systematic and reinforced approach is employed to manage allegations of misconduct and violations within AUPSOs. OHCHR contributed throughout the process, including by reviewing the CMS Guidelines and the guidance document on the submission of complaints by victims and third parties. As a result, the documents include a human rights-based approach and are aligned with UN standards and good practices. Work is underway to finalize the hosting and technical specifications, after which the database will go live. The CMS supports the AUCF's core pillars (prevention, response and remedial action) and provides a clear framework for handling cases, promoting accountability, preventing recurrence and advocating for the highest standard of discipline. It strengthens prevention by standardizing the registration of incidents, identifying misconduct patterns and enabling proactive risk mitigation measures. In addition, it enhances response by streamlining processes for receiving reports, conducting investigations and implementing timely remedial actions. Moreover, the CMS supports remedial action by ensuring accountability, offering structured mechanisms to receive, classify and investigate cases in a transparent manner, while also maintaining consistent communication on individual incidents.

In May, a workshop was held with 45 participants (seven women) from the AU Commission, the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), T/PCCs, RECs/RMs and UN partners on "Strengthening the selection and screening mechanism for personnel of AUPSOs." Different AU departments agreed to establish

Pre-Deployment Vetting (PDV) focal points at T/PCC levels, develop SOPs for vetting and ensure rigorous background checks and medical examinations. It further emphasized the need for interlinking databases, automating the screening process and creating user-friendly systems for confidentiality and stakeholder input. These measures seek to exclude individuals with criminal records or who have engaged in serious misconduct, thereby ensuring that only qualified personnel are deployed to AUPSOs. The discussions also highlighted the need for legal frameworks to harmonize selection standards among the AU, the UN, T/PCCs and RECs/RMs. The working session identified the importance of joint training programmes on AU standards, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and conduct and discipline. OHCHR stands ready to support the mainstreaming of human rights principles into the SOPs and the coordination of UN support to the screening process.

In **Ethiopia**, OHCHR assisted with the adoption of Ethiopia's National Transitional Justice Policy and its Implementation Road Map, in April and August, respectively, which are in line with international human rights standards. During the drafting of the Transitional Justice Policy, the Office provided written comments and advice to the Ministry of Justice. It also facilitated the validation workshops on the draft policy, in February, and workshops with over 350 representatives (40 per cent women) from civil society, the media and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs on their roles with respect to transitional justice. The Policy and Implementation Road Map promote greater accountability by addressing the rights of victims to truth, justice and reparations and reiterating guarantees for non-recurrence. OHCHR contributed to the drafting of new legislation to operationalize the Transitional Justice Policy through written comments to ensure alignment with international human rights standards. For instance, the draft legislation will establish four institutions, namely, a special prosecution office, a special bench, a truth-seeking commission and an institutional reform commission and address gaps in the adjudication of international crimes. The Policy's Implementation Road Map clarifies the sequencing and coordination of resource allocation.

In collaboration with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and International Centre for Transitional Justice, the Office engaged with victims' and survivors' associations from the Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Somali and Tigray regions to ensure their meaningful participation in transitional justice, including through workshops, capacity-building initiatives and experience-sharing. Due to this work, the first national consortium of victims' associations is expected to formally register in 2025, which will empower victims to collectively advocate for their rights and directly engage with duty bearers.

Also in **Ethiopia**, OHCHR monitored detention facilities and advocated for the fair treatment of detainees. This contributed to improvements in 33 detention centres across Amhara, Tigray and Somali, including by addressing procedural delays, providing essential supplies and ensuring compliance with fair trial standards. OHCHR's advocacy contributed to the release of 738 unlawfully detained individuals (90 women, 626 men, one girl and 21 boys).

Mechanisms

OHCHR supported the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms across the region. In anticipation of **Ethiopia**'s fourth UPR cycle, OHCHR's assistance enabled timely submissions from the Government, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, CSOs and the UNCT. It also provided relevant information, guidance and capacity-building that was tailored to the NMIRF. As many members of the drafting committee were new to the UPR process, OHCHR's assistance improved their understanding of the mechanism and its reporting requirements. In addition, OHCHR helped the Ministry of Justice to begin preparing its overdue periodic reports under ICESCR by sharing and elaborating on the key provisions of the Covenant and the reporting guidelines of CESCR. In parallel, OHCHR delivered trainings to 50 civil society members (12 women) from a consortium of human rights organizations in order to guide the preparation of a joint CSO alternative report. OHCHR also led and coordinated the UNCT's UPR report, which was submitted to the UPR Secretariat, in May.

The Office supported counterparts in Djibouti and Tanzania in their efforts to implement recommendations issued during the fourth and third UPR cycles, respectively. In **Djibouti**, OHCHR delivered presentations to UNCT members, in January and September, on the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR. In addition, OHCHR delivered a workshop on the UPR for nine UN staff (seven women) from seven entities on how to link UPR recommendations to the outputs of Djibouti's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2025-2030). In **Tanzania**, OHCHR assisted the Government in its efforts to follow up on the implementation of UPR recommendations, including through the provision of technical advice and by sharing a summarized version of the UPR recommendations that can be used to assess the level of their implementation. During a workshop co-organized with the Commonwealth Secretariat, in November, the Office facilitated sessions on engagements with the UPR and the CRPD Committee. During the sessions, participants developed two road maps. The first road map charted a plan for the implementation of UPR recommendations from the past cycle and the second focused on finalizing Tanzania's overdue report to CRPD by April 2025.

OHCHR provided financial and technical assistance for the development of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (AUCEVAWG) and engaged in advocacy to address the risks of backsliding on existing norms and standards. Support included active participation in the High-level Reference Group, created by the African Union Commission (AUC) to guide the drafting process, and a recommendation to include current and former UN independent experts in the drafting committee to ensure alignment with international human rights standards. The Office also participated in several UN coordination and strategy meetings to assess and mitigate the risks of a potential rollback of existing regional and international norms and engaged in advocacy with UN principals. In February 2025, the Convention was adopted by AU Heads of States, contributing to the adoption of more coherent and comprehensive measures across AU Member States to better prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls.

In **Uganda**, OHCHR provided technical and financial assistance to CSOs, led by the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda and DefendDefenders to conduct a mid-term review of the UPR process. This included the preparation of a recommendation matrix, the review of the draft report and facilitation of a validation workshop, resulting in the submission of a review report to the UPR Secretariat, in October.

Development

OHCHR made progress towards advancing sustainable development through human rights. For instance, the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-10) served as a valuable opportunity for the Office to promote the application of an HRBA to development. The Forum, held from 23 to 25 April, was attended by 1,250 participants, including ministers and high-level representatives of governments from 51 member countries, intergovernmental bodies, UN bodies and agencies and other international organizations. Due to OHCHR's various interventions through background papers, panels and side events, the Forum's outcome document, the *Addis Ababa Declaration on the Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions to Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and to Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises*, includes key human rights language. This subsequently influenced Africa's priorities and inputs for the Summit of the Future, which was held in September.

To expand its work on ESCRs in the region, OHCHR partnered with colleagues and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to conduct a "Joint Colloquium on Realizing ESCRs in Africa," in the **Gambia**, with an emphasis on the right to education. Discussions touched on transforming recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into concrete policies, laws and practices in order to build human rights economies, create and expand fiscal space and address poverty inequality and injustice. A total of 219 participants (105 women) were in attendance. OHCHR and ACHPR are considering the organization of annual colloquiums on ESCRs, with specific themes.

During the year, OHCHR made strides in the area of Business and Human Rights by prioritizing partnerships with and building the capacities of AU Member States, including the Ministry of Justice of **Ethiopia** and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) of **Tanzania**, to lay the groundwork for fair and inclusive economic growth across the continent. Through subregional consultations in Central, East, Southern and West Africa, OHCHR raised awareness about the UNGPs, leading to an increase in commitments from Member States to develop NAPBHRs. In Ethiopia, OHCHR collaborated with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and UNDP to conduct a consultation on NAP development. Technical and financial support was provided for a baseline assessment that will gather essential data on business-related human rights issues across four regions. This assessment will subsequently inform Ethiopia's NAP by identifying high-risk sectors, human rights impacts and priorities. In Tanzania, OHCHR partnered with CHRAGG and the Danish Institute for Human Rights to organize a workshop, in October, which gathered thematic working groups and technical teams, including from the Government, CSOs and the private sector. The participants reviewed findings from stakeholder consultations and finalized priorities for Tanzania's NAPBHR. These efforts contributed to reaffirming commitments to embed human rights standards into business practices and regulatory frameworks.

In **Uganda**, OHCHR provided training on the HRBA and LNOB principles for UN staff involved in the development of a new UNSDCF (2026-2030) and members of the Human Rights Gender Advisory Group, which is operating under the UNCT. OHCHR led the drafting of the sections on LNOB and commitments to uphold international and regional norms and standards reflected in the Common Country Analysis (CCA).

Non-discrimination

Interventions related to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issues were guided by heightened threats to the human rights of LGBTQI+ people across the region, particularly in **Ethiopia**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**, and the need to closely monitor the situation, engage with stakeholders and respond to requests for technical and emergency assistance.

In June, in light of emerging threats and the protection needs of LGBTQI+ communities, OHCHR collaborated with UN and CSO partners to deliver a one-week regional conference for at-risk communities and HRDs from seven African countries. A total of 32 participants attended the event, including activists and representatives of NHRIs and faith-based organizations. The event enhanced their capacities to develop strategies to mitigate the impact of and prevent the adoption of repressive legislation through sensitization, advocacy and legal actions. It also strengthened their capacities to document human rights violations and report on and engage in evidence-based advocacy at the local, regional and international level.

In **Djibouti**, OHCHR and IOM co-organized a three-day training on "Human rights at international borders" for 30 participants (three women), including coastguards, police/gendarmerie officers, representatives of the national navy, line ministries and CSOs. Participants were equipped with knowledge and practical tools to ensure that migration management practices respect human rights, are non-discriminatory and incorporate a gender-responsive approach.

In **Ethiopia**, OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to support the development of Ethiopia's draft Second National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities. Technical support was provided based on consultations with over 20 organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and related government ministries, in September and November, to ensure that the draft incorporates the inputs of persons with disabilities and is aligned with international standards. While the draft plan is still under development, this consultative process is a positive indicator of progress towards the creation of a rights-based policy framework for disability inclusion.

Participation

OHCHR took steps to enhance participation and protect civic space and HRDs across East Africa. In particular, OHCHR supported efforts to strengthen the institutional and substantive capacities of national networks of WHRDs in **Ethiopia** and **Tanzania**, which were established with OHCHR's assistance, in 2021 and 2019, respectively. The Office also helped to strengthen protection frameworks and develop their capacities for engagement with AU and UN processes and the international human rights mechanisms. Since their creation, the networks have positioned themselves as key stakeholders in their respective countries. They play a critical role in advocating for women's human rights and amplify the voices of women and marginalized groups so that their concerns are heard in national and regional policy discussions.

The Office provided financial and technical assistance to national coalitions in these countries, in particular to the Eastern Africa Network of Women Human Rights Defenders. The Network launched its first Strategic Plan (2025–2029), in November, to guide its activities over the next five years. It was developed through a comprehensive consultative process with members of the Network and prioritizes legal protection, institutional capacity-building and response mechanisms to counter shrinking civic spaces and specific gendered risks and threats faced by WHRDs. OHCHR will support the implementation of the Plan through technical and financial assistance, partnerships and policy advocacy so that WHRDs can operate safely and effectively.

OHCHR and UN Women co-organized an expert meeting for Sub-Saharan Africa to inform the drafting of a new general recommendation by the CEDAW Committee on the obligations of States Parties to implement equal and inclusive decision-making systems. The meeting convened a total of 48 experts from academia and CSOs from the continent who provided concrete and context-specific recommendations to inform the drafting process of General Recommendation No. 40 and ensure the integration of the specific concerns of African women. The General Recommendation, which was issued by CEDAW, in October, asserts that equal and inclusive representation means no less than 50-50 parity between women and men and necessitates equal access for all women and girls within any decision-making system, including public and private sectors and political, economic and digital spaces.

OHCHR supported the participation of women and youth in AU processes and their initiatives to bring concerns and recommendations to the attention of AU Member States. More specifically, OHCHR supported a continental meeting of the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network, led by Bineta Diop, the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security. The meeting, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, brought together approximately 200 participants to discuss gaps and challenges on "Educational transformation for gender equity and sustainability," in line with the AU theme of the year. The outcome document was presented to the African Union Heads of States and Government Summit and included recommendations on scaling up actions at the national, regional and continental level.

OHCHR conducted a study to assess civic space in East Africa and undertook a mapping of CSO/HRD networks. The study highlighted the legal landscape in which CSOs operate in **Djibouti, Ethiopia**, **Kenya**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**, the challenges they face and the measures needed to support their work. The Office strengthened its cooperation with DefendDefenders to enhance the protection of civic space in East Africa and used its convening power and technical expertise to convene HRDs in the region. At a meeting held in June, participants discussed support for exiled HRDs and promoted a collaborative environment for sustainable solutions.

In November, OHCHR and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) co-organized a two-day workshop to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs to effectively monitor, report and prevent human rights violations and human rights concerns in electoral contexts and promote regional cooperation to address and mitigate election-related human

rights violations. The meeting was attended by 11 NHRIs (five women), including the Chair of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and three Commissioners from **Kenya**, **Tanzania** and **Uganda**. This equipped NHRIs with the knowledge and tools to improve their monitoring of election-related human rights violations. Eighty-five per cent of participants indicated that they improved their understanding of the roles and functions of NHRIs in the context of elections.

A total of 90 participants from CSOs and media organizations attended and developed an action plan for building the capacities of the media and journalists, the NHRI and the police and for identifying indicators to establish an early warning mechanism.

Peace and Security

Due to OHCHR's engagement, the AU's Continental Early Warning System developed its first early warning products on human rights and gender issues. OHCHR contributed to this result by incorporating human rights risk factors into continental early warning data collection tools. This enhanced the capacity of CSOs that provide data to the AUC to apply a human rights-based approach to data collection and strengthened the AU's capacity to undertake human rights-informed analysis. The Office also provided various guidance documents, including a prevention-focused human rights analytical framework, a Guidance Note on integrating gender into early warning and a training manual on human rights in early warning. Recommendations were provided to facilitate the integration of human rights into the AU's early warning and prevention frameworks and guidance documents. Peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges and training were provided to the AU, RECs/RMs and AU human rights organs to enhance their knowledge and capacity to apply human rights to early warning.

In **Tanzania**, OHCHR collaborated with the Media Institute of Southern Africa Tanzania Chapter to facilitate a workshop, in Dar es Salaam, from 31 May to 1 June, on the prevention of human rights violations in the context of elections. The workshop focused on the creation of a prevention strategy in the context of elections and the provision of support to journalists and the media to monitor and report emerging human rights issues in a gender- and human rights-compliant manner.

THE GAMBIA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2022
Field office(s)	Banjul
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028
Staff as of 31 December 2024	5
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

In collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), UNDP and the EU, OHCHR organized a training for 30 prison officers (five women) to increase their understanding of human rights and non-discrimination and ensure equitable treatment for all within the justice system. Particular attention was paid to the promotion and protection of women, older persons, juveniles and migrants.

In cooperation with the UNCT, OHCHR provided technical support to the NHRC to enhance protections for women and girls. For instance, technical expertise was offered in relation to the possible establishment of a gender observatory within the NHRC as a means of monitoring gender-based discrimination and promoting gender equality in the Gambia. This would help to strengthen the gender and human rights framework. OHCHR will continue to build the NHRC's capacities to track and address gender inequality, thereby contributing to better data collection, analysis and policy formulation.

OHCHR supported the UNCT and the NHRC in their advocacy against the adoption of the Women's (Amendment) Bill 2024. The Amendment Bill sought to repeal the Women's Amendment Act 2015, which would decriminalize female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). The Bill conflicted with international human rights norms and standards and violated fundamental rights, including bodily integrity, life, health and protection against torture or other cruel and inhumane treatment and the principles of equality and non-discrimination. OHCHR's support included engagement with the special procedures to assist with advocacy efforts. The Amendment was successfully rejected.

To promote and protect the rights of migrants, OHCHR worked with the American Bar Association and IOM to ensure that migrant rights are more effectively addressed within the legal framework, including through the development of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and identify gaps in the implementation of national frameworks, in line with international standards.

The Office partnered with the NHRC and CSOs to raise public awareness about specific provisions in the Disability Act and promote disability rights and inclusion. The Office provided technical support regarding the organization of the Commission's national dialogue on mental health. More than 100 individuals attended, including CSOs and OPDs, such as the Gambia Federation of the Disabled (GFD), and women's rights organizations, such as the Women's Association for Victims' Empowerment (WAVE).

Accountability

OHCHR worked with the country's Special Adviser on Transitional Justice and the NHRC to strengthen the transitional justice process, with an emphasis on monitoring and the implementation of recommendations issued by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). Implementation efforts remain slow due to limited institutional capacities to monitor and enforce the implementation and an absence of coordination among stakeholders involved in the transitional justice process. To date, 16 recommendations have been fully implemented, 192 are ongoing and 55 have yet to be implemented. OHCHR extended financial support to the NHRC to hold quarterly meetings with stakeholders to monitor the implementation of recommendations. In addition, the Office provided capacity-building assistance to State and non-State actors to enable them to manage and monitor the process. For instance, the Office supported the Ministry of Justice's

consultative meeting with 22 stakeholders (seven women), including ECOWAS ambassadors, to hold discussions on the creation of a regional tribunal that would address human rights abuses. This helped to advance legal frameworks for justice and emphasized collective accountability for lasting peace. At the community level, the Office prioritized grassroots engagement to build societal understanding and a sense of ownership of the transitional justice process in the Gambia. A series of town hall meetings were organized across the country and attended by 289 community members (190 women, eight persons with disabilities), which empowered citizens to counter misinformation and actively participate in discussions around TRRC recommendations. The gatherings catalysed community-led support for reconciliation and justice, generating greater inclusivity in the transitional justice process.

OHCHR engaged with various partners to conduct tailored outreach programmes that aim to combat discrimination and barriers faced by individuals and groups. The Office also took steps to ensure the meaningful inclusion and participation of youth, women and persons with disabilities. More specifically, the Office collaborated with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), an international non-profit organization, to empower young people to participate in transitional justice processes through a "Regional conference on youth participation in transitional justice processes, peacebuilding and governance in Africa," held on 28 and 29 November. Participants included youth from West and East Africa and representatives from the African Union Transitional Justice Unit. A total of 65 participants (26 women) attended, including participants from Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda. The event provided a platform for young people in West Africa to share experiences, strategies and resources for promoting justice, accountability and reconciliation in their communities, thereby fostering greater communication and collaboration. Further, the Office financially supported the ICTJ's community dialogues, which engaged 108 community members (50 women, four persons with disabilities). Raising awareness about the TRRC's recommendations advanced a victim-centred transitional justice process. OHCHR supported women's inclusion through the organization of a training for 31 members (25 women) of the Female Lawyers Association - Gambia (FLAG). The focus of the training was on transitional justice and strategic litigation in relation to SGBV cases.

OHCHR partnered with and provided financial support to OPDs and women-led organizations to enable the delivery of a training on disability rights for 40 persons. The training highlighted the TRRC's recommendations related to persons with disabilities, promoted the Disability Act and encouraged the development of strategies for advocacy and engagement with stakeholders. This fostered a more inclusive approach to transitional justice and ensured that gender and disability considerations would be integrated into the ongoing monitoring and reporting processes outlined in the TRRC recommendations. At the end of the training, participants discussed potential action plans with concrete steps that OPDs could take to support the implementation of the TRRC's recommendations and the Disability Act. It is anticipated that the action plans will be finalized in 2025.

Mechanisms

OHCHR worked closely with the NHRC to promote the Gambia's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, particularly in the context of the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies, and with CSOs and development partners. The Office is supporting the NHRC's advocacy for the establishment of a permanent NMIRF to ensure reporting and follow-up on the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies. To date, reporting under the international human rights treaties is conducted, on an ad hoc basis, by a committee that is led by the Ministry of Justice. The lack of a permanent mechanism has undermined the consistency and effectiveness of the Gambia's engagement with the treaty bodies.

With OHCHR's support, the UNCT submitted a joint UPR report prior to the Gambia's fourth UPR cycle, which provided a comprehensive overview of the country's progress with regard to the human rights situation. OHCHR extended technical and coordinated assistance, leading to the institutionalization of a collective, unified approach to human rights monitoring and

reporting within the UN system. OHCHR also collaborated with UNICEF on the UNCT's submission to the CRC Committee, in anticipation of its review of the Gambia's combined fourth to seventh periodic reports.

Moreover, OHCHR co-organized consultations with CSOs on the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR, ensuring a more inclusive and comprehensive process. Through these efforts, the Office strengthened the capacities of 20 CSOs and facilitated the preparation and submission of their alternative reports to the CRC Committee and the UPR.

GUINEA

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2010
Field office(s)	Conakry, Nzérékoré
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2024-2028
Staff as of 31 December 2024	21
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability

OHCHR contributed to strengthening governance, the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations in Guinea. Its efforts focused on supporting national authorities to ensure accountability for crimes committed during the 28 September 2009 protests and to combat impunity. The Government committed to holding perpetrators accountable for serious crimes. On 31 July, the Dixinn Criminal Court concluded its first trial related to these crimes, representing a landmark step in the quest for justice. The Court found eight individuals, including the former Head of State, Moussa Dadis Camara, guilty of crimes against humanity. The sentences ranged from 10 years to life in prison. Moussa Dadis Camara received a 20-year sentence and Claude Pivi was sentenced to life in prison. Four other defendants were acquitted. Additionally, the Court mandated reparations for victims and their families. OHCHR strengthened the capacities of 53 magistrates (19 women) by providing training on investigative techniques for mass crimes and the protection of victims and witnesses in sensitive contexts.

Further, OHCHR engaged in strategic advocacy with national authorities, including the Ministry of Justice, on issues such as prolonged pretrial detention and civic space restrictions. The Office monitored 93 detention facilities, observed 169 criminal hearings and documented 44 human rights violations. This contributed to the release of 114 detainees who were held in prolonged pretrial detention. OHCHR also facilitated legal aid for 251 victims and contributed to efforts to address

GBV, thereby leading to the examination of 63 rape cases in Conakry and surrounding regions. OHCHR's assistance with regard to rape cases contributed to the conviction of 37 detainees, the acquittal of 20 and the release of four others.

OHCHR provided guidance on transitional justice efforts and supported national authorities with the drafting and adoption of a national strategy for reconciliation in Guinea. On 16 August, the Government adopted the Strategy, which addresses accountability and reconciliation. In addition to enabling the implementation of recommendations issued by the National Assizes for Reconciliation, the Strategy urges that the Dixinn Criminal Court hearing of 31 July recognize the criminal responsibilities of high-level political leaders and the military. It also identifies the Government's strategic four-part axis in transitional justice and reconciliation efforts, namely, truth-seeking, prosecutions, reparations and institutional reforms.

Participation

OHCHR engaged with communities to empower civil society, women, vulnerable groups and grassroots committees, as well as local authorities, to discuss community priorities. Dialogues were organized to raise awareness among local leaders about challenges facing their communities and foster inclusive participation to promote human rights, social cohesion and sustainable development. OHCHR facilitated 15 community engagement sessions in rural communes, reaching over 23,000 people.

To combat hate speech and incitement to violence, OHCHR organized trainings in Conakry and other regions for more than 80 representatives (30 women) from political parties, digital influencers and community communicators. The sessions equipped participants with the skills to prevent and address hate speech, while promoting messages of peace in public communications and across social networking platforms.

Development

OHCHR prioritized the application of an HRBA to advance sustainable development, with an emphasis on ESCRs. OHCHR worked closely with transitional authorities, private sector actors and the UNCT to improve legislation in the mining sector. Efforts included integrating human rights principles into business practices to ensure that mining activities respect human rights, including the right to a healthy environment. This collaboration led to a roundtable discussion involving the Government, the Chamber of Mines of Guinea and civil society partners to tackle human rights concerns in the sector. In partnership with Action Mines Guinée, a CSO that works with communities to monitor governance of the extractive industries, OHCHR organized a capacity-building initiative for 23 community members (eight women) from the Simandou corridor. The objective of the initiative was to increase the awareness of the participants about their rights and enhance their capacities to claim their rights in dealings with the Government and mining companies. In addition, four early warning committees were established to monitor and report on human rights violations.

Joint site visits to mining areas in Upper Guinea and the Upper Guinean Forest highlighted human rights challenges faced by nearby communities. As part of a study on the human rights impacts of the Simandou iron ore project, OHCHR conducted a research mission to assess those impacts and the due diligence measures required to protect affected communities. The study also identified mitigation measures that would enable communities to initiate dialogue with mining companies. OHCHR and the Ministry of Mines and Geology disseminated the findings to affected communities.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR assisted the Government with the adoption and promulgation, in January, of Law No. L/2024/001/CNT on HIV prevention, care and protection for persons living with HIV in Guinea.

Mechanisms

OHCHR provided support to the NHRI in preparing reports to the international human rights mechanisms. Notably, Guinea finalized and submitted its State report in anticipation of its fourth UPR cycle on 27 January 2025. The review took place on 29 April 2025.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Bissau
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	4

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

Due to OHCHR's long-standing advocacy and capacity-building efforts in Guinea-Bissau to promote a stronger national human rights architecture, the Government publicly reaffirmed its commitment to establish an NMIRF and submit pending reports to the human rights treaty bodies. This announcement was made during the fifty-seventh session of the HRC. Guinea-Bissau was represented by a staff member of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights who attended the HRC session with OHCHR's support.

In November, the Council of Ministers adopted amendments to Decree Law No. 5/2009, establishing the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). While several provisions fall short of international standards, the Decree incorporates elements of OHCHR's long-standing advocacy, including practical steps to strengthen the independence of the NHRC.

The Office supported reform efforts by the Centres for Access to Justice (CAJ) to institute a Public Defence Office in Guinea-Bissau. OHCHR's advocacy contributed to the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Public Defence Office of Brazil to cooperate on strengthening the CAJ's capacities. The MoU enables the CAJ to operate as a legal aid actor, providing legal information, offering alternative dispute resolution methods and giving the "poverty test" that facilitates access to legal aid for users. This result also followed the Ministry's participation in a national conference on access to

justice, which focused on the increased capacities of duty bearers, rights holders and other stakeholders to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

In addition, OHCHR supported the submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies. For the first time, Guinea-Bissau submitted reports to the Human Rights Committee and the CESCR, CRPD and CRC Committees. Help was also provided to the working group tasked with drafting reports to the Committee against Torture (CAT), the CEDAW and CERD Committees. During the year, OHCHR prioritized increasing the capacities of stakeholders to interact with the treaty bodies, provided assistance in the drafting of State reports, held consultations with CSOs and validation workshops with State institutions and translated essential documents from Portuguese to English.

Further, the Office strengthened the capacities of CSOs to draft reports to the international human rights mechanisms, including through consultations. The number of reports that were submitted to the UPR from CSOs increased from two during the third UPR cycle in 2020 to 21 during the fourth UPR cycle in 2025. OHCHR provided support for the drafting of 18 reports that were prepared using the simplified reporting procedure.

OHCHR worked closely with lawyers and HRDs to facilitate their engagement with the special procedures and submit individual complaints. As a result, two joint communications were issued by special procedures, namely, one on the detention of two former government officials, in November 2023, and another on the arrests of approximately 100 activists during a peaceful march, in May. Once public, these communications were used as advocacy tools by lawyers and HRDs, as well as other stakeholders. For the first time, the Government responded to allegation letters, asserting that the suspects were guaranteed the right to defence under national and international legal provisions and were informed of their rights during their first interrogation. It also maintained that the rejection of their habeas corpus request was based on legal conditions and was therefore not a violation of articles 9 or 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). It also stated that the investigation adhered to substantive and procedural legal standards and that the detainees were treated in accordance with the principle of equality outlined in Article 24 of the Constitution and Decree No. 12/2011. The Government's response demonstrated a willingness to engage in dialogue on allegations of human rights violations.

Participation

In partnership with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Office enhanced the capacities of the Human Rights Defenders Network, the National Statistics Office, the Judicial Police and the CAJ on the protection of civic space, including through the development of and delivery of training regarding an online tool entitled "The Right to Defend Rights." The tool is founded on a set of 73 human rights-based indicators that are anchored in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (UNDHRD) and related international human rights law. The tool also supports data collection of related targets and indicators in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Efforts undertaken during the year contributed to the preparation of a report on the situation of HRDs, civic space and SDG 16.10.1. The report will be used to promote a favourable and safe environment for HRDs, in particular through the 2025 adoption of a law on the protection of HRDs.

With OHCHR's assistance, the Human Rights Defenders Network used methodology and tools to develop reports that reflect their views and recommendations. The Network submitted its first report to the UPR on the situation of HRDs in the country, directing its content and recommendations to national authorities and the international community. More specifically, the report highlights human rights concerns, including freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, participation in public affairs and liberty and security of the person.

Development

With guidance from the RCO economist, OHCHR published a study on the *Human rights-based analysis of Guinea-Bissau's budget*, which focuses on health and education rights. It also produced public outreach materials promoting the findings of the analysis. Moreover, the Office prepared infographics on *The right to health and Guinea-Bissau's budget* and *The right to education and Guinea-Bissau's budget*. The infographics present the main findings/recommendations of the study and outline the Government's obligations related to health and education, emphasizing that these are human rights. The materials advocate for increasing allocations to health and education and encourage citizen participation in budget-related processes.

KENYA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser/Multi-country Office
Countries of engagement	Djibouti, Eritrea, Uganda and Tanzania
Year established	2008 (HRA)/Established in March 2025 (MCO)
Field office(s)	Nairobi
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	36

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

OHCHR undertook advocacy and extended technical guidance to the Environment and Land Court on applying an HRBA to climate change and other environmental issues and provided years of support for environmental HRDs seeking justice. On 6 December, the Supreme Court of Kenya handed down a landmark decision. In it, the Court agreed with the earlier ruling of the Environment and Land Court that the Government of Kenya and the two polluting companies were obligated to pay compensation to the residents of the Owino Uhuru settlement for the deaths and health impacts caused by lead poisoning from an adjacent smelter for recycling batteries and to restore the environment. In its ruling, the Environment and Land Court declared that the community's rights to life, a healthy environment, the highest attainable standard of health and to clean and safe water had been contravened. The Government and two companies were ordered to pay compensation.

In the context of the MoU that was signed between the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the Office offered technical and financial assistance to enable them to finalize the standard demographic module. The module will ensure a structured design for the collection of demographic data, with an emphasis on promoting and protecting human rights. The Office also mobilized CSOs to provide inputs to the module.

The KNCHR and the KNBS will pilot the module in 2025.

As part of its 2023 HR75 commitments, Kenya pledged to develop, adopt and implement a human rights policy to improve the coordination and implementation of its human rights obligations. In 2024, OHCHR provided inputs to a baseline survey that was conducted to determine pending issues from the previous policy and suggested that an updated policy should include new and emerging issues, such as climate change and data privacy. OHCHR supported the development of a draft and facilitated the participation of CSOs and other stakeholders to gather their inputs. The draft policy will undergo validation process in 2025.

OHCHR collaborated with the UNCT on the preparation of three quarterly economic updates that provide an analysis of Kenya's economic challenges, including debt vulnerability, fiscal austerity and the cost of living crisis. The updates identify the impacts of these challenges on marginalized groups, human rights and the realization of the SDGs. In addition, the Office supported the United Nations Economist Network (UNEN) in drafting two joint analyses of the 2024-2025 national budget, which focus on the budget's alignment with the UNSDCF, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights principles. The Office used these analyses to engage duty bearers and rights holders and promote the use of a human rights-based budget analysis to guide engagement and ensure that budget development processes are participatory and advance ESCRs at the national and subnational level. In this context, the Office engaged with the National Assembly, the County Assemblies and executives in seven counties, as well as NHRIs and CSOs across the country, to enhance human rights budgeting. The county-level engagements aimed to strengthen collaboration among the County Assemblies and Executives, CSOs and communities in order to empower communities and enhance their participation in budget processes. They also sought to increase awareness among citizens about their role in shaping development agendas and influencing budget decisions, thereby enabling meaningful citizen participation in budget processes.

OHCHR strengthened its cooperation with the UNCT and contributed to the integration of human rights principles when UNSDCF and UN activities are implemented. Through tailored technical assistance, capacity-building support, strategic advocacy and joint programming, OHCHR enabled UN agencies and programmes to reflect human rights considerations in their work. For instance, in its work on peacebuilding, OHCHR collaborated with other UN agencies to develop a joint programme on implementation to ensure that peace operations incorporate human rights. Similarly, OHCHR cooperated with the UNCT to promote the application of an HRBA to development by supporting national actors to apply an HRBA to data.

Peace and Security

By addressing critical capacity gaps and empowering security personnel and community representatives, OHCHR and its UN partners contributed to improving the relationship between security agencies and communities in northeastern Kenya and fostered a culture of dialogue, collaboration and mutual respect. Following training needs assessments that were conducted in Garissa, Madera and Wajir counties, the Office and its partners created customized training packages on civil security coordination and human rights. In Nairobi, a training was delivered to senior and mid-level security personnel and community representatives from the counties to build their capacities to develop human rights-sensitive security strategies. In total, 318 participants (95 women) attended, including 57 youth (27 women) and 15 persons with disabilities (seven women). These efforts contributed to the establishment of Civilian-Security Coordination (CISEC) Mechanisms in the region. CISEC Mechanisms are structured processes that facilitate cooperation, dialogue and joint action between civilian actors and security actors, which aim to strengthen collaboration between security forces and communities.

In cooperation with Haki Africa, a national human rights organization, the Office facilitated 13 inclusive community dialogue forums in Garissa, Mandera and Wajir. The forums brought

together 288 stakeholders (89 women), including community leaders and HRDs, to address security and human rights concerns. Community representatives highlighted concerns related to violent extremism, resource-based conflicts, mistrust between security agencies and communities, GBV, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, marginalization and socioeconomic exclusion. Haki Africa will advocate for redress with authorities to ensure accountability, justice and the protection of human rights.

OHCHR extended technical assistance and delivered training to the UNCT for the development of the HRDDP GPRAF on human rights with respect to support provided to security sector agencies. In August, the UNCT formally adopted the HRDDP GPRAF and appointed HRDDP focal points to facilitate follow-up.

In collaboration with UN Women and the CSO Network, OHCHR enhanced the capacities of 370 WHRDs and peace actors in Bungoma and Vihiga counties through trainings and peer-to-peer mentorship on formal and informal peace processes. The objective of the trainings was to enable their effective participation in peacebuilding processes at the subcounty and ward levels. As a result, the WHRDs were inspired to establish county peace chapters and develop county action plans to increase women's participation in county-level peace processes. They also engaged with duty bearers to facilitate the effective coordination and strengthening of GBV referral pathways and participation in peacebuilding coordination mechanisms (i.e. peace committees) to advocate for the implementation of county action plans that provide sustainable approaches to peacebuilding. These initiatives contributed to the de-escalation of a conflict that arose between two clans over land ownership in Cheptais subcounty, threatening to erupt into violent confrontations. The Bungoma Women's Peace Chapter intervened by organizing mediation sessions that gathered elders, local administrators and affected families. Through inclusive dialogue, they facilitated a mutually accepted settlement, preventing potential violence and setting a precedent for peaceful dispute resolution in the subcounty. In Vihiga, the Women's Peace Chapter mobilized a network of women peace actors to enhance the referral pathway for GBV cases. They worked closely with duty bearers to monitor high-risk areas and raise awareness about available reporting mechanisms. Through public participation, they successfully lobbied the Government of the county to establish a safe house for victims of GBV. The Governor will officially open the safe house, in 2025, once it is fully equipped.

Accountability

OHCHR offered technical guidance to the Tripartite Task Force, which was created in 2020 and is composed of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the National Police Service (NPS). The Task Force was set up to enhance human rights-based investigations and prosecutions of serious human rights violations committed by police officers. For instance, the Task Force provided mentoring for Criminal Case No. E074 (2022), which advanced to court proceedings. It also supported the adoption of a needs assessment report for the SGBV Division, established by the ODPP, and issued recommendations for the effective investigation of SGBV cases in collaboration with other actors, including the police, healthcare providers and the Witness Protection Agency. OHCHR's support to the Tripartite Task Force and government actors led to increased compliance with some legal frameworks, including the Constitution of Kenya, the International Crimes Act 2008, the Victim Protection Act and the Witness Protection Act, as evidenced by justice actors offering service delivery at police stations. Additionally, OHCHR organized capacity-building support for multi-agency committees operating under the Attorney General's Office (AGO) that was provided by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. Consequently, the multi-agency committees initiated the development of legislation to criminalize enforced disappearances and began the preparatory institutional work to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).

With OHCHR's financial and technical assistance, the judiciary of Kenya (Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Case Type Committee) developed guidelines on the definition of case types, which are aligned with international human rights standards, and reviewed the draft Practice Directions for the Gender Justice Court (formerly known as the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Courts). These rules and procedures will govern the operation of the specialized courts that were established to deal with SGBV cases in the country, standardize judicial processes, guarantee consistency in court experiences and promote access to justice for survivors. The Practice Directions were gazetted on 7 February 2025.

OHCHR contributed to strengthened coordination among GBV actors who provide medical, legal and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV in Bungoma, Kisumu and Vihiga. This was accomplished by facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues that were attended by 144 participants (100 women), including HRDs, CSOs, the judiciary, the KNCHR, the NPS, the ODPP, county health officials from the Ministry of Health and representatives of Court Users Committees, as well as other coordination structures, such as the Peace Committees and Gender Technical Working Groups. Discussions focused on addressing gaps in service delivery and strengthening GBV referral pathways at the county and subcounty level.

Following a visit to the Kondele Police Station, in Kisumu, which is in close proximity to GBV hotspots in the county, OHCHR provided the gender desk with essential furniture and equipment to help it improve service delivery for GBV survivors. Over the years, the Office has trained gender officers from the station and built a positive partnership with its team.

LIBERIA

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	Monrovia
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2024	13

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR supported the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court, including by engaging with the Government and undertaking consultations with various stakeholders, such as traditional leaders and victims. National authorities prioritized transitional justice by signing an Executive Order that was issued by President Joseph Boakai, in May, to establish the Court. They also revoked the appointment of Jonathan Massaquoi as Executive Director of the Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court and nominated counsellor Jallah Barbu, in November. OHCHR developed a UN engagement strategy to provide technical support to the vetting committee and assist with the operationalization of the Court. The strategy envisions the extension of assistance to the Ministry of Justice and CSOs in promoting transitional justice, thereby ensuring transparency during the appointment processes and helping Liberia to address past crimes through criminal prosecutions and broader justice initiatives. In 2025, OHCHR and the UNCT will continue providing support related to the creation of the Court, including through capacity-building, public outreach and support to victims and HRDs.

OHCHR monitored and improved detention conditions by offering guidance to prisons, advocating for the release of pretrial detainees and addressing overcrowding and human rights violations in detention centres. As a result of active engagement with Liberia's judiciary and the Ministry of

Justice, OHCHR helped to secure the release of 39 pretrial detainees from Monrovia Central Prison, in August, after their prolonged detention without an indictment. Further, OHCHR improved the well-being of detainees in prisons across the country by donating personal care packages, dignity kits, blankets and mosquito nets.

Development

The Office advanced sustainable development through the application of an HRBA. Notable milestones include the development and implementation of an NAPBHR, which is an historic achievement for the country. With OHCHR's financial and technical support, Liberia's first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights was adopted by Vice President Koung, on 14 August. The launch was attended by 120 stakeholders and emphasized the Government's commitment to ensure responsible business conduct. Parliamentarians and ministers who spoke at the event highlighted the importance of its implementation. Since that time, OHCHR has supported several related activities. For instance, in October, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice facilitated a technical meeting, in Buchanan, to finalize the NAPBHR 2025 Implementation Strategy and Road Map. In November, OHCHR conducted sensitization sessions, in Tubmanburg, to raise awareness about the Action Plan and the UNGPs. A total of 39 stakeholders were equipped with the skills to advocate for human rights and monitor business practices.

Mechanisms

During the year, OHCHR focused on strengthening the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. More specifically, OHCHR's technical assistance contributed to the validation and submission, in November, of Liberia's response to the recommendations issued by SPT, marking a significant step in the fulfilment of the Government's commitment to prevent torture. OHCHR also assisted the Ministry of Justice with the drafting of Liberia's initial report under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which it ratified in 2004. A working session, held in October, led to the development of guidance for drafting the report. Additional financial support was provided for county-level data collection. Liberia submitted the report to the CAT Committee in April 2025.

Further, OHCHR supported the drafting of Liberia's combined ninth and tenth periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee. In July, OHCHR and UN Women participated in a working session with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to validate the report and ensure it reflects progress on gender equality and women's rights. The report is pending submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Office provided technical support to the Ministry of Justice and the NMIRF in reviewing the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) (2019-2024). In July, a working session was held to provide participants with an opportunity to submit inputs on the Plan's progress. Another meeting, held in July, reactivated the NHRAP Steering Committee, which will oversee the review and adoption of a new plan.

In following up on Liberia's HR75 pledges, OHCHR presented a matrix of pending human rights bills during a dialogue with the House of Representatives Committee for Human and Civil Rights, in September. The Office urged the review and adoption of the human rights bills, in alignment with international human rights standards. The Committee committed to promoting their adoption and OHCHR pledged to support various joint initiatives, such as prison monitoring and missions to concession areas. As a component of these efforts, and as a follow-up to Liberia's 2005 accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2), OHCHR facilitated a roundtable on the abolition of the death penalty, in November. This contributed to the preparation and presentation of revised draft legislation on the abolition of the death penalty to the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry plans to submit the draft legislation to the Parliament in 2025.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR raised awareness, provided legal and technical support and undertook advocacy to promote equality and counter discrimination. OHCHR engaged with parliamentarians, the diplomatic corps, the UNCT and LGBTQI+ activists to deter the passage of a proposed draft anti-LGBTQI+ bill, which was presented to the House of Representatives. The bill seeks to criminalize homosexuality, making it punishable by life in prison. Following OHCHR's engagement, the bill is pending before the House of Representatives at the committee level.

MADAGASCAR

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2011
Field office(s)	Antananarivo
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028
Staff as of 31 December 2024	12

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR launched the implementation of a joint PBF project (2024-2026) entitled "Bringing traditional and formal justice closer together for greater social cohesion" (LANDJA, a Malagasy acronym). Working with local leaders, communities and authorities, OHCHR analyzed the legal and institutional framework and documented the practices of the traditional justice system (*Dina*) in nine regions of the country, identifying current gaps and measures to address them. The Office also equipped 21 youth (12 women) to deliver human rights training and empowered an additional 70 youth to act as human rights observers. Of these individuals, 52 per cent subsequently carried out knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising sessions in their communities, with an emphasis on integrating traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. By the end of November, community observers had documented 19 incidents of undue application of the *Dina*, reflecting a growing awareness of the irregularities within this traditional justice system, particularly regarding the marginalization of women and vulnerable individuals in decision-making processes. These trainings and monitoring initiatives are essential to strengthening the transparency and equity of *Dina* within local communities.

OHCHR worked to improve conditions for persons deprived of their liberty. In response to civil society reports of a high number of deaths in custody in the south east of Madagascar, OHCHR led multisectoral discussions with the Ministry of Justice and identified short-, medium- and

long-term strategies to address severe malnutrition in places of detention. Following OHCHR's advocacy with the Ministry of Justice, emergency food supplies were sent to prisons to deal with acute malnutrition among detainees. Discussions are underway with UN agencies and other international humanitarian organizations to identify and address the root causes of prison overcrowding.

The Office undertook advocacy and assisted a victim of SGBV who was placed in preventive detention. The emblematic case was brought to the attention of officials from the Ministry of Justice and the President of the Human Rights Commission who subsequently visited the prison and ensured that the victim received medical assistance. The case revealed significant gaps in access to justice, the response to SGBV, anti-corruption measures and monitoring/reporting by local civil society. It also underlined the important role of the NHRI. The findings of the case were integrated into the work of the UN system and its collaboration with State and non-State entities.

In response to a 2024 law authorizing the medical castration of persons convicted of raping minors, the Office supported the UN system to raise concerns regarding cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; a failure to address glaring inadequacies in the functioning of the criminal justice system; a lack of prevention measures targeting GBV; and an absence of efforts to ensure the availability of services for victims of rape.

In 2024, OHCHR monitored human rights in the context of legislative and communal elections and organized consultations between civil society and development partners. OHCHR issued a statement expressing its concern over reports that opposition and independent candidates, as well as HRDs, were subject to intimidation tactics before and after elections. It also called for respect of freedom of expression and independence of the judiciary. OHCHR engaged with the Ministry of Justice, mobilized development partners and liaised with the special procedures to advocate for the respect of civil and political rights, particularly the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in demonstrations that take place during the electoral cycle.

The Office supported the integration of an HRBA into the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2025-2030), in partnership with the National Committee for the Protection of Integrity. The Strategy was adopted in early 2025 and addresses multiple human rights concerns, such as the need to develop protection measures for whistleblowers. In 2025, OHCHR will be involved in the elaboration of laws and processes on these issues.

Participation

OHCHR focused on civil society inclusion and the protection of civic space, particularly for youth HRDs. Through quarterly consultations involving UN agencies and development partners, the Office engaged with more than 100 HRDs to promote the effective mainstreaming of human rights issues into programming work with respect to elections, GBV, limitations on freedom of expression and assembly, land grabbing and protection of HRDs. In addition, OHCHR strengthened civil society by conducting human rights training for HRDs, including on monitoring and reporting, advocacy and self-protection techniques.

As part of phase two of the PBF project entitled "Rary Aro Mada" (in Malagasy) set up to engage and protect youth HRDs, OHCHR increased youth participation in civic space. In 2024, the Office worked closely with nine youth observatories, which were established during phase one of the project, and trained a pool of 21 human rights trainers from youth associations. Based on their training and comprehensive materials on international human rights standards and conflict prevention provided by the project, the youth trainers undertook awareness-raising initiatives in 10 local communities. The project also included tailored training and mentoring for women and young girls on reporting and documenting human rights violations. The training connected 30 young women with experienced women leaders and supported them in developing action plans for 17 communities as a way to strengthen the involvement of young women and girls in the defence of human rights and to prevent conflict in local communities.

On Human Rights Day (10 December), the Office supported a nationwide online campaign to increase awareness about human rights, GBV and

women's rights. The campaign reached over 8,600 individuals, including from the Government, members of the diplomatic corps, UN agencies and CSOs.

Mechanisms

In anticipation of Madagascar's fourth UPR cycle, which took place in January 2025, OHCHR brought together five UN entities and two international organizations (EU, OIF) to guide the reporting process on the country's human rights record. To this end, the Office provided technical assistance for the drafting and submission of the State report by the Interministerial Committee for Reporting and Follow-Up. Additionally, information sessions were offered to UN agencies and development partners to ensure their involvement in the review process and follow-up on recommendations. OHCHR led the drafting and submission of the joint UN report to the fourth UPR cycle.

OHCHR also extended technical and financial support to encourage the engagement of CSOs in the UPR cycle. More specifically, OHCHR delivered a workshop to facilitate the drafting and submission of a stakeholders' report on various topics, including internal migration and extreme poverty in Madagascar.

Peace and Security

OHCHR provided assistance to peace and security efforts that addressed fragility, insecurity, conflict and violence. The Office contributed to the programming of the HCT and the Protection Cluster through situation monitoring and the production of a monthly risk analysis. In addition, it collaborated with OCHA to identify human rights risks, assess potential crises related to elections and zones of conflict and co-led preparatory actions. After OHCHR reported on the large number of prison deaths, HCT members directed urgent nutritional support to prisons. Moreover, it identified resources to help protect persons with albinism from attacks in the south east following OHCHR's reporting and advocacy. The Office conducted regular field monitoring missions and alerted the UNCT and HCT about precarious security situations and latent community conflicts, thereby encouraging increased international engagement. OHCHR's monitoring also raised critical concerns with national and international organizations about the increased number of summary, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions being carried out by security forces.

MAURITANIA

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2010
Field office(s)	Nouakchott, Nouadhibou
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	11
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR contributed to the creation, in September, of a specialized court to handle cases of slavery, representing an important step in combating a persistent human rights violation that has plagued Mauritania. This action was one of the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, during a May 2022 country visit. Since then, the Office has supported follow-up to those recommendations, including by participating in a mechanism that was set up by the Government. Further, the Office provided technical expertise to the drafting of the court's establishing law to ensure its alignment with international human rights standards.

The Office monitored the judicial process of all cases of unlawful sexual relations (known as *Zina*). It observed an increase in convictions for rape and a significant reduction in cases where rape was reclassified as adultery (*Zina*). Additionally, in the process of monitoring emblematic trials involving allegations of slavery and torture, OHCHR assessed their compliance with international standards, identified gaps, such as prolonged legal proceedings and the lack of legal representation, and took steps to address these challenges. It also advocated for the appointment of defence lawyers in critical cases.

The Office trained more than 700 members of the Internal Security Forces (ISF), which included the police and gendarmerie officers, on integrating an HRBA into their professional practices. The trainings improved the handling of cases involving vulnerable populations and helped to prevent abuses during preliminary investigations. The National Police Directorate strengthened its capacity to ensure the protection of minors and combat violence against women, including by training its staff with regard to victims' support, the handling of sensitive investigations and abuse prevention. Further, tools and protocols were developed to enhance investigations and evidence collection, taking into account the specific needs of women and minors. The ISF played a key role during the 2024 presidential elections and ensured the security of polling stations and management of public gatherings. According to national and international observers, the elections took place without major reports of abuse or human rights violations.

The Office established consultation frameworks between communities and law enforcement agencies, which serve as communication mechanisms to respond to concerns, resolve conflict, foster collaboration and build trust. OHCHR trained members of the frameworks on their roles, focusing on the documentation of violations and strengthening their advocacy capacities. At present, the most operational frameworks are those in Bassikounou and Kaédi. In Bassikounou, the consultation framework is regularly mobilized to deal with conflicts between Malian refugees and host communities. In November, local authorities mandated the framework to mediate a dispute between a local farmer and refugees regarding the use of a corridor that was previously reserved for livestock passage. The framework facilitated an agreeable solution for all parties. In Kaédi, the consultation framework helped to restore calm following the post-electoral protests, on 1 July, which had resulted in four fatalities among protesters. Local authorities, including internal security officials, solicited the framework to engage in discussions with youth and de-escalate tensions.

With a grant from OHCHR, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) established a complaint mechanism that features a dedicated hotline. This mechanism provides citizens with enhanced access to CNDH services, enabling a more efficient and effective handling of grievances and strengthening public trust in the institution.

Moreover, OHCHR organized a roundtable on complaint mechanisms, giving the CNDH an opportunity to present its operations to the police and gendarmerie. The meeting led to fruitful discussions on the collaborative efforts that need to be undertaken by the CNDH's complaint mechanism, judicial procedures and within the police and gendarmerie to foster better coordination for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Women in Guidimakha gained better access to legal assistance through a PBF project, which was implemented in cooperation with UN partners and promoted social justice by strengthening access to civil registration and land use conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms for women and youth. To this end, the Office established legal clinics to support women in their legal proceedings. For instance, the clinics provided tailored legal advice and assistance, enabling many women to obtain an effective resolution for their cases. The clinics were also instrumental in facilitating access to justice for local communities. Through the organization of 10 mobile consultation days, more than 5,000 people benefited from legal services. At the same time, over 150 conflict cases were referred to appropriate mechanisms, thereby promoting awareness about referral and legal assistance services.

As part of the same PBF project, OHCHR established a network of spiritual instructors (*mourchidines*). The network was founded on a strategic partnership with religious leaders and played a central role in resolving 12 cases related to access to civil registration for children of separated couples, forced marriages, child labour and access to land use.

Non-discrimination

Mauritania has not yet adopted a law that protects the rights of women and girls. As part of the PBF project on promoting social justice, OHCHR engaged with various government actors. Collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Promotion of Decentralization and Local Development (MIDEC) provided access to civil registration, enabling the project to deal with issues connected with securing land rights for women and youth. Within this framework, the project assisted women who were organized in cooperatives to obtain secure land titles, ensuring official recognition of their property rights. In coordination with the Ministry of Justice, the project trained paralegals and community mediators, integrating conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level, while also ensuring compatibility with the national legal system. Regional authorities coordinated and monitored activities and facilitated community mobilization efforts that were vital to the project's success.

The early warning networks that OHCHR established during the 2024 elections played a pivotal role in monitoring and tackling hate speech. The networks consisted of local actors, including CSOs, journalists and community leaders, who were trained to identify hate speech and discriminatory language across traditional and social media platforms. They were also tasked with reporting incidents of hate speech to relevant authorities for timely response and action. The networks provided real-time alerts about potential risks and facilitated communication among stakeholders, enabling coordinated responses to prevent escalation. By monitoring public discourse, the networks proactively addressed divisive rhetoric and prevented hate speech from fueling violence or polarization during the electoral period. Notably, the networks identified inflammatory messages circulating on social media that sought to incite tensions within ethnic communities prior to the elections. The networks quickly alerted relevant authorities and, with OHCHR's support, intervened and removed the content, issued statements condemning hate speech and reassured the affected communities. This rapid response de-escalated potential violence and ensured a more peaceful and inclusive electoral environment.

Mechanisms

OHCHR's assistance contributed to enhanced State engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. As a result of this support, the Government established an interministerial committee, in January, to draft State Party reports and monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. The committee began using OHCHR's NRTD

to track these recommendations. In addition, OHCHR delivered training on the database to national institutions, including the Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society, as well as various ministries. This enabled national authorities to centralize information on actions taken to implement recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, monitor and analyse progress and identify areas requiring action. Further, the database provides a clear overview of the status of each recommendation. Consequently, its outputs will facilitate the planning of actions, provide quality information for the drafting of periodic reports for submission to the treaty bodies and enhance the transparency and accountability of national authorities regarding human rights.

Significantly, a National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was approved, in November, which directly addresses recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. It also provides a framework to strengthen the capacities of national institutions to uphold fundamental rights and aims to ensure a coherent and systematic approach to their implementation at the national level. The objective of the Strategy is to: ensure the implementation of international obligations by providing an action plan for translating the country's commitments under the international treaties into concrete actions at the national level; improve monitoring and accountability by establishing mechanisms to monitor that implementation and assess transparency and the promotion and protection of human rights; encourage inter-institutional coordination and strengthen the State's ability to respond in a more coherent and coordinated manner to human rights challenges; and support community and stakeholder participation by integrating consultation and participation mechanisms into the implementation of the Strategy.

The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society elaborated an action plan to implement the recommendations of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. OHCHR contributed to the development of the action plan by providing technical expertise, facilitating consultations with stakeholders and ensuring the integration of a human rights-based approach.

During the year, OHCHR coordinated the drafting and submission of a joint UNCT report to CMW, in December, in anticipation of the Committee's preparation of the LoIs in relation to Mauritania. In preparing the report, OHCHR conducted extensive consultations with all UN agencies involved in migration-related activities, ensuring the integration of an HRBA. The consultations aimed to align the collective efforts of the UN system with international human rights standards, identify gaps in the protection of the rights of migrants and propose actionable recommendations. By cultivating collaboration and leveraging the expertise of different agencies, OHCHR ensured that the joint report presented a comprehensive and unified perspective on migration issues.

Participation

The Office forged or strengthened partnerships with 74 CSOs in order to meet the needs of key populations, including women, survivors of GBV, children, survivors of slavery and LGBTQI+ individuals. A series of consultations reinforced partnerships among CSOs and led to the identification of more than 10 allegations of serious human rights violations, which contributed to the documentation of additional rights violations.

Funding from the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery enabled three CSOs to provide direct assistance to over 1,000 slavery survivors and sensitize 2,500 individuals about their rights and the means to exercise them. This resulted in the empowerment of slave descendant communities, including in remote areas.

MOZAMBIQUE

Type of engagement	Other Projects or Special Presences
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Maputo, Pemba
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	10

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

In April, the Government adopted Law No. 10/2024 on Protection and Respect of the Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Persons with Disabilities. Over the past several years, OHCHR provided technical advice regarding the Law and engaged with the Government, civil society and the Parliament to advocate for legislation that is compliant with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Following its adoption, OHCHR and the Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted of Mozambique (ACAMO) co-organized a workshop, in May, to develop its new strategy and action plan. The documents were finalized and include a strong human rights focus. Further, OHCHR supported the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), including through trainings for 182 UN staff members in Beira, Maputo, Nampula and Pemba, and contributed to the preparation and finalization of the UNDIS workplan to ensure disability inclusion in the UN's operations.

The Office enhanced the capacities of CSOs to monitor and advocate for human rights in the context of the October general elections. On 26 September, in Pemba, the Office held a meeting with 12 CSO representatives (seven women and two persons with albinism) to brief them on human rights monitoring and reporting. This strengthened channels of communication with civil society and promoted information-sharing on cases of alleged human rights violations. The Office also built the capacities of the Mozambican Bar Association and the Forum of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (FAMOD) to conduct human rights monitoring during general elections.

To promote civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR held a workshop for 13 civil society actors (nine women), in Pemba, in May. As a result, the participants submitted an alternative report, in July, in response to the Human Rights Committee's list of issues prior to reporting (LoIPR).

Accountability

OHCHR promoted the application of human rights standards to the administration of justice. In June, OHCHR provided financial and technical assistance for a mission to the Pemba district by public defenders from the Institute for Legal Assistance and Representation (IPAJ). During the mission, 149 persons (seven women) were identified in five places of detention and received legal assistance. Many of these individuals had been held in prolonged detention. OHCHR's support enabled the IPAJ to initiate a legal review of these cases and provide legal counselling for the detainees. Of those who received assistance, 47 were released. The Office also held two briefing sessions, in September, on human rights for 29 public defenders (11 women) from the IPAJ. The sessions provided participants with an opportunity to share experiences, challenges and good practices and discuss strategies for the protection of human rights in Cabo Delgado.

Defence and security forces increased their capacities and knowledge with respect to human rights following training sessions that were delivered by the Office. In June, OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of National Defence (MDN) and collaborated with UNICEF to co-host a workshop at the military training academy, in Nampula. The event gathered 70 military personnel (24 women) to assess needs and identify opportunities for the integration of human rights into the military training curriculum. In November, OHCHR and UNICEF supported a mission to Nampula by a working group from the MDN to further this assessment. The mission resulted in a concrete proposal for the integration of human rights into military training.

Moreover, OHCHR and the MDN signed a joint action plan (2025-2027), which outlines ways to strengthen the human rights compliance of the armed forces, including through internal oversight and accountability. In March 2025, another mission was undertaken to validate the module on human rights. The pilot testing of materials and trainings is expected to take place in May and an assessment will be undertaken during the third quarter of 2025.

In collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), OHCHR conducted a series of trainings on elections, human rights and the prevention of torture for police officers in Inhambane and Maputo, representing the first collaboration between OHCHR, the CNDH and the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM). A total of 324 police officers (85 women) attended the trainings. OHCHR and the CNDH will continue to build on this collaboration to strengthen the human rights compliance of law enforcement personnel.

OHCHR worked closely with the CNDH to support the implementation of its mandate, in line with international human rights standards. In the context of the general elections that took place in October, OHCHR helped the CNDH to develop a monitoring strategy and data collection tools, conducted three joint preparatory missions in the provinces of Nampula, Sofala and Zambézia, in September, and supported CNDH missions to those same provinces, in October. The CNDH subsequently issued two public statements on human rights violations that were committed during post-election protests and undertook human rights advocacy in the post-election period.

Development

OHCHR supported a national seminar that was organized by the Ministry of Justice to finalize and validate the NAPBHR. The event was attended by 61 participants (28 women) from the Government, civil society and the private sector and resulted in a final version of the NAPBHR, which is pending the approval of the Council of Ministers. In May, Mozambique became an Engaged Member of the Voluntary Principles Initiative, which requires the Government to develop and submit an NAP to promote human rights and security, especially in the extractive sector. On 17 September, for the first time, OHCHR participated in a meeting of the National Working Group on the Voluntary Principles on Business and Human Rights, held in Maputo. The National Working Group, which is led by the Ministry of Justice, was established in 2021 and is composed of representatives of the Government, the private sector and civil society. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the development of an NAP and possible synergies with the NAPBHR.

NIGER

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Niamey
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	14

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

From January to September, OHCHR recorded more than 690 protection incidents, including the use of 51 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), that were perpetrated by non-State armed groups and unidentified armed individuals against civilian populations, property and, in particular, the Defence and Security Forces (DSF). These attacks resulted in 1,602 documented cases of human rights abuses against civilians, including women and children. OHCHR used this information to respond to various requests from decision-making bodies, partners and the United Nations system. It informed the weekly updates on the human rights situation and a briefing for the diplomatic corps on human rights trends during monthly meetings. It also underpinned advocacy before the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, with a view to increasing the protection of civilians. Further, OHCHR's documentation enabled humanitarian actors within the National Protection Cluster and the HCT to receive timely information about the prevailing security situation in certain parts of the country.

Strengthened cooperation between OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights resulted in a bilateral working group that was set up to facilitate strategic and operational dialogue and collaboration in the areas of administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights. Due to this cooperation, monthly meetings were held with the Minister of Justice to monitor the human rights situation during the transition, carry out training sessions for prison staff and support the planning and implementation of joint activities, including the commemoration of Human Rights Day (10 December).

The Office provided technical and financial support to human rights organizations to enhance their skills and competencies to undertake human rights monitoring, analysis and reporting in the regions of Agadez, Dosso, Maradi and Tillaberi. This support was instrumental to the creation and empowerment of a network of approximately 20 CSOs, including HRDs that are engaged in migrant protection. The creation of the network was especially significant in light of the absence of State mechanisms or an NHRI that is dedicated to this purpose.

OHCHR offered technical and financial assistance to TIMIDRIA, an NGO, which is fighting against slavery practices and all forms of discrimination and promotes human rights in Niger. This led to the establishment of youth groups, totaling 38 members (13 girls) from 14 departments, that are working to raise awareness, collect information and report on slavery practices in their respective communities in the Tahoua region. The youth groups contribute to informing young people about national, regional and international instruments and mechanisms to combat slavery, to raise awareness on remedies available and OHCHR's mandate and action in the fight against slavery.

In July, OHCHR visited a Niamey site that is hosting more than 300 migrants from Sierra Leone, the majority of whom are women and children. The visit was undertaken to assess their living conditions, including those of 11 women who are pregnant. Cases of concern were referred to IOM and UNFPA for immediate assistance, such as medical care, lifesaving means and cash assistance for those in vulnerable situations.

Participation

During the year, there was a shrinking of civic space, including after Ordinance No. 2024-28 was signed, on 7 June, amending the legislation on cybercrime. The Ordinance provides for prison sentences and fines for offences relating to defamation, insult and the dissemination of data that is deemed likely to disturb the public order.

Further, Ordinance No. 2024-43 launched a national database to combat terrorism and offences threatening strategic interests, resulting in another risk to freedom of expression and opinion during the transition.

The Office supported the engagement of youth with regard to the promotion and protection of civic and democratic space and the rule of law and facilitated the formation of a human rights club at the University of Tahoua. The role of the club is to undertake intra-school activities and trainings to raise awareness and foster student involvement in human rights-related issues. In collaboration with an NGO, Cercle pour la Paix et la Solidarité (CEPASO), OHCHR organized a workshop for 46 individuals (eight women) on the principles, standards and mechanisms of conflict management. The Office delivered two outreach sessions to the Niger Scouts Association, in Tahoua and Niamey, and enhanced the knowledge of more than 60 of its members (15 women) about international human rights standards and principles.

In May, the Office supported TEDHELTE, an NGO, in conducting two regional workshops in the regions of Adadez, Diffa, Maradi and Zinder. The first workshop included 73 online activists (36 women) and focused on strengthening human rights protections and addressing GBV. The second workshop increased the capacities of 29 CSO representatives (14 women) to deal with the protection of women's rights and the rights of the child. In Maradi, following OHCHR's training for CSO networks on monitoring and reporting techniques, a network of 36 human rights monitors (13 women leaders) was created.

OHCHR's efforts to document violations of the rights of media professionals and to monitor related trials produced positive results, in particular regarding the right to a fair trial and respect for time limits in police custody. One journalist was subsequently released on bail.

Mechanisms

The Office supported the NMIRF for the elaboration of periodic State Party reports to the CAT and CMW Committees. The reports were finalized and are now awaiting adoption by the Government.

Peace and Security

Within the framework of an "Internal Security Forces (ISF) project," OHCHR contributed to preventing human rights violations and strengthening access to accountability mechanisms for victims of human rights violations. This was facilitated through the dissemination of the 2023 *Guide for complaints and referral of victims of human rights violations perpetrated by Internal Security Forces*, which was developed in partnership with the National Agency for Legal and Judicial Assistance (ANAJJ). The Guide was piloted with 27 CSO representatives and regional authorities (eight women) responsible for the promotion of women and child protection in the Maradi and Niamey regions.

Moreover, OHCHR increased the knowledge of 27 individuals (seven women), including magistrates, representatives from ANAJJ and human rights organizations, about judicial protection measures for victims and witnesses of human rights violations involving law enforcement personnel. The workshop equipped participants with the skills to identify weaknesses and gaps in the legal and institutional framework of the protection of victims and witnesses and to propose solutions. Participants shared good practices and experiences with implementing protection measures at the judicial level. They also issued recommendations and committed to undertake advocacy for the establishment of an effective protection programme for victims and witnesses of human rights violations to enable their cooperation with the justice system. OHCHR will follow up on the implementation of these recommendations in 2025.

In March, OHCHR collaborated with SOS Femmes et Enfants Victimes de Violence Familiale (SOS-FEVVF) to organize a series of training workshops in the regions of Agadez, Diffa, Maradi and Zinder. The workshops aimed to build the capacities of 29 CSO representatives (14 women) to prevent and

report incidents of GBV to law enforcement. The training enhanced the understanding of participants about the typology of GBV, particularly in the context of insecurity and law enforcement operations, and strengthened their capacities to provide better assistance to victims.

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 2024	2
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In partnership with UNDP, OHCHR conducted capacity-building sessions for over 200 participants, including law enforcement officers, local government executives and legislators, women, youth, local vigilantes, CSOs, community-based organizations and academia. The sessions focused on integrating human rights and a gender-sensitive approach into conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The training led to the establishment and equipping of Human Rights Complaint Desks and Farmer/Herder Dialogue Committees by the local government executive councils of Kachia and Kaura Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Kaduna State. This will enable community members to submit complaints, have access to a platform for discussions on protection gaps and interventions by local authorities and propose solutions. The committees will represent farmers and herders. It is anticipated that these mechanisms will improve the response to conflict risks in a collaborative, coordinated and inclusive manner and guarantee the sustainability of their positive outcomes. Additionally, through training and capacity support, OHCHR provided more than 240 women leaders with mediation, dialogue facilitation and reconciliation skills to lead and support peacebuilding interventions within their communities.

During the project cycle, OHCHR identified more than 150 human rights violations and referred them to various stakeholders to address protection gaps and enhance protections for human rights. To date, approximately 89 of these violations have been resolved through mediation and prosecutions.

Following a request from UNDP, OHCHR assessed the human rights activities and capacities of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which is also a UNDP implementing partner. The assessment included visits to three states, a desktop review of over 40 documents and interviews with 22 individuals, including NHRC staff, human rights monitors and defenders and UNDP staff. The assessment resulted in 26 recommendations related to equipment and resources, capacity-building, data collection and integrity, reporting and programme sustainability. Many of the recommendations, including those related to data collection, have been implemented and others are ongoing.

Peace and Security

OHCHR supported the establishment and operationalization of the National Working Group on Human Rights and Migration (NWG-HRM), which fosters inter-agency collaboration on migration management. OHCHR provided technical and financial support for its workplan and monitoring tools. Further, OHCHR participated in the review of the National Migration Policy to ensure that human rights considerations are central to migration governance. The Office facilitated sessions on integrating human rights into reporting and implementation tools under the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking in Nigeria (2022–2026). The Government uses these tools to provide assistance, including services for victims of trafficking. OHCHR also conducted training for border officials, with an emphasis on human rights and gender-sensitive approaches. Practical recommendations from participants were integrated into the trainings to enhance ethical, transparent and accountable practices at the borders.

Non-discrimination

Within the context of the PBF project on police oversight, OHCHR and UNDP conducted four workshops to bolster the capacities of 36 Nigeria Police Prosecutors to effectively prosecute SGBV cases. The workshops sought to increase access to justice for survivors, reduce impunity for perpetrators and improve the handling, case management and reporting of SGBV cases. The training is expected to be institutionalized in the training institutes of the Nigerian Bar Association and the NHRC. It is hoped that this will contribute to a more effective and sustainable national response to SGBV, promote gender equality and align Nigeria's response to SGBV with international standards.

Development

The HRA played a vital role in integrating human rights into various UN programmes and activities. OHCHR produced two advisory notes for the UNCT on a Human Rights Economy and the LNOB principle. In addition, the Office developed a four-year Parliamentary Development Programme (PDP) (2023-2027), in collaboration with UNDP and the Government, for the tenth House of Representatives. OHCHR also took part in the development of a strategic workplan for the UNICEF Child Protection Programme (2025-2027), which now includes specific interventions to promote human rights and the rights of the child.

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 2024	3

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

OHCHR collaborated with the UNCT, development partners and civil society to advocate against provisions of Law No. 058/2024 on NGOs, adopted in July, which impose restrictions on civic space. Despite OHCHR's advocacy efforts to ensure that the Law respects national and international norms, it was adopted with minor adjustments. Joint advocacy will continue to focus on the alignment of the Law with Rwanda's international human rights commitments.

To ensure that human rights are central to the UNSDCF (2025-2029), OHCHR delivered training to UNCT members on the application of an HRBA, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and the LNOB principle. It also participated in the UNCT Theory of Change (ToC) process as part of the elaboration of the UNSDCF. This ensured that the ToC was firmly anchored in human rights, including by mainstreaming human rights across the various pillars of the UNSDCF and human rights indicators.

Mechanisms

OHCHR conducted training for CSOs on preparing alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies. As a result, several CSOs prepared alternative reports to the CEDAW and CESCR Committees.

OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders to draft Rwanda's response to the LoIs prepared by CESCR. OHCHR helped to plan and deliver a capacity-building workshop for public institutions and CSOs, thereby enhancing their capacities to monitor and report on ESCRs, including the rights to work, social security and education. Consequently, the Human Rights Commission and CSOs committed to submitting alternative reports to CESCR.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, UNDP and a CSO Legal Aid Forum, OHCHR hosted the Tenth Justice Sector Peer Review and UPR Retreat. During the Retreat, Rwanda's UPR mid-term State report was adopted and measures were suggested to address challenges in the justice sector. Further, it provided participants with guidance on preparations for Rwanda's fourth UPR cycle, scheduled for 2026.

With financial support from the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, OHCHR facilitated capacity-building sessions for members of Rwanda's National Treaty Body Reporting Task Force on reporting and following up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Technical-level government officials subsequently agreed to transform the National Treaty Body Reporting Task Force into a permanent NMIRF.

Participation

OHCHR organized a consultative meeting for WHRDs and trained three women's organizations to meaningfully participate in a regional workshop in Yaoundé. The meeting was held in partnership with the Network of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa (REDHAC) and focused on the establishment of a Regional Network of Women Human Rights Defenders for Central Africa. The Network will serve as a forum to enable WHRDs in the Central African region to share their experiences and knowledge.

SIERRA LEONE

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2021
Field office(s)	Freetown
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2024	1
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The HRA led the UN's support for the reform of Sierra Leone's justice sector, which included the development and launch of the Fifth Generation Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan (2024-2028). During the 8 August unveiling of the National Security Policy and Strategy of Sierra Leone, a broad-based consensus was reached that the reform of the justice and security sectors is crucial for consolidating peace and essential for accelerating the Government's Big Five Game Changers. In recognition of the importance of an inclusive and accountable justice system and strengthened security institutions, as outlined in the Sierra Leone Medium-Term National Development Plan (2024-2030), the HRA contributed to advancing the delivery of effective, non-discriminatory, inclusive, transparent and accountable justice services. The objective of the new Justice Sector Strategy is to support legal services as a way to enhance access to justice, mobile courts, institutional and technical capacity-building, public engagement on legal rights and to promote accountability and oversight.

Non-discrimination

The HRA supported the development of the second phase of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative (2024-2029) aimed at dismantling the barriers to combating GBV and harmful practices, while also building on the momentum gained over the years. Despite progress achieved, gaps in the legal and policy frameworks remain, including in terms of their implementation, especially with respect to the prevention of FGM. In addition, institutions and services remain weak, primarily outside of Freetown, and do not receive adequate funding to fulfil their mandates. Figures regarding reporting levels and the use of services are extremely low, especially among adult women. The women's movement in particular, and civil society in general, are poorly funded. This is deeply felt by grassroots organizations and those representing the most marginalized groups. Harmful social norms and practices are still prevalent and the evidence base is thin on effective interventions for social change.

Phase Two of the Spotlight Initiative is expected to work across the ecological model of GBV (at the societal, community, relationship and individual level) in five focus districts. This is founded on evidence that the holistic programming of the ecological model is more effective than a focus on individual sectors or levels. The objective is to provide victims and witnesses with support services to address trauma, eliminate secondary victimization, encourage victims' cooperation and protected attendance at trials and ensure the timely completion of investigations, leading to more convictions of perpetrators of SGBV.

Development

To facilitate the development of a UNSDCF that reflects a human rights perspective, the HRA led the articulation and finalization of the LNOB analysis and supported the mainstreaming of human rights into the CCA. The LNOB report provided an in-depth analysis of challenges faced by groups that are at risk of being left behind as Sierra Leone works towards the achievement of the SDGs. The HRA also led consultations with OPDs and moderated discussions on strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities by ensuring their voices were incorporated into the design of the UNSDCF.

SOMALIA: UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNTMIS)

Type of engagement	Peace Mission
Year established	2024
Field office(s)	Mogadishu, Galmudug, Jubaland, Puntland, HirShabelle, Somaliland and South West State
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2024	29
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In 2024, the President of Somalia signed amendments to the first four chapters of the Provisional Constitution. Following advocacy efforts by OHCHR, the Provisional Constitution retains 18 years of age as the age of majority and maintains the ban on all forms of female genital mutilation.

In March, the Human Rights Committee met with Somalia for the first time, considered its initial report under ICCPR and issued its concluding observations. The report had been overdue for three decades. Phase Two of the "Joint Programme on Human Rights," led by UNTMIS and UNICEF, provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Family Affairs, Development and Human Rights in the preparation of Somalia's initial report. OHCHR accompanied the Somali delegation to the Human Rights Council. OHCHR prepared a summarized version of the concluding observations, which it translated into Somali, to serve as a tool for public awareness and advocacy purposes by national stakeholders and civil society.

OHCHR conducted regular field visits to gather first-hand information on human rights violations. The Office documented 32 incidents in Somaliland, 47 in Puntland, 27 in South West State, 54 in Benadir, 114 in HirShebelle, 64 in Jubaland and 52 in Galmudug. This documentation will continue to inform key reports and advocacy efforts and the identification of technical capacity requirements.

Across the country, OHCHR took steps to improve detention conditions, including through advocacy and human rights training for custodial staff. In the South West State, the Office facilitated the transfer of 39 low-risk inmates to a new, less congested prison, in Baidoa, and trained 27 prison guards (six women) from the Baidoa prison. In Somaliland, the Office undertook regular visits to eight prisons. Due to OHCHR's engagement with prison authorities, prison conditions improved in Somaliland and the South West State. In Puntland, OHCHR partnered with the AGO and the Office of Puntland Human Rights Defender (OPHRD), the primary human rights institution in Somalia, to conduct joint field missions, assess detention conditions and urge reforms. Reporting from the missions highlighted critical issues, including the detention of juveniles and minors and the need for improved oversight and legal safeguards. OHCHR's discussions with relevant authorities contributed to the release of unlawfully detained persons, such as media professionals and children associated with armed groups. Those released included 131 unlawfully detained persons in the South West State. Eighteen of those were children who had been detained by Somali security forces due to their alleged association with armed groups. The Attorney General ordered the release of 28 defendants from police stations in Badhan, Bosaso and Qardho, reinforcing that no one should be detained for more than 48 hours without legal justification. In collaboration with the Galmudug Journalists Association (GALJA), OHCHR successfully advocated for the release of a detained media professional.

Participation

OHCHR and its local partner, Lifeline Africa, cooperated to deliver a training on the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), in Garowe, in the Nugal region. A total of 21 participants (nine women) attended, including from the Ministry of Interior, the Parliament, the OPHRD and IDP camps in Garowe. The training focused on developing a comprehensive understanding of the frameworks and policies designed to protect and support IDPs, resulting in an action plan to strengthen the rights of IDPs, with a focus on durable solutions.

In January, the Office engaged with 17 CSO representatives (six women) in Mogadishu to promote the implementation of the Somali National Youth Policy. In August, OHCHR collaborated with the Somali Youth Workers and Equality Movement to conduct a training for 16 participants (five women), including CSOs and journalists, on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children. The training enabled the participants to develop a plan for a community-based child protection network, which was finalized. In January 2025, the network was subsequently established to monitor and report on child rights violations, conduct awareness-raising sessions and expand human rights monitoring in hard-to-reach areas.

OHCHR engaged with various HRDs to increase their capacities to monitor and report the early warning signs of human rights concerns and violations and advocate for an effective response. The Office supported a group of 10 HRDs to report incidents from the most volatile districts. It also regularly engaged with HRDs in Galmudug to better understand the situation and identify areas where the UNSOM Human Rights Protection Group (HRPG) could be of assistance. In Puntland, OHCHR engaged with the OPHRD and co-organized several human rights advocacy and capacity-building initiatives.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR supported the Ministry of Health and Human Services to develop a baseline assessment on healthcare accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality for minorities, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups in Somalia. The assessment report will be validated in 2025 and inform the development of an action plan to facilitate the mainstreaming of the right to health.

OHCHR worked with women's organizations to address GBV and, in collaboration with UN agencies, assisted with the implementation of the UN anti-FGM strategy. Following OHCHR's advocacy, the Galmudug Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development launched an outreach programme in schools and IDP camps to raise awareness within the community about the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act and its significance. In the South West State, OHCHR contributed to three programmes for victims of GBV, including a training for victims and CSOs on how to report to the justice system and raise awareness. In Puntland, the Office contributed to programmes for GBV victims, thereby developing the knowledge of civil society actors. OHCHR supported the Taakulo Somali Community, an NGO, in the delivery of a training on monitoring and reporting SGBV in IDP camps. A total of 25 IDPs participated in the training and five IDP monitors were assigned to monitor and report incidents. In Jubaland, OHCHR referred three CRSV cases to protection partners and 46 women were empowered to speak out on sexual assault incidents through trainings on CRSV and women's rights. In Somaliland, OHCHR worked closely with NAGAAD, a voluntary network of 46 women's organizations in Somaliland, to address issues related to GBV.

OHCHR engaged with OPDs throughout Somalia and provided support for campaigns on various disability-related issues, such as codifying a new Somali sign language, increasing digital inclusion skills for visually impaired youth and advocating for disability inclusion in humanitarian action. The Office supported the National Disability Agency (NDA) under the "Joint Programme on Human Rights 2" (JPHR2) to undertake a series of activities promoting disability rights and inclusion and to develop its endorsed National Action Plan for the national-level implementation of the CRPD Convention.

Peace and Security

In its role as the Secretariat for the HRDDP, OHCHR ensured the mainstreaming of an HRBA into UNCT programming. More specifically, OHCHR contributed to addressing fragility, insecurity, conflict and violence by providing daily situation reports and reporting on the human rights situation in Somalia, as well as sharing early warning assessments and notifications with UN partners.

Regular training was made available to members of the Somali National Army (SNA) to enhance its institutional capacities and understanding of

key concepts in international human rights law, international humanitarian law, the HRDDP and with respect to children and armed conflict. In collaboration with UNOPS and the Ministry of Defence, OHCHR conducted an awareness-raising session for 322 soldiers (five women) from the SNA on the basic principles and rules of customary and international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the protection of children in situations of armed conflict. The training was held in Mogadishu, in February.

In Mogadishu, in May, OHCHR engaged with senior officials from the SNA, the Ministry of Defence and UNICEF to discuss the standardization of training materials available to the SNA on international human rights law, international humanitarian law and child protection mechanisms. It was agreed that additional trainings would be held to develop human rights messages that focus on conduct during security operations and the applicable legal framework.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Year established	1998
Field office(s)	Pretoria
Staff as of 31 December 2024	14
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

During 2024, OHCHR helped to strengthen protection and national accountability mechanisms in the subregion. For instance, it undertook a comprehensive baseline survey of the structure, mandate, powers and operational capacities of NHRIs to inform strategic engagement and technical support. The survey results also fed into regional consultations of NHRIs in Southern Africa to promote closer cooperation.

In **Botswana**, following the 2023 adoption of the new Ombudsperson Act, which OHCHR reviewed and commented on to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles, the Office collaborated with NANHRI to co-organize a workshop to support the operationalization of the Ombudsperson's Office as an independent NHRI. The new Act transformed the Ombudsperson's Office into a hybrid institution with a dual mandate to investigate maladministration and human rights violations and provide redress and remedies to victims. Participants included government partners and civil society, regional actors from NANHRI and the ACHPR. Participants enhanced their understanding of the mandate, structure and functions of a Paris Principles-compliant NHRI by learning about the experiences and good practices of international and regional NHRIs. OHCHR will continue to support efforts to ensure an effective and independent NHRI in Botswana.

In **Lesotho**, OHCHR provided technical and legal assistance to fast track the creation of the Lesotho Human Rights Commission and advocated with government ministries, the National Assembly and CSOs to ensure the establishment of a Paris Principles-compliant NHRI. On 23 September, the National Assembly adopted the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution, which included the establishment and entrenchment of the Lesotho Human Rights Commission. OHCHR organized a workshop, bringing together national stakeholders and international partners to reinforce the important role of the NHRI. In 2021, OHCHR provided technical advice, which was incorporated into the Commission's establishing legislation. Participants agreed to expedite its creation and the two houses of the Parliament agreed to form a joint human rights committee to prevent governmental interference. OHCHR subsequently delivered a sensitization workshop to members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committees on Gender, the Sustainable Development Goals and Law and Public Safety to improve their oversight functions and encourage their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

In **Namibia**, OHCHR and the Office of the Ombudsperson co-organized a capacity-building workshop for its staff on human rights investigations, monitoring and reporting. The workshop reviewed the draft legislative amendment that will strengthen the mandate of the Office, including in relation to human rights protection and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. The workshop also focused on developing its capacities to monitor places of detention and supporting its forthcoming review by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation. OHCHR provided inputs on the draft legislation to amend the Ombudsperson Law in 2023, which is pending adoption.

In 2024, OHCHR held trainings and workshops to support NHRIs in the region ahead of their reviews by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation. While the Sub-Committee reviewed and recommended the reaccreditation of the NHRIs of **South Africa** and **Zambia**, it deferred its decision on the **Namibia** Office of the Ombudsperson until 2025.

OHCHR and the South Africa Human Rights Commission undertook a consultation with NHRIs in Southern Africa to foster collaboration among NHRIs and ombudspersons in the subregion. The participating NHRIs adopted a communiqué to implement a 2017 Southern African Development Community MoU on the establishment of a SADC Alliance of NHRIs and Ombudspersons as the formal network of NHRIs in the subregion. To this end, the NHRIs immediately set up the Secretariat of the Alliance. They further committed to increasing their collaboration on human rights through enhanced engagement in priority areas, such as election monitoring, democratic governance, climate change and cross-border migration.

OHCHR participated in the second annual conference of NPMs in Africa, which advocated for the creation of a peer network for existing and emerging NPMs in the region. During the conference, participants exchanged ideas on legal and institutional frameworks of NPMs to guide and strengthen their respective national mechanisms to prevent torture. OHCHR supported participating NPMs and NHRIs in adopting a formal statute for the establishment of the network.

Non-discrimination

In **South Africa**, OHCHR provided technical support to the Government's Interdepartmental Working Group as it prepared the State Party's written response to the CRPD Committee's LoIPR. It is anticipated that the written response will be submitted in the first half of 2025. OHCHR's assistance developed the capacities of stakeholders, including disability focal points, to effectively engage and respond to the LoIPR, highlighting the rights of persons with disabilities to equal and inclusive participation. For instance, in August, OHCHR participated in an interdepartmental consultative workshop on the rights of persons with disabilities and offered technical support and guidance with regard to the preparation of the Government's written response. The workshop was attended by 51 representatives of ministries and civil society. More specifically, OHCHR presented an overview of the international human rights system, the CRPD Convention

and the CRPD Committee's simplified reporting procedure and the LoIPR, how to prepare a State Party report, including the treaty specific report, and the role of CSOs and NHRIs in the treaty body review cycle.

Throughout the subregion, the Office extended technical assistance and guidance in relation to the rights of migrants and refugees. For instance, OHCHR provided inputs on the *White paper on citizenship, immigration and refugee protection*, issued by **South Africa**'s Department of Home Affairs, which focuses on the alignment of policies and practices with international human rights norms and standards. An OHCHR recommendation that the Paper should include a reference to the right to education of refugee and migrant children was accepted, resulting in a positive change between the draft and final version of the White Paper.

OHCHR continued to actively support the participation of persons facing intersectional forms of discrimination, including through the establishment of a UN Disability Inclusion Task Force, in **South Africa**. The inter-agency Task Force was launched, on 3 December, through a hybrid consultation between the UN and OPDs. The findings from the consultation will inform the CCA process and the finalization of the 2025 UN Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The Task Force will assist and advise the UNCT on the implementation and monitoring of the UNDIS through the accountability scorecard, serving as an essential mechanism for joint action, advocacy, coordination and information-sharing.

During a consultation with Malawian CSOs, the Office advocated for their engagement in the human rights treaty body processes, with an emphasis on an upcoming review of **Malawi**'s response to the CERD Committee's LoIPR. Following the meeting, the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi submitted a response to the LoIPR.

Mechanisms

OHCHR provided technical support and advice to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and to the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity of **Mauritius**. The objective of this assistance was to promote the domestication of the CRPD Convention through the adoption of the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (2024). The Act was adopted on 25 April and establishes a national authority to serve as an independent monitoring mechanism, in line with article 33 of CRPD.

The 2023 visit to **South Africa** by the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes facilitated engagement with the Government and led to recommendations on the outdated Fertilizer, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (1947). Consequently, South Africa developed new regulations under the Act, which address some of the gaps that were identified during the Special Rapporteur's visit. The new regulations were published in the South Africa Gazette on 11 October.

Following OHCHR's delivery of technical guidance and assistance in workshops that were held in **Angola** to strengthen the NMIRF, the Government submitted State Party reports to the CAT and CEDAW Committees. Similarly, OHCHR's support to the NMIRFs of **Eswatini** and **Namibia** contributed to their submission of State Party reports to the CESCR and CRC Committees, respectively. Further, the Office provided capacity-building support to **Eswatini** and **South Africa** in relation to the preparation of their State Party reports to the CAT and CRPD Committees, respectively.

OHCHR worked with the Government of **Eswatini** and enhanced national efforts to facilitate the enactment of a Legal Aid Bill to promote access to justice. In cooperation with the Justice Portfolio Committees in the Parliament and the Senate, the Office helped to organize consultations on the Bill and provided a series of recommendations, which were accepted and integrated into amendments. One of these recommendations focused on ensuring that the eligibility criteria for legal aid, as defined by the Justice Portfolio Committees in the Parliament, is aligned with international human rights standards and principles. The Bill has yet to be adopted.

Development

In 2024, OHCHR conducted a baseline study to assess the degree to which human rights are integrated into the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports of Member States in the subregion. The study indicates that while progress has been made in aligning national policies with the 2030 Agenda, significant gaps remain in relation to comprehensive human rights mainstreaming. According to the study, these gaps can be filled by improving data collection and reporting; strengthening human rights institutions and breaking down silos; promoting inclusive participation; and facilitating access to basic services.

The Office partnered with the New School's Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy (IRPPE) and undertook consultations with governments, CSOs, NHRIs, the UN and other actors on a Human Rights Economy in **Namibia** and **South Africa**. The consultations were held to explore how the Human Rights Economy can be used as a vehicle to address equality. Most stakeholders expressed an interest in collaborating to operationalize a Human Rights Economy in their respective countries.

The Office also participated in the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) roundtable discussion. The event was co-organized by the Parliament of **South Africa**, the Parliamentary Budget Office and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and hosted at the Parliament of South Africa. OHCHR delivered an analysis of how South Africa's current economic model is faring, making reference to the recommendations issued by CESCR in 2021 and introducing the concept of a Human Rights Economy as a possible solution.

OHCHR finalized a subregional baseline study on the integration of human rights into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement by States in Southern Africa. The study found that **Mauritius** is substantially compliant with the integration of human rights into its NDC; **Eswatini**, **Lesotho**, **Malawi**, **Namibia**, **Seychelles**, **South Africa** and **Zimbabwe** are partially compliant; and **Angola**, **Botswana**, **Mozambique** and **Zambia** are non-compliant. The study provides a benchmark and will enable the Office to more effectively tailor its assistance to States in the subregion on their NDCs.

Peace and Security

OHCHR collaborated with UN partners and regional bodies to produce two early warning snapshots that cover all 14 countries in the subregion, as well as 14 situational reports that focus on human rights and the UN's Regional Monthly Review (RMR) recommendations related to elections. Further, in cooperation with UN Women and UNODC, a GBV advocacy brief on Southern Africa was produced and published. These knowledge products informed and guided the actions of UN agencies and other partners.

In **Comoros**, remote monitoring of the human rights situation was undertaken in the context of the 14 January presidential elections. These results influenced the High Commissioner's press statement, which urged authorities to uphold the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and called on all parties to exercise restraint. On 9 February, the High Commissioner sent a letter to the President, underlining concerns about reports of the use of force against and the arbitrary arrest of peaceful demonstrators.

In **South Africa**, OHCHR and UNDP co-chaired the UNCT Technical Working Group on elections. The Working Group developed scenarios connected with elections, made suggestions for UN preparedness and outlined important steps that should be taken when post-election governments are formed. The Office monitored the human rights situation in the context of the general elections, held in **Botswana**, on 30 October, and identified areas that needed to be monitored for preparedness, prevention and response. In **Mauritius**, OHCHR monitored the general elections, on 10 November, and produced two situational updates, before and after the elections. Emphasis was placed on critical issues, including limitations on civic space, a lack of government accountability and an absence of effective public participation in policy decisions. In **Namibia**, the Office served as a member of a task force that was set up by the Resident Coordinator to monitor the general elections that were held from 27 to 30 November.

SOUTH SUDAN: UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Type of engagement	Human Rights Component in Peace/Political 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 2024	92
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The Human Rights Division (HRD) of UNMISS supported the deployment of five circuit and mobile courts and provided technical and logistical assistance to county judges in remote areas without statutory courts. These courts are working to reduce the backlog of criminal cases and handle appeals from customary courts. In January, the HRD helped to establish a criminal circuit court in Morobo County in order to assist justice actors as they addressed cases involving uniformed personnel who were accused of human rights violations. This enabled the adjudication of four cases (two rape cases, one case of theft and one adultery case). Collaboration with protection partners, including the extension of logistical assistance, legal representation and translation services, aimed to strengthen survivor-centred support and referral pathways. Meetings with local authorities and community leaders, as well as radio talk shows, fostered greater community awareness and participation. One radio talk show on human rights featured interactive discussions with invited experts and advocates, covered a variety of topics, raised awareness and sparked meaningful conversations on human rights issues. In May, HRDs and humanitarian partners supported the deployment of the mobile court in Mayom County, which heard 31 cases, including 24 criminal cases involving murder, rape and theft or robbery. Seven of the cases related to sexual and gender-based violence and all resulted in convictions. In five of the cases, the accused were found guilty of rape. All of the victims were girls under the age of 18 years. In one of those cases, the victim was a person with a disability. Survivors received free legal representation, psychosocial support, transportation and accommodation. In total, 22 defendants were convicted and six were released through the dismissal or settlement of their cases. The sentences in the SGBV-related cases ranged from seven to 12 years in prison and compensation for their victims.

In May, the HRD launched a legal aid initiative entitled "Provision of legal aid services to vulnerable groups incarcerated at Juba national prisons and seven detention centres in Juba, Central Equatoria State." The HRD conceptualized and initiated the legal aid project and provided technical assistance and guidance to the CSO that implemented the project. Through the project, 102 detainees (13 women, 10 juveniles) being held in prolonged detention were identified and benefited from the legal aid service. A total of 69 of these individuals were released.

Due to the HRD's engagements with the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA) and other stakeholders, which included capacity-building and technical assistance, progress was made in establishing transitional justice mechanisms in South Sudan. On 11 November, the President assented to the Bill on the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the Bill on Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA), paving the way for the establishment of the transitional justice mechanisms. In May and June, the HRD provided the RTNLA Specialized Committee on Peace and Reconciliation with technical guidance and developed the capacities of the Committee's members, including through the delivery of training for 45 of its members and others on transitional justice mechanisms and stakeholder consultations with CSOs and faith-based organizations. Further, a validation workshop was held to develop a parliamentary advocacy strategy for the implementation of the bills. The consolidated views from these consultations were presented to the Committee, which issued recommendations to expedite their enactment.

Participation

To enhance civic and political space, the HRD conducted 274 capacity-building and sensitization activities, reaching over 12,000 national stakeholders (more than 4,000 women) across the country, including representatives from CSOs, NGOs and HRDs. During these initiatives, participants discussed the importance of fundamental human rights, the electoral process, civic space, transitional justice and political participation. Key outcomes included the creation of a Human Rights Defenders Network, in Unity State, and the establishment of the Lakes State Legislative Assembly (LSLA) and Human Rights Network, in Rumbek. The Network's role includes monitoring and sharing human rights alerts and allegations with the HRD; undertaking advocacy for the rights of CSOs in the context of shrinking civic and political space; raising the awareness of CSOs about thematic issues, such as transitional justice, SGBV/CRSV and human rights monitoring; and the involvement of CSOs in the mobile court. Moreover, during workshops and trainings, participants enhanced their skills and knowledge, strengthened coalitions and networks and voiced their concerns.

Peace and Security

The HRD monitored, investigated and produced reports on the human rights situation in South Sudan. It also conducted in-depth investigations into serious violations, including extrajudicial killing, CRSV, arbitrary arrest and detention, forced displacement of civilian populations, looting and the destruction of property.

The HRD conducted 470 field monitoring and investigation missions, undertook 504 detention visits and documented 1,019 incidents of violence affecting 3,657 civilians in South Sudan. To date, the HRD has documented 1,561 individuals who were killed, 1,299 who were injured, 551 who were abducted and 246 who were victims of CRSV. In comparison with 2023, this constitutes a 15 per cent increase in violent incidents (from 885 to 1,019) and a nine per cent increase in the number of victims (from 3,340 to 3,657). The number of civilians killed and injured has increased by two and 23 per cent, respectively, compared with 2023 (from 1,524 to 1,561 killed and from 1,052 to 1,299 injured, respectively). While the number of abductions decreased by eight per cent (from 601 to 551), the number of CRSV victims has significantly increased by 51 per cent (from 163 to 246).

The HRD documented and verified 57 cases of extrajudicial executions (all males, including one child, 55 civilians and two uniformed personnel) in Lakes and Warrap States, which have been severely impacted by localized violence over the years.

During field missions, the HRD investigated alleged violations and abuses of human rights. It engaged with authorities to promote compliance with international human rights standards and stressed the importance of implementing measures to resolve grievances between communities. In collaboration with other UNMISS components, the HRD engaged with State authorities, traditional leaders and civil society to address the impacts on civilians of the ongoing hostilities between government security forces and National Salvation Front (NSF) splinter groups.

In 2024, the HRD released six public reports, including a comprehensive *Report on technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan 2024*, which provides an overview of the main human rights challenges in South Sudan and HRD's technical advice and response. In addition, it published quarterly civilian casualty briefs that significantly contributed to the protection of civilians and generated trust by developing a network of partners, such as CSOs, community/religious leaders, State authorities, justice actors, journalists, media practitioners, HRDs, women, youth and members of conflict-affected populations, including survivors.

SUDAN

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Ad Damazin, El Fasher, Kadugli, Kassala, Port Sudan (new) and Nairobi (on a temporary basis)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2021 (extended to 2025)
Staff as of 31 December 2024	45

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR supported the Transitional Justice Coalition (TJC), including by organizing key consultative meetings, in March and May. The meetings brought together 65 CSO representatives (30 women), contributing to the development of a victim-centred plan of action. This plan enabled the TJC to set its priorities for 2025, such as upholding the right to remedy for victims of human rights violations. The plan will help to achieve that objective by documenting and mapping human rights violations and ensuring the inclusion of survivors and marginalized voices in peace, political or transitional justice dialogues. It is also essential to cultivate an environment that is conducive to the realization of a genuine transitional justice process.

To strengthen engagement on truth-seeking, the Office organized a series of workshops for more than 80 partners, including members of CSOs, HRDs and legal professionals. Discussions focused on the need for advocacy with respect to the right to truth and justice for victims of enforced disappearances, including through the establishment of an independent truth-seeking and investigation mechanism. OHCHR delivered a series of online and hybrid workshops, which increased the knowledge of truth-seeking initiatives about international standards, documentation techniques and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms in relation to enforced disappearances. OHCHR also worked with the ICRC and CED to encourage networking between these initiatives. Following these efforts, the workshop participants prepared and submitted four urgent actions on four cases of enforced disappearance to CED between March and April. Consequently, CED sent four communications to the Government, in April, regarding the whereabouts and fate of the victims. Finally, CSO participants prepared a joint submission for the Secretary-General's annual report on missing persons.

Participation

During the year, OHCHR increased its efforts to empower civil society to effectively deal with human rights issues, including through monitoring, documenting and reporting human rights violations and abuses and engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. More specifically, OHCHR enhanced the capacities of 763 civil society actors, including 353 women, which better enabled them to advocate for human rights and promote positive change, particularly at a time when civil society is playing a pivotal role in promoting peace.

OHCHR led the development of a one-year road map to enhance support for HRD protection, capacity-building and coordination. This work was carried out in collaboration with Sudanese HRDs and members of the Sudan Human Rights Defenders Protection Network, which was established in 2022 and is being facilitated by OHCHR. In this context, the Office undertook assessments involving 30 at-risk HRDs, leading to referrals to protection service providers for 14 individuals, at least 10 of whom received protection grants.

Further, OHCHR organized 14 national and subnational human rights forums to assess the needs of Sudanese civil society and promote coordination and collective solutions to address the challenging situation of human rights in the country. On 3 May, OHCHR and UNESCO co-hosted an event to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, bringing together close to 100 members of the international community to discuss media freedom in Sudan.

Development

In 2024, OHCHR supported the integration of an HRBA into development planning and programming, despite the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict and displacement. For instance, it provided inputs to the CCA, reflecting the current human rights situation and ensuring that an HRBA was mainstreamed into the document. OHCHR also worked closely with the UNCT initiative to establish a UN-Private Sector Engagement Task Team for Sudan that is aligned with international human rights standards, such as the UNGPs.

OHCHR contributed to the drafting of strategic documents that will shape the national humanitarian response in 2025. In September, the Office provided inputs to the Joint and Intersectoral Analysis Framework's (JIAF) outcome indicators, which include an assessment of the severity of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the conflict. In Kassala, OHCHR contributed to the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, supporting the collection of information on protection and the needs of vulnerable groups with disaggregated data, thereby helping to ensure a comprehensive humanitarian response. The Office also mainstreamed human rights into the Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HRP), highlighting patterns of violations and integrating an HRBA into the response strategy.

Peace and Security

In spite of operational constraints, OHCHR conducted six field monitoring missions, including in Chad, Ethiopia and Abyei, undertook 150 interviews and documented 50 cases on attacks against civilians, forced displacement and CRSV. Such missions and monitoring and documentation by OHCHR contributed to five public reports issued in 2024, 45 weekly updates and 17 situational reports. These reports informed the High Commissioner's statements and reports to the HRC, the Secretary-General's reports and monthly diplomatic bulletins and briefings. They also provided the basis for recommendations to humanitarian actors to enhance their accountability and civilian protection.

OHCHR provided technical support to the proximity talks that were convened, in Geneva, by the Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General (OPESG-Sudan), in July. The talks focused on measures to facilitate the unfettered distribution of humanitarian assistance and options to ensure the protection of civilians across Sudan, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2736. OHCHR also contributed to the Secretary-General's report on recommendations for the protection of civilians in Sudan (S/2024/759), which was presented to the Security Council, in October. In December, OHCHR participated in a workshop on the protection of civilians in Sudan, organized by the ALPS Group, in Geneva. This led to the development of the ALPS Group's workplan on the protection of civilians. OHCHR, DDPA, OCHA and the OPESG are members of the ALPS Working Group on the protection of civilians, which is composed of delegations from the African Union, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

OHCHR's documentation provided critical inputs for the Security Council-mandated Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children. In addition, this documentation contributed substantially to the Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy by developing minimum standards for humanitarian corridors as a means to enhance civilian safety.

Throughout 2024, OHCHR delivered training sessions to build the capacities of more than 60 members of CSOs, including 30 women, to monitor and document human rights violations and abuses. The sessions raised awareness about CRSV and gender-based discrimination, as well as monitoring, interviewing and gender-sensitive reporting. In collaboration with humanitarian actors, the Office advocated for and strengthened survivor support services for victims of CRSV, notably in Darfur, Khartoum and Kordofan. This included supporting 38 lawyers (34 women) with the preparation of CRSV documentation, combating stigma, navigating judicial barriers and working with UN partners, including IOM, UNFPA and UNICEF, to encourage the sharing of findings and standardization of CRSV documentation processes.

Mechanisms

OHCHR supported CSOs in engaging with the international human rights mechanisms by focusing on their capacities to submit reports and advocate effectively. In collaboration with the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre, OHCHR conducted a series of workshops, training more than 100 CSO representatives and emergency lawyers on engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. It also helped the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate to submit a report to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Through its efforts, OHCHR ensured that the international community remained informed of gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law occurring in Sudan. For example, in the annual *Report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Sudan*, OHCHR highlights patterns of violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and emphasizes the need for sustained international attention to ensure accountability. The report was presented to the HRC at its fifty-fifth session and the next report will be presented at its fifty-eighth session.

The Office supported the Designated Expert on human rights in the Sudan in the context of his advocacy and engagement. The Designated Expert held 22 virtual consultations with CSOs inside and outside of Sudan. This enabled participants to exchange information on human rights concerns and the humanitarian situation in the country. In July, the Designated Expert undertook a mission to Port Sudan, during which he engaged with members of the Transitional Sovereignty Council and other authorities and addressed various priorities, including civilian protection, humanitarian access, the lifting of restrictions on civil society and accountability for violations and abuses. Additionally, the Designated Expert visited a site for IDPs and engaged with displaced communities. Through a virtual meeting with the leadership of the Rapid Support Forces, the Designated Expert advocated for an end to attacks on civilians and civilian objects, child recruitment and sexual violence. In Nairobi, in December, the Designated Expert met with Sudanese civil society members, INGOs, UN partners and diplomatic missions to discuss the human rights and humanitarian situation in Sudan and the challenges faced by civil society. Findings from the missions informed the High Commissioner's annual report on human rights in Sudan and will contribute to a dialogue at the fifty-eighth session of the HRC.

WEST AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Togo
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Dakar
Staff as of 31 December 2024	22
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In **Senegal**, in September, following sustained technical and financial support and advocacy by OHCHR and other actors, the Parliament adopted Law No. 2024-14 to establish the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), replacing the Senegalese Human Rights Committee. This constituted an important step forward in the recovery of its "A" Status. The Law introduced a number of improvements, such as a revised appointing procedure for the NHRC's Chair and members, its budgetary autonomy and the presentation of reports to the President of the Republic and the National Assembly. The Office also supported the NHRI and the NPM in drafting their new strategic plans. The NPM developed its Strategic Plan (2024-2028) and the NHRI revised its Plan (2022-2026) to include guidelines that take the legislative reforms into consideration.

The Office provided technical support and undertook advocacy with the Government of **Benin**. As a result, it adopted Law No. 2024-22 on the NHRI, which introduced innovations on the selection process of its members, in accordance with the Paris Principles. The new legislation recognizes that adequate human, financial and material resources are necessary for the work of the NHRI and shall be put at its disposal through the ordinary State budget.

Côte d'Ivoire ratified four conventions in 2023 and 2024, completing its ratification of all nine core international human rights treaties. Following the March 2023 ratification of OPCAT, OHCHR advocated before the Government regarding its implementation. In October, a draft law was prepared on the creation of an NPM, which will be referred to as the National Observatory on Detention. The draft law is pending adoption by the Parliament. The NPM will function as an independent administrative authority that is responsible for preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. OHCHR will continue to advocate for the adoption of the draft, the establishment of the NPM and the delivery of training for its members.

On the rights of the child, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to anti-trafficking bodies in **Guinea-Bissau** and **Senegal** for the development of NAPs to combat trafficking. The NAPs were reviewed to bring them in line with international standards and were finalized and approved. The Office will extend capacity-building support to facilitate their implementation.

In addition, OHCHR helped to set up consultation frameworks with key stakeholders working on child protection in the **Gambia**, **Guinea**, **Guinea-Bissau** and **Senegal**. The consultation frameworks, operating under the "Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations" (PAPEV), provide guidance and a platform to engage with stakeholders to ensure that its objectives are in line with national priorities and initiatives relating to the rights of the child. In the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, the frameworks are chaired by the ministers who are responsible for child protection. They were formalized through administrative acts, in accordance with OHCHR's advice.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR is implementing 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 address human rights violations in the context of migration.

Due to OHCHR's advocacy, **Senegal**'s Interministerial Committee to Combat Clandestine Emigration (CILEC) evolved into the Interministerial Committee to Combat Irregular Migration (CILMI). The mandate of the institution has been

expanded beyond emigration in order to more holistically address issues of irregular migration. OHCHR is now working with CILMI to review the compliance of its strategy and action plan with international human rights standards.

In the **Gambia**, OHCHR supported the development of a draft law on the smuggling of migrants, taking into account international human rights standards on protection and assistance measures for migrants, judicial proceedings, the protection of children and consular assistance. OHCHR will continue advocating for the adoption of the draft law, which will be followed by the sensitization of law enforcement officers to ensure its effective implementation.

The Office enhanced the capacities of CSOs across the region to support the integration of gender perspectives and human rights approaches into their work. For example, in **Nigeria**, OHCHR supported the launch of the civil society Platform for Cooperation on Mixed Migration (PCMM) and trained its 65 members (18 women) to effectively apply human rights principles. This enabled the PCMM to convene a stakeholders' conference on free movement protocols. The PCMM seeks to foster collective action and cooperation on complex challenges posed by mixed migration and to promote the rights and well-being of migrants, refugees and IDPs in Nigeria. The Platform operates in line with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, OHCHR offered financial and technical support to CSOs to enhance their ability to apply an HRBA to migration, including during their visits to detention centres and in the delivery of sensitization activities for communities and local authorities regarding the human rights of migrants and risks related to irregular migration.

In addition, the Office contributed to the integration of an HRBA into the work of NHRIs. In the **Gambia**, OHCHR referred cases of migrant deportations to the NHRI. The Office also supported the NHRI of **Burkina Faso** in the delivery of information to migrants on access to justice. In **Nigeria**, OHCHR facilitated coordination among stakeholders, including the NHRI, through the adoption of a human rights and migration guide on monitoring human rights at international borders.

The Office improved access to services for child victims of human rights violations in the region. In **Guinea-Bissau**, 21 children, including one girl who had been exploited through forced begging in **Senegal**, were returned to their families. During the year, follow-up visits were undertaken to meet with child victims of trafficking and forced begging who had been identified in **Senegal** and returned to **Guinea**, in 2021, with OHCHR's help. The project assisted them with socioprofessional reintegration into the fields of mechanics and carpentry. During the visits, two of the children were found in their learning environments; one was working in a carpentry factory and the other was working in a mechanical garage. Some of the other returned children have successfully developed socioprofessional activities. The children and their parents testified to the positive impact that OHCHR's support has had on their lives.

Participation

To encourage the participation of women and young people in the electoral process, OHCHR partnered with the NHRC of **Senegal** to train 103 people as election observers, including 38 women and 42 young people, on human rights monitoring in the context of the presidential and legislative elections. The NHRI shared recommendations with electoral authorities.

OHCHR organized a number of workshops to enhance the capacities of 66 journalists (29 women) in the region on disinformation, freedom of expression and hate speech. These efforts led to the publication of a lexicon on hate speech in Senegal, which will assist journalists to identify hate speech and avoid the use of terms that constitute hate speech.

Development

To encourage States to effectively implement the UNGPs and related recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR provided technical advice, in Ghana, on the review of the draft NAPBHR (2024-2029). OHCHR will continue to advocate for its adoption by the Cabinet.

Mechanisms

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, in October, within the context of its fourth UPR cycle, OHCHR strengthened the capacities of the 15 new members (four women) of the Interministerial Committee for Reporting and Follow-up, the country's NMIRF, on reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and following up on their recommendations, including through the use of the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI). OHCHR and the NMIRF held discussions on the adoption of SOPs on the functioning of the NMIRF and the 2025 submission of significantly delayed reports, especially the report to CESCR and CMW. In **Ghana**, the Office organized an activity with 25 NMIRF members (14 women) to adopt a set of recommendations to strengthen the NMIRF's mandate and establish a timeline for the drafting and submission of the overdue report to the CAT Committee. In **Senegal**, 25 new members of the NMIRF participated in an OHCHR training on human rights, engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and reporting methodologies. An action plan was adopted, incorporating recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, particularly in relation to the rights of the child. In **Nigeria**, OHCHR and the NHRI organized a multi-stakeholder forum on implementing recommendations emanating from CMW and the fourth UPR cycle. A total of 37 participants (24 women) from civil society, State institutions and UN agencies developed a joint action plan to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations.

With respect to development programming, OHCHR provided technical support to UNCTs to encourage the integration of an HRBA and gender perspectives into the CCAs of **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Liberia**, **Mali** and **Senegal**.

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 2024	1
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

OHCHR provided capacity-building and technical advice to Zambia through a study on advancing the rights to food and education. The study also looked at the impacts of debt servicing on these rights and suggested ways to re-organize the budget in order to free up resources to ensure the minimum essential levels of these rights. This contributed to a decision of the Government to increase the 2024 envelope for the school feeding programme from 39.7 to over a 100 million Kwachas (approximately US$1.4 million to US$3.5 million) and to scale up the Home Grown School Feeding Programme from 70 to 116 districts by 2026. OHCHR collaborated with UNDP to extend financial and substantive assistance to the national dialogue on business and human rights, the provincial consultations in the Copperbelt and Livingstone and the Zambia Human Rights Commission. These initiatives led to the launch of the National Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights and advanced the development of an NAPBHR. OHCHR oversaw and coordinated the development of the NAPBHR and engaged a consultant to support its drafting and finalization.

Peace and Security

OHCHR contributed to the preparation of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security by highlighting the linkages among the international human rights mechanisms and standards, disability inclusion

and women's participation. It also advocated for its alignment with the international human rights treaties, such as CESCR and the CEDAW and CRPD Conventions. The NAP is being finalized and OHCHR will follow up on the process.

OHCHR took steps to facilitate the mainstreaming of human rights into the emergency drought response to secure protection and access to emergency relief for women and vulnerable groups. In addition, the Office ensured that materials on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) were available in Braille and child-friendly versions. Moreover, OHCHR provided advisory support and advocated for the consideration and prioritization of persons with disabilities, women, children and older persons in IOM's drought needs assessment in Western Province.

Non-discrimination

To improve media reporting on persons with disabilities, OHCHR delivered a training to 25 media professionals on disability inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities, terminology use and recommendations issued by the CRPD Committee in relation to Zambia. This contributed to increased awareness and changes in terminology used by media houses, including the Zambia Daily Mail, the country's largest and oldest newspaper company, which reports on all 10 provinces.

In July, OHCHR conducted an outreach event at Lusaka Girls Secondary School, sensitizing more than 70 pupils on albinism and the rights of persons with disabilities. The event was held to fight against discrimination, stigma and negative attitudes and included the participation of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism.

Mechanisms

OHCHR worked closely with the Government and other stakeholders to implement Zambia's obligations under the international human rights treaties to which it is a State Party and to follow up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The HRA advocated before the Government to operationalize the NMIRF, which began functioning in 2023, and to submit its State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies. As a result, the Government drafted its State Party report to CESCR and submitted its combined seventh, eighth and ninth periodic reports to the CEDAW Committee in February 2025.

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 2024	1

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

On 5 November, following OHCHR's ongoing advocacy, Zimbabwe acceded to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) and deposited its instrument of accession with the Secretary-General. In doing so, the Government fulfilled one of the pledges it made in the context of the HR75 Initiative. The Convention entered into force for Zimbabwe on 1 March 2025.

With technical support from the HRA, the 2024 CCA update integrates human rights, including recommendations issued by the UPR during Zimbabwe's fourth cycle review, and provides a comprehensive overview of the populations most likely to be left behind. The CCA identifies women and children as the populations hardest hit by disasters and climate shocks and notes that refugees, stateless persons, migrants and youth are the most likely to be left behind.

The HRA also led the UNCT's preparation of inputs in response to the Human Rights Committee's LoIPR regarding Zimbabwe and the consolidated UNCT alternative report. In March 2025, the Human Rights Committee reviewed Zimbabwe's State Party report under the LoIPR.

Following OHCHR's advocacy before the Government to enact a law abolishing the death penalty, the legislature adopted the Death Penalty Abolition Bill. After the President's assent, it was promulgated into law, at the end of 2024, as the Death Penalty Abolition Act (Chapter 9:26).

Non-discrimination

Under the auspices of the RCO, and in collaboration with UN entities participating under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), the HRA supported consultations with persons with disabilities and OPDs on strengthening disability inclusion in the CCA. Human rights were mainstreamed into the CCA with the support of the HRA, including inputs on issues affecting persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and LGBTQI+ persons, under the rubric population groups at risk of being left behind. Some of these issues include: inadequate protection in law and practice; intersectional stigma and discrimination; and barriers to accessing information, employment and services in education and the health and justice sectors. The CCA was published in December.

The HRA provided technical support during a series of national and regional consultations with persons with disabilities and OPDs on the domestication of the CRPD Convention. In 2024, a tool that was developed under the UNPRPD project to enable OPDs to meaningfully engage with stakeholders on various policy and law development processes, known as the Policy Lab Model, was used as the basis for consultations. The consultations were organized in cooperation with a CSO working on disability issues to better understand the Persons with Disabilities Bill, which is being debated in the Parliament, and to analyse its compliance with the CRPD Convention. Following the consultations, a policy brief was developed, with recommendations, and used by OPDs to engage with the legislature and as an advocacy tool for disability rights and inclusion during public hearings on the Bill.

Together with UNDP and UNESCO, the HRA assisted the Government with the creation of tools and guides to strengthen inclusive service delivery relating to disability rights, including *Easy to read guidelines on UNCRPD monitoring and reporting in Zimbabwe*; *Guidelines on how to provide reasonable accommodation and accessibility to persons with disabilities: A tool for government ministries*; a National Action Plan on the Implementation of Disability-Related Recommendations to Zimbabwe Issued by International, Regional

and National Human Rights Mechanisms; and the Costed Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Disability Policy (2024-2028). Discussions with the Government are underway with respect to drafting guidelines that will enable the Government to develop a CRPD-compliant and disability-inclusive national budget.

With technical support from OHCHR and financial support from UNICEF, the Government is developing a Disability Identification, Assessment, Determination and Referral Framework. The objective of the Framework is to create a harmonized system to ensure equitable access to social protection services and benefits for children and adults with disabilities through appropriate assessment and certification. The Government is increasingly engaging persons with disabilities and OPDs across decision-making platforms and notable changes have been observed in relation to improving coordination, accountability and governance on disability inclusion. For instance, in 2024, the Government and OPDs engaged in discussions to strengthen disability inclusion in the VNR report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). In the context of drafting Zimbabwe's initial State Party report under the CRPD Convention, OPDs were consulted, although they also prepared an alternative report. Further, OPDs are part of the intersectoral coordination mechanism that was established by the Government, which brings together UN entities and government ministries to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

Participation

The Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) Amendment Bill, which contains provisions with adverse consequences for the enjoyment of civic space, civil and political rights, was adopted by the Senate, in October. With the HRA's technical support and guidance, CSOs engaged with the special procedures and brought to their attention a variety of issues of concern about the PVO Amendment Bill. They also provided information about the arbitrary arrest and detention of three HRDs, resulting in the issuance of two communications and statements by the special procedures. The RC advocated with the Government regarding concerns about the impact of the Bill. The Senate suggested the modification of certain provisions, namely, those relating to compliance requirements, penalties and governance structures. The revised Bill is due to be transmitted to the President for assent. With the support of the HRA, the RC continues to advocate with the Presidency against the Bill's approval. Further, the HRA and RC will continue advocating for an enabling environment, particularly if the Bill maintains provisions that would have an adverse impact on civic space.

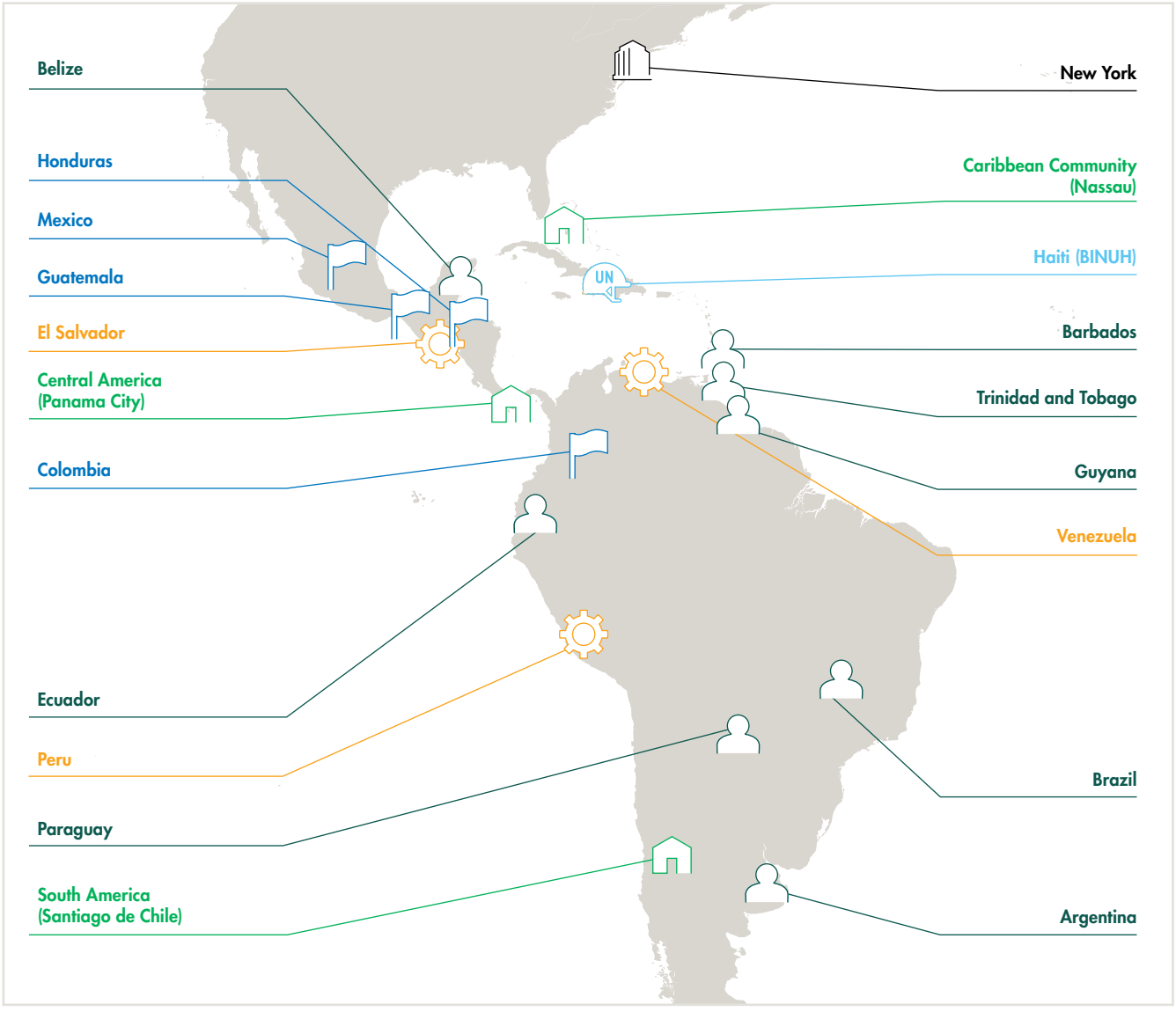
Development

The HRA collaborated with OHCHR and RCO economists to develop a budget analysis of investments in the water and sanitation (WASH) sector. This analysis was finalized and transmitted to the Government and informed the UN's inputs that were submitted during budget consultations. Consequently, the 2024 budget statement outlining the strategic priorities of the Government in the WASH sector addresses some of the recommendations outlined in the budget analysis. Moving forward, the HRA will continue providing technical advice to ensure improved implementation of the right to water, in collaboration with other UN entities that support the Government on WASH-related activities.

UN Human Rights **in The Americas**



Isabel Albaladejo Escribano, OHCHR's Representative in Honduras, alongside representatives of the Government and Congress, presents Legislative Decree No. 18-2024 to human rights defenders and victims, in Tocoa, Honduras. The Decree prohibits mining concessions in protected areas and ensures access to environmental and social justice mechanisms. © OHCHR



TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Headquarters	New York
Country Offices	Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico
Regional Offices/Centres	Central America (Panama City, Panama), Caribbean Community (Nassau, Bahamas) 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, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago
Other projects/Special presences	Peru, El Salvador and Venezuela

In 2024, the work of UN Human Rights in the Americas region covered 35 countries and consisted of 19 presences, namely: three regional offices (in Nassau for the Caribbean Community, in Panama City for Central America and in Santiago de Chile for South America); four country offices (Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico); one human rights component in a political mission (United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)); three other types of presence (El Salvador, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); and eight human rights advisers (HRAs) (Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago). As of April, engagement with the Plurinational State of Bolivia was added to the responsibility of the Regional Office for South America (ROSA). OHCHR also engaged with Canada, Cuba and the United States of America (USA) from its headquarters in Geneva.

Further to Human Rights Council resolution 54/33, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and OHCHR signed agreements on "The Establishment of a Regional Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Caribbean Community," on 9 August, in Geneva, and on 20 August, in Nassau. This paved the way for the creation of the Regional Office for the Caribbean Community, which became operational on 7 October.

In Guatemala, the Host Country Agreement was renewed for three years, extending the presence of the Office in the country until January 2027. Similarly, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between OHCHR and the Government of Peru was renewed for three years (February 2025 to February 2028), as requested by the Government.

In Venezuela, on 15 February, the Government suspended the Letter of Understanding and staff were requested to leave the country. On 19 November, OHCHR and the Government reached an agreement to allow the Office to partially re-establish its presence in the country. Due to the deteriorating security situation in Haiti, staff working within the Joint Human Rights Service of BINUH were evacuated and relocated outside of the country throughout the year. The reduced presence of essential staff posed significant challenges to operational continuity.

Political polarization, crises and the radicalization of some political actors seeking to grab or consolidate their power had negative impacts on human rights across the region, including in relation to civic space, the right to freedom of expression and the rights of human rights defenders (HRDs), who were affected by killings, threats or the criminalization of their activities. These human rights concerns and violations were combined with high levels of violence and homicide rates that were linked to organized crime and drug trafficking, insecurity, the adoption of state of emergency measures, repressive policies, socioeconomic difficulties, systemic inequalities and severe environmental disasters, including climate-related events. Consequently, the region witnessed an increase in the number of people on the move in search of safety. Migrants continued to be exposed to stigma and discrimination, violence and abuse in a context of restrictive migration measures in some countries. This was compounded by an insufficient humanitarian response and protection measures for people in need. OHCHR monitored and reported on human rights violations and abuses affecting Cuban, Haitian and Venezuelan refugees and migrants, for instance, in the Caribbean region and the Darién jungle.

Extreme weather events remained a central concern in the region, including large-scale flooding in Brazil; catastrophic wildfires that severely impacted on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other communities in Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile and Paraguay; and hurricanes, such as Beryl, Helene and Milton, that led to dramatic destruction in Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the USA. These events diverted essential resources away from investment in economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), including in countries that were already facing challenges linked to high indebtedness and limited fiscal space, such as the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The activities of extractive industries and agribusiness often impacted on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and rural communities. Efforts to integrate human rights into environmental policies remained limited. Social inequalities affected people of African descent. A number of countries documented a rise in stigmatizing

speech against individuals and groups in vulnerable situations and opposition to gender equality and women's rights, negatively affecting human rights and the adoption of inclusive policies. This troubling trend led to the rejection of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development by Argentina and Paraguay. UN Human Rights strengthened its work and analysis on the concept of a Human Rights Economy.

In 2024, electoral processes in the region were complex, as evidenced by: last minute efforts that prevented President Arévalo from taking office in Guatemala; inflamed rhetoric and protests in the pre-electoral context in Bolivia; electoral violence in Mexico; concerns about the integrity of regional elections in Nicaragua; and a significant post-electoral crisis in Venezuela. In addition, there was a growing tendency towards the removal of checks and balances and attempts to undermine the independence of the judiciary in several countries. The militarization of public security and governance of the prison system, coupled with dysfunctional criminal justice systems, raised serious concerns. In this challenging context, OHCHR strengthened cooperation and synergies with a wide range of actors, engaged in advocacy and technical assistance and responded to existing or emerging situations of concern.

The Office supported the engagement of Member States with the Human Rights Council (HRC) to ensure adequate follow-up on situations requiring international attention. This included the implementation of HRC item 10 resolutions on technical assistance and capacity-building in Colombia, Haiti and Honduras.

OHCHR worked to address human rights issues related to organized crime, gang violence and security in the Americas. It also focused on increasing internal coordination and cooperation with external actors; strengthening human rights-based responses; and enhancing strategic communication by reviewing narratives and creating new tools.

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	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
Year established	2024
Field office(s)	Nassau (Bahamas), Belmopan (Belize), Bridgetown (Barbados/Eastern Caribbean), Georgetown (Guyana) and Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English- and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	9

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

OHCHR advocated and provided support for the engagement of CARICOM countries with the international human rights mechanisms as these mechanisms are a critical entry point to advance human rights. This is particularly relevant as many countries in the region have overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies and because SIDS have limited capacities and resources to report, implement recommendations and disseminate related information.

The HRA in **Belize** assisted the Government by providing guidance and support to organize consultations for the establishment of a national human rights institution (NHRI) that operates in accordance with the Paris Principles, as recommended during the country's fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The consultations served as a follow-up action to a UPR recommendation and contributed to the formation of an NHRI Committee, in December, which is mandated to coordinate the establishment of the NHRI. This will be the first Paris Principles-compliant NHRI in the region.

On 12 March, the Ombudsperson Act was published in the **Bahamas**, regulating the creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson. While efforts will continue to bring the institution into full compliance with all requirements of the Paris Principles, it is currently the most progressive Ombudsperson institution in the Caribbean region. The Attorney General's Office (AGO) requested OHCHR's support to advance the operationalization of the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Following extensive advocacy and capacity-building, **Saint Kitts and Nevis** acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Saint Kitts and Nevis was the only State in the region that had not ratified ICESCR.

In 2024, OHCHR documented the increased engagement of governments, CSOs and the UN subregional team (UNST) in the Eastern Caribbean with several international human rights mechanisms. Over the last two years, the Office observed a positive trend of greater compliance with reporting guidelines, the alignment of national legislation and policies with some international standards, the implementation of recommendations and additional requests for support, information or capacity-building assistance. In this context, the HRA and UNICEF prepared a joint UNST confidential submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in March, to inform the Committee's preparation of its list of issues (LoI) in relation to **Saint Kitts and Nevis**. Support was also provided to the Government, in October, for the preparation of its response and to revitalize the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF). In cooperation with UN Women, the HRA submitted joint UNST confidential reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in anticipation of the preparation of its list of issues prior to reporting (LoIPR) for **Saint Lucia** and **Dominica**, in February and December, respectively. Two UNST joint reports were submitted prior to the fourth UPR cycle of **Dominica** and **Grenada**, in April and October, respectively. Furthermore, the HRA submitted a joint confidential UNST submission to the Human Rights Committee to inform the preparation of its LoIPR for **Antigua**

and Barbuda and **Barbados**. Information about these human rights mechanisms was disseminated to CSOs, community organizations, UN agencies and, when possible, government representatives.

In **Belize**, the HRA supported the engagement of the Government with the Committee against Torture (CAT) through the organization of workshops to facilitate the drafting and submission of its long overdue periodic reports under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). The last report it had submitted was its initial report in 1988. The Government responded, in a reasonable time, to the LoIPRs issued by the CEDAW Committee in anticipation of its 2025 review of the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports.

In **Suriname**, OHCHR supported the preparation of a UN Country Team (UNCT) submission to the Human Rights Committee. The Office ensured that information was disseminated to CSOs to encourage their involvement with the international human rights mechanisms, including through the submission of alternative reports. A delegation of CSOs attended briefings and several CSOs submitted reports.

In **Guyana**, the HRA led the UNCT's submission to the Human Rights Committee in advance of the March review of Guyana's third periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The HRA also led the drafting of the UNCT's submission in anticipation of Guyana's fourth UPR cycle.

OHCHR contributed to establishing or reinforcing NMIRFs in the region. In the **Bahamas**, the Office provided technical assistance to the National Reporting Cooperation Mechanism (NRCM), an interministerial mechanism, at a meeting that included the CSOs that participate in the country's NMIRF. This enabled participants to identify areas that need to be strengthened to ensure the effective operationalization of the NMIRF. In turn, this informed the needs assessment, which will underpin the NRCM's capacity-building plan. The process also resulted in a renewed commitment from the Government that the Bahamas will roll out the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD), in accordance with their Human Rights 75 (HR75) pledges. In November, a workshop was held to discuss the establishment of an NMIRF in **Antigua and Barbuda**.

Participation

Efforts were made by the Office to support and engage with civil society in national and regional policy processes, including by amending legislation governing CSOs and the protection of HRDs and the media and by convening multi-stakeholder dialogues to protect and expand civic space.

In **Guyana**, human rights education was essential to increasing awareness and participation. OHCHR supported the Government in piloting a hybrid certificate course on international human rights law, with expert presentations on various international treaties. The course sought to introduce participants to the fundamental concepts of international human rights law and Guyana's human rights architecture. Over 200 participants from all 10 administrative regions registered and more than 160 participants from across the country successfully completed the course. Based on its success, authorities announced at the closing ceremony that the course would be offered annually, while the establishment of a Human Rights Academy may be pursued to meet long-term demand.

In **Guyana**, the HRA supported the Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities to host a one-day capacity-building and speed networking session for young people with disabilities. A total of 26 individuals attended and gained skills in communication and networking that will enable them to fully engage in workplace and social settings.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the HRA cooperated with IOM and UNHCR to strengthen the capacities of approximately 30 CSOs working with migrants and refugees. For instance, the HRA provided training on the integration of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into project proposals. The HRA also took part in a workshop of the Media Institute of the Caribbean and enhanced the skills of 50 journalists in the region on key aspects of humanitarian reporting to improve their understanding of the Geneva Conventions and the protection of media professionals.

In the lead up to the 2025 elections that will be held in several countries of the region, workshops were delivered in **Guyana** and **Trinidad and Tobago** to foster awareness and build the capacities of media personnel to combat misinformation, disinformation and counter hate speech. In **Guyana**, the HRA collaborated with the Ethnic Relations Commission on an initiative to counter hate speech, which featured a social media campaign, workshops with young people, social media influencers, radio DJs and media workers. In addition, activities were undertaken to empower the Commission's Media Monitoring Unit. The Office also cooperated with UNDP on the provision of e-monitoring tools.

To address rising crime and violence in the region, including an increase in homicides in **Trinidad and Tobago**, the HRA worked closely with UNODC and UN Women to elaborate a road map to mainstream human rights and gender into transnational organized crime investigations. A session facilitated by OHCHR contributed to the development of the road map, which was adopted by authorities.

In **Barbados**, the HRA and UNDP provided multi-stakeholder capacity-building support to an inception phase project of the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) (for Barbados only). This assistance encouraged stakeholders to learn more about and engage with the international human rights mechanisms. The HRA also oversaw the preparation of a situational analysis on the alignment of the country's national legislation, policies and practices with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The **CARICOM** Regional Office in Nassau engaged with the CARICOM Secretariat to bolster collaboration between OHCHR and CARICOM on the human rights agenda. OHCHR and CARICOM will work together to identify priorities for collaboration, which may include work on crime prevention and human rights.

Development

Technical assistance was provided to public institutions in **Barbados, Guyana** and **Trinidad and Tobago** to support the development of constitutional, legal and policy frameworks. In 2024, the **Barbados** Constitutional Reform Commission formally recognized the right to a healthy environment, which OHCHR had recommended in a technical note that was sent in 2023.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the HRA issued recommendations in the context of the constitutional reform process and recommended the integration of the right to a healthy environment into the Constitution. The recommendations were published in the *Report of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform*. While civil and political rights were previously perceived to be the foundation of a strong constitution, responses of the general public to a recent questionnaire issued by the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform demonstrated a widespread belief that the right to a healthy environment must be included in the Constitution. This reflects the positive impact of advocacy regarding climate change and the right to a healthy environment and a shift towards a broader perspective that the Constitution should protect all human rights.

During the year, youth engagement on climate justice and environmental action was strengthened. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the HRA assisted the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in planning and facilitating the Caribbean Youth Dialogue, which provided a basis for youth in the region to prepare interventions in advance of the ECOSOC Youth Forum on "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions." In **Guyana**, the HRA collaborated with UNICEF, the Guyana National Youth Council and the Guyana Youth Environmental Network to support youth engagement in the first SIDS Global Children and Youth Action Summit, including through pre- and post-Summit workshops. This enabled more than 50 young people from SIDS to share their perspectives on the intersectionality of social and environmental issues and their impacts and present their recommendations for a different course of action. At the post-Summit workshop, a road map was initiated to map environmental youth CSO activities and identify climate priorities and potential areas for collaboration.

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 a Human Rights Adviser in El Salvador
Staff as of 31 December 2024	42
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In **Panama**, the Office provided technical assistance to the Office of the Ombudsperson in drafting a bill to amend Law No. 7 (1997) to align its regulatory framework with international human rights standards, particularly the Paris Principles. This would lay the groundwork for a more robust and credible NHRI and advance Panama's efforts to regain "A" Status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). In October, OHCHR assisted the Office of the Ombudsperson to present the draft bill to the President of the Government Commission of the National Assembly for official registration and review. On 14 January 2025, OHCHR participated in a Government Commission session that endorsed the draft. It is currently pending discussion in the first debate of the Plenary of the National Assembly. Following a request made on 22 January by the President of the Government Commission and proponent of the draft bill, OHCHR began a legal feasibility study on the proposed legislation.

OHCHR partnered with UN Women and the Specialized Network on Gender of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (REG-AIAMP) to strengthen the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-Related Killings of Women through a virtual course that was offered by the UN Women Virtual Training Centre e-Learning Campus. OHCHR and UN Women developed the course. To date, the self-guided virtual course has been completed by more than 130 judicial practitioners.

With OHCHR's technical support, the judiciary of **Costa Rica** developed a guide on applying a gender perspective to sentencing in cases of sexual crimes and domestic violence. The guide was officially endorsed on 31 October and has been shared with 47 judges and magistrates during four workshops across the country.

OHCHR contributed to the inclusion of international human rights standards and the participation of CSOs in the Regional Consultation on drafting actionable recommendations on missing migrants and the provision of humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress. The event was organized by the UN Network on Migration and held in January. OHCHR contributed to developing guidelines for the elaboration of an inter-institutional, intersectoral protocol for the protection of migrants, displaced and refugee women, victims and survivors of sexual violence in **Panama**. More specifically, it ensured that efforts undertaken to facilitate access to justice for migrants and refugees are in line with international human rights standards, including recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee following its 2022 review of the eighth periodic report of Panama.

In July, OHCHR collaborated with the ICRC, IOM and the Regional Network for Civil Organizations on Migration to host a regional workshop on "Follow-up on the implementation of the regional recommendations to promote the exchange of information for the search for missing persons in the context of migration." The workshop was attended by prosecutors, NHRIs, forensic specialists, migration authorities, CSOs and relatives of victims from the region and enabled an exchange of experiences related to the search for and identification and investigation of deceased and disappeared migrants. CSOs and relatives of victims presented a study on searching and access to justice regarding disappearances of migrants in Central America and Mexico, which was carried out with the technical and financial support of OHCHR. The study contributed to an agreement between the National Registry Centres of El Salvador and Guatemala to replicate

the Honduran fingerprint information exchange model. This will enable the incorporation of data on missing persons from Mexico, thereby strengthening the regional search for missing migrants from Central America.

In **Nicaragua**, OHCHR increased the visibility of human rights violations through documentation and reporting to the HRC on systemic abuses, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, deprivation of nationality and persecution of journalists, clergy, Indigenous Peoples and actual or perceived dissidents. These actions, coupled with statements, social media posts and advocacy interventions with stakeholders, contributed to the release of 135 arbitrarily detained individuals and encouraged ongoing advocacy for the protection of victims and civil society. Additionally, OHCHR trained CSOs on engaging with the international human rights mechanisms, which led to the submission of information to the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR engaged with young journalists, including from the Latin American Network of Young Journalists (RedLatAm), to promote narratives that are founded on the human rights and dignity of migrants and to challenge discriminatory, xenophobic and dehumanizing discourses. More specifically, OHCHR partnered with the Autonomous University of Barcelona to conduct a one-month training course that was developed to transform migration narratives in the Americas. Over 450 young journalists from the region attended the course and crafted eight impactful stories that were published across Latin America by leading media outlets, such as Univision Noticias, France 24, Revista Líder Empresarial, Revista El Estímulo, Revista El Estornudo, El Día de Córdoba, Revista El Camaleón, Revista El Toque and Revista Contracorriente. The stories were instrumental in reshaping public perceptions and advancing the discourse on migrant rights across the region. In 2025, OHCHR will maintain its partnership and organize a dedicated session on migration journalism at the 2025 LatAm festival and become a regular collaborator of the RedLatAm Network.

OHCHR continued promoting the implementation of the toolkit #Misderechosmigranconmigo, which it developed with the migration institutions of the 11 Member States of the Regional Conference on Migration, including through a webinar. Subsequently, the representatives of nine of the Member States committed to launching the 40 days of activism campaign on social media networks as a way to implement the toolkit. The migration institutions requested OHCHR's support to strengthen their actions to combat discrimination against people in movement.

To that end, OHCHR cooperated with IOM, UNODC and UNHCR to provide technical assistance to these migration institutions to strengthen their capacities to incorporate human rights standards into migration governance. This assistance included the delivery of three regional trainings on "Human rights and humanitarian action at international borders" in **Guatemala**, **Mexico** and **Panama** to 65 participants, including border officials, prosecutors, consuls and migration officials. A total of 100 new border officials of the National Border Service of Panama, who were deployed to Darién, participated in the training. OHCHR also engaged with relevant migration authorities to promote the application of an HRBA to migration governance, prevent abuses and violations of the rights of people on the move to reinforce protection actions at borders and along routes in the region, with a focus on cross-border and regional cooperation. These efforts contributed to the integration of the regional course on "Human rights and humanitarian action at international borders" into the Regional Conference on Migration's 2025 workplan. The training will target border and law enforcement officials in direct contact with migrants and will be conducted in partnership with the Regional Conference for South America, covering more than 35 countries in the Americas region.

OHCHR's support to the Office of the Ombudsperson in **Panama** helped to enhance its capacities to monitor and report on human rights violations against migrants at borders. This technical support contributed to the development of an innovative tool to identify cases of gender-based violence (GBV), patterns, protection gap abuses and human rights violations against migrants and refugees

in transit through the Darién jungle, including migrants being detained and deported. As a result of this monitoring work, the Office of the Ombudsperson was able to document more than 400 cases of sexual violence, advocate for prompt investigations by the Public Ministry and recommend actions to be taken by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Security to protect victims. OHCHR also worked with the Office of the Ombudsperson in **Costa Rica** to enable it to replicate this monitoring tool at the south and north borders.

Participation

OHCHR's partnership with regional women's networks led to the consolidation of a community of practice of young women activists who are working on sexual and reproductive rights issues in **Central American countries and the Dominican Republic**. In November, a regional meeting was organized in Panama City, **Panama** for 32 women's organizations. The meeting provided a space to assess the main challenges and opportunities for the implementation of national and regional initiatives to advance sexual and reproductive rights. It also gave participants an opportunity to discuss their experiences with regard to advocacy, legal strategies, the litigation of cases at the national level and the strategic use of international and regional protection mechanisms. OHCHR will continue to extend capacity-building assistance to the network on the use of legal frameworks and strategic litigation.

During the electoral process, OHCHR provided the Office of the Ombudsperson in **Panama** with capacity-building training and technical assistance on the monitoring of elections, including observing polling stations, assessing human rights-related risks and remote monitoring, to ensure staff were empowered to identify and address potential violations. The combination of in-person and remote monitoring enabled continuous oversight, promoted a more transparent electoral process that respected fundamental rights and reinforced the mandate of the Ombudsperson to protect the rights of all citizens during elections.

In **Panama**, OHCHR empowered more than 100 young leaders through a human rights training programme, "Generación DH," during which they received tools to replicate workshops in their own communities. This new initiative catalysed grassroots advocacy and contributed to the creation of a local youth-led network of HRDs. The network has already undertaken several human rights initiatives, such as reporting human rights violations to the Office of the Ombudsperson, the organization of Human Rights Day celebrations at their educational institutions and the design of a workplan to improve the human rights situation at the local level.

OHCHR bolstered its engagement with civil society on the right to a healthy environment by providing 53 workshops and capacity-building support for more than 1,400 persons. This enabled CSOs to participate in critical discussions on climate action, biodiversity conservation, just transition and the reduction of pollution, including hazardous chemicals, like mercury. Following the trainings, OHCHR amplified the voices of nine environmental HRDs at international forums by facilitating their participation at various pivotal events, including the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), in Antigua and Barbuda, the Third Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement (COP3), in Chile, and the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, in Colombia.

OHCHR played an important role in securing the integration of human rights into the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of Article 9 of the Escazú Agreement. OHCHR also provided leadership and technical advice through workshops and public consultations, including during the Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders, which brought together over 300 HRDs. Largely due to these efforts, the Regional Action Plan included key human rights elements, such as participation, access to justice, gender perspectives, environmental issues, minorities and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Development

Following OHCHR's 2023 engagement with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), this primary international financial institution in Central America agreed to begin collaborating on the implementation of human rights standards when extending credit to Member States. To this end, a training was provided on business and human rights standards for international financial institutions. This paved the way for collaboration in March 2025 to ensure that human rights guidelines and due diligence are applied to CABEI's regulations and processes.

OHCHR assisted Offices of the Ombudsperson in **Costa Rica** and **Panama** to advance the business and human rights agenda. In cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsperson of **Costa Rica**, the first Symposium on Business and Human Rights was organized and attended by 150 representatives from institutions, business, academia and CSOs. Following the Symposium in Costa Rica and capacity-building initiatives in Panama, the NHRIs of both countries began preparing framework protocols to address business and human rights issues. It is anticipated that the documents will be finalized in the first half of 2025.

COLOMBIA

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	1997
Field office(s)	Bogotá, with field presences in Arauca, Barranquilla, Cali, Cúcuta, Medellín, Neiva, Pasto and Villavicencio
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	91
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR's efforts contributed to the improved implementation of international human rights standards, including through the promotion of transparency and accountability, enhanced investigative capacities and the provision of support for the rights of victims to truth, justice and reparation. The Office also increased its engagement with the AGO to address critical issues and human rights violations, such as the investigation of killings of HRDs, enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial executions, cases of GBV and sexual violence, the forced recruitment of children and violations committed during peaceful protests.

In the context of OHCHR's collaboration with specialized teams and territorial units, it shared information, identified patterns of violence and supported investigations by the AGO in seven departments. As a member of the Standing Inter-Institutional Committee, the Office supported the AGO in its investigation of killings that took place during the 2021 National Strike and facilitated a dialogue between State institutions and the families of victims in Cali.

In October, following six months of dialogue at the Roundtable for Police Reform, which was facilitated by OHCHR and attended by the Ministry of Defence, the National Police and CSOs, Presidential Decree No. 1231 (2024) was adopted. The Decree incorporates international human rights

standards on the use of force, including firearms and less lethal devices. Its adoption represents significant progress in light of the disproportionate use of force that was applied during the 2021 National Strike and resulted in the death of protesters. The Decree establishes the use of force as a last resort, reflects international principles on the use of force and strengthens accountability measures for public security forces.

OHCHR provided technical support to the Colombian Truth Commission's Follow-up and Monitoring Committee to help monitor the progress of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. In addition, the Office organized territorial dialogues for civil society and State institutions across 12 departments. These efforts contributed to the signing of the Pact for Non-Recurrence and strengthened coordination with the 2016 Peace Accord Implementation Unit.

OHCHR's support to the Search Unit of Persons Deemed as Disappeared (UBPD) ensured that victims and international human rights standards were included in the work of this institution. Notably, Congress adopted Law No. 2364, known as the "Buscadoras Law." This Law recognizes the essential role of women in searching for the disappeared and the disproportionate impact that enforced disappearances have on them. Its adoption is an unprecedented first step in the Americas region. OHCHR supported women's organizations in the drafting of the Law and of national and international advocacy strategies to gain political support from multiple parties in Congress. OHCHR also contributed to achievements at the local level, such as the establishment of the National Search System in Cúcuta and recognition of the women who search for their disappeared relatives in Buenaventura.

The Office provided technical assistance to 67 CSOs that represent victims and their families, enabling them to identify and seize opportunities for participation and advocacy before transitional justice entities of the Comprehensive System for Peace. This strengthened their capacities to develop, present and adopt graphic tools and analytical documents. OHCHR delivered a workshop on victims' rights, in Huila, for 40 families. It focused on the recognition of victims in order to facilitate access to reparations. By providing technical assistance to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), as well as local and national authorities, OHCHR helped to ensure that development plans in the prioritized municipalities of Huila and Tolima facilitated the search for and dignified return of bodies, in line with the UBPD's mandate.

Participation

OHCHR monitored the situation of HRDs and documented a high number of killings, attacks and threats. Its monthly reports on violence against HRDs, including the situation of environmental HRDs, received widespread national and international visibility. The Government took measures to address this violence, such as creating the National Roundtable on Guarantees, reactivating 24 territorial roundtables and striving to comply with the Constitutional Court's 2023 ruling, which declared the situation of HRDs to be an unconstitutional state of affairs. OHCHR worked with several State institutions and CSOs to formulate a national policy on guarantees for HRDs. It also provided inputs that reflect international standards, good practices, national experiences and knowledge. The Office participated in local workshops to collect additional inputs from local CSOs. It is expected that the policy will be approved in 2025. OHCHR provided a group of legislators with technical assistance to draft a bill that would establish a legal framework to enable the work of HRDs. The bill was formally presented to Congress for discussion in 2025. The Office also supported the development and launch of the Action Plan for the Comprehensive Programme of Safeguards for Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders.

At the local level, the Office offered technical assistance related to the drafting of prevention and protection plans for HRDs in 30 municipalities in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Córdoba, Huila, Nariño and Tolima.

In addition, OHCHR advocated for the protection of municipal-level ombudspersons in Antioquia, Arauca, Cauca and Norte de Santander. This advocacy resulted in the adoption of a Law that

provides more resources for municipal ombudspersons, enabling them to work in the municipalities with the highest incidence of violence and poverty. The Law was adopted after more than five years of advocacy efforts by associations of municipal ombudspersons.

In five regions, OHCHR supported Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent who undertook political advocacy for self-governance, environmental justice, territorial defence, protection measures and engagement with authorities. The Office increased the capacities of Indigenous women from the Jiw community to access their rights through support for the first Jiw women's organization, known as Jamino, and engagement with authorities in the Guaviare and Meta departments. In Cauca and Huila, OHCHR assisted the Nasa Paez Indigenous Peoples to develop a strategy for the prevention of child and adolescent recruitment by non-State armed groups, which was implemented through cultural activities, such as dance and painting.

Development

During the year, OHCHR delivered training to more than 100 public officials from various national institutions in order to increase their knowledge about the rights of peasants. This contributed to the inclusion of peasant rights in national censuses and surveys and land restitution policies in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Bogotá, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Sucre.

OHCHR undertook advocacy for the promotion of sustainable rural development. This prompted greater institutional presence in some of the country's 11 Peasant Reserve Zones (PRZs), including the El Pato Balsillas Reserve Zone in the department of Caqueta, thereby securing land titles for peasant families. Similarly, OHCHR supported enhanced protection for food production areas, such as in Cañaverales, La Guajira, to enable ethnic-peasant communities to remain on their lands.

OHCHR's territorial analysis regarding potential areas for implementing the National Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS) helped to reduce risks and increase the effectiveness of State crop substitution strategies. The Office created regional and national spaces within which to work on the implementation of the PNIS. It also delivered an analysis of regions with the highest potential for programme implementation that takes into account the conditions of the communities and the presence of non-State armed actors. In the case of Chocó, the Office issued recommendations on the implementation of the PNIS and the mitigation of risks in three territories in the Atrato and San Juan subregions through the prioritization of these territories in the PNIS implementation process. It further urged that the specific security situations in these areas be taken into account.

OHCHR supported training for government officials and CSOs on business and human rights and the monitoring of cases on the environment and human rights. Technical guidance was provided to adversely impacted communities. Following the visit by the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights and a series of recommendations that were issued by OHCHR, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Human Rights initiated plans to establish a new public policy on business and human rights.

Peace and Security

OHCHR raised awareness about the high level of violence generated by non-State armed actors and described its negative impacts on rural communities, including of Indigenous Peoples. More specifically, the Office published the *Index on the Impact of the Violence*, which has been used by authorities to prioritize prevention and protection efforts in municipalities identified in the Index. OHCHR prioritized 26 of these regional situations to facilitate the implementation of policies, such as on security and the dismantling of criminal organizations, that have the potential to address the underlying causes of violence. The Office also encouraged the participation of local communities and organizations in peace dialogues that were promoted by the Government in the Total Peace policy.

The Office took steps to ensure the application of an HRBA as a component of security sector

reform, including by advocating for the application of international human rights standards and good practices by State institutions to safeguard dignity and life, particularly in violence-affected regions.

OHCHR contributed to reform efforts of the intelligence sector. For instance, an MoU was signed with the National Intelligence Directorate (DNI) regarding the integration of international human rights standards into the intelligence management cycle to ensure transparency, accountability and privacy protections. The Office assisted with the review of the draft Intelligence Law (Statutory Bill No. 226 of 2024 reforming Law No. 1621 of 2013), providing recommendations that were integrated and ensuring its conformity with international norms and standards. The Bill is pending adoption.

OHCHR reviewed the Human Rights Volume of the National Police, proposing more than 700 recommendations to align the educational and operational documents with international human rights norms and standards. The recommendations were approved by the Technical Advisory Council on Human Rights of the National Police, initiating a process of incorporating them into the new text of the Human Rights Volume and the Institutional Education Project.

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 2024	33

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR developed a strategic document on legislative priorities that was informed by recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Specifically, the document includes an analysis of legislation that is potentially incompatible with international norms and standards. It was disseminated to Members of Congress (deputies) and other stakeholders and will strengthen the legislature's capacities to prioritize and address human rights issues. Further, OHCHR delivered tailored training to 69 deputies (15 women) and technical advisers from key committees to enhance their understanding of international human rights norms and standards. These and related efforts contributed to the alignment of three legislative initiatives on mental healthcare, the prevention of sexual abuse of children and pretrial detention with international human rights standards. The initiatives are in the final reading phase and pending congressional approval.

In February, the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH) began drafting a National Plan for the Dignification and Reparation of Victims and their Families of the Internal Armed Conflict. OHCHR contributed to this process by facilitating a dialogue among victims, CSOs and government institutions and providing technical advice on the application of international human rights standards to transitional justice, particularly in relation to the right to reparation.

Though the Plan is still under development, it is anticipated that it will be endorsed by the executive branch in 2025. OHCHR also reviewed existing measures to promote reparations, the recovery of historical memory and the creation of a national registry of missing persons. Furthermore, with OHCHR's support, COPADEH will take the initial steps to establish a national mechanism for the search of missing persons, with a special focus on long-term disappearances.

Participation

OHCHR provided technical assistance to Indigenous Peoples, women's rights movements, LGBTQI+ individuals, persons with disabilities, youth and the communities of Garifuna people and people of African descent to enhance their engagement with related decision-making processes at the national and international level. For instance, the Office prepared a guide with recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was utilized by Indigenous authorities during their engagement with government institutions in the context of presidential dialogues and territorial visits. Moreover, through technical assistance and capacity-building, OHCHR contributed to dialogues with Indigenous groups, leading to the congressional adoption, on 25 November, of a framework policy on advancing the social and economic development of Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala.

OHCHR implemented various initiatives to support youth participation and leadership in public and decision-making spaces, particularly at the local level. In Huehuetenango, 47 young people (32 women) from 14 youth organizations formed the "Nab'il Youth Network" that will promote the engagement of youth in municipal or departmental decision-making processes and mechanisms. The Network will also promote human rights knowledge in the region and among other youth networks. OHCHR facilitated training sessions for members of the Network to strengthen their knowledge about human rights, participation in civic spaces and the right to defend human rights. The Office supported them in developing a workplan for 2025.

In addition, the Office strengthened the NHRI's capacity to design a human rights education programme for young people, with a specific focus on the human rights of youth and their right to participation. The programme is ready to be implemented by the NHRI at the national level. OHCHR and the NHRI will co-deliver the educational modules.

Following a visit to Guatemala from 16 to 19 July, the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a series of recommendations. In response, the Ministry of the Interior reactivated the Agency for Analysis of Attacks on Human Rights Defenders. To support this initiative, OHCHR provided guidance and training to officials from the Ministry of the Interior, including members of the National Civil Police and COPADEH. Moreover, a draft policy for the protection of HRDs was validated through a participatory process with civil society, public institutions, ancestral authorities and international actors. The Office supported the integration of an HRBA into the draft policy and ensured that the validation process took place in five departments, beyond Guatemala City. A total of 250 individuals (160 women) from over 70 CSOs participated in the process. The executive branch is expected to endorse the draft policy in 2025. In a context where institutional responses to the protection of defenders have weakened in recent years, the reactivation of the Agency and the forthcoming adoption of the draft policy for the protection of HRDs represent important steps in securing their protection.

OHCHR documented 58 cases of attacks against HRDs in 2024. This is significantly lower than in 2023, when OHCHR documented 182 cases, and can be attributed to a shift in discourse by authorities in favour of the protection and participation of HRDs.

Development

Significant progress was achieved in fostering compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) among private sector actors and State institutions in Guatemala. For instance, OHCHR provided technical assistance to three trade associations as they implemented internal human rights policies. In addition, with OHCHR's guidance, COPADEH developed a road map to establish a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

OHCHR will continue to support this work in 2025 through assistance and consultations with various stakeholders.

COPADEH and 22 State institutions operating at the territorial level in two prioritized departments (Alta Verapaz and Izabal) took action to prevent forced evictions and promote human rights-based dialogues to mitigate agrarian conflicts and seek durable solutions, in accordance with international standards related to the right to land, dignified living conditions, housing and associated ESCRs. As a result of technical assistance provided by OHCHR, COPADEH possesses institutional tools for the analysis and application of collective precautionary measures on agrarian issues, granted by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). Additionally, COPADEH and the Private Secretariat of the Presidency developed a comprehensive understanding of institutional actions related to eviction processes. Furthermore, COPADEH and the delegates at the dialogue tables in Alta Verapaz and Izabal operationalized the online Registry of Cases of Agrarian Conflict. This platform enables the compilation, updating and prioritization of conflict cases, which has improved inter-institutional coordination and ensured their alignment with national frameworks and adaptation to local realities. With support from OHCHR, communities in the Polochic Valley that have precautionary measures in place significantly increased their knowledge and skills in managing agrarian conflicts. This facilitated constructive dialogue between COPADEH and these communities regarding the promotion of compliance with precautionary measures, thereby ensuring that their needs and human rights are respected.

The adoption of a Municipal Disability Policy in Camotán, Chiquimula, marked a significant achievement in 2024. The Policy was developed with the participation of persons with disabilities and will directly benefit more than 700 persons with disabilities, along with their families, totalling approximately 1,500 people. The Policy, developed with the technical assistance of OHCHR and UNFPA, seeks to improve social coverage, in accordance with international standards for persons with disabilities. Other municipalities in Guatemala have requested guidance to support the adoption of similar policies.

With OHCHR's technical assistance, the Ministry of Health updated its road map for disability certification to bring it in line with the Certification Law (6-2024), which was adopted, in March. This certification is needed to enable persons with disabilities to access their rights, particularly social protection, and live with dignity. It also ensures that the implementation of disability inclusion reflects international standards. OHCHR supported the establishment of the disability certification processes in 11 public hospitals and trained 33 persons (26 women) involved in certification evaluations.

Non-discrimination

From 7 to 8 November, OHCHR partnered with the Specialized Network on Gender of the REG-AIAMP and the LGBTQI+ NGO Network, Without Violence, to organize the Third Regional Forum, under the theme "Towards a Regional Protocol for the Investigation of Violent Deaths of LGBTQI+ People." The Forum was held in Guatemala City and attended by more than 50 participants, including prosecutors, LGBTQI+ activists and HRDs, forensic experts and OHCHR staff from the region. The Forum aimed to provide general guidelines and lines of action to improve the practice of justice operators, forensic experts and any specialized personnel during the investigation and prosecution of violent deaths of people due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. During the Forum, a draft Protocol was reviewed by participants. It is anticipated that a final version will be presented during the annual meeting of the REG-AIAMP, paving the way for its validation by the Public Prosecution Services in various countries during 2025.

In 2024, OHCHR supported the establishment of the CEDAW Coalition, a group of 20 CSOs, including those representing Indigenous women, people of African descent and women with disabilities. Its objective is to monitor and promote the implementation of the CEDAW Committee's recommendations following its 2023 review of Guatemala's tenth periodic report. During the year, the Coalition developed a workplan to coordinate ongoing advocacy efforts.

HAITI: UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN HAITI (BINUH)

Type of engagement	Special Political Mission
Year established	2004 as MINUSTAH; MINUJUSTH since 2017; BINUH since July 2019; MSS approved in 2023
Field office(s)	Port-au-Prince
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	17

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

In 2024, OHCHR monitored, recorded and followed up on a total of 14,096 human rights violations and acts of violence, including killings, injuries, kidnapping, sexual aggression and attacks on private properties. Killings represented the highest proportion of these violations (59 per cent) and 70 per cent of alleged perpetrators were gang members. OHCHR established a network of local monitors and key actors to strengthen data collection. It then assessed, verified and processed this data, which enabled OHCHR to provide timely analysis and public reporting that focused on the impacts of violations and gang activities. OHCHR also investigated and documented four major incidents of human rights abuses and violations committed by armed gangs and members of the Haitian National Police, including summary executions. It produced four quarterly reports, 11 UNOCC notes and one public flash report and provided data for two reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) and a report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence.

Since 2022, OHCHR has engaged in monitoring, reporting and analysis, highlighting systemic issues of sexual violence committed by gangs. In 2024, a Women's Protection Adviser was deployed to BINUH, mandated to ensure that the UN responds to gang-related sexual violence in a more systematic manner. In September, OHCHR launched the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA), which has a similar mandate to improve the UN's response to sexual violence committed by armed actors. This includes monitoring and reporting on documented cases, analysing trends and patterns of violence to advise on timely prevention and response and developing harmonized and evidence-based reporting that can inform the situational awareness and actions of the UN entities in Haiti and of the Security Council. The analysis also included recommendations for UN senior leadership regarding concerted action and necessary advocacy with national authorities and the international community on sexual violence. During the year, three briefings were held with Member States, including one with the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, to raise awareness about the situation of sexual violence in Haiti and advocate for financial support for the response.

From August to December, OHCHR organized four awareness-raising sessions related to international standards on the use of force. The trainings were delivered to 116 police officers (one woman) deployed to the Multinational Security Support (MSS), including officers from its headquarters, the Force Security Unit (FSU) and sector commanders from the Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica and Kenya. OHCHR worked closely with the MSS on the establishment and implementation of the Mission's human rights compliance mechanism. OHCHR contributed to the development of key MSS documents, including the *Compliance, oversight and accountability policy*, the *Directive on search, detention and use of force*, the *Directive on disciplinary matters involving MSS personnel*, the *Standard Operating Procedure on the complaint and reporting mechanism* and the *Standard Operating Procedure on the board of enquiry*. Additionally, the concept note for the joint OHCHR-MSS After-Action Reviews (AAR) mechanism was developed and adopted. These are key tools to prevent and respond to any form of misconduct involving MSS personnel, including human rights violations and sexual exploitation and abuse.

In the context of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) project on "Strengthening protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable populations living in high-risk areas," OHCHR collaborated

with eight implementing partners and provided assistance to more than 15,000 people, including 12,592 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Victims, such as survivors of sexual violence, were referred to protection partners and made aware of available resources, such as medical, psychosocial, legal relocation, livelihood and family unification support.

Accountability

OHCHR supported the Haitian National Police Inspectorate (IGPNH) through technical assistance, capacity-building and information-sharing related to human rights violations involving police officers. The IGPNH followed up on 96 incidents, with a total of 261 casualties, including 201 deaths and 60 injuries. It also opened 78 investigations concerning 98 police officers, which included 17 cases of alleged human rights violations. A total of 29 investigations related to previous cases were concluded, 14 administrative measures were undertaken and 15 cases were brought before the courts. On 15 August, during a police operation in Port-au-Prince, three police officers were arrested and three others were killed. All were suspected of being linked with gangs.

As part of efforts to reduce prolonged pretrial detention and overcrowding, OHCHR advocated for the courts to allow correctional hearings for minor and serious offences without the presence of a jury. In addition, OHCHR provided material support to the courts of the Centre, North and South departments to expedite the processing of judicial cases, thereby contributing to the release of 76 detainees in six detention centres/prisons who were minors (seven in total), had been detained for minor offences, such as stealing cattle or telephones, or had spent one to two years in prison without being brought before the court. The releases took place after collective habeas corpus petitions were filed and a special hearing was held in relation to detainees in the Cap-Haitien prison. OHCHR will continue to advocate for the release of an additional seven detainees, including three women and four minors.

In July, following OHCHR's advocacy, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MSPJ) established a three-member Commission against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to prioritize all SGBV cases pending in courts across the country. The Judicial Affairs Department of the MSPJ published an official note, on 7 August, that instructed all Public Prosecutors to prioritize the prosecution, without a jury, of cases involving sexual violence. Deputy Public Prosecutors were selected to prosecute the cases and OHCHR's monitoring is ongoing. To support the work of the Commission, OHCHR provided logistical support, including essential equipment, to enable its operational capacities. OHCHR provided coaching to members of the Commission to familiarize them with relevant international standards. As of 1 December, 28 rape cases had been adjudicated, resulting in 17 convictions. Three cases were adjourned until a later date and one case is awaiting a judicial decision.

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 2024	36
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR enhanced the capacities of key stakeholders to ensure access to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence for victims of human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, torture and sexual violence. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared and Detained in Honduras (COFADEH), the executive branch and the legislative branch. This resulted in the drafting and debate of a draft law addressing 50 years of impunity and contributed to the recognition of victims of the National Security Doctrine that was implemented from 1980 to 1993. The draft law is based on the pillars of transitional justice, including the creation of a Truth Commission, and seeks to facilitate compliance with the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and OHCHR. In April, the draft was presented to the National Congress. OHCHR helped the nominated Review Committee to produce a final draft that will be discussed in 2025.

OHCHR worked with the AGO to enable it to conduct prompt, impartial and effective prosecutions of human rights violations. OHCHR's support resulted in the review of the draft Protocol for the Investigation of Deaths Due to Political Reasons, in line with international standards. OHCHR ensured that victims and their representatives were consulted in the review process. Simultaneously, following the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruling in the case *Vicky Hernández et al. v. Honduras*, the State initiated the development of a draft Protocol for the Investigation and Administration of Justice during Criminal Proceedings for Cases of LGBTQI+ Victims of Violence. OHCHR provided technical assistance to Cattrachas, the CSO petitioner in the case, and the Regional Network of Information on LGBTQI+ Violence to develop proposals for the State to strengthen investigations in cases of violence against LGBTQI+ persons.

The Office significantly enhanced the skills and capacities of justice system professionals and played a pivotal role in ensuring that the judiciary integrated a gender perspective into judgments. From January to March, OHCHR delivered a diploma course entitled "Applying a gender perspective and conventionality control in judgments." The course was held at the request of the Judicial School in San Pedro Sula and was made available to 40 professionals (32 women), including judges, magistrates, prosecutors, psychologists and social workers. During the year, judges and magistrates incorporated gender standards and perspectives that they learned about during the course in at least seven rulings, as evidenced by the accurate classification of crimes, such as femicide. In April, OHCHR coordinated with the Supreme Court of Justice to launch a strategy to combat impunity in GBV cases by revising the judicial training curriculum on gender and human rights and integrating it into the judicial career path. This enhanced internal controls on the application of a gender perspective (through National Supervision) and strengthened inter-institutional coordination with the AGO and the Security Ministry. These efforts contributed to promoting gender-sensitive justice and reinforcing the judiciary's commitment to upholding human rights standards.

The Office promoted an inclusive and victim-centred approach to justice through technical support, strategic litigation and victim assistance, with a focus on vulnerable populations. CSOs, law firms and victims benefited from OHCHR's monitoring, documentation and technical assistance, which had a notable impact on emblematic cases. For instance, the Criminal Court confirmed the sentence of the eight individuals convicted of the murder of the environmental

human rights defender, Berta Cáceres; families of the 2020 Garifuna disappearances were able to access justice; and cases of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and instances of torture or ill-treatment perpetrated under the State of Emergency (invoked in December 2022) were followed up.

In coordination with the judiciary, OHCHR strengthened the functioning and effectiveness of the criminal system. More specifically, the Office provided technical assistance for the coordination of Execution Courts and the Penitentiary Institute regarding the judicial review of criminal records. This included monitoring of judicial and penitentiary processes and the integration of human rights protections, leading to a reduction in penitentiary overcrowding, streamlined processes and improved case management. As a component of this effort, OHCHR and judicial authorities carried out 21 visits to penitentiary centres, reviewed more than 10,116 files and identified key challenges. The judicial review of case files and subsequent follow-up with relevant authorities contributed to the release of more than 600 individuals between October 2023 and May 2024.

The Office continued to advocate for the application of an HRBA to anti-corruption measures, including by strengthening the protection of justice operators and whistleblowers in corruption cases, promoting the role of victims and emphasizing judicial independence and access to information. The Office provided technical assistance to the Minister of Transparency and Fight against Corruption to develop a road map for draft legislation on whistleblower protection. In October and November, OHCHR conducted two dialogues with CSOs and State institutions to discuss the drafting process. The dialogues led to the mapping of relevant stakeholders and governing regulations.

Participation

Within the framework of technical assistance provided to the National Protection System (NPS) to strengthen protection and support for HRDs, journalists, social communicators and justice operators, OHCHR developed a draft Protocol for Collective Case Attention. The draft Protocol was designed to provide guidance on addressing cases through a community-based and collective approach. It is under review and expected to be implemented in early 2025.

OHCHR undertook a comprehensive mapping of legislative provisions that unduly restrict the right to defend human rights to challenge the criminalization of HRDs (disproportionately affecting individuals and groups engaged in the defence of land and the environment). Following this initiative, the Office supported a legislative harmonization roundtable that was convened by the Ministry of Human Rights and the NHRI (CONADEH) to review and amend Decree No. 93-2021. The Decree is among the most frequently cited legal instruments in cases of the criminalization of HRDs. The draft Decree, developed by the roundtable, was presented to the plenary of the National Congress in 2025 and is pending final approval.

Following an OHCHR-supported visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Honduras established the Special Commission on Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information to evaluate the national context and propose legislative guarantees to ensure the enjoyment of these fundamental rights.

The Office provided guidance to the Government on the drafting of a Due Diligence Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed Against Human Rights Defenders, in compliance with Resolution 6(f) of the IACtHR Rules of Procedure, which resulted in a preliminary draft. Importantly, the initiative has strengthened cooperation with the AGO, enabling new lines of investigation to be opened and the increased participation of victims in justice processes.

OHCHR implemented a comprehensive monitoring and documentation system for attacks against HRDs, journalists and other persons of concern. A total of 284 cases affecting 319 victims, composed of 219 HRDs and 100 journalists, were registered. The system enhanced the Office's capacity for early warning and early action and contributed to the release of 28 HRDs and journalists, including four individuals who were released through definitive

and provisional dismissals and one who had their sentence commuted. The Office also collaborated with law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, resulting in timely interventions that led to the release of 15 of the 25 individuals who had been detained due to outdated police database systems (NACMIS) or an absence of charges or legal proceedings against them. Similarly, OHCHR monitored the processes of at least five individuals who were granted the opportunity to have their charges dealt with through alternative precautionary measures instead of pretrial detention. Consequently, they were permitted to remain at liberty while the criminal procedure moved forward.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR initiated a process, in coordination with the Supreme Court of Justice, to combat impunity in cases of GBV, including through the integration of a curriculum on gender and human rights into the judicial training programme. The Office also provided technical assistance to the AGO and the Police Investigations Directorate to strengthen their investigative capacities in GBV cases, with an emphasis on violent deaths and femicides.

OHCHR promoted a new regulatory framework guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with an HRBA and international obligations, during 10 regional consultations and in collaboration with approximately 1,000 stakeholders, including CSOs specialized on the rights of persons with disabilities and local authorities. High-level advocacy with the executive branch was undertaken, leading to the presentation of the draft law to the National Congress, in July. The draft is being reviewed by Congress.

OHCHR and the Black Fraternal Organization (OFRANEH) of Honduras supported the creation of a High-level Intersectoral Commission for Compliance with the International Judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (CIANCSI), in April. The Commission is composed of executive institutions and representatives of the Garifuna communities and was established to ensure compliance with international obligations, including judgments issued by the IACtHR, that guarantee the right of Garifuna communities to land and ancestral territory. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government and civil society for the operationalization of the Commission.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons (CIPPDEF) through inclusive language in the draft law for internally displaced persons. More specifically, the Office promoted language that recognizes territorial conflicts and environmental causes of forced internal displacement, in particular affecting Indigenous, Afro-Honduran and peasant farmer communities and defenders of the land, territory and the environment.

In a year of high migration movements through Honduras, OHCHR coordinated response strategies within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Protection Cluster, which were crucial to identifying humanitarian and protection needs and the documentation of human rights violations of people on the move. The Office focused on promoting clear and complementary strategies that place human rights at the centre. Notably, the Office worked with the Government and humanitarian actors to improve coordination mechanisms, including by implementing monitoring strategies for updated information and early warning. OHCHR's coordinated advocacy with the HCT contributed to the extension of the Migration Amnesty Decree (Decree No. 79-2022) through December 2025, consequently helping to reduce the protection risks faced by people on the move.

Development

In February, the National Congress adopted Legislative Decree No. 18-2024, which was developed with technical assistance from OHCHR. The Decree represents an historic achievement for environmental and social protection, including by preserving the Montaña de Botaderos, Carlos Escaleras Mejía National Park and prohibiting mining concessions in protected areas, including areas with forests, covering over 50 per cent of the national territory. It also ensures access to en-

vironmental and social justice mechanisms and the meaningful participation of affected communities. The Decree was presented in Guapinol, on 3 July, to communities and State authorities. Since that time, three mining concessions have been cancelled and efforts to implement the Decree have continued. OHCHR will provide ongoing advocacy and technical assistance to key institutions and facilitate an inter-institutional roundtable dedicated to the implementation of the Decree.

The Office participated in the development of the National Special Jurisdiction for Land, Territory and Environment to address conflicts. National inter-institutional discussions formally began, in March, at a high-level Inter-Institutional Roundtable for Addressing Social Conflicts that was convened by the judiciary and supported by OHCHR. The Office advocated for the establishment of the Special Jurisdiction and provided technical assistance to the Supreme Court of Justice, including through studies on the criminalization of HRDs for usurpation; an analysis of social conflicts that are connected with land and territory; a review of comparative law and experiences in similar contexts; an analysis of possible formulas for the creation of the Special Jurisdiction and consultations with peasant groups, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Honduran people.

OHCHR provided guidance on the implementation of agreements that were reached to resolve the multi-decade agrarian conflict in Bajo Aguán that led to numerous attacks and the killings of peasants and HRDs. The agreements were signed in February 2022 between the Government and peasant communities. OHCHR prioritized technical assistance related to the establishment and operationalization of the Truth Commission for Bajo Aguán, which is mandated to investigate human rights violations and the role of security institutions and private security companies, proposed reparations measures and managed protection measures in favour of peasant communities. This work is crucial for achieving long-term peace and justice in the region.

OHCHR partnered with key governmental institutions, CSOs and HRDs to ensure that the reform of the Environmental Impact Assessment System (SINEIA) regulations address the challenges faced by Indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities regarding access to information, environmental justice, the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent. OHCHR provided support to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (SERNA), enabling it to identify and respond to gaps when reviewing development projects, especially those in the extractive industry. Further, OHCHR is supporting a proposal to reform the Environmental Licensing System and related legal frameworks to ensure that international standards are integrated and that communities are able to effectively participate and access information.

Peace and Security

The Office worked closely with security and justice authorities to address enforced disappearances carried out during the State of Emergency. OHCHR developed a coordination strategy with the NHRI, the National Preventive Mechanism (MNP-CONAPREV) and the High-level Police Directorate to confront human rights violations committed by the police, leading to the creation of a working group composed of OHCHR, human rights institutions and the police. This helped to strengthen the mechanisms to locate missing persons in detention contexts and deal with cases potentially involving the police and armed forces.

OHCHR assisted the MNP-CONAPREV and the NHRI with the handling and documentation of complaints of persons deprived of their liberty and cases of cruel treatment, thereby enhancing their responsiveness and understanding of international human rights standards. At the request of the judiciary, OHCHR began providing guidance, in May, on updating the regulation for the development of virtual hearings and interviews in criminal cases as a means to reduce the judicial backlog.

OHCHR worked with the Ministry of Security to ensure that the *Police Procedures Guide* is aligned with international standards and incorporates an HRBA and procedures that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups. Recommendations were submitted and are being reviewed by the authorities. Once finalized and adopted, the updated

Guide will serve as a foundational training tool within the police force, institutionalize practices that promote and protect human rights, potentially leading to an improvement in public trust in law enforcement institutions.

Through public statements and technical proposals, OHCHR advocated for the adoption of a citizen-centred security policy and strengthened the oversight of the State of Emergency, which has been extended 16 times. OHCHR submitted a technical opinion to the President and the Congress that highlights international standards of necessity, proportionality and legality regarding states of emergency and their renewals, the risks of human rights violations associated with their application and the importance of preventing their indefinite extension. Although the State of Emergency was ratified on 24 April, there was an increase in the number of votes against its ratification, from 12, in February, to 44 (of 128 congresspersons).

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 2024	18
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR played a critical role in strengthening the legal framework and processes related to disappearances and human rights in the country. A number of these were concluded during the year. In Baja California, a Law on Disappearances was adopted on 31 March, following a series of initiatives that OHCHR has supported since 2023, including workshops and consultations with the organizations of families of disappeared persons and in coordination with the ICRC and other NGOs. In Puebla, the Law on the Special Declaration of Absence Due to the Disappearance of Persons in the State of Puebla was enacted on 20 August. OHCHR had provided technical assistance on the preparation of the Law since 2023. In Oaxaca, OHCHR's advocacy contributed to the establishment of the State Citizen Council for the Search for Disappeared Persons, composed of relatives, NGOs and scholars, marking an important step towards ensuring the active participation of family groups and civil society in search efforts. In Coahuila, OHCHR was involved in developing a state programme on disappearances that focuses on prevention, search, identification and victim protection. This unique programme, adopted on 12 November, applies a comprehensive approach, incorporates international standards and includes monitoring indicators. Its implementation will begin in 2025. At the federal level, OHCHR provided guidance on the update to the Standardized Protocol for the Search of Disappeared and Unlocated Persons, which is pending

adoption. In addition, OHCHR offered technical advice on the drafting of rules and procedures for the General Law on Enforced Disappearances of Persons, Disappearances Perpetrated by Private Individuals and the National Search System and the Internal Regulations of the National Search Commission, both of which are expected to be approved in the latter half of 2025. Moreover, OHCHR raised awareness about disappearances in the country and published the fourth edition of the Green Book *Enforced disappearance in Mexico: View from the United Nations system organizations*. It also distributed the general comments issued by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and other materials and supported families of victims and CSOs by participating in special search commissions.

In collaboration with the ICRC, Mexico's National Forensic Science College and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, OHCHR organized an online training, from March to September, on the Minnesota Protocol. In total, 27 people (21 women) attended the training, including the families of victims of extrajudicial execution or enforced disappearance. It is anticipated that the families will be better prepared to claim their rights and increase their access to justice. OHCHR documented 12 new cases of illegal deaths committed by or with the participation of the police or members of the armed forces in Baja California, Chiapas, Guanajuato, Guerrero, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Veracruz. The Office played a crucial role in facilitating the inclusion of international standards in some of these cases, particularly by promoting the application of the Minnesota Protocol during the investigations. Furthermore, in December, an appeals court upheld the conviction of five military officers for the 2010 extrajudicial killings of two students in Nuevo León, representing a rare case of justice for military human rights abuses. Since 2010, the Office has documented the case and remained in close contact with the families. Prior to the court's ruling, OHCHR submitted a brief that outlines international standards on joint criminal enterprise and successfully advocated for a hearing to enable the families of victims to address the court. OHCHR also strengthened the capacities of CSOs to monitor and deal with cases of torture and ill-treatment. This included support for the Observatory against Torture, a social initiative that OHCHR has been participating in since its inception in 2019. The Observatory is focused on collecting and systematizing information on the Government's response to the widespread use of torture. With OHCHR's guidance, the Observatory issued its second report in 2024. The report highlights the absence of proper investigations of crimes and promotes the full implementation of the General Law to Prevent, Investigate and Sanction Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Office undertook advocacy and provided advice on the constitutional reforms carried out in 2024, including with regard to the judicial system and mandatory pretrial detention. OHCHR shared its technical analysis through meetings and public messages and participated in discussions with civil society and academia throughout the reform approval process. Although the reforms were adopted between September and November, some provisions do not align with international human rights standards, such as those on mandatory pretrial detention and faceless judges. OHCHR offered advice during the implementation of the reforms, including on drafting secondary legislation and the operationalization of its provisions.

On 22 October, in the context of judicial reform, the Federal Congress presented a so-called "Constitutional Supremacy" proposal, which sought to restrict the application of international human rights norms and conventionality control, outlined in Article 1 of the Constitution. OHCHR undertook technical analysis and extended assistance to different stakeholders, including members of the Government. As a result, the proposal was revised and withdrawn, eliminating the modification to Article 1 and conventionality control.

Participation

On 2 June, Mexico held the largest elections in its history. Mexicans voted for over 20,000 municipal, state and federal positions. OHCHR implemented an electoral strategy that was focused on the protection of civil society actors. The strategy included remote and field monitoring of

attacks against CSOs, advocacy for the right to vote of people in pretrial detention and coordination with a wide range of stakeholders, such as the National Electoral Institute, the Office of the Prosecutor, the police and the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. Only seven minor incidents were reported on election day.

During the year, OHCHR provided technical assistance to authorities, CSOs, HRDs and journalists with respect to more than 650 cases before the Governing Board of the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. This translated into improved protection measures for HRDs and journalists at risk, in line with international obligations. For instance, OHCHR presented an analysis of a case involving an Indigenous community, including the risk context and the different situations faced by its inhabitants, and recommended the maintenance of protection measures. The recommendation was accepted and implemented by the Government, positively impacting on approximately 75,000 inhabitants in 40 Indigenous communities.

In September, OHCHR delivered a report to the Governing Board entitled *Two years of the Working Group to strengthen the Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists*. The document was drafted by the Office and approved by the members of the Working Group (Ministries of the Interior, Foreign Affairs and Security, the AGO, the National Human Rights Commission, the Consultative Council and 15 NGOs). OHCHR proposed the creation of this Working Group in 2022 and since then, has facilitated meetings and supported the Mechanism to ensure that it increasingly operates in compliance with international standards. Some progress has been made, as evidenced by: an increase in the allocation of human, material and economic resources for its operation; improvements in internal coordination, including the creation of the position of General Director and the development of the Governing Board's guidelines; the establishment of spaces to strengthen inter-institutional coordination with state-level authorities; the formation of a focus group on a differential approach and gender perspective; and greater availability of disaggregated data. During the sixteenth plenary meeting of the General Assembly's Third Committee, the Government acknowledged OHCHR's support in strengthening the Mechanism.

The Office also strengthened its work regarding criminal investigations of crimes against HRDs and journalists. It raised awareness about the need for accountability by disseminating its thematic report on *Good practices and challenges in the investigation of crimes committed against human rights defenders and journalists* and by implementing joint activities with the Offices of the Prosecutor in Chihuahua, Jalisco, Oaxaca and the State of Mexico. This enabled OHCHR to follow up on the 16 recommendations outlined in the report, including one on the elaboration of a National Protocol for the Investigation of Crimes Committed against Human Rights Defenders. OHCHR and the Federal Prosecutor's Office are drafting the Protocol. In December, they facilitated a first consultation process with HRDs, NGOs, state institutions and experts on its content. It is expected that it will be finalized in 2025. Once completed, the Protocol will serve as a unique instrument to promote accountability for crimes against HRDs and journalists, thereby complying with recommendations issued by international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Non-discrimination

On 30 September, an important constitutional amendment was adopted, recognizing Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexicans as subjects of public law. It also expands the scope of the recognition of their right to free, prior and informed consultation and consent; traditional medicine and the right to food; and the right of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women to participate in integral development and to own and possess land. This reform is a crucial step in guaranteeing the rights of these groups, in line with recommendations issued by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To contribute to this result, OHCHR provided the Senate with technical analysis and inputs on international standards, while advocating for the adoption of the amendment.

In the State of Oaxaca, OHCHR, IOM and UNCHR promoted the consultation process with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities to ensure their views were integrated into a draft state law on internal forced displacement that could affect their rights. Technical assistance was also provided to make certain that the draft is aligned with international human rights standards. On 9 December, the Governor of Oaxaca signed the draft law and on 10 December, the draft was presented to the State Congress. It is anticipated that it will be adopted in 2025.

OHCHR also monitored and documented human rights violations against vulnerable groups, with a special emphasis on Indigenous Peoples. In this context, the Office assisted Indigenous communities and the Attorney General to address alleged cases of the criminalization of Indigenous HRDs who have opposed development projects. For instance, OHCHR provided guidance to the Attorney General of Oaxaca and the state judicial branch on human rights standards regarding the right to protest, with a focus on a case against an Indigenous leader who opposed the construction of an industrial park in a municipality in the Interoceanic Corridor. The leader was initially sentenced to 46 years of detention but was eventually acquitted. During the trial, OHCHR submitted a communication outlining international human rights standards on the use of criminal law against Indigenous communities and the right to protest.

Development

Significant results were achieved in relation to business efforts to implement the UNGPs. With support from the Office, the Mexican Mining Chamber adopted a road map for the implementation of the UNGPs in 2025; the Mexican Association of Eolic Energy developed a sectoral guide on human rights for the national industry in alignment with the UNGPs; the Mexican Business and Human Rights Accelerator was developed in collaboration with the UN Global Compact to guide the due diligence process of 34 Mexican and transnational companies, four of which had integrated relevant international human rights standards into their due diligence processes and business directives; and the Business Coordinating Council launched its Responsible Business Helpdesk in Mexico, in April.

OHCHR established strategic alliances with state institutions to promote the implementation of the UNGPs. Activities were undertaken by more than 2,000 public servants (approximately 1,050 women), thereby enhancing the capacities of Mexican authorities to implement the UNGPs. For instance, a strategic partnership was forged with the Supreme Court's Environmental Unit and Human Rights Unit, which led to workshops and seminars on the UNGPs, laying the foundation for incorporating international standards into future rulings. Further, the Office collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Unit for the Green Agenda, which is mandated to implement the Escazú Agreement. A guide was published on the synergies between the Agreement and the UNGPs and shared with stakeholders.

With regard to the promotion of ESCRs, OHCHR's engagement and support prompted the Federal Government to initiate the first cycle of measurements of the indicators on the human rights to water and sanitation. The results were incorporated into the National Human Rights Evaluation System. The indicators are based on OHCHR's guidance and methodology and a recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) to progressively develop and use appropriate indicators in relation to the realization of ESCRs in order to facilitate the assessment of Mexico's progress in meeting its obligations. OHCHR was directly involved in the process of developing the indicators and followed up on their implementation with the Mexican Institute of Water Technologies and the Human Rights Programme of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

PERU

Type of engagement	Technical Mission
Year established	2023
Field office(s)	Lima
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	14

Key OMP pillars in 2024



PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In 2024, OHCHR contributed to enhancing access to justice and strengthening the rule of law and accountability with regard to potential human rights violations committed during the 2022-2023 protests and the internal armed conflict (1980-2000).

Specifically, the Office provided guidance to the specialized team of prosecutors in the Office of the Public Prosecutor with respect to their investigations of cases on the use of force during nationwide protests that took place in 2022-2023. OHCHR facilitated 13 training sessions with international experts, including on modes of liability and the integration of a gender perspective. Interventions led to the formalization of 34 cases involving 320 victims and the investigation of more than 200 military personnel and police officers, including senior-level officials.

In response to requests from the Office of the Public Prosecutor, OHCHR facilitated the deployment to Peru of international experts in forensic medicine, forensic psychology, ballistics and audiovisual evidence. As part of the technical assistance, forensic experts conducted extensive training sessions and visited the most affected regions of Apurímac, Ayacucho and Puno, where impact examinations were carried out with more than 100 victims. This assistance contributed to strengthening the technical capacities of the Office of the Public Prosecutor, including in relation to the gathering of forensic evidence to support cases.

OHCHR facilitated two dialogues between victims of the 2022-2023 protests and the specialized prosecutors. This contributed to an enhanced information exchange and trust-building and a reduction in tensions in the affected regions.

OHCHR held 16 consultations with three victims' associations (40 per cent women) during six missions to Apurímac, Ayacucho and Puno. The consultations focused on collecting information on victims' legal needs and access to justice and reparations, while supporting follow-up action for severely injured victims. Emphasis was placed on strengthening the participation, leadership and organizational capacities of women, including within the boards of directors of victims' associations that were established, in 2024, with OHCHR's support.

OHCHR led the UN monitoring on transitional justice processes, including trial monitoring in emblematic cases of human rights violations committed during the internal armed conflict (1980-2000). OHCHR documented 10 attacks against actors promoting justice matters, resulting in 16 victims (seven women), including an attack against a memorial site. It also identified three legislative proposals that would have serious implications for access to justice. OHCHR's monitoring contributed to five public statements by the international human rights mechanisms on transitional justice.

OHCHR undertook systematic monitoring of threats to the independence of judicial and democratic institutions and documented 21 legislative initiatives that could affect the separation of powers. It also monitored 30 cases of attacks against independent judicial or electoral authorities. In response, OHCHR facilitated eight public statements or communications issued by international human rights mechanisms, including special rapporteurs.

OHCHR developed a diagnostic study with the National Penitentiary Institute on the disproportionate application of pretrial detention of foreign nationals. As part of the study, in-depth interviews were conducted in Chorrillos and Lurigancho prisons with 40 foreign detainees (20 women) to gather qualitative data on the impact of pretrial detention and detention conditions. The study will be finalized in 2025.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for the development of the first public policy on human rights in Peru, the National Human Rights Policy 2040. The Policy, approved by the Council of Ministers in December, focuses on reducing inequalities and establishes a framework of human rights commitments to guide national action for the next 15 years.

In September, OHCHR signed a technical cooperation agreement with the National Superintendence of Migration, with the objective of boosting collaboration on the protection of migrants. Under this agreement, OHCHR delivered training to 94 border migration officials at six international borders (46 women) on human rights protection, including the response to trafficking, smuggling and other illicit activities. Within the context of this cooperation, OHCHR carried out the first phase of a study on security, migration and human rights at international borders. Field missions were undertaken to Loreto, Madre de Dios and Tumbes. A total of 63 surveys were conducted and three focus groups with migrants and refugees were held, revealing insights about border control measures, migration patterns of regular and irregular crossings and incidents of violence and potential human rights violations. Additional field visits will take place in 2025 to collect more information for the final report.

To counter discriminatory narratives and actions against migrants, OHCHR undertook a comprehensive statistical analysis (2010-2023) on crime rates, victimization and migrant participation in criminal activities. The results, verified by international statisticians, demonstrated that migrants were significantly less likely to commit all types of crimes than nationals. OHCHR presented the findings to stakeholders, including the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Migration.

OHCHR monitored and analysed 68 legislative bills affecting the rights of migrants and refugees, 85 per cent of which represent a setback in the promotion and protection of their rights. As a result, OHCHR contributed to advocacy by the UN and the international community before Congress to prevent some bills from advancing to the stages of debate and adoption.

In collaboration with the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations, OHCHR conducted a diagnostic study on inter-institutional services for girl victims of rape in six prioritized regions and held 45 interviews and two focus groups. The study identified six fundamental barriers to the institutional response to sexual violence cases, which will be presented to the Women's Ministry in order to identify follow-up measures. As part of this analysis, OHCHR examined the situation in Condorcanqui, Amazonas, where hundreds of cases of sexual violence against Awajún and Wampis children were reported. Within the region, OHCHR met with government authorities to assess responses and identify intervention strategies to address sexual violence against children. The Office also met with Indigenous women human rights defenders (WHRDs) who denounced cases of sexual violence and identified their protection needs.

As part of the technical assistance being provided to the Office of the Public Prosecutor, OHCHR is developing a draft protocol for the investigation of crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in compliance with the Inter-American Court's ruling in the case of *Azul Rojas Marín et al. v. Peru*. With the support of an expert, OHCHR developed the first draft, which followed a participatory methodology involving prosecutors and CSOs. OHCHR also participated in regional initiatives to develop a draft protocol for the investigation of violent deaths of LGBTQI+ persons.

In June, OHCHR worked closely with UNAIDS and UNFPA to prepare an expert brief regarding international human rights standards for intersex persons. The brief was submitted to the Constitutional Court in the case of *Eidan v. Reniec, EsSalud and others*, which was litigated by the organization Promsex. In November, the Constitutional Court ruled that the national registry should recognize the right of Eiden, an intersex person who was listed as female at birth but identifies as male, to be registered according to his gender identity.

In partnership with the private sector, OHCHR prepared a practical manual on workplace

inclusion and non-discrimination for LGBTQI+ individuals. The manual includes good practices at the regional and national level that were identified during interviews with eight business representatives and three working groups, composed of key actors from the public sector, private sector and civil society.

Participation

OHCHR provided technical cooperation to the Intersectoral Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and involves nine ministries. OHCHR helped to organize eight regional protection roundtables between HRDs and government authorities to identify and mitigate risks, including those posed by illegal mining, logging and drug cultivation. Between February and May, OHCHR undertook an expert diagnostic study of the Mechanism and engaged 40 stakeholders through interviews and focus groups over a six-week period to assess its governance, operational frameworks and risk management strategies. Following the diagnosis, OHCHR collaborated with the Mechanism to address identified gaps.

In support of the Mechanism, OHCHR carried out studies and facilitated working groups in critical regions. Specifically, these efforts included: an analysis of Indigenous WHRDs who were threatened after reporting sexual violence against children (Amazonas); assistance for authorities to address land tenure insecurity affecting seven Indigenous communities (Huánuco); an analysis of illegal mining threats in the Pintuyacu basin (Loreto); coordination with Indigenous leaders and authorities leading to the pretrial detention of the alleged perpetrator of a murdered Indigenous defender (Madre de Dios); and engagement with the families of four Saweto leaders murdered in 2014 to ensure their protection and access to justice strategies (Ucayali).

OHCHR developed and disseminated the first self-protection manual for HRDs and journalists, equipping them with practical tools and protection strategies. The manual, developed in consultation with over 270 participants and piloted in six workshops, was used to train 242 HRDs (96 women) from various regions, including Cusco, Lima, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Piura, Puno and Ucayali.

Through the use of its monitoring protocol, OHCHR documented 219 incidents against HRDs and organizations, involving 342 victims (119 women). The incidents included 10 killings (all men) and 86 attacks on journalists. Of these cases, OHCHR referred 26 critical cases involving 42 HRDs to the Intersectoral Protection Mechanism.

In collaboration with the prosecutors of the Specialized Subsystem for Human Rights and Intercultural Matters in the Office of the Public Prosecutor, OHCHR provided expert assistance that led to the revision of the Public Prosecutor's Protocol for Investigating Crimes Against Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. A two-month training programme was delivered to 147 specialized human rights prosecutors to enhance their legal capacities and investigations into crimes against HRDs and journalists.

With respect to business and human rights, OHCHR documented 15 business-related human rights incidents in 2024, including cases of the criminalization of HRDs and journalists in the mining corridor. OHCHR also monitored the trial of 10 Indigenous leaders from the Urinsaya community, in the Espinar district, who were accused of crimes in connection with protests against an extractive company. Likewise, OHCHR developed a methodology to monitor social conflicts linked to business activities. In 2024, OHCHR registered 56 cases of protests against business activities, particularly with regard to environmental impacts and labour rights. Finally, OHCHR prepared a draft business due diligence framework for the protection of HRDs.

SOUTH AMERICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Santiago (Chile) with Human Rights Advisers in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay
Staff as of 31 December 2024	26
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

OHCHR supported the integration of human rights into development processes to ensure their alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More specifically, it addressed a variety of issues, such as the intersection of economic activities and human rights, corporate responsibility and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In addition, technical assistance was provided to public institutions in **Argentina**, **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Ecuador** and **Uruguay** to support the development of constitutional, legal and policy frameworks. During the year, the Office contributed 13 technical notes (six addressed to national decision makers and seven with regard to regional or global processes).

OHCHR contributed to 11 major conferences and advocated for the integration of human rights into environmental governance. At the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (**Colombia**) and the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) (**Antigua and Barbuda**), the Office worked with delegations from 10 countries to promote human rights-based decisions. These efforts contributed to the establishment of a subsidiary body on the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities under Article 8(j) of the CBD, as well as the decision of the COP16 Presidency to establish an Environmental Justice Day.

In **Brazil**, OHCHR's human rights monitoring efforts in relation to Indigenous land rights informed national and international advocacy efforts, resulting in more robust reporting mechanisms and legislative scrutiny. OHCHR worked closely with Indigenous Peoples on monitoring human rights violations and advocating for law reform against the Marco Temporal thesis, which establishes that the demarcation of Indigenous territories is conditional on the occupation of the claimed lands when Brazil's Constitution was adopted, on 5 October 1988. The Office organized meetings and consultations and facilitated the official visits of the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights defenders and on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to ensure that the views of Indigenous Peoples are taken into account in policy and practice.

OHCHR engaged with CSOs and environmental HRDs from 18 countries, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and leaders of people of African descent, to advocate for the right to a healthy environment in decision-making processes at local, regional and global levels. OHCHR's support enabled CSOs and HRDs to participate in 53 workshops, trainings and events and in critical discussions on climate action, biodiversity conservation, green transition and reducing pollution.

Peace and Security

The increase in environmental disasters, such as the severe floods in southern **Brazil**, necessitated support from OHCHR's regional offices for Central America and South America in coordinating humanitarian responses. Significant support was extended to the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, the Federal Public Defender's Office, as well as the National Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Council of the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Other relevant entities, CSOs and social leaders in affected communities also received OHCHR's support. OHCHR's recommendations were incorporated into high-level discussions, with a particular focus on securing the protection of the most vulnerable populations during emergencies. This instigated discussions regarding a technical cooperation agreement with

Brazil's Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship that is focused on addressing climate change and responding to climate-related emergencies through capacity-building, technical assistance and support for environmental emergency protocols. The agreement is being formalized and an initial training was delivered to the heads of the Ministry's divisions on protection and humanitarian response. As a result, a regional precedent was set for preventive emergency responses to environmental disasters.

The Office produced more than 20 analytical reports during the year, including updates on elections in Brazil (municipal) and Uruguay, regional studies on forced evictions and on the impacts of environmental disasters in **Argentina**, **Bolivia**, **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Ecuador** and **Paraguay**.

In **Bolivia**, OHCHR supported the Office of the Ombudsperson (Defensoría del Pueblo Bolivia) and the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in developing human rights indicators and integrating IT systems for systematic monitoring and emergency response.

Accountability

In **Bolivia**, OHCHR undertook legislative analysis, which influenced draft laws related to the rights of women and Indigenous Peoples in detention. Technical guidance helped to strengthen the Defensoría del Pueblo and the NPM. The NPM's capacity to monitor women's detention across the country was strengthened and assistance was provided through a legal analysis and dissemination of the monitoring of results, contributing to the NPM's publication of the *Thematic report on the situation of women deprived of liberty*, in August. The Office also extended support to the Defensoría del Pueblo in the development of its citizen assistance IT system, the operative design of four border assistance and monitoring offices, the management of priority human rights cases and submissions to the international human rights mechanisms. Furthermore, the Office shared an analysis of draft Law No. 414/23 to the Ministries of Justice and of Foreign Affairs, warning of potential violations of civil and political rights and guarantees. The draft was subsequently withdrawn. With regard to draft Law No. 080 on the prevention of torture, OHCHR provided comments and indicated that the legislation would help to align national legislation with international standards. The draft is being discussed and is expected to be approved in 2025.

Participation

OHCHR supported processes to strengthen the protection of HRDs. In **Chile**, the Office provided technical support for the development of the first Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders under the Escazú Agreement, which was adopted, in April. The Protocol enables the identification of risk factors and vulnerable groups and strengthens the Government's capacity to ensure safety for environmental HRDs. In **Ecuador**, in December, OHCHR facilitated the first human rights dialogue between the Resident Coordinator and HRDs working in the area of the southern border. The dialogue, which was attended by 20 community leaders and representatives of human rights organizations, helped to amplify the visibility and voices of HRDs. Their inputs will feed into the design of a public policy to protect HRDs and journalists. OHCHR is supporting the Ministry of Women and Human Rights and the NHRI in developing the policy during 2025-2026.

Non-discrimination

In **Bolivia**, OHCHR provided guidance on the implementation of the Multisectoral Development Plan for Integral Living to Combat Racism and All Forms of Discrimination (2021-2025), which was developed with assistance from the Office. Further, the Office participated in the activities of the National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination. During the year, the first two (of nine) departmental committees were established and the Office collaborated with the Committee to disseminate the latest State Party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). The Office will continue to support the implementation of the Plan, assist with the drafting and submission of reports to the international human rights mechanisms and disseminate and follow up on the implementation

of the recommendations issued by the CERD Committee and the fourth UPR cycle.

Mechanisms

In **Paraguay**, OHCHR supported the organization of drafting workshops for the Monitoring System of International Recommendations on Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals (SIMORE Plus) Focal Point Network, which supports monitoring and reporting on the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. By the end of the year, four of the five pending State Party reports had been submitted to the human rights treaty bodies (CAT, CED, CEDAW and CESCR). The CERD report is at the advanced drafting stage.

In **Bolivia**, OHCHR supported HRDs, journalists and CSOs through the delivery of a series of workshops. The workshops taught HRDs, journalists, CSOs and communities how to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms, including by preparing and submitting reports to the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies, including individual complaints, and following up on the recommendations issued by CERD.

Also in **Brazil**, OHCHR's mobilization of CSOs significantly increased their engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. For instance, 42 alternative reports were submitted by CSOs to the CEDAW Committee prior to its 2024 review of Brazil's combined eighth and ninth periodic reports. In 2012, eight alternative reports were submitted prior to the Committee's review of Brazil's seventh periodic report. Similarly, in 2024, CSOs submitted 16 alternative reports to the CRC Committee in anticipation of the preparation of its LoIs in relation to Brazil's combined fifth to seventh periodic reports, compared with two that were submitted in the context of the Committee's review of Brazil in 2015. Hundreds of organizations participated in the reporting processes of the human rights treaty bodies for the first time, including LGBTQI+ and grassroots organizations.

VENEZUELA

Type of engagement	Technical Mission
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Caracas/Panama City
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2026
Staff as of 31 December 2024	15

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In February, the Venezuelan Government suspended the Letter of Understanding with OHCHR and ordered its staff to leave the country within 72 hours. The Office adapted its approach by collaborating with different actors, maintaining communication channels with the Government and working closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and other UNCT agencies. In November, OHCHR and the Government reached an agreement to allow the Office to partially re-establish its presence in Venezuela.

The Office regularly shared lists with authorities on a variety of issues, such as:

a. cases of detention, with a particular focus on arbitrary detention and conditions of detention, including health, humanitarian and judicial delays;

b. cases of deaths in the context of security operations and protests;

c. alleged disappearances of persons at sea;

d. deaths in detention;

e. attacks against HRDs and journalists; and

f. cases of torture.

The Office also advocated for the release of persons arbitrarily detained. During 2024, a total of 132 persons (including 44 adolescents, 18 women, 16 persons with disabilities and three LGBTQI+ persons) were released following OHCHR's

advocacy. The verification of additional releases is pending. Approximately 597 individuals have been released since OHCHR established a presence in Venezuela.

OHCHR undertook two visits to detention centres outside of Caracas and strengthened its cooperation with the ICRC to improve its capacities to identify trends and address early warning actions. It also supported the relatives of detainees, including those in the most vulnerable situations. Further, OHCHR advocated for the release of persons who had been arbitrarily detained in the context of mass detentions following the 2024 presidential elections.

In January, OHCHR finalized and presented guidelines developed for relevant institutions on the application of gender-sensitive approaches to investigations into killings of women. OHCHR initiated this work in 2023, in partnership with the AGO's Directorate for the Protection of Women. It was inspired by the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide), which was prepared by OHCHR and UN Women to guide the investigation of femicides. The Directorate reviewed the finalized guidelines and committed to its adoption. OHCHR will support these efforts in 2025.

OHCHR delivered 14 capacity-building sessions on access to and advocacy before the international human rights mechanisms and the documentation of human rights violations. The sessions provided 215 participants (123 women) with opportunities to exchange good practices and experiences with CSOs from across the region on issues such as claiming their rights to justice and reparations. Tailored sessions were provided for victims and their relatives, including those affected by arbitrary detention, killings by security forces and deaths during protests or security operations. OHCHR supported a workshop organized by CSOs for families of forcibly disappeared persons in transnational or mobility contexts and offered a module on international standards related to the search of those forcibly disappeared. Another workshop engaged 22 lawyers from human rights organizations to promote the effective use of the international human rights mechanisms. The workshops were particularly relevant in light of OHCHR's remote operations and developments tied to the July presidential elections. These activities contributed to the submission of 65 alternative CSO reports, the majority of which were confidential, to the international human rights mechanisms to inform their reviews and/or visits. Of these, 35 of the alternative reports were submitted to the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in anticipation of his February visit. Additionally, special procedures sent eight allegation letters to Venezuela, raising grave concerns about killings, arbitrary detention, disappearances and guarantees of the rights to health and food for persons deprived of their liberty. On 20 March, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted Opinion No. 15/2024 concerning Oreste Alfredo Schiavo Lavieri, finding that he had been arbitrarily detained in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and ICCPR (A/HRC/WGAD/2024/15).

Participation

In the aftermath of the 28 July elections in **Venezuela**, the Office was on the frontline of receiving complaints of violations against HRDs and others at risk. A total of 89 cases, involving 132 persons, were documented and assistance was provided, including cash and referrals for legal aid and resettlement.

OHCHR undertook extensive efforts to protect HRDs, journalists and other individuals at risk. Statements and reports were released throughout 2024. Specifically, two Oral Updates were issued, one at the fifty-fifth session of the HRC, during an Interactive Dialogue on Venezuela, and another on 13 December. Two statements were issued by the High Commissioner for Human Rights following the 28 July presidential elections, expressing his concerns about increasing post-election tensions and condemning ongoing arbitrary detentions, the excessive use of force and the consequential climate of fear.

On 28 June, the High Commissioner released a report on the *Situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (A/HRC/56/63), prior to its presentation at the HRC's fifty-sixth session, on 3 July. The report focuses on the latest developments related to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, the rights of Indigenous

Peoples, the rule of law and civic space, gender and non-discrimination and the degree of implementation of recommendations previously issued by OHCHR to Venezuela.

OHCHR finalized a Digital Security Toolbox and Resources to empower HRDs and journalists to address the key threats they face in Latin America. This tool has been shared with counterparts in Venezuela and integrated into capacity-building efforts for HRDs and journalists. Several workshops were organized across the country, which introduced the Digital Security Toolbox and Resources to more than 50 journalists (30 women).

Mechanisms

In February, OHCHR supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to Venezuela, facilitating meetings with numerous stakeholders, including authorities, NGOs, community members and UN agencies. At the conclusion of the visit, the Special Rapporteur highlighted some of the primary challenges to the right to food in Venezuela, including the elevated cost of the food basket, a lack of transparency that contributes to inadequate food policies and discrimination that limits the access of certain groups to social benefits. He also recommended opportunities that should be undertaken by the Venezuelan authorities to improve pre-existing mechanisms, while calling for sectoral sanctions against Venezuela to be lifted.

OHCHR enhanced the capacities of CSOs, including Indigenous organizations, to document human rights violations and engage with various international human rights mechanisms. For instance, in anticipation of CERD's review of Venezuela's combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports, CSOs submitted nine alternative reports, which included four from Indigenous organizations and a joint confidential report from the UNCT. On 23 August, CERD published its concluding observations. It highlighted concerns raised by OHCHR, CSOs and HRDs regarding the negative impacts of mining in the territories of Indigenous Peoples and the intimidation of HRDs. It also urged the Government to amend the Constitutional Law against Hatred, for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance to ensure it includes a clear definition of expressions that constitute incitement to hatred. Finally, the Committee urged that the amendments respect the rights outlined in article 5 of the Convention and the principles of the UDHR, particularly the right to freedom of expression.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR enhanced support for the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants and increased its footprint by deploying teams to Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru to conduct monitoring and identify and address specific human rights violations of migrants and refugees. In 2024, these teams conducted more than 50 field missions and prioritized border areas.

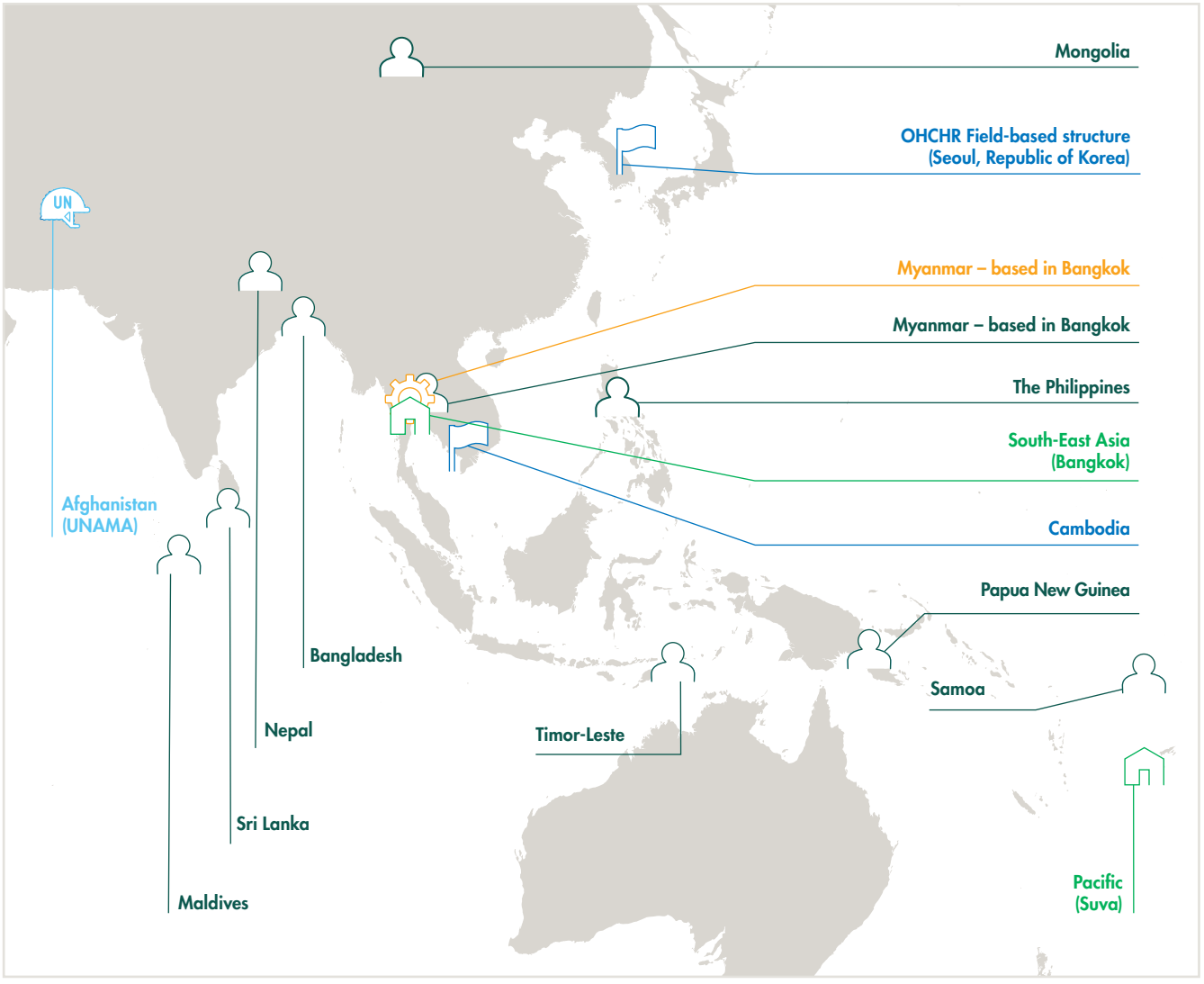
In Colombia, the team documented three incidents of reported disappearances on the San Andres maritime route that involved more than 60 Venezuelans. In collaboration with UNODC, the team liaised with prosecutors and facilitated contact with families of victims. It also engaged with the Specialized Prosecutor's Office of Norte de Santander to file and follow up on criminal complaints of 58 cases of missing Venezuelan migrants in Colombia. As a result, 17 archived investigations were reactivated and three new complaints were filed.

In the aftermath of the 28 July elections, the Office was on the frontline of receiving complaints of violations against HRDs and others at risk. A total of 89 cases, involving 132 persons, were documented and assistance was provided. OHCHR coordinated with partners for the delivery of humanitarian aid, encouraged the activation of national protection mechanisms and collaborated with UNHCR to improve access to asylum. One of the deployed teams also participated in the protection groups of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) to strengthen the application of an HRBA in their work.

UN Human Rights
in Asia-Pacific



Leaders from 56 countries gathered at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in October. OHCHR's Regional Representative participated in the Women's Forum as a panellist to discuss intersectional discrimination and at a side event on climate change and human rights. © OHCHR



TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Country Offices	Cambodia and Field-based structure (in Seoul, Republic of Korea)[a]
Regional Offices/Centres	South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
Human rights components of UN Peace/ Political Missions	Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs	Bangladesh, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand),[b] Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines,Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste
Other projects/Special presences	Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand)

a Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.
b Merged with the Myanmar country programme as of January 2025.

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 composed 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, namely, two regional offices (the Regional Office for South-East Asia in Bangkok and the Regional Office for the Pacific in Suva (with an outposted deployment in the Federated States of Micronesia)); one country office (in Cambodia); 10 human rights advisers (HRAs) (in Bangladesh, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar[19] (in Bangkok), Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); one human rights component (in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)); and two remote presences (one for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea[20] (DPRK), based in Seoul and another for Myanmar, based in Bangkok).

The Office supports four special procedures country-specific mandate holders who monitor the human rights situations in 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; and a thematic resolution on the nuclear legacy of the Marshall Islands.

In June, the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Lao People's Democratic Republic and Malaysia, with a stopover in Thailand, to engage on Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) issues, including Myanmar. While there, the High Commissioner showcased the growing capacities of the Regional Office for South-East Asia, in line with the Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0) change management initiative. In October, he visited Bangladesh.

OHCHR provided substantive policy support and advice to Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in the context of UN reform and mainstreaming human rights into UN development programming, as well as the prevention of and response to conflicts and humanitarian disasters. To this end, HRAs and/or national human rights officers were deployed. All presences, including regional and country offices, engaged in UN coordination with respect to United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in order to strengthen human rights integration into sustainable development programmes.

In Nepal, the Office undertook sustained and intensive engagement on the finalization of transitional justice laws through the longer-term deployment of two transitional justice specialists to support the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). As a result, key provisions in these laws were improved and the process moved forward with the appointment of commissions at the end of 2024.

In Mongolia, OHCHR supported the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and, for the first time, held a multi-stakeholder regional workshop on business and human rights dedicated to the subregion of North-East Asia. The workshop facilitated discussions on topics such as National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, due diligence, compliance with the UNGPs and the implementation of key UN recommendations.

Profound human rights and humanitarian crises continued in Afghanistan and in Myanmar. The situation in Afghanistan remained critical, particularly for women and girls, and deteriorated due to the growing number of restrictions imposed by de facto authorities. In March, UNAMA's mandate was renewed and the mission increased its public reporting. The Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan engaged with Afghans living inside and outside the country, issued three reports and advocated with international stakeholders. During the year, Myanmar faced escalating instability and the spread of the ongoing conflict across the country. In Rakhine State, hostilities between the Arakan Army and the military resumed in November 2023, triggering significant Rohingya refugee flows into Bangladesh.

19 Merged with the Myanmar country programme as of January 2025.

20 Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

In July, Bangladesh witnessed unprecedented nationwide unrest that was sparked by student protests and escalated following violent repression. These events ultimately led to the fall of the Awami League Government. OHCHR responded rapidly to the developments with high visibility interventions by the High Commissioner and the publication of a flash report. At the request of the new Interim Government, OHCHR deployed a fact-finding mission to investigate the July-August events, analyse root causes and provide recommendations on the steps that needed to be taken to ensure accountability and non-recurrence. OHCHR also provided support on a wide range of reforms and initiated consultations with the Interim Government regarding an expanded OHCHR presence and programme.

In June, the High Commissioner briefed the Security Council on the human rights situation in the DPRK. In November, the DPRK participated in its fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). This was complemented by the DPRK delegation's attendance at a training workshop on the international human rights system.

OHCHR continued to strengthen its engagement with China. In June, the Office conducted a technical visit to Beijing to participate in two roundtables on legal reforms. The first roundtable focused on counter-terrorism and de-extremification issues and the second examined provisions within the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law. The Office followed up on specific cases related to these provisions.

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 national human rights institutions (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 combating 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 2024	*77*

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

Explosive devices, including explosive remnants of war, were a leading cause of child casualties in 2024. OHCHR partnered with UNAMA and UNICEF to provide technical support and advocated with other humanitarian actors to ensure that 449 children (365 boys and 84 girls) who had been maimed by explosive devices received assistance, such as referrals, medical treatment, psychosocial support and transportation.

Accountability

OHCHR and UNAMA monitored and documented credible allegations of human rights violations that included extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment. This information was used to report on the overall human rights situation and formed the basis for advocacy with de facto authorities. Engagement on procedures or mechanisms was undertaken with the de facto Ministry of Interior (MoI), General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI) and the Office of Prison Administration (OPA). This contributed to oversight, accountability and protection with regard to human rights violations committed by the de facto authorities. More specifically, regular meetings were held to share credible allegations of human rights violations, underscoring the need for thorough investigations and accountability for perpetrators of violations.

Each month, OHCHR and UNAMA shared a list of cases with the de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Regular communication was also undertaken with the de facto GDI on individual cases of arbitrary detention and, in a number of cases, family visits with detainees were arranged.

On 10 July, following international media coverage of new allegations about the rape and abuse of a woman in 'Taliban custody' and due advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR and UNAMA, the de facto OPA issued a prompt directive to prisons across the country, reminding them to uphold the rights of detainees, including women. De facto prison directors were also reminded of their duty to ensure that their subordinates respect the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment and are aware of disciplinary and judicial consequences for perpetrators.

OHCHR and UNAMA conducted 65 visits to places of detention and reached 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provincial prisons. In February, the de facto GDI granted OHCHR and UNAMA one-time access to two key facilities in Kabul.

Participation

Civic space remained extremely limited in 2024. The curtailment of fundamental freedoms of the people in Afghanistan was exacerbated by the promulgation of the Law on the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, on 21 August, which hindered women's and men's enjoyment of the freedom of expression by establishing requirements about their physical appearance; restricted women's freedom of movement by prohibiting their use of transportation without being accompanied by a male guardian (*mahram*); prohibited the creation and broadcasting of images of living beings, severely affecting the operation of media, especially audiovisual media in some provinces; and banned celebrations, activities and items deemed 'un-Islamic.' While some of these restrictions were in place prior to the enactment of the Law, these requirements are now consolidated and codified, with corresponding punishments for non-compliance.

Nonetheless, measures undertaken by the de facto authorities, such as the appointment of spokespersons in various de facto ministries and provincial departments, the issuance of press identification cards to journalists and the appearance of coordination with media actors, with the potential for deconfliction, have contributed to a gradual improvement in access to information by journalists.

On 26 November, OHCHR and UNAMA published a thematic report on *Media freedom in Afghanistan*, which documents the state of media freedom in the country since the Taliban takeover in August 2021. The report indicates that the media sector has been regularly subjected to censorship, threats, arbitrary detention, a lack of access to information and interference by de facto authorities. It also notes that female journalists face additional discrimination and severe restrictions on their participation, movement and appearance as journalists and media workers. The report received attention from local, diaspora and international media outlets. The de facto authorities discounted the findings as being "far from actual reality" and claimed that the report reflects a "Western" bias. Nevertheless, prior to its publication, OHCHR and UNAMA discussed the findings and recommendations with the de facto authorities, including representatives from the de facto Ministry of Information and Culture and the de facto MoFA.

OHCHR and UNAMA partnered with UN Women to publish user-friendly guidance entitled *Online protection and digital security: User guide for human rights defenders* (in English, Dari and Pashto). The guide was adapted to the Afghanistan context from a resource published by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), in consultation with women human rights defenders (WHRDs), media workers and digital security experts. HRDs are at risk of arbitrary arrest and detention by de facto authorities in connection with their work. The guide outlines practical solutions to strengthen their digital security and seeks to provide them with greater online protection.

Non-discrimination

On 9 July, OHCHR and UNAMA released a report entitled *De facto authorities' moral oversight in Afghanistan: Impacts on human rights*. As stated in the report, the policies relating to moral oversight, which were primarily devised and implemented by the de facto Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, negatively impacted on the ability of Afghans, especially women, to enjoy many of their human rights. The document received notable media attention and was reported on by a number of local, diaspora and major international media outlets. The de facto authorities responded that the report's approach of "evaluating Afghanistan through a Western lens is inappropriate" and that its criticism is "baseless."

The 21 August promulgation of the Law on the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice consolidated and codified ongoing direct discrimination against women and girls. Although the Law introduced restrictions for women and men, it entrenched the existing disproportionate discrimination against women. For example, under the Law, women must wear attire that completely covers their bodies and faces and their voices must be concealed in public and only used in the private sphere. Moreover, due to this Law, women's access to public services and work is more limited. For instance, women must be accompanied by a *mahram* when using public transport or risk being banned from using public transport in the future. Non-*mahram*-accompanied women are refused fares by public transport drivers. Women are also refused entry to hospitals and, in some provinces, women healthcare workers must be accompanied by a *mahram* to commute to work.

Access to healthcare by women and girls is precarious due to the prohibition of receiving treatment unless a male relative is present. This access was further restricted on 2 December when the de facto Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Health verbally informed approximately 250 private medical health institute representatives from across Afghanistan that the Taliban Leader had ordered a ban on female students from attending and enrolling in classes at private medical institutes, effective 3 December. There are 174 medical

institutes across Afghanistan, including 10 that are public, which offer programmes ranging from nursing, midwifery, dentistry and pharmacy to laboratory sciences, physiotherapy and radiology. In 2024, each institute had an estimated 100 to 150 female students enrolled. The new edict removed the only remaining pathway for women and girls to achieve higher education and will decimate the already inadequate supply of female midwives, nurses, doctors and health professionals.

OHCHR and UNAMA are advocating with the de facto authorities, including the de facto MoFA, to have these bans rescinded, along with the other measures restricting women's enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

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 2024	1
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

During the July-August events in Bangladesh, OHCHR activated an enhanced monitoring cell to provide real-time updates on the unfolding crisis. The High Commissioner made a number of timely public statements and issued a public flash report, in August. This contributed to the Interim Government's request for an OHCHR fact-finding mission regarding the human rights violations that were committed during the July and August mass protests and immediately after the fall of the former regime. This was the first fact-finding mission of its kind under the newly formed OHCHR Inquiries Branch. A multidisciplinary team was deployed, composed of experts in human rights investigations, forensic medicine, weaponry, media and gender. Over 260 interviews were conducted with victims, witnesses, government and security officials, along with individuals who had information about the protests. Medical case files and ammunition remnants were reviewed and thousands of videos and photographs were preserved and analysed. A report was produced that contains findings on human rights violations and abuses, possible international crimes and recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure accountability and non-recurrence. The report has been shared with the Interim Government and will inform the country's reform process. It was made public in February 2025.

Following OHCHR's sensitization, advocacy and capacity-building initiatives, the Interim Govern-

ment ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), in August, and established a national Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance. These measures represent a significant achievement in a country that has a long-standing culture of impunity regarding enforced disappearances, which has contributed to grievances and the perpetuation of cycles of fragility, conflict and violence. In close collaboration with the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), OHCHR is providing critical technical assistance to the Commission to facilitate its compliance with international human rights standards. With OHCHR's technical assistance, the Commission has now documented and analysed more than 1,600 cases of enforced disappearance.

Similarly, OHCHR engaged with the Attorney General and judiciary to brief prosecutors and investigators (including from a domestic accountability mechanism named the International Crimes Tribunal), in cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), on international human rights norms and standards, international criminal justice norms and standards and good practices. Additionally, OHCHR shared technical comments on the proposed draft amendments to the International Crimes Tribunal Act. Despite some remaining gaps, the amendment to the Act, which was adopted in November, largely aligned with OHCHR's recommendations and international human rights standards. The Office initiated consultations with the Interim Government regarding an expanded OHCHR presence and programme, which will be key to strengthening human rights monitoring and reporting, thereby promoting greater accountability. Following the High Commissioner's October visit, OHCHR submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for consideration. Discussions are ongoing.

Participation

OHCHR undertook real-time monitoring of civic space violations during the July-August mass protests, which culminated in the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after 15 consecutive years in power. The Government subsequently requested that the Office investigate human rights violations during the protests, generating a high level of credibility for OHCHR.

OHCHR's technical assistance, advocacy and unique access to the new Interim Government contributed to the repeal of the 2023 Cyber Security Act. The Act was part of a legal arsenal that was widely instrumentalized by the previous Government to unduly restrict civic and democratic space. During its fourth UPR cycle, held in November 2023, eight of the recommendations that Bangladesh received related to its Cyber Security Act. OHCHR will continue to provide guidance and advocate for the compliance of a newly adopted Ordinance with international human rights norms and standards.

Following the resignation of the previous Government, and in an effort to enhance the expansion of a sustainable and open civic space, OHCHR engaged with CSOs and youth-led organizations. OHCHR facilitated the creation or strengthening of eight human rights networks, as well as the establishment of informal protection networks, to empower and protect HRDs. It also delivered trainings to more than 160 HRDs. This instrumental support enabled those organizations and individuals to offer meaningful inputs to the 11 reform commissions that were set up by the Interim Government on crucial topics, such as the Constitution, police reforms, the judiciary, the media, electoral reform, corruption and the status of women.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR's awareness-raising and advocacy efforts in the aftermath of the resignation of the previous Government contributed to the Interim Government's creation of a Commission on Women's Affairs. The Commission is mandated to present recommendations to improve the protection of the rights of women and girls in a country which ranks low on the Gender Inequality Index. In 2024, the World Economic Forum ranked Bangladesh 99 out of 146 countries in its Global Gender Gap report.

Development

OHCHR's analysis, technical assistance, capacity-building and ongoing advocacy contributed to the UNCT's efforts to mainstream human rights into development programmes and policies. For instance, OHCHR's human rights analysis of the previous Government's budget and advocacy fed into the UNCT's strategic discussions with the Interim Government on reform of the economy and the UN's support for economic development. This led to the development of a joint UN project that is assessing the link between extreme poverty and identity-based marginalization.

Peace and Security

In the aftermath of the Prime Minister's resignation, OHCHR co-led a support mission of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Transitional Justice to help develop a strategic approach to providing transitional justice assistance in the country. As a follow-up, the UNCT began designing a transitional justice programme centred on human rights principles that seeks to support justice, healing and redress for past violations and further integrate human rights into Bangladesh's governance and legal frameworks. This will be key to preventing additional instability and violence.

OHCHR provided technical assistance and advocated before the reform commissions that were set up by the Interim Government, including with regard to the police, the judiciary and the media, to ensure that their recommendations comply with Bangladesh's international human rights obligations.

CAMBODIA

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	1993
Field office(s)	Phnom Penh
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028
Staff as of 31 December 2024	21
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In 2024, OHCHR made progress towards strengthening legal frameworks and protection mechanisms, in conformity with international human rights standards. The Office engaged in legal and policy reforms, including by providing advice on a new draft law regarding persons with disabilities and on the implementation of a Royal Decree on the Establishment, Organization and Functioning of the National Authority for Alternative Dispute Resolution, which was adopted in November 2023. In addition, OHCHR undertook an analysis of issues connected to due process, the right to access to justice and ensuring the suitability of cases for alternative dispute resolution, particularly domestic violence cases. OHCHR provided capacity-building to key governmental stakeholders, such as the Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC), the National Committee Against Torture (NCAT), the Disability Action Council, judges, prosecutors, court officials and legal aid lawyers.

The Office and the Ministry of Justice renewed the terms of reference of a Technical Working Group on Legal and Judicial Reform for 2024-2028. OHCHR will serve as a co-facilitator of the Working Group and work with the Ministry to improve judicial services and access to justice, including through capacity-building for judges, increasing the implementation of a pretrial detention form and facilitating more effective and efficient criminal case management.

The Office provided training on pretrial detention and access to justice for persons with disabilities, which enabled justice actors to better uphold human rights standards. This training was conducted with co-trainers, who were persons with disabilities, as well as participants from organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).

In the context of overcrowding in prisons and detention facilities, OHCHR undertook 26 visits to 11 places of detention, including four correctional centres, to monitor conditions and follow up on specific cases. OHCHR engaged with the General Directorate of Prisons (GDP) to provide recommendations and advocate for enhanced oversight and improvement of detention conditions, which have been particularly impacted by overincarceration and overcrowding. As a result of this engagement, OHCHR is supporting the GDP on a pilot project designed to address overcrowding in prisons.

Mechanisms

The Office used the framework of the human rights mechanisms to bolster engagement with the Government, civil society and the UNCT, focusing especially on creating safe spaces for consultation and engagement between the Government and civil society. Throughout 2024, OHCHR led in-country efforts related to the fourth UPR cycle, including by: providing technical support to the Government through the CHRC; briefing the governmental delegation in April; translating, disseminating and publishing information about the UPR during and after the review; and engaging civil society throughout the process. Cambodia underwent its fourth UPR cycle in May and supported 232 of the 275 recommendations it received. The UPR outcome was adopted at the fifty-seventh session of the HRC, in October.

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 December 2026)
Staff as of 31 December 2024	11
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

*Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

Accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK, both judicial and non-judicial, remained a priority area of work for OHCHR, including through monitoring and documentation, public reporting, advocacy, establishing and populating the central information and evidence repository, capacity-development and consultations with victims and stakeholders.

Despite the continued low number of escapees arriving in the ROK and the constrained flow of information from the DPRK, the Office interviewed 84 escapees (60 women) at the ROK Government-run reception centres and other locations. Former senior government officials from the DPRK were among those interviewed, leading to a deeper understanding of the country's policies, structures and decision-making processes. A total of 15 missions were conducted in the ROK, to the European Union (EU), Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with an emphasis on engagement with victims' groups, academics and government officials. The Office held 13 consultations with 30 people (11 women), including victims and stakeholders, to solicit their views on avenues to accountability, as mandated by HRC resolution 46/17. This led to a significant expansion of OHCHR's partnerships with victims' groups, youth and researchers to explore accountability options and ensure that victims have a voice. The

Office doubled the volume of its central repository of information and evidence with interview materials, satellite imagery, documentation from stakeholders and other materials that could be relevant in future investigations.

Public reporting remains an important tool to increase the visibility of the human rights situation in the DPRK, advocate with Member States on issues of concern and provide a platform to engage with victims, escapees and other stakeholders, leading to more informed public discourse around human rights in the DPRK. In July, the Office issued a report entitled *Forced labour by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, which highlights six distinct types of forced labour, namely, labour in detention, compulsory State-assigned jobs, non-military labour by conscripts, the use of revolutionary "Shock Brigades," work mobilizations and work performed by individuals sent abroad by the DPRK Government to earn money for the State. The report concludes that people in North Korea are "controlled and exploited through an extensive and multi-layered system of forced labour" that is "directed towards the interests of the State rather than the people," within a system that "acts as a means for the State to control, monitor and indoctrinate the population." The report was widely covered by the media and through events organized by OHCHR.

The year 2024 marked the tenth anniversary of the release of the report by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In February, OHCHR organized an international conference to commemorate this anniversary and explore ways to promote accountability. More than 150 participants, including national prosecutorial authorities, Member States, other UN investigative bodies, reparations specialists, victims, CSOs, documentation specialists and criminal lawyers, attended and shared their experiences with implementing accountability measures.

The Office engaged and advocated with Member States to facilitate investigations and prosecutions of individuals suspected of committing international crimes in the DPRK, for example, through extraterritorial or universal jurisdiction. It monitored the progress of civil claims brought before the courts by victims' groups and organizations based in Japan and the ROK. It also organized a series of capacity-building workshops for government officials and CSOs to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experience, including good practices and various practical and legal challenges. OHCHR's documentation has been cited in the rulings of regional human rights courts, notably a 2024 ruling of the European Court in a case regarding the repatriation of a DPRK escapee from Russia. The Court found that by repatriating the man to the DPRK, the Russian Federation had put him at real risk of death or ill-treatment, in violation of the prohibition of torture and his rights to life, liberty and security of the person.

In addition, the Office supported Member States and CSO initiatives on non-judicial forms of accountability, especially truth-seeking, memorialization and education. Several cultural and memorialization activities and events were organized in the ROK to commemorate and recognize victims of enforced disappearance and other human rights violations committed by the DPRK.

Mechanisms

The Office successfully supported CSOs in the ROK to become increasingly involved in the work of the international human rights mechanisms. To bring this about, the Office attended several events organized by CSOs in Japan and the ROK and delivered briefings on the international legal framework and how to engage with the special procedures, human rights treaty bodies and the UPR process, including through the implementation of recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and the UPR. Following the briefings, 10 participating CSOs submitted stakeholders' reports to the UPR. Further, after receiving technical assistance from OHCHR, 290 cases of abductions and enforced disappearances in the DPRK were submitted to the WGEID.

In November, the DPRK participated in the country's fourth UPR cycle, demonstrating its commitment to work with the international human rights mechanisms. Also in November, as part of its efforts to provide the Government with

capacity-building initiatives, the Office organized a two-day workshop on the international human rights mechanisms for six DPRK officials who attended the UPR review. This created another opportunity for engagement and opened up a space for human rights dialogue.

In March, the HRC requested that OHCHR prepare a comprehensive update report on the human rights situation in the DPRK since 2014 and present it at the HRC's sixtieth session, in September 2025. To collect information and seek support, the Office organized a series of briefings for CSOs, governments and other stakeholders and met with victims and witnesses, significantly expanding the number of first-hand interviews that were conducted by the Office.

The Office provided substantive and administrative support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Special Rapporteur collaborated with other mandate holders and sent three letters of allegation to the DPRK and three to China, outlining their concerns about forced repatriation, executions and human trafficking.

Peace and Security

The Office monitored peace and security developments impacting on human rights in the DPRK and engaged with several Member States to advocate for the integration of human rights into the peace and security agenda on the Korean peninsula. In June, the High Commissioner for Human Rights briefed the Security Council on the human rights situation in the DPRK, with a focus on international peace and security. The interconnectedness of human rights violations in the DPRK with the broader peace and security concerns on the Korean Peninsula, particularly in light of increasing militarization, was underscored, urging a comprehensive approach to address the region's challenges. These initiatives contributed to promoting human rights discourse in relation to the peace and security agenda on the peninsula.

While the DPRK has gradually reopened its borders and enabled some Member States to return to the DPRK, international staff of the UNCT have been unable to return to the country. The Office will continue providing regular human rights updates to the UNCT and advocating for their return.

During the year, the Office spoke at more than 80 events in the ROK, Japan, Belgium, the United Kingdom and the United States to increase the visibility of human rights issues being faced in the DPRK. Youth engagement remained an OHCHR priority. To this end, it organized a series of human rights briefings for more than 300 students from nine universities and student groups in the ROK and the United Kingdom and for high school students across the ROK and Japan. The Office also organized two human rights campaigns that enabled escapees in the ROK to publicly discuss gender equality, forced labour and violence against women in the workplace in the DPRK.

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 2024	2

Key OMP pillars in 2024



PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

Within the framework of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the UNCT carried out a human rights dialogue on human rights and migration, which was led by the RC and supported by OHCHR. Following the dialogue, the UNCT adopted a Labour Migration Action Plan (2024-2028) that is being integrated into the UNSDCF Joint Workplan. The Action Plan identified seven priority work streams, including enhancing pathways for regular migration, raising awareness about the human and labour rights of migrant workers, strengthening access to justice and redress mechanisms for migrant workers, preparing for future emergencies in relation to humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress, ensuring migrant protection within the context of trafficking in persons and addressing racism and xenophobia.

Through the RCO, OHCHR coordinated and facilitated assistance in a case involving a three-member family seeking asylum in the Maldives, particularly as UNHCR does not have an in-country presence and Maldives is not a State Party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Senior HRA helped the family to manage the refugee status determination process. It also engaged with different stakeholders, including authorities and other humanitarian actors, to ensure the family had access to sustenance, accommodations and healthcare until they were resettled in a safe third country.

OHCHR helped to facilitate the UNCT's joint commemoration of Human Rights Day and International Migrants Day, on 18 December, in partnership with IOM and the Maldives National University (MNU), by participating in the Human Rights Film Tour. The Tour was co-organized by OHCHR and the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH). A featured film explored issues related to migrant workers in Europe, such as fraudulent recruitment practices, low wages and inhuman living conditions, and a panel discussion reviewed critical issues faced by migrant workers in the Maldives.

Mechanisms

The HRA supported and facilitated the work of the UNCT Gender Equality and Human Rights Theme Group, including through the organization of an OHCHR briefing for UNCT technical focal points and CSOs on engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. Participants learned about the human rights treaty body review process and were encouraged to contribute to that process by submitting reports, in particular to the Human Rights Committee, which met in July. In anticipation of the September 2025 review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of the Government's combined sixth to seventh periodic reports, OHCHR assisted CSOs and the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) to draft and submit reports to inform the Committee's preparation of its list of issues.

OHCHR worked closely with the HRCM and offered guidance within the framework of the Tripartite Partnership to support NHRIs, in coordination with UNDP. More specifically, the Office provided technical advice regarding the formulation of an HRCM-CSO engagement strategy and the development of a comprehensive orientation package for the commissioners and staff of the HRCM.

MYANMAR

Type of engagement	Other Projects or Special Presences/Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2018/2021 (HRA merged with the Myanmar country programme as of January 2025)
Field office(s)	Bangkok, Thailand
UN partnership framework	United Nations Transitional Cooperation Framework 2024-2025
Staff as of 31 December 2024	13
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR expanded its outreach and documented the impacts of the human rights crisis on the civilian population. This verified information was critical to fulfilling certain HRC mandates and supporting advocacy on necessary actions to protect civilians and HRDs. It also raised the awareness of the general public and the international community regarding the severity of the crisis. Advocacy for greater accountability was a consistent, overarching priority as it will be essential to the future sustainability and stability of any political transition and institutional reform in the country.

OHCHR used its verified data on human rights violations, other breaches of international law and the protection of HRDs as the foundation for 19 training sessions that were delivered to over 500 HRDs, most of whom were women representatives of the democratic movement. Following needs assessments that were undertaken by OHCHR's partners, the sessions focused on documenting human rights violations by building capacities related to international law, documentation and interview techniques, open source investigations, online and physical security, reporting and advocacy.

The Office engaged in advocacy with the democracy movement to promote the development of critical skills among the civil service and community-based networks to ensure the availability of services and the implementation of inclusive reforms during the crisis and post-crisis periods. To this end, OHCHR provided technical assistance on inclusive and accountable governance, dispute resolution and impunity to help address the root causes of the Myanmar crisis. Further, training and legal advice was made available to representatives of the democratic movement on relevant international legal obligations and standards relating to statelessness, anti-discrimination, protection, repatriation of displaced persons and the concerns of individuals who fled the country. Advocacy with parliamentary committees in Thailand contributed to visa policy adjustments, including student visa extensions, and the introduction of a five-year visa for digital nomads, thereby extending additional protection avenues to Myanmar nationals based in Thailand.

OHCHR monitored emerging local governance structures to evaluate their ability to promote and protect human rights and identify possible democratic alternatives to unchecked military powers. Collaborations with the Karenni Human Rights Group and the Karenni State Interim Executive Council resulted in the documentation of inclusive governance practices. The findings were presented at the fifty-sixth session of the HRC. The Office also documented and reported on other governance initiatives, such as those undertaken by the Ta'ang National Liberation Army after a significant expansion of territorial control and the pre-coup experience of the Salaween Peace Park. OHCHR sought to raise awareness about good practices that could be replicated across Myanmar and effective alternatives to military rule. In addition, the Office engaged with duty bearers to ensure accountability and prevent the recurrence of crimes. More specifically, it made inquiries with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), a prominent China-allied group, which responded indirectly by publishing detailed answers on social media, marking a significant step towards potential dialogue after years of non-engagement.

Building on its prior collaboration with the UNCT, the Office maintained its engagement with the RCO. For instance, advocacy at UNCT meetings and in the context of UNCT mechanisms ensured

that human rights principles and indicators were integrated into UN programming, outcomes were aligned with efforts to support democratic actors and reforms and a human rights-based approach (HRBA) was applied across UN operations in Myanmar.

Peace and Security

OHCHR took steps to address the devastating impacts of conflict and violence on the civilian population, particularly due to military violence. Informed by 261 interviews with victims, witnesses and other first-hand sources, OHCHR documented incidents and patterns of human rights violations and abuses to advance evidence-based advocacy to end impunity. OHCHR delivered an oral update and two reports to the HRC, as well as a report to the General Assembly. These reports provide comprehensive analyses of the human rights situation, emerging patterns of violations and the dire consequences for civilians. They were used to raise awareness about the human rights situation in Myanmar among Member States and influence strategic responses, leading to tailored recommendations, such as the imposition of sanctions on jet fuel, the halting of arms sales, the release of political prisoners and the enforcement of Security Council resolution 2669. The reports emphasize the urgent need for all parties to cease violence, in compliance with S/RES/2669, and drew attention to the military's systemic disregard for international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Despite the military's refusal to acknowledge its responsibilities, OHCHR pursued engagement by submitting inquiries through the Permanent Mission in Geneva. The exchanges documented their stance and exposed their lack of compliance with international obligations. These efforts contributed to several Member States imposing additional sanctions on entities and individuals linked to the military, demonstrating tangible progress in international advocacy. For instance, the Office's work and advocacy contributed to the imposition by some Member States of sanctions on the Myanmar military to protect human rights. It also led the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) to withdraw the accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission due to its non-compliance with the Paris Principles.

Participation

To strengthen civil society participation and support HRDs, the Office resumed in-person capacity-building efforts that were disrupted by the pandemic. In June and December, two week-long trainings were delivered, in Bangkok, which engaged 42 HRDs (more than half of whom were women). Participants were equipped with knowledge about legal frameworks, documentation techniques and analytical skills. The trainings fostered trust and an exchange of information and improved the documentation capacities of CSOs. In view of the preparation of the report to the fifty-ninth session of the HRC, OHCHR conducted over 60 consultations with a wide sector of Myanmar society, including ordinary people, community representatives, unionists, lawyers, CSOs and numerous others, to document their demands and recommendations to advance democracy in Myanmar. The findings of the consultations clearly indicate that the people of Myanmar demand security, peace, rights and respect for the principles of transparency, inclusion, non-discrimination, equality and effective participation in public life.

Within the UNCT, OHCHR co-chaired the Human Rights Theme Group and participated in key mechanisms, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the Protection Cluster and the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA). The Office consistently promoted the application of an HRBA to UN engagements and advocated for measures to enhance civilian protection, including the integration of the findings of the Rosenthal report into UN programming. In coordination with the UNCT, OHCHR facilitated the interaction of CSOs with members of the UNCT regarding the need for increased coordination and service provision to protect HRDs, inside Myanmar and in areas bordering the country, particularly those who are at risk of transnational repression and refoulement.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR advanced efforts to document and combat discrimination against the Rohingya and other minority communities as part of its monitoring mandate and reporting obligations to the HRC. The Office conducted extensive monitoring, including through 181 interviews, 11 consultations with minority community members (online and during field missions in Thailand), and 17 requests for information from stakeholders, such as the military, the democracy movement and anti-military armed groups. These findings were instrumental in the drafting of reports to the fifty-sixth session of the HRC. The reports highlight the devastating impacts of the human rights crisis on minority communities and provide an analysis of human rights concerns linked to military tactics, such as airstrikes, artillery shelling, extrajudicial killings, sexual violence and attacks on religious sites, including churches. The reports also address systemic issues, like the denial of citizenship rights, restrictions on freedom of movement and the lack of access to essential services, while offering tailored recommendations on accountability, transitional justice and institutional reforms.

To strengthen local capacities, the Office delivered 15 online and in-person training sessions to 340 representatives (160 women) from civil society and minority communities. The sessions focused on identifying and documenting discrimination in legislation, policy and practice, as well as proposing remedial actions. Participants gained practical knowledge about international human rights law, international humanitarian law, documentation tools and reporting techniques to enable them to more effectively counter discrimination.

The Office conducted six consultations with women's organizations and representatives of minorities to gather insights on ways to promote equality, including gender equality, and manage issues such as statelessness, access to services and land and property rights. These consultations will inform OHCHR's 2025 report to the HRC and future engagement with other minority communities to ensure that their human rights concerns are comprehensively addressed.

NEPAL

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Kathmandu
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	1

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The Office supported Nepal's efforts to address the country's only remaining element of the peace process, namely, the transitional justice process. In August, the Government adopted an amendment to a draft law on transitional justice, which has been under discussion since the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling that the 2014 Transitional Justice Act violated the Constitution and Nepal's international human rights obligations. OHCHR helped to facilitate this result by providing technical assistance and engaging with the Government and political parties, ensuring that legislation was more closely aligned with international human rights norms and standards and included a comprehensive and victim-centred approach. Many of OHCHR's advocacy points were incorporated in the legislative amendment. For instance, the definition of gross human rights violations was broadened and refined and the types of violations were expanded to include arbitrary killings, rape and grave sexual violence. In addition, the statutory limitation on initiating legal proceedings regarding rape and grave sexual violence was removed. Similarly, a clause was deleted that required that violence had to have been targeted towards unarmed persons or civilians or had to have been committed on a systematic basis. Consequently, a wider spectrum of acts will be considered in the transitional justice process. Despite these significant gains, some ambiguities in the revised legislation will require ongoing advocacy during the implementation phase to ensure full compliance with international norms and standards.

The Office engaged with victims of the conflict, civil society, government entities and political actors to advocate for the implementation of the legislation in a manner that is victim-centred and complies with international standards. OHCHR's support for the implementation of the new measures will continue in 2025.

OHCHR supported the National Human Rights Council (NHRC) to develop a comprehensive study on the rights of older persons. The technical support and guidance it provided enhanced the knowledge and capacities of the NHRC to address issues related to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), as well as the rights of specific persons.

THE PACIFIC

Type of engagement	Regional Office and Human Rights Adviser (Samoa)
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, Fiji and Pohnpei, Micronesia (Federated States of) (PRO); Apia, Samoa (HRA)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Pacific Sustainable Development Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	18
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

Following OHCHR's advocacy and the Government of **Fiji**'s interest in setting up a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF), the Mechanism was officially launched, in Suva, on 31 August.

OHCHR supported the Government, including through consultations with stakeholders, in anticipation of the fourth UPR cycle of **Fiji**. The Office engaged with the civil society-led UPR Working Group and assisted an OPD on a submission to the UPR. The document emphasized the need for action on the rights of persons with disabilities.

OHCHR provided the Government of **Palau** with technical assistance to respond to the list of issues prepared by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in relation to Palau's initial report, submitted in November, and the alternative report submitted by civil society. Engagement with the Government led to a formal request by the President for further support and prompted dialogue with the Palau Cabinet regarding the potential ratification of other international human rights treaties.

OHCHR worked closely with special procedures mandate holders as part of its technical cooperation and to help build the capacity of the Government of the Marshall Islands to deal with the consequences of the nuclear testing legacy. This included the delivery of workshops held in Majuro, with the online participation of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. The workshops contributed to a statement by 14 mandate holders, urging States to address the human rights impacts of nuclear testing.

OHCHR supported country missions and engagement with stakeholders by special rapporteurs, such as the mission to Australia of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, the mission to the Marshall Islands of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the mission to Samoa of the Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights and the mission to Vanuatu of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

Participation

OHCHR strengthened the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network (PHRDN) by providing secretariat support, technical assistance and guidance, in particular to assist its country networks in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and its members in Fiji. It also appointed focal points in 10 Pacific Islands, which led to a 20 per cent increase in its membership. OHCHR and the PHRDN delivered three regional capacity-building trainings to 105 members (61 women), enhancing their understanding of the rights and responsibilities of HRDs. Some participants from remote islands and rural areas received formal training for the first time. In December, OHCHR partnered with the PHRDN to celebrate Human Rights Defenders Day (9 December) and Human Rights Day (10 December) under the theme "Our Rights, Our Future. Right Now." Activities included a documentary screening and a panel discussion featuring UN partners, representatives of the diplomatic community and members of the PHRDN.

In August, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women co-hosted an International Youth Day hybrid event, in Suva, Fiji, under the theme "Youth digital pathways for sustainable development." Thirty-five youth (26 women) from **Fiji**, **Kiribati**, **the Federated States of Micronesia**, **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** shared their insights on challenges to digital empowerment and emphasized the need for media literacy and inclusive policymaking. The participants also discussed issues relating to access to digital spaces and combating online harassment faced by girls and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

In **Fiji**, OHCHR launched a pilot project to examine youth engagement and urban digitalization. In partnership with Fondation Botnar and the University of Warwick, various activities were undertaken, such as stakeholder consultations, capacity-building workshops and focus group discussions on smart cities and urban governance from a human rights perspective. The pilot project contributed to promoting inclusive policymaking and governance, leading to the integration of youth perspectives into urban and digital policy frameworks.

In September, OHCHR and the UNCT's Inter-Agency Youth and Adolescents Working Group supported the Pacific Ministers for Youth Meeting, in **Fiji**, which was held to highlight key challenges and identify opportunities for youth in the Pacific region. The meeting gathered more than 120 youth leaders and government officials from 21 Pacific Island Countries. As part of the technical working group, OHCHR provided guidance on human rights, peace and security and contributed to the review and design of an accountability mechanism within the context of the Pacific Youth Development Framework. Ministers approved the preparation of a new 10-year Pacific Youth Development Pathway that will be drafted by Pacific countries and youth from those countries and coordinated by the Pacific Community. This

Pathway will serve as a youth development road map and be aligned with the vision set out in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific. OHCHR will participate in the technical advisory group that will cooperate with other UN agencies, the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific and the Pacific Youth Council to conduct consultations on the road map.

Non-discrimination

The joint programme of OHCHR, ILO and UNESCO, funded by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), finalized an analysis of the situation of persons with disabilities in **Fiji** and developed a comprehensive follow-up programme.

OHCHR mapped anti-discriminatory legislation in all 16 Pacific Island Countries covered by the Regional Office for the Pacific Region. The mapping demonstrated significant legislative gaps and shortcomings.

In the final year of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), OHCHR collaborated with the Asia Pacific Network for People of African Descent to co-organize the first regional consultations on the human rights situation of Africans and people of African descent. These online consultations, held on 27 July and 3 August, focused on four subregions, including the Pacific. A total of 48 individuals (19 women) from 14 countries participated in the consultations. The events fostered collaboration and paved the way for joint initiatives, including research projects to improve data collection on the human rights situation of Africans and people of African descent.

In October, **Samoa** hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), with leaders from 56 countries. The Meeting addressed global challenges and highlighted issues that are critical to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as climate change, sustainable development and economic resilience. OHCHR participated as a panellist at the Commonwealth Women's Forum, highlighting intersectional discrimination.

Technical support was provided to the NHRI of Samoa for the two-day Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, which led to the adoption of the Apia Declaration. The Declaration sets out areas for joint action by NHRIs to promote the rule of law, climate justice, economic resilience and social inclusion. OHCHR also participated in a CHOGM side event on climate change and human rights.

Accountability

As part of the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) joint programme in **Fiji** on strengthening social cohesion pathways, human rights and women's civic participation, OHCHR, UNDP and UN Women cooperated to deliver training to 76 senior police officers (33 women) serving in the Crimes and Investigations Department and the Special Mobile Force of the Fiji Police Force. The trainings were undertaken in partnership with the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Online Safety Commission and the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network. They sought to foster knowledge about international human rights standards related to law enforcement, particularly with regard to obligations provided in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the use of force. Behavioural change of police officers was observed through follow-up monitoring, primarily through media reports and feedback from civil society actors. The trainings were offered in response to growing claims of police brutality.

As part of its new HRC-mandated reporting, technical cooperation and capacity-building for the Government of the **Marshall Islands** to help it deal with the consequences of the nuclear testing legacy, OHCHR submitted a report to the HRC focusing on transitional justice, in September.

Development

OHCHR and the UNCT in the Pacific supported the Secretary-General's country visit to **Samoa** and **Tonga** for the fifty-third Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, in August.

The meeting focused on the impacts of the climate crisis on SIDS. OHCHR's contribution highlighted its support of individuals and communities experiencing multiple forms of discrimination and those left most behind. Further, it emphasized the importance of creating an enabling environment for participation and the empowerment of civil society, youth and communities affected by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (the triple planetary crisis).

OHCHR contributed to increased knowledge and the capacity to apply an HRBA in the development and implementation of national development plans, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), as well as other national plans, programmes and processes. In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, OHCHR participated in discussions on the elaboration of the Strategic Development Plan, which included inputs from the international human rights mechanisms. The Plan was subsequently adopted. In **Samoa**, OHCHR supported the development of the third VNR and ensured the effective participation of persons with disabilities by organizing a dedicated pre-consultation meeting and supporting the development of a disability-specific report on related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to inform the VNR. OHCHR also participated in the country-United Nations Joint Steering Committees in **Fiji, Kiribati**, **Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** and helped to mainstream human rights into the UN's work in these countries.

Through the second phase of the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCMHS), a joint programme led by IOM with ESCAP, ILO, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Platform on Disaster Displacement and OHCHR, the Regional Office facilitated the increased engagement of the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility and participated in the Regional Consultations for the development of the Framework's implementation plan, in September. The plan is being drafted and will be submitted for endorsement by the Pacific Islands Forum in 2025. In December, the Office hosted a workshop on traditional knowledge in the context of climate-induced mobility, bringing together 16 participants (10 women) from seven Pacific Island Countries to explore the impacts of climate change on their lives and to inform the implementation plan. As a result of OHCHR's efforts, human rights are now recognized as a central component of the activities of the PCCMHS and partner entities. This will contribute to the development of climate mobility policies that comply with international human rights standards and the integration of human rights into national and regional frameworks related to climate change and mobility.

The Office contributed to efforts to align climate and business policies in the Pacific with the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The Fourth United Nations Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights was held in hybrid format, in Suva, **Fiji**, in October, and gathered approximately 50 people representing diverse stakeholders, such as civil society leaders, members of the private sector and government officials. The Forum focused on just transition, including the right to work and rights at work; business practices in extractive industries, on land and in the ocean; the role of digitalization in enhancing human rights in business; and sharing good business practices in the Pacific. Specific attention was paid to a number of Pacific issues, namely, extractive practices and their implications for ecosystems, livelihoods and local communities. Discussions underscored the urgency of transitioning towards low-carbon economies, while safeguarding human security, the critical need for heightened awareness about human rights within the business sector and the importance of effective remedies for rights violations. The Forum saw high-level attendance, including the Australian Government's Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development. This annual event provides an environment in which comprehensive engagement can take place among regional intergovernmental organizations, special procedures mandate holders, business leaders, affected communities and policymakers.

Peace and Security

OHCHR has consistently advocated for the integration of an HRBA into humanitarian responses to emergencies caused by natural disasters. The

Pacific Humanitarian Team, a network that is composed of UN agencies and NGOs, incorporated human rights in its Strategic Plan (2025-2030). Similarly, the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster included human rights in its terms of reference. More specifically, it recognized and committed to mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian responses, with a focus on the rights of vulnerable groups. In addition, OHCHR's analysis and report that was submitted to the RC in **Papua New Guinea**, in January, outlines diverse human rights concerns related to civil unrest. It also supported the RC by applying a human rights perspective to responses to situations of violence that occurred in the following months.

The Office developed actionable early warning human rights analysis for UN global processes and the UN in the field and produced 16 related documents. The analysis and documentation of incidents concerning human rights, political and humanitarian issues in the Pacific were shared with RCs, UNCTs, UN multi-country offices in the Pacific, UN Headquarters in New York, UNOCC and DPPA. In turn, the UN system in the Pacific, as well as the UN's Regional Monthly Review (RMR) and UNOCC, incorporated OHCHR's political and human rights analyses into their activities.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Port Moresby
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028
Staff as of 31 December 2024	4

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

OHCHR assisted CSOs in providing psychosocial, food and legal aid to more than 25 women and girl survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking. The UNCT recognized OHCHR's vital role in integrating human rights standards into the humanitarian response to the Mulitaka landslide, as part of the UN's strategy to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

As the co-Chair of the UNCT Gender and Human Rights Working Group, with UN Women, OHCHR helped to advance the inclusion of gender equality and human rights in the UNSDCF joint workplan through the use of gender and human rights markers. At the UNCT level, there is an explicit commitment to monitor the mainstreaming of gender equality and human rights by fixing a minimum score of one for the gender and human rights markers for all planned outputs under the UNSDCF (2024-2028).

Within the context of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, OHCHR collaborated with UNAIDS, the National AIDS Council and the Key Population Advocacy Consortium to discuss the creation of a Human Rights Hub at the National AIDS Council. The Hub is envisioned to serve as a one-stop shop for legal aid and access to justice for victims of discrimination, stigma and violence linked to HIV status. OHCHR also partnered with the Papua New Guinea Christian Leaders Alliance, led by the Archdiocese of Port

Moresby, UNAIDS and UNFPA, to mobilize faith communities and strengthen community-level awareness-raising and capacity-development in relation to HIV and human rights issues.

Accountability

OHCHR provided technical assistance to establish an NHRI in Papua New Guinea. As the sole UN observer in the Government's Technical Working Committee, OHCHR provided crucial advisory inputs regarding a comprehensive policy, strategy and legislative proposal to ensure that the NHRI's operations will be founded on the Paris Principles. In September, the Office co-organized a Human Rights Forum with the RCO, the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG), which brought together more than 150 attendees (90 women), including community leaders, activists, diplomatic representatives and government officials. The Forum consolidated stakeholder support by facilitating discussions and an agreement on a strategy note that outlined the approach of the National Executive Council (NEC) on creating an NHRI.

The Office provided vital support for the UNCT response to incidents of armed violence. More specifically, it ensured that crisis analyses integrated human rights analysis and reflected human rights-related root causes and drivers. In September, following attacks on villages in the Angoram District, OHCHR undertook a field mission to document the human rights violations that were committed and interviewed survivors and individuals who had witnessed the rape and killing of women and children. OHCHR also met with women leaders who described the subsequent climate of fear and insecurity in their area, the absence of resources for safe havens and the need to ensure perpetrators are held accountable. OHCHR's analysis contributed to public messaging and advocacy that was undertaken by the UNCT and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Following an eruption of violence in the special mining lease area of Porgera, the Office worked closely with the UN Humanitarian Advisory Team to analyse the human rights-related drivers of the conflict.

Mechanisms

In collaboration with UNICEF, the Office provided critical human rights analysis on juvenile detention, child abuse, bullying, homelessness and other issues negatively impacting children. This analysis contributed to the submission of Papua New Guinea's long-overdue combined second and third periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

OHCHR and UNICEF cooperated to strengthen the knowledge and skills of approximately 100 justice and child protection actors (65 women) from the 22 provinces of Papua New Guinea through a seminar on a *Deep Dive Study: Diversion and other alternative sentencing of children in conflict with the law in Papua New Guinea*. In October, the Government endorsed the Study. The discussions and recommendations addressed: complex issues arising from the interface of informal and formal justice mechanisms; bullying in schools; girls' access to justice; and the application of the 'Melanesian Way' to improve access to justice. During the seminar, OHCHR and UNICEF co-facilitated a national consultation on the draft CRC General Comment No. 27 on children's rights to access to justice and effective remedies.

OHCHR leveraged its partnership with the Advancing Papua New Guinea Women Leaders' Network, Magna Carta PNG Inc. and the Business Coalition for Women to set up the CSO-led Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Coalition, a network of 23 women-led CSOs. OHCHR provided capacity-building support to enable the CEDAW Coalition to advocate for women, peace and security issues, in accordance with an HRBA, and produce an alternative report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which will be submitted in mid-2025. OHCHR provided technical support for the Coalition's public engagement, including at a media conference during which it called for greater participation of women in conflict resolution and resource-sharing negotiations in the Porgera special mining lease area.

Development

Together with UNEP, the Office provided the UNCT with a guidance note and analytical tools to identify systemic inequalities exacerbating tensions in areas that are impacted by climate change, extractive industries and environmental degradation. OHCHR and UNEP delivered a joint training to more than 20 UNCT members, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of commitments to protect environmental HRDs, Indigenous Peoples and local community leaders, particularly women and youth. To bring this about, actions were undertaken, including coordinated monitoring of threats and attacks against environmental HRDs, promoting the work of HRDs and strengthening legal and quasi-legal mechanisms for environmental justice.

OHCHR and UNFPA took steps to empower communities and foster sustainable development practices. For instance, they jointly conducted workshops on "Strategic foresight and futures thinking" in the Morobe and Central Provinces and in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. More than 60 leaders, youth and disability organizations attended the workshops. As a result, long-term visions were developed regarding the fulfilment of rights related to health, mobility, education and political participation. In the Morobe and Central Provinces, officials recommended the preparation of a 50-year development vision that incorporates futures thinking. In Bougainville, regional leaders requested additional technical support related to scenario planning that could become part of their strategic transformation.

In Buka, the capital of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, OHCHR and UNFPA trained 43 HRDs (23 women, the majority of whom were youth) on the application of an HRBA to address issues such as environmental degradation, climate change, gender-based violence and land conflicts. The training included data literacy, population dynamics and self-care and encouraged participants to create a peer support network for young HRDs.

THE PHILIPPINES

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2014
Field office(s)	Manila
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028
Staff as of 31 December 2024	4

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

In 2024, OHCHR engaged with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to strengthen accountability measures. More specifically, OHCHR and the DOJ collaborated on the delivery of training, in Cebu City and Davao City, for officials appointed to serve on the DOJ Inter-Agency Committee on Extra-Legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Other Grave Violations of the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Persons (known as the AO35 Mechanism). The training was based on an OHCHR training manual that was developed in 2023.

OHCHR strengthened national capacities to implement the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016), including through the publication of a training manual on the Protocol. In March, OHCHR and the AO35 Mechanism delivered a training of trainers (ToT) session for 29 investigators, medico-legal experts, prosecutors, staff of the Commission on Human Rights and members of civil society. To support the Government's commitment to establishing an independent forensic institute, OHCHR developed a road map, with recommendations, that was shared with various counterparts. In June, OHCHR supported a study tour to Argentina for five members of the police and the National Bureau of Investigation in order to facilitate South-South Cooperation.

In May, OHCHR collaborated with the AO35 Mechanism and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) to organize a training on the Istanbul Protocol: Manual on

the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman Treatment or Punishment. This was followed by a one-day "Conference on strengthening national capacities on the prevention of torture," which was attended by more than 60 participants, including judges, social workers, police officers, governmental medico-legal officers and civil society.

Building on capacity-strengthening initiatives that were undertaken in previous years, OHCHR worked closely with the Philippines National Police Human Rights Affairs Office (PNP-HRAO) and provided technical support to strengthen the use of the Human Rights Recording, Analysis, Information System (HuRAIS) database. As of July, PNP-HRAO officers who had been trained by OHCHR had entered more than 600 cases into the database.

In March, OHCHR organized a consultation, during which it presented its assessment of victim support, with a focus on support for families of persons killed in the context of anti-drug operations. A total of 44 participants attended, including family members of victims, representatives from the Government and civil society. In March, the DOJ Board of Claims and the Commission on Human Rights agreed to establish a referral system for victims of violations. In November, the DOJ established a task force to review cases of extrajudicial killings that took place during the Duterte administration's anti-illegal drug campaign. In addition, a bill on extrajudicial killings was filed in the House of Representatives. OHCHR also supported CSOs in providing psychosocial, legal and other support to families of victims.

From 23 January to 2 February, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression conducted a country visit to the Philippines. During her visit, the Special Rapporteur engaged with the Government on a number of emblematic cases and the patterns observed, including 'red-tagging,' killings, detention and harassment of journalists. A follow-up communication also addressed this concerning practice. In May, the Philippines Supreme Court ruled that the practice of red-tagging "threatens a person's right to life, liberty, or security, which may justify the issuance of a writ of amparo." This decision provides the possibility for added protection for HRDs and journalists if they become victims of red-tagging.

Development

Following consultations with governmental and civil society actors, OHCHR developed a framework for Human Rights Cities in the Philippines. At an OHCHR workshop on this issue, held in April, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government expressed support for the programme and the establishment of local-level human rights desks.

In November, three pilot cities were identified and OHCHR facilitated the attendance of city-level officials at the World Human Rights Cities Forum, in Gwangju, Republic of Korea. In December, an OHCHR pilot city, Baguio City, adopted the Baguio City Human Rights Defenders' Protection Ordinance. The Ordinance protects HRDs and prohibits red-tagging, terrorist-labelling, harassment and intimidation, mandates city-level support services for victims of violations and allows for promotional activities.

Mechanisms

OHCHR supported the development of the Fourth Philippine Human Rights Plan (PHRP4). This included support for government-led consultations with civil society actors in eight regions, resulting in the participation of 485 civil society actors. On 10 December, the Government launched the PHRP4, which includes chapters on the implementation of the eight international human rights treaties ratified by the country and on emerging human rights topics. The launch took place in the presence of the Executive Secretary, government officials, the international community and civil society.

In August, the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, established to implement HRC resolution 45/33, was completed. To facilitate follow-up, the Government adopted Administrative Order No. 22, which provided for continued implementation in areas covered by the UN Joint Programme and ongoing engagement between the Government and civil society actors through the establishment of the Special Committee on Human Rights Coordination.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok
Staff as of 31 December 2024	37

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

In **Lao PDR** and **Malaysia**, OHCHR provided technical assistance on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. This contributed to the development and submission of reports by the UNCTs of Lao PDR and Malaysia in anticipation of their respective fourth UPR cycles. The Office also supported the Government of Malaysia in follow-up activities on the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR. Further, a mock session was organized, in April, to prepare the Government's official delegation for its interactive dialogue with the CEDAW Committee.

In November, OHCHR hosted two regional dialogues on enforced disappearances in South-East Asia. The first dialogue promoted the ratification of ICPPED with delegations from seven countries of South-East Asia. The second dialogue gathered together 45 victims, their families and CSOs from six countries to discuss regional trends related to enforced disappearances. Both dialogues fostered meaningful exchanges and strengthened regional efforts to combat enforced disappearances.

On 14 May, **Thailand** ratified ICPPED. To commemorate this significant milestone, the Office and the Government co-organized a public event in Bangkok, on 8 July. The event created a platform for stakeholders to discuss the implications of the ratification and potential collaborative efforts for the full implementation of the Convention. On 27 November, a workshop was delivered to civil servants from relevant government entities to enhance their understanding of ICPPED and its implementation.

Technical support and guidance were extended to States to strengthen their respective NMIRFs. This led to the achievement of progress in a number of countries in the region. For instance, over the past four years, the **Maldives** reported under all of the international human rights treaties to which it is a State Party, with one exception, thereby clearing its backlog.

Regional consultations were also organized to provide inputs with respect to: the work of the international human rights mechanisms, such as the thematic report of the WGEID on enforced disappearances in the context of the defence of land, the environment and natural resources; the draft General Recommendation No. 39 of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and General Comment No. 8 of the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) on xenophobia; and the elaboration of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems.

Non-discrimination

Beginning in 2020, under the umbrella of the global "#StandUp4Migrants" campaign, OHCHR pioneered a behavioural science approach to narratives on migrants and migration in the Asia-Pacific region. Within this context, OHCHR published an instructive guide, in 2024, entitled *Building human rights-based migration narratives: The story of #DariDapur and #MyGreatStory* to inspire and support stakeholders in the region to develop and implement public narrative change campaigns. The guide outlines the research and campaign development undertaken in **Australia** and **Malaysia**. In June, the High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the guide at a community event that was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. More than 25 participants attended from diverse migrant worker and refugee communities, as well as influencers and CSOs. In November, OHCHR launched the "Our Stories" campaign in India, centred around celebrating the diversity that migrants and other

minorities bring to the country. Released during Diwali, the launch video amassed over 200,000 views and engaged 700,000 people within a week. At the regional level, OHCHR provided technical assistance regarding the development of the ASEAN guidelines on the implementation of the non-punishment principle for the protection of victims of trafficking in persons. It also ensured their alignment with international human rights standards. The development of the guidelines is being co-led by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC). Following the finalization of the guidelines, OHCHR will help the AICHR to disseminate them to relevant stakeholders.

In **Thailand**, the Office issued a written submission to the Ad Hoc Committee of Parliament that is tasked with studying the draft act on the promotion and protection of the way of life of ethnic groups. The submission emphasized the importance of aligning the draft with international human rights standards, including through the use of the term 'Indigenous Peoples' and strengthening protection for Indigenous Peoples. Despite these and other advocacy efforts, the Parliament ultimately decided to exclude the term 'Indigenous Peoples.'

Following sustained advocacy by the Office and CSO partners, **Thailand** adopted the Marriage Equality Act, which was published in the Royal Gazette, on 24 September. This landmark legislation makes Thailand the first country in South-East Asia to officially recognize same-sex marriage. The Act grants same-sex couples the same legal rights and protections as heterosexual couples, including the ability to marry and access legal benefits, such as adoption, inheritance, healthcare decision-making, co-management of property, tax deductions and government pensions. Additionally, the Act raises the legal age of marriage from 17 to 18 years of age, aligning it with the CRC Convention, to which Thailand is a State Party. The Act entered into force on 23 January 2025.

Based on the regional mapping of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in Asia, the Office conducted consultations with NHRIs and a CSO coalition, in Indonesia, on 13 November, to provide inputs to a policy brief, which outlines the necessity and urgency of adopting comprehensive and stand-alone anti-discrimination legislation. A similar consultation was organized for a CSO coalition, in **Thailand**, on 17 October, in the context of the development of a draft law on anti-discrimination. OHCHR will provide inputs to both drafts in 2025.

Development

The Office undertook comprehensive reviews of Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and UNSDCFs in **Indonesia**, **Malaysia**, **Myanmar** and **Timor-Leste** to ensure the integration of human rights, gender perspectives, the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) principle and an economic transformation analysis.

Work on the Human Rights Economy involved mainstreaming human rights into fiscal policies and promoting transparency and accountability in human rights budgeting and economic policy-making. In 2024, OHCHR guided and oversaw the work of UNCTs on country projects in **Bangladesh**, **Nepal** and **Viet Nam** and a regional project on migration, with case studies in **Bangladesh** and **Lao PDR**. In **Viet Nam**, the Office supported the drafting of a report entitled *Unlocking digital transformation for Viet Nam's inclusive and sustainable development* and outlined recommendations to guide the UNCT's support for governmental efforts to implement the Global Digital Compact.

In June, OHCHR delivered a workshop on the socioeconomic drivers of precarious migration from **Lao PDR** in Vientiane, in collaboration with the RCO in Lao PDR. A second workshop was co-organized with IOM, in Dhaka, focusing on the socioeconomic drivers of precarious migration from **Bangladesh**. These multi-stakeholder workshops brought together experts from the Government, civil society and UN agencies to discuss how a lack of access to ESCRs is compelling people to take migration pathways that put them at risk of human rights abuses. The outcomes of the workshops contributed to country case studies on Lao PDR and Bangladesh and a regional study on ESCR drivers of precarious migration in Asia.

In relation to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, OHCHR enhanced awareness and strengthened legal, policy and technical capacities among governments, regional bodies and UN entities. At the regional level, OHCHR is working closely with ESCAP and UNEP and is supporting the AICHR initiative to develop a draft ASEAN framework on environmental rights to recognize the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. It is anticipated that the draft will be endorsed in 2025. To this end, the Office participated in five working sessions and provided comprehensive technical inputs to ensure the alignment of the draft with international standards.

In **Thailand**, in September, OHCHR and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights co-organized a "Human rights dialogue on rights-based pathways to climate mitigation and just energy transition in Asia-Pacific." The event gathered 100 experts from CSOs and environmental HRDs in the region to discuss the current situation, challenges and opportunities to promote and protect human rights with respect to climate mitigation and energy transition. Tailored messages were submitted to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, which were reflected in her report to the General Assembly on human rights in the lifecycle of renewable energy and critical minerals.

Accountability

Following a request from the Government of **Indonesia** for technical guidance to develop a human rights curriculum and to roll out a comprehensive training for the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI), the Office designed and delivered two workshops. The first two-day workshop was conducted, in May, for 30 members of the TNI's Advisory Committee on Human Rights. A three-day workshop was facilitated, in October, for 30 representatives from the AGO's Training and Education Centre, as well as selected prosecutors. Further, the AGO adopted the structure of the human rights modules, as advised by OHCHR, and began drafting the content. Once the modules have been finalized, approved and validated, they will be integrated into the curriculum of the AGO and the TNI.

In June, the Office collaborated with **Thailand**'s Ministry of Justice and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) to conduct a training for 26 government officials, including from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the AGO, the military, forensic departments and the judiciary. The training focused on the application of the Istanbul Protocol: Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death. This initiative is part of OHCHR's ongoing efforts to assist Thailand's Ministry of Justice in preventing and addressing torture and enforced disappearances in the country, including by ensuring the effective implementation of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act. OHCHR plans to build on this foundation and provide capacity-building support to the Ministry and other related agencies, including forensic doctors, in 2025. This will be undertaken in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

In August, OHCHR collaborated with the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and the Global Council on Strategic Litigation to co-organize the first in-person meeting of the Asia-Pacific Strategic Litigation Network on People on the Move, in Bangkok. This workstream is co-led by OHCHR and the APRRN, under the Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific. The meeting was attended by 66 participants, including lawyers and CSOs working on the rights of migrants and refugees from across the region, as well as other UN agencies. In-depth and practical discussions focused on improving access to rights for people on the move in the Asia-Pacific region.

In September, within the context of a joint initiative with the Thai Ministry of Justice and the Royal Thai Police (RTP), the Office trained 26 RTP officers on operationalizing human rights in law enforcement, with an emphasis on command and control and management of the use of force

during protest situations in Bangkok. During the training, the Office shared the Model Protocol developed by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, pursuant to HRC resolution 50/21. The Office will continue its engagement with the RTP in 2025 to strengthen its capacity to fully integrate human rights standards concerning the use of force and the policing of peaceful assemblies into its guidelines, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training curriculum.

Participation

In **Lao PDR** and **Malaysia**, the Office cooperated with UN and development partners to build the capacities of CSOs through training, workshops and coaching to support their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In Lao PDR, 20 CSO representatives (12 women) received training and for the first time, local CSOs submitted three joint reports to the CEDAW Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and in anticipation of the fourth UPR cycle. In Malaysia, 25 CSO representatives were trained and local CSOs submitted joint reports to the CEDAW Committee and in relation to the fourth UPR cycle.

In **Thailand**, OHCHR held trainings, workshops and dialogues with State and non-State actors to build the capacities of 261 HRDs and CSOs to engage with national and international human rights mechanisms and to promote their participation in decision-making processes. The Office also prepared the Government to engage with the Committee against Torture by holding a mock session, on 29 October, prior to the constructive dialogue with the Committee, in November.

In November, OHCHR convened the first "Asia Pacific Regional Consultation with Migrant Human Rights Defenders," in Bangkok, jointly with the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM). The Consultation provided a safe space for HRDs, grassroots activists and advocates and migrants from across Asia and the Pacific, enabling them to share their challenges, familiarize themselves with protection mechanisms, learn about OHCHR's toolkit for promoting hope- and human rights-based narratives on migration and explore collaborations for human rights advocacy. An outcome document, the *Call to Action for Protection of Migrant Human Rights Defenders in Asia and the Pacific*, was adopted at the Consultation.

Peace and Security

OHCHR prepared and issued reporting products on human rights trends and developments in the region. The Office produced six bimonthly snapshots for the South-East Asia region that were shared with UN regional officials in DCO and DPPA. The snapshots gave a brief overview of some of the most significant human rights developments in the region, as well as observations and analysis on risks and opportunities, in accordance with the Regional Monthly Review Risk Framework.

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 2024	4

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

OHCHR provided advisory support to UN agencies, development partners and the Resident Coordinator to enhance the mandate of the Office on Missing Persons (OMP), in line with international human rights standards. The team worked closely with the OMP leadership to improve tracing mechanisms, address the concerns of families of the disappeared and monitor the exhumation of a major mass grave in northern Sri Lanka. Advocacy efforts ensured consistent messaging on compliance with international standards and guided stakeholders in designing future support for the OMP.

In relation to legislative and policy reform, OHCHR conducted human rights analyses of draft legislation, including the Bill on the Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation (CTUR), the Non-Governmental Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act and amendments to the Online Safety Act. Briefings for development partners highlighted the human rights implications of these laws and advocacy with government officials pushed for increased alignment with Sri Lanka's international obligations.

OHCHR commissioned a human rights impact assessment of the International Monetary Fund's Extended Fund Facility and related austerity measures, with a focus on gendered aspects, to strengthen human rights advocacy around the impacts of the economic crisis.

Capacity-building efforts were undertaken, including the delivery of trainings for more than 100 individuals from civil society, journalists and staff of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL). The trainings focused on human rights monitoring and reporting on the 2024 presidential elections and developing research skills among Hill Country Tamil youth.

OHCHR's sustained engagement with the HRCSL, including through the provision of technical assistance, led GANHRI to re-accredit the HRCSL with "A" Status, thereby strengthening its credibility and capacity to carry out its work. OHCHR also offered guidance on improving the HRCSL's monitoring and reporting on ESCRs in the context of the ongoing economic crisis.

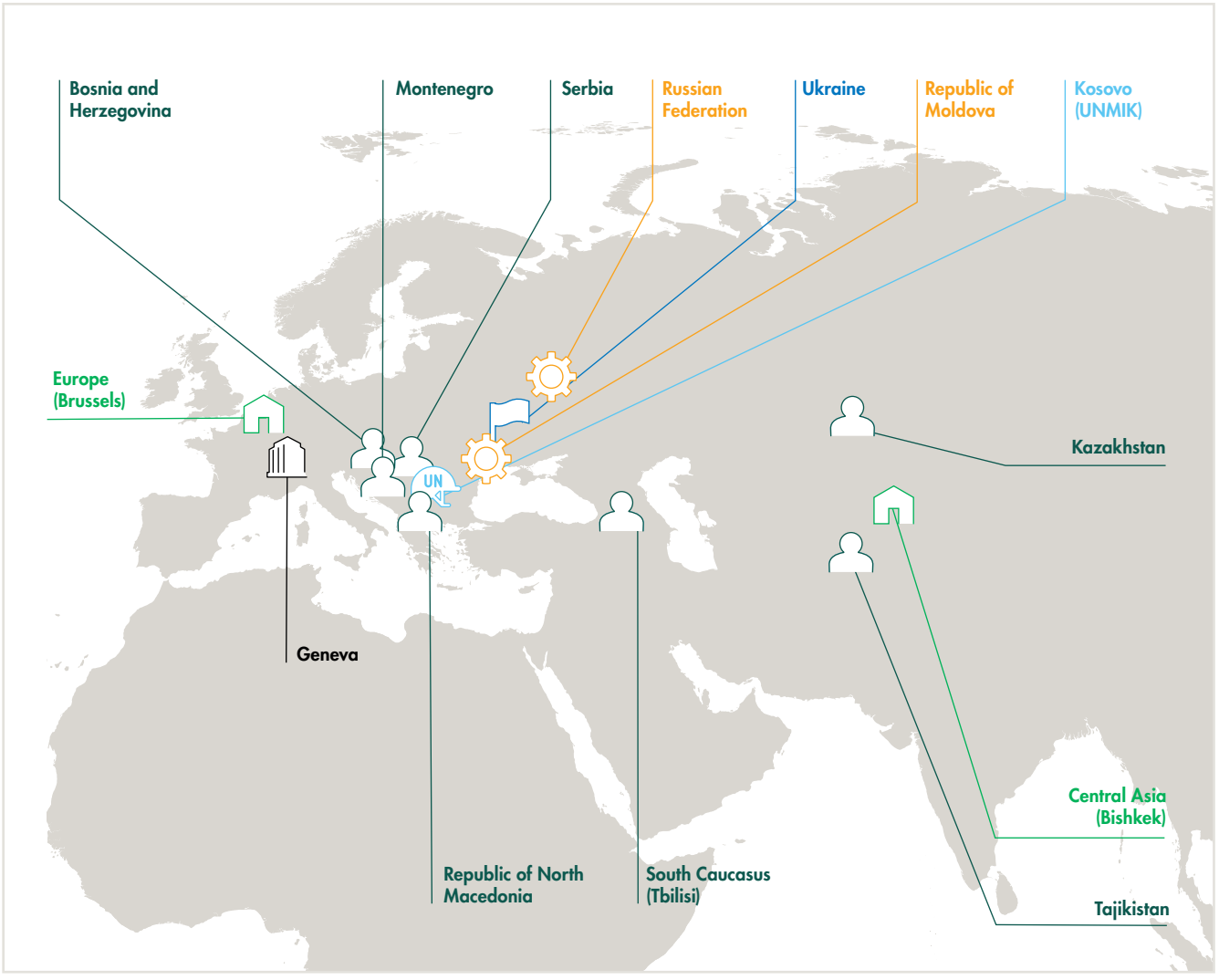


Human rights film screening and panel discussion on migrant rights was organized by OHCHR and the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, in partnership with IOM and the Maldives National University, in the Maldives. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights
in Europe and Central Asia



An OHCHR conference was held on Human Rights Day to present the key findings and recommendations issued during the fourth Universal Periodic Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina. © OHCHR



TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Headquarters	Geneva
Country Offices	Ukraine (HRMMU)
Regional Offices/Centres	Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights components of UN Peace/ Political Missions	Kosovo[a] (UNMIK)
Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, Georgia and also covering Armenia and Azerbaijan) and Tajikistan
Other projects/Special presences	Republic of Moldova,[b] Russian Federation

a All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.
b Consisted of a Human Rights Adviser, until May 2024, when it transitioned to a country programme.

In 2024, UN Human Rights' work in Europe and Central Asia (ECA) covered a vast region that is composed of 54 countries, including Member States and candidate countries to 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 in-country operations is composed of 13 presences, namely, two regional offices (the Regional Office for Europe in Brussels and the Regional Office for Central Asia in Bishkek); one monitoring mission in Ukraine; one human rights component in a peace mission in Kosovo[21] (UNMIK); seven human rights advisers (HRAs) (in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, South Caucasus (based in Georgia) and Tajikistan); and two other types of presence (in the Republic of Moldova[22] and the Russian Federation).

OHCHR remained actively engaged in areas affected by violence and insecurity, including in Ukraine, where Russia's full-scale invasion has resulted in widespread violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, millions of refugees and socioeconomic challenges affecting the region and beyond. In the context of the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, OHCHR monitored and analysed developments, for instance, following the large-scale displacement of ethnic Armenians from the Karabakh region in 2023, and engaged with the two sides and other actors to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights of all affected people.

The Office implemented existing and new reporting mandates established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly, including on the human rights situation in Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine. It promoted human rights engagement across the region, participated in political processes, such as the Geneva International Discussions (GID) on Georgia, provided human rights inputs to UN responses and facilitated avenues for conflict resolution/prevention processes.

OHCHR monitored and engaged in advocacy on human rights issues related to people on the move, regardless of their migration status and the civic space environment.

As a member of UN Country Teams (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 and in the regional Issue-Based Coalitions on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) and Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience (IBC-LMPDR).

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

22 The Moldova presence consisted of a Human Rights Adviser, until May 2024, when it transitioned to a country programme.

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 2024	4
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

In cooperation with UNESCO, the Office promoted the safety of journalists and media freedom through increased coordination with the international community in order to map existing initiatives, identify gaps and strengthen protection efforts. In early November, OHCHR convened the first of several consultations on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 16.10.1, with a focus on attacks against journalists. A total of 13 participants attended, including media organizations, the national human rights institution (NHRI), the Statistical Agency and international partners. OHCHR presented a methodology it had developed to collect relevant data, which was specifically tailored to the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A subsequent discussion was held on the proposed methodology and the identification of additional stakeholders. OHCHR and UNESCO produced and contributed to media products promoting the safety of journalists, media freedom and access to information on World Press Freedom Day (3 May) and the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (2 November).

The Office monitored human rights during the municipal elections, held on 6 October, with a particular emphasis on civic space issues, discrimination and hate speech. OHCHR provided technical advice to the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance its capacity to identify, analyse and respond to incidents of hate speech, in line with its mandate and international human rights standards.

Under the auspices of the joint road map entitled "Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists," OHCHR produced a training module on the right to freedom of opinion and expression in the Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian languages. The module provides the most recent norms and standards related to the freedom of expression, taking into account issues relevant to the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e. criminalization of defamation, Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), online violence and hate speech). OHCHR will continue to provide training, with a view to promoting the inclusion of the module in the curriculum.

In cooperation with special procedures mandate holders, OHCHR advocated for the protection of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including by supporting the decriminalization of defamation in Republika Srpska (RS) and opposing the adoption of a draft law establishing a special registry and regime for NGOs receiving foreign funding and assistance. Despite these efforts, the RS legislature adopted the draft law on the special registry in early 2025.

Mechanisms

OHCHR actively supported the preparation of the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which took place on 29 January 2025. In partnership with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and a coalition of NGOs, OHCHR organized and facilitated four consultations (in Banja Luka, the Brcko District, Mostar and Sarajevo), with a total of 106 attendees, including representatives from 50 NGOs and the NHRI. This was the first time that discussions were held across the country in relation to the UPR, resulting in increased knowledge about the UPR process. In the fourth quarter, the Office partnered with the EU to organize two UPR events for more than 140 participants. The events received wide media coverage and helped to promote greater awareness about the UPR and the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the request of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, OHCHR translated the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and disseminated them to CSOs, the NHRI, the Communications Regulatory Agency, the Central Election Commission, parliamentarians and other stakeholders to facilitate advocacy and promote the implementation of the recommendations. The information provided in the UNCT report and the HRA's briefing were reflected in the concluding observations, including a recommendation to hold consultations on ways to address discriminatory constitutional provisions regarding electoral rights.

OHCHR also prepared a list of issues for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that was informed by an assessment it conducted in 2023 on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Peace and Security

On 28 November, OHCHR co-organized a consultation on reparations for civilian victims of the conflict, in partnership with Trial International and the EU. The purpose of the event was to: discuss reparations for all civilian victims of war (not for specific categories); provide space for victims to voice their perspectives; and generate concrete recommendations on a road map to advance the issue of reparations. This was the first time in many years that different categories of victims from across the country had gathered together, including former camp detainees, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and families of missing persons. Among the 70 participants (36 women), 43 were representatives of victims' associations and NGOs focused on transitional justice and support for victims. During the discussions, participants unanimously called for a harmonized and innovative State-level approach to reparations. An outcome document will be produced on the basis of the consultation, which will be used as a reference and advocacy tool on reparations.

CENTRAL ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan); field offices in Astana (Kazakhstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
Staff as of 31 December 2024	24

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

In **Kyrgyzstan**, advocacy efforts were undertaken by OHCHR, the Resident Coordinator (RC), the UNCT, the diplomatic community, independent media and an engaged civil society on the proposed amendments to the Law on Non-Commercial Organizations. In line with OHCHR's advocacy, the adopted legislation did not include criminal provisions.

Following its engagement with OHCHR, the Venice Commission adopted an Opinion on the Law, in October, and concluded that the imposed restrictions fail to meet the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality and recommended that it be repealed.

In March, OHCHR undertook additional advocacy in cooperation with the RC, the UNCT, civil society and independent media, leading the President to withdraw from the Parliament a restrictive draft law on mass media. OHCHR provided expert inputs during discussions of a working group of the Ministry of Culture that included civil society and members of the independent media. This also followed the engagement of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression with the Government, during which concerns were raised about media freedom in the country. Consequently, a new version of the draft law was more closely aligned with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). On 31 December, the Presidential

Administration endorsed the revised draft law and sent it to the Parliament for adoption.

Through a social cohesion project financed by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), OHCHR supported the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic in monitoring the right to public participation by local populations in 10 communities. The project also supported the capacity-building of young people with disabilities, which included engagement in strategic litigation to claim their rights. A graduate of the project challenged a discriminatory legal provision that had fixed the election deposit for prospective political candidates at 100,000 Kyrgyzstani Som (US$1,152), irrespective of disability or other status. The Constitutional Court issued a decision amending the Electoral Law to eliminate financial barriers for persons with disabilities in order to enable their participation in political life. Project graduates brought three more cases before the courts to challenge physical barriers in public premises in Jalal-Abad and Osh.

Furthermore, OHCHR shared its analysis and recommendations with State bodies on the importance of ensuring the conformity of national legislation with international human rights standards, an emphasis on draft amendments to the Code of Offences. Previously, the Code allowed for the imposition of fines and detention for up to seven days for photographing and videotaping police officers and other public officials and the imposition of large fines for alleged defamation or insult, including online. OHCHR also raised concerns about draft amendments to the Law on Normative Legal Acts, which would curtail the right to public participation by shortening the period of public consultations and entirely exclude this requirement for certain draft laws. The Venice Commission reflected OHCHR's human rights concerns in its adopted opinions on the draft amendments to the Code of Offences regarding defamation and insult and the Law on Normative Legal Acts. The draft amendments were significantly revised, decreasing the fines for defamation and removing the authority of the Ministry of Culture to impose them without a court order. Moreover, the Parliament rejected the proposed amendments related to penalties for videotaping police officers.

In **Uzbekistan**, the Office enhanced the knowledge and skills of 26 persons (nine women) with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) through briefings on reasonable accommodation and the rights to education and employment. As a result of these and previous activities, three individuals with disabilities (one woman) received training from OHCHR, became politically active and were elected to local government bodies. With OHCHR's support, the OPDs collaborated on the preparation and submission of an alternative report to the CRPD Committee. OHCHR also sensitized 50 bus drivers and fare inspectors (15 women) about the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

Accountability

In November, the Office supported a regional network meeting, "The Ninth Expert Forum on Criminal Justice for Central Asia," which was held in Astana, **Kazakhstan**. Over 200 individuals (85 women) participated in the meeting, including individuals from State bodies, NHRIs, CSOs, legal professionals and academia from across the region. Participants increased their knowledge about good practices in human rights compliance regarding the digitalization of the criminal justice system, online trials and electronic monitoring and upholding due process and fair trial standards in law and practice.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR monitored several emblematic criminal cases and organized a dialogue with more than 100 participants, including from the judiciary, the Ministry of Interior, the State Committee for National Security, the National Academy of Sciences, the Ombudsperson, CSOs and defence lawyers. Participants discussed existing challenges in the implementation of international human rights standards, particularly in freedom of expression cases. Following the dialogue, and based on the recommendations of civil society, the Ministry of Interior abandoned the idea of introducing a separate article in the Criminal Code on the responsibility for public calls for extremist activity, as well as tougher penalties regarding calls for the forcible seizure of power. In addition, the National Academy of Sciences sent an official letter to defence lawyers

that confirmed it is not authorized to issue forensic political science expert opinions. As a result, lawyers can now challenge the convictions of civic activists and journalists wherein the only incriminating evidence was an opinion offered by a staff member of the Academy.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR maintained a close working relationship with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and the Ombudsperson. The Office shared recommendations with the Parliament on amendments to the Law on the NHRI and continued to advocate against a merger of the two entities.

The Office increasingly engaged with the Ministry of Interior in exploring effective options for the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), including facilitating a stakeholder gathering, in March, to discuss the issue. This resulted in the production of a guide for frontline police officers on domestic violence. OHCHR also supported the Ministry of Interior in preparations for a human rights-compliant risk assessment tool on GBV, which was introduced through new GBV legislative amendments, in August. The amendments were adopted to help the Ministry and police officers systematically identify and assess potential dangers to survivors of GBV. They also aim to facilitate the prioritizing of cases requiring urgent action, the tailoring of safety plans to individual needs and the operation of follow-up mechanisms to ensure that identified risks are managed and mitigated, for instance, through protection orders and correctional programmes.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR provided support to local NGOs in the preparation and discussion of the draft UPR mid-term report. The report was finalized and submitted, in December.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Office contributed to increasing stakeholder capacity to use human rights indicators and share good practices, with a view to developing a national road map for the implementation of UPR recommendations. The Office promoted the implementation of the recommendations issued during the fourth UPR cycle and the concluding observations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) through awareness-raising activities conducted with State officials, civil society, development partners and the Inter-Agency Commission for ensuring the implementation of Turkmenistan's international obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

In partnership with ILO, OHCHR provided technical support to the Office of the Ombudsperson on the implementation of the 2024-2025 road map on forced and child labour. This resulted in the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling complaints, with a focus on labour rights. OHCHR also advised the Office of the Ombudsperson in preparation for its review by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Sub-Committee, which was accredited with "B" Status, in November.

In **Uzbekistan**, the Office promoted the implementation of the fourth UPR cycle recommendations. In order to support the elaboration and adoption of a UPR National Action Plan (NAP), OHCHR partnered with UNHCR and UNAIDS to co-organize a seminar for State officials and several thematic consultations for a wide range of stakeholders. The authorities are currently developing a draft NAP to be discussed with State bodies, CSOs and international partners. It is anticipated that the document will be adopted in 2025. Furthermore, OHCHR initiated discussions on implementation and follow-up activities related to the pledges made by the Government in the context of the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative, including on human rights education, business and human rights, the rights of youth, women's rights and the prohibition and prevention of torture.

Development

OHCHR's long-term advocacy for housing as a human right in **Kazakhstan** and provision of support to the NGO Foundation for Parliamentary Development resulted in a parliamentary initiative to establish a comprehensive Housing Code to replace the Law on Housing Relations.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR's Surge Initiative supported increased engagement on the right to a healthy environment (R2HE), as evidenced by the development of a workplan on R2HE and the mainstreaming of R2HE into UN processes.

Concerns related to public participation in environmental matters and a lack of access to environmental information were included in the UNCT's UPR report. OHCHR supported the submission of communications by special procedures on R2HE-related issues and shared its findings with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). The Office also contributed to the "Third Air Quality for Central Asia Conference" by assisting the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to present on the issue.

OHCHR worked closely with authorities at the Ministry of Justice (the Secretariat of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF)), resulting in more effective preparations of the national UPR report, including several rounds of thematic consultations with civil society. Due to OHCHR's advocacy on the implementation of Views issued by the human rights treaty bodies on individual communications related to Kyrgyzstan, the Secretariat of the NMIRF prepared an internal repository of all Views issued and improved its interactions with NGOs that represented victims in several cases.

The Office supported authorities and civil society partners in their substantive engagement with CESCR and the fourth UPR cycle. Civil society submitted a report to the Committee against Torture (CAT) and at least five civil society stakeholders submitted reports to the UPR. The Office also led the preparation of the UNCT confidential submission for CESCR's review of Kyrgyzstan's fourth periodic report.

The Office supported the training of 40 judges (six women) in the Gorno-Badakhshan and Khatlon Autonomous Oblast provinces of Tajikistan, thereby increasing their knowledge and understanding of the applicability of international standards on the right to adequate housing to a new Housing Code.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Office provided training on the guiding principles of the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) for UNCT members. This contributed to mainstreaming human rights into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) process. Inspired by an OHCHR recommendation, a UNCT Social Inclusion Group was established that provided inputs on UPR recommendations related to disability issues and priority areas for cooperation between the United Nations and the Government.

In **Uzbekistan**, OHCHR engaged with judges, civil society activists and human rights defenders (HRDs) and facilitated a visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context. The visit highlighted concerns related to forced evictions in urban development projects and led to an increased awareness on the right to adequate housing. Based on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, national authorities engaged in a dialogue with civil society. Uzbekistan also announced its intention to develop a plan of action to implement the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur. Further, technical support was provided to the IV Samarkand Forum on Human Rights entitled "Environmental Challenges: The Future of Human Rights and Sustainable Solutions in a Changing World." During the Forum, approximately 200 participants, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, discussed global and regional environmental issues from a human rights perspective.

EUROPE

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	European Union
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Brussels
Staff as of 31 December 2024	15

Key OMP pillars in 2024



PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

Following the adoption, on 19 February, of the European Union Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Due Diligence Policy (EU HRDDP) on security sector support to third parties, the Office assisted the EU's first internal training on the EU HRDDP, for 16 participants (nine women). The training was based on the UN's experiences, good practices and lessons learned in implementing the HRDDP. OHCHR further assisted the EU with the development of guidelines, which were approved as an internal document informing the implementation of the EU HRDDP.

Non-discrimination

During the year, OHCHR held six anti-racism events, in Brussels, Utrecht and online, to build the capacities of more than 450 people (60 per cent women) from 15 EU member states, including representatives of equality bodies, academics and CSOs working on equality and non-discrimination, resulting in policy recommendations related to the EU Anti-Racism Strategy. In June, OHCHR collaborated with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) to host a capacity-building session on human rights indicators for 150 stakeholders, including members of the European Commission (EC) Anti-Racism Coordination Team. In the outcome document, participants prepared recommendations, which were subsequently delivered to the EC on 27 August, and together with the international human rights normative framework and treaty body recommendations form part of the EU Anti-Racism Strategy.

The Office contributed to consultations on the meaningful participation of people of African descent in public affairs, with a focus on cultural rights. Further, OHCHR cooperated with the European Economic and Social Committee and the EC Anti-Racism Coordinator to address intersections between racism and religion, highlighting hate crime and related recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. In October, the Office hosted 14 members (seven women) of the Human Rights Cities Network (HRCN) to discuss challenges faced by migrants and refugees in policymaking. Following additional advocacy and training sessions, the HRCN adopted OHCHR's anti-racism methodology.

In its work, OHCHR prioritized the establishment of an EU human rights-focused strategy for older persons, in line with the 2024 human rights agenda of the Council of the European Union (EU Council). The Office regularly engaged with AGE Platform Europe to promote the human rights of older persons in the EU, including within the open-ended Working Group on ageing (OEWG). The Office supported the visit in May to Brussels by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and facilitated meetings with the EC, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Council of the European Union's Working Party on Human Rights, civil society and equality bodies. The visit raised awareness about the issue by engaging EU member states in the OEWG and promoting a legally binding instrument for the protection of the rights of older persons.

Accountability

Building on the momentum created by the newly adopted EU Pact on Asylum and Migration, the Office initiated consultations on a draft proposal for a human rights risk assessment, monitoring and a capacity-building framework at the level of OHCHR field presences in relevant countries of origin and transit. The EU expressed interest in the draft proposal and further discussions will be undertaken in 2025.

OHCHR regularly engaged with Frontex to exchange information and provide advice to enhance human rights protection in the context

of returns, detention and alternatives to detention, as well as international cooperation. Moreover, the Office contributed to the work of the Frontex Consultative Forum and hosted its thirty-fifth meeting, in October. Inputs were provided to expert consultations on a search and rescue initiative for the Mediterranean.

In collaboration with the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS), OHCHR submitted inputs to the consultations on the European Commission's *2024 Rule of law report* and shared recommendations and findings issued in 2023 by the international human rights mechanisms for 27 EU member states. The inputs aimed to increase awareness about and promote the integration of recommendations into national and EU-level policies.

OHCHR strengthened its partnership and collaboration with the EEAS and the EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) with regards to the Digital Services Act (DSA). Notably, the EEAS invited OHCHR to contribute to a strategic roundtable on their digital human rights strategy. This resulted in the inclusion of critical human rights language in the Global Digital Compact, which received full support from the EU.

Development

During the second quarter, OHCHR partnered with UNECE, UNEP and the Council of Europe to organize a stakeholder consultation on the potential convening of the first "European Forum for Environmental Human Rights Defenders" in 2025. This consultation followed a regional dialogue organized in the context of the HR75 campaign and provided an opportunity to increase entry points at the EU level for advocacy and engagement on the right to a healthy environment in Europe.

The Office continued to raise visibility on the right to housing in the EU. In March, the Office joined forces with UN-Habitat and the European Federation of National Organizations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) to host a Human Rights Talk on ensuring that the right to adequate housing is included in Europe's green transition. The event featured the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context and brought together 60 participants, including representatives from UN Brussels, the EC, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the CoE, local authorities, academia and CSOs. Participants discussed issues such as the affordability of housing, energy poverty and the EU's Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and its impacts on vulnerable groups. The UN used its convening power to draw attention to vulnerability and human rights in the context of adequate housing and the green transition. This is of particular relevance as the new EU governing structures are being established.

Participation

OHCHR engaged in diverse action and advocacy efforts related to enhanced participation, protecting civic space and strengthening protection networks for HRDs in the EU. Activities included the organization of a stakeholder meeting on challenges and the protection needs of environmental HRDs, a discussion on the creation of a European Forum for HRDs and the possible creation of an EU protection mechanism. OHCHR's advocacy also focused on supporting the effective implementation of recent EU legislation protecting HRDs, while cautioning against potentially problematic initiatives impacting on civic space, including an adopted proposal for an EU directive on countering foreign interference and the criminalization of migrant HRDs.

MONTENEGRO

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Podgorica
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	1

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

Nine NGOs, including those promoting the rights of women and Roma, Egyptian and LGBTQI+ communities and two organizations dedicated to the rights of youth and adults with disabilities, engaged with the CEDAW Committee prior to its review of Montenegro, in May. The NGOs submitted individual or joint reports and one NGO, the Women's Rights Centre (WRC), which coordinated a joint submission from five NGOs, participated in the dialogue with the CEDAW Committee, with OHCHR's support. The WRC subsequently reported that 86 per cent of the recommendations issued by the Committee were in line with suggestions made by the NGOs. Following the review, the WRC organized two discussions, at the national and local level, on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. Attendees included the HRA and members of the Government, the judiciary and civil society. In addition, an NGO of transgender persons used recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee in its advocacy efforts to urge the Government and the Parliament to adopt a draft law on legal gender recognition based on self-determination.

Ten OPDs monitored the implementation of the CRPD and national standards as part of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM). The IMM was established in 2023 and received technical and financial support from the United Nations. In October, the IMM published its first comprehensive report, which included monitoring findings, and presented it to the Parliament on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December). The Mechanism issued 29 recommendations for institutions in relation to social and child protection, legal capacity, labour, health, education, participation and data. The HRA provided technical support to the IMM and undertook advocacy with the Parliament to secure financial assistance for the Mechanism.

Through a number of events organized during the year, CSOs working on transitional justice in Montenegro and the region raised awareness about past human rights violations, paid tribute to victims and discussed accountability and prevention with decision makers and peers. At public events, the HRA echoed calls from civil society for greater accountability, referring to recommendations issued by the UPR in 2023 and the CAT Committee in 2022. Civil society played an important role in drafting the new War Crimes Investigation Strategy, which the HRA provided inputs to in 2023 and was adopted in June 2024. The Strategy includes various recommendations issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies.

A columnist who was on trial in early 2024 (for the charge of insult after writing a critical article about controversial views and alleged hate speech by Serbian Orthodox Church leaders) felt supported and protected as a result of a communication by four special rapporteurs that was sent to the Government in early March. The Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, on the situation of human rights defenders, in the field of cultural rights and on the right to education expressed their concerns that the columnist was being prosecuted for exercising their right to freedom of expression and that this could have a chilling effect on media freedom in Montenegro. The case triggered strong protests, in particular from civil society. At the end of March, the prosecution withdrew the charges and the case was closed. In early May, the Government responded to the communication of the special rapporteurs and informed them that the charges had been dropped.

Non-discrimination

As of the end of the year, the long-awaited legislation on the protection of equality and prohibition of discrimination, to which OHCHR provided comments in 2022, and the draft law on legal gender recognition based on self-determination remained in draft form. The HRA provided inputs on the draft law to ensure its compliance with international standards and jurisprudence issued by various international human rights mechanisms, including the Committee on the Rights of Child (CRC) and the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity. It also undertook advocacy with the RC. These suggestions were not integrated for political reasons and were argued to be unfeasible in a national context that is dominated by traditional and religious values. Nevertheless, in June, the Government approved a new Strategy for Improving the Quality of Life of LGBTQI+ Persons in Montenegro (2024-2028) and its Action Plan (2024-2025) and committed to adopting the draft law on legal gender recognition. The HRA shared recommendations with the drafters of the Strategy, resulting in the reflection of recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee and the UPR. More specifically, it includes concrete actions to strengthen the legal framework, removes the previous requirement of forced sterilization of transgender persons to change their gender marker and effectively addresses discrimination and violence.

During the year, progress was achieved with regard to the NHRI (the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms). In mid-December, the first version of new draft legislation on the Protector was finalized. The Government led the drafting process, with the close involvement of the NHRI, members of the judiciary and civil society. The HRA served as an observer of the working group tasked with drafting and provided members with the Paris Principles and the 2016 recommendations issued by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation. OHCHR worked closely with OSCE and the CoE to support the process and will provide comments in 2025. Due to the collaborative efforts of OHCHR and OSCE, national authorities increased their knowledge of safety mechanisms for journalists. In October, OHCHR and OSCE facilitated the visit of the coordinator of Pers Veilig, the safety mechanism in the Netherlands that is globally recognized as a good example.

Mechanism

The UNCT extended its Hate Speech Action Plan (2022-2023) for another two years (2024-2025), with slight modifications. The actions under the Plan seek to advance the various recommendations issued by the CAT, CEDAW and CERD Committees over the past seven years, as well as the latest UPR recommendations. The HRA facilitated the design of the initial and revised Action Plan and reported in her capacity as Head of the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Rights and LNOB.

With the HRA's technical support, the UNCT engaged with the CEDAW Committee, in May, in the context of its review of Montenegro. The UNCT submitted a confidential report that addresses civil and political rights, highlights the challenges faced by women and girls in exercising their economic and social rights and describes the situation of five particular groups of women and girls. The UNCT also supported the State delegation by conducting a mock CEDAW review in the week prior to the actual review in Geneva. Finally, the HRA and UNDP cooperated to raise awareness about the recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee, including at an event on gender equality that was held, in December, to mark Human Rights Day.

The UN's 2024 CCA update integrates findings and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and other human rights analysis, with a particular emphasis on transitional justice, torture, violence against women and girls and the situation of persons with disabilities. The HRA drafted the human rights analysis for the CCA and provided technical support to a consultant who conducted focused analysis on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was integrated into the CCA.

Despite Montenegro's SDG pledge in 2023 to establish an NMIRF to facilitate reporting to and the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, limited progress was achieved. In December, a draft Action Plan was prepared on the implementation of the Government's SDG pledges, including the commitment to establish an NMIRF in 2025-2026.

Accountability

The Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children promoted legislative changes and good practices through the thematic report on existing and emerging sexually-exploitative practices against children in the digital environment (A/79/122), as well as through country visits. As an example, in 2024, Montenegro reported that following the Special Rapporteur's visit to the country and her recommendation to strengthen institutions investigating online sexual violence against children, the Government has been implementing efforts to enhance the capacities of law enforcement officers to combat high-tech crime.

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 2024	1
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

OHCHR led extensive research and consultations, resulting in the development of a comprehensive LNOB analysis on the human rights situation of 11 target groups. The analysis assesses how discrimination, geography, governance, vulnerability to shocks and crises and socioeconomic status affect the vulnerabilities of these respective groups and the root causes underlying their marginalization and exclusion. Due to the absence of census-generated disaggregated data at the time of its preparation, the analysis is founded on secondary data and primary qualitative data, which was gathered through focus group discussions and interviews with rights holders and organizations representing their rights.

The findings of the analysis also reveal that the most disadvantaged and marginalized people are women and men living in rural areas who have limited access to their basic rights to water and clean sanitation, health, education and employment opportunities and participation in public and political life. The document reflects the expertise of UN agencies and provides actionable recommendations for the Government, the UNCT and the NHRI on the steps that need to be taken to tackle the root causes of marginalization and exclusion and to advance the rights of persons in vulnerable situations. It was presented and discussed at the UNCT on several occasions and an inclusive and transparent process contributed to strengthening the UNCT's sense of ownership. The findings are timely given the development of the new UNSDCF (2026-2030).

Further, the findings and proposed solutions provide a human rights lens through which to identify challenges in the CCA. This was particularly useful as OHCHR was actively engaged in consultations with key stakeholders regarding the preparation of the CCA. The LNOB analysis will be used to reflect on the outcomes of the UNSDCF and will guide the UN's provision of support to North Macedonia's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

Accountability

The HRA supported the development and implementation of several policies and legislation, in accordance with international human rights norms. The HRA advised the UNCT, the Government, the NHRI and other national stakeholders on the implementation of the Action Plan of the National Equality and Non-Discrimination Strategy and of the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in December 2023.

In addition, the HRA provided guidance and advisory support to the NHRI as an independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the CRPD Convention. It also increased the knowledge of persons with disabilities and OPDs on issues related to disability rights, inclusive access to justice and elections, with a particular focus on their meaningful participation and the realization of the motto "Nothing for us, without us" in all activities. The HRA prepared a policy paper on the electoral rights of persons with disabilities, highlighting failures to uphold those rights in conformity with the CRPD Convention. The paper makes concrete recommendations to ensure the legal framework aligns with the Convention, including by removing legal restrictions on voting rights that are based on disability, introducing quotas for inclusion and setting explicit requirements and standards for accessibility and reasonable accommodation at polling stations and during other stages of the electoral process. The paper will continue to be discussed by authorities and OPDs and its recommendations will be used in advocacy in 2025.

Moreover, OHCHR began a new chapter of cooperation with the NHRI on environmental justice. The Office supported several trainings on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to strengthen the capacities and knowledge of representatives of the NHRI, CSOs and HRDs. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between the NHRI and CSOs, committing to mutual collaboration and joint action in the promotion and protection of the right to a healthy environment.

Mechanisms

The Republic of North Macedonia underwent its fourth UPR review on 2 May and the UPR outcome was adopted on 27 September. The country accepted 191 out of 205 recommendations received, 12 were noted and additional clarification was provided for two recommendations. Key recommendations include a call for countering discrimination, hate speech and violence, especially against women, LGBTQI+ persons, members of the Roma community, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, strengthening the independence of the judiciary, ensuring compliance of the NHRI with the Paris Principles and fighting corruption.

OHCHR's support contributed to enhanced engagement by the Government, the Parliament, the NHRI and civil society in the UPR process and other international human rights mechanisms. Following capacity-building sessions and consultations in 2023, the HRA facilitated the participation of six CSOs in the UPR pre-session, in Geneva, in February, and their advocacy with the diplomatic community, thereby enabling them to share their concerns and recommendations.

OHCHR utilized the UPR process as a peer review mechanism to generate interest and support among stakeholders for the implementation of the recommendations. OHCHR presented and discussed the UPR outcomes with the Secretary General of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia and parliamentary staff, the NHRI and CSOs.

Recommendations were also presented to the UNCT and discussions focused on how to support national stakeholders in addressing the human rights concerns raised by the review. The UNCT's preparation and submission of a public report for the UPR proved to be an important impetus in strengthening their individual and collective commitments to actively support and work towards the implementation of the recommendations.

The Government submitted its sixth periodic report to CESCR, without consulting civil society or the UN. OHCHR provided substantive input to the Committee's list of issues, drawing attention to the situation on corruption, the right to social security for women farmers, the right to education and the systemic segregation of Roma children and discrimination against marginalized and disadvantaged people, such as women, children, Roma, persons with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, LGBTQI+ persons and stateless persons.

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Type of engagement	Other Projects or Special Presences/Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2024/2008 (HRA transitioned into a country programme in May 2024)
Field office(s)	Chisinau
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027
Staff as of 31 December 2024	20

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

Following the 2021 signing of the MoU between the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the People's Advocate Office (the NHRI) and the Equality Council and the 2023 finalization of a set of indicators on the right to health, OHCHR supported the development and finalization of a second set of indicators on the right to protection against torture and ill-treatment. The process for their implementation is ongoing, as is the development of new sets of indicators on the rights to education and social security. OHCHR also organized a gap analysis of the set of indicators on the right to health to identify available data. Final materials were delivered to partners, in February. At the request of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, OHCHR held working sessions for the elaboration of sets of indicators on the right to social security and on the right to education, with the participation of public authorities, NGOs, NHRIs and the NBS. OHCHR supported the NBS and promoted the application of an HRBA to data collection in the 2024 population and housing census. It also raised the awareness of nearly 3,700 NBS staff on the importance of disaggregating data in relation to linguistic, ethnic and religious minorities and the use of the minorities' native languages when doing so. OHCHR translated awareness-raising materials regarding the critical role of the census and census questionnaires into

the Bulgarian, Gagauz, Romani, Russian and Ukrainian languages. NBS staff shared these materials with linguistic minorities, providing them with information and access to the census in their native languages. Following joint advocacy by OHCHR with civil society and UN agencies, a short set of the Washington Group Questions on disability was included in the questionnaire. It also gave minorities the opportunity to choose from multiple ethnicities, in line with OHCHR's advocacy and technical support.

OHCHR conducted a workshop for 25 Roma Community Mediators from across Moldova to inform the Roma community about the 2024 population and housing census. As a result, the Mediators reached over 3,000 Roma community members through information campaigns and increased their understanding of the importance of participating in the census and providing disaggregated data on minorities, in accordance with the principle of self-identification.

OHCHR contributed to the implementation of the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), launched by the Government and UNHCR on 28 February. The Temporary Protection measure was extended until 1 March 2026. As of the end of 2024, nearly 65,000 refugees from Ukraine had been granted Temporary Protection Status, ensuring facilitated access to their rights. OHCHR strengthened the capacity of 101 representatives of INGOs/CSOs that were engaged in the Inter-Agency Refugee Response in Moldova to apply an HRBA to their work, including by enhancing their awareness about the principles of equality and non-discrimination, human rights-compliant terminology and the application of an HRBA to data. Further, OHCHR equipped approximately 200 refugees with tailored guidance related to their rights and entitlements. OHCHR helped to ensure that 108 refugees with urgent needs had access to specialized support services, including medical assistance, psychosocial support, assistive devices and legal aid, through close collaboration with local service providers and humanitarian partners. As a result, refugees were efficiently and effectively connected to appropriate specialized services. Additionally, as co-Chair of the Disability and Age Task Force within the Inter-Agency Refugee Response in Moldova, OHCHR coordinated inclusive responses for persons with disabilities and older persons. The Task Force produced evidence-based recommendations to address barriers, including accessibility, social stigma and gaps in psychosocial support to refugees.

With OHCHR's assistance, advocacy plans on promoting the application of an HRBA to disability determination and access to quality assistive devices were implemented by 20 representatives of the three Regional Advocacy Groups (RAGs) of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. The RAGs were established by OHCHR in 2022 and have received capacity-building support since that time. OHCHR coordinated a dialogue between the representatives of the RAGs, State institutions and CSOs to promote the application of an HRBA to disability and workability determination rather than the medical approach that is in current use.

Participation

OHCHR supported the UNCT's engagement with CSOs in the context of the development, implementation and monitoring of UN-led processes, policies and joint programmes. With regard to the 2024 CCA update, OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) collaborated to organize the UNCT's inclusive consultations with more than 70 persons with disabilities, their representative organizations and State institutions. OHCHR ensured that the updated CCA reflects the human rights situation of persons with disabilities, the challenges they face and their needs with respect to the protection and fulfilment of their human rights. Further, OHCHR supported the RCO in organizing a consultation with 35 stakeholders, including Roma Community Mediators, HRDs, activists from both banks of the Nistru/Dniester River and key local institutions in the Transnistrian region. This provided space for important discussions on multiple forms of discrimination faced by Roma women in accessing services, particularly survivors of GBV. The consultations informed the UNCT engagement on Roma, with a view to supporting the achievement of the National Programme for the Support of the Roma Population (2022-2025).

OHCHR raised awareness on human rights and built capacities of CSOs and HRDs, enabling them to claim their rights and advocate with duty-bearers. As part of these efforts, 20 HRDs from both banks of the Nistru/Dniester River increased their capacity to engage with CERD and submitted four alternative reports, including joint ones. Four of the HRDs also participated in the CERD constructive dialogue in Geneva with OHCHR's financial support. Additionally, OHCHR provided expert contributions to the 2024 "National Forum of Ethnic Minorities" at which 100 representatives of State and local authorities, international organizations, civil society and Roma Community Mediators were able to learn about the international human rights mechanisms' role in promoting the rights of minorities and enhance understanding on the importance of effective implementation by the State.

OHCHR provided technical, expert and financial assistance to the Roma Community Mediators in the Transnistrian region, an institution that was established in 2021 with OHCHR's support. In 2024, 20 Mediators from both banks of the Nistru/Dniester River participated in a comprehensive training programme on human rights and equality and learned how to respond to various forms of discrimination. Since its establishment, the institution's role and value in the promotion of Roma human rights and the support and professionalism demonstrated by the Mediators in handling cases have been widely recognized and established a bond of trust with duty bearers and rights holders.[23] Consequently, the number of Roma requesting the services of the Mediators has more than doubled since 2021. This year, in close cooperation with local authorities and the network of Roma Community Mediators, OHCHR enabled the Roma Mediator's function to become operational in a new locality densely populated by Roma, Dubasari, a town in the Security Zone, thereby facilitating access to key services for over 2,600 marginalized Roma across the Transnistrian region.

During the year, OHCHR developed and implemented a comprehensive human rights training curriculum that was included in the trainings of the General Inspectorate of Carabinieri (GIC). With OHCHR's support, the trainings will be replicated in two other regions in 2025. To date, 15 GIC employees (four women) increased their knowledge about the application of human rights standards in relation to peaceful assembly, the prohibition of torture, the use of physical force, lethal weapons and firearms. Participants of the programme contributed to drafting four SOPs on the application of physical force, the use of less lethal weapons, the use of firearms and the identification of the person (profiling). Consultations on the SOPs are underway and approval is expected in 2025.

Mechanisms

OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the NMIRF to undertake its functions. In addition, OHCHR supported the Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the NMIRF and provided recommendations related to identified needs and gaps. A set of regulations regarding the new proposed structures under the NMIRF were developed and shared with the State Chancellery for review, consultation and approval.

OHCHR also provided training on minority rights and engagement with international human rights mechanisms for 23 members of two Specialized Commissions of the National Human Rights Council that are responsible for coordinating, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, respectively.

OHCHR collaborated with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research to host a national pre-session workshop on CERD's review of the Republic of Moldova. Additional meetings were held, which included the participation of 47 representatives from State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs and featured discussions about the priorities and challenges of implementing the Convention. This contributed to the development of a set of measures to support the implementation of the recommendations issued by CERD, with an emphasis on their integration into policy development.

23 OHCHR, Refugees from Ukraine receive support in Moldova (2024) https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2024/10/refugees-ukraine-receive-support-moldova

In cooperation with the People's Advocate Office, OHCHR facilitated consultations with 27 persons with disabilities and their representative organizations on the establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRPD Convention. Participants agreed to collaborate on setting up the mechanism. This work will continue in 2025.

Peace and Security

OHCHR enhanced the capacities of media outlets, journalists and communication specialists across Moldova to create human rights-compliant and conflict-sensitive products. As an example, OHCHR organized a capacity-building programme that reached 145 communications staff of State institutions, media specialists and CSO representatives working on communications, including in the context of the Ukraine refugee crisis. Participants improved their knowledge and skills on the use of human rights-compliant communications in relation to vulnerable groups and discrimination, including by employing the terminology guide that was developed by OHCHR in 2019 and updated in 2023. OHCHR also created an e-course on peace journalism in the Romanian and Russian languages. The course will be published in 2025 and made available to journalists across the country.

In the Transnistrian region, OHCHR supported the thematic advocacy group on the rights of persons with disabilities that organized a media event in Tiraspol on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December). The event increased the awareness of media professionals about the right to independent living of persons with disabilities and the work of personal assistants, in accordance with standards of the CRPD Convention. Following the event, the importance of personal assistance as a support and care service was widely promoted by 20 media publications across official media and social media networks in the Transnistrian region.

OHCHR raised public awareness about the need to counter hate speech in the Moldovan context by partnering with the Faculty of Arts within Moldova's State University, Ion Creanga. An open-air exhibition of artworks/posters was installed in the centre of Chisinau for two weeks, in November, and selected artworks were displayed in several galleries in the Transnistrian region, raising awareness about hate speech.

OHCHR supported the Office of the General Prosecutor, in cooperation with representatives of law enforcement institutions and the judiciary, to develop an inter-institutional guide on investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, including online hate speech. It is anticipated that the guide will be endorsed by the General Prosecutor and published in 2025.

OHCHR facilitated a year-long process of drafting and signing a joint declaration by 22 CSOs from both banks of the Nistru/Dniester River. The CSOs re-affirmed their commitments to promoting human rights and cooperating to advance social cohesion and peace in the local context.

Finally, OHCHR prepared a guide on non-formal peace education in schools, inspired by a pilot activity that developed the capacities of school staff to tackle discrimination, divisive narratives and hate speech among students. The guide was presented to the Ministry of Education and will be widely disseminated to schools through related activities in 2025.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Type of engagement	Other Projects or Special Presences
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Moscow
UN partnership framework	-
Staff as of 31 December 2024	6

Key OMP pillars in 2024



PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

OHCHR continued to support the Consortium of eight Russian universities to expand the "Human Rights Education Programme" in the country. In addition to the existing Master's Programme, the Consortium developed a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on human rights and digitalization that is accessible on a Russian open source digital platform known as 'Stepik.' OHCHR provided technical advice to ensure the inclusion of references to relevant UN resources and publications.

In collaboration with the Federal Office of the Ombudsperson, 10 workshops were organized for the Consortium, providing students with the practical knowledge, tools and skills they need to work in the field of human rights. In total, over 100 Master's Programme students participated in workshops during the year.

An intensive two-day training for Consortium teaching staff was organized in the Peoples' Friendship University (RUDN University) and attended by 12 teachers (10 women) from four cities (Kazan, Perm, Voronezh and Yekaterinburg). The training focused on digitalization, with a special focus on people in vulnerable situations, such as migrants, children and victims of human trafficking in the digital space. The training was designed to enable teaching staff to incorporate the new knowledge and tools into courses at their respective universities.

Development

In November, OHCHR partnered with the Consortium of Russian Universities and the Global Compact National Network to organize a one-day conference dedicated to climate change and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The event brought together approximately 70 participants from different regions of Russia, consisting of students and teaching staff of the Consortium and business representatives, all of whom were members of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The conference focused on the duty of States to protect against climate change-related human rights abuses by business, corporate responsibility to respect human rights in the context of climate change and access to remedy for human rights-related harms linked to climate change. The conference raised awareness and strengthened the knowledge of the participants about the primary legal and policy implications of the UNGPs for States and business regarding human rights and climate change and actions taken by States and business in relation to embedding human rights considerations into climate change policies, programmes and actions. Building on this event, OHCHR will continue strengthening its cooperation with stakeholders and exploring possibilities for innovative partnerships that are connected with the climate change agenda and founded on the principles of global environmental justice, gender equality and human rights, including by:

a. contributing to peer learning sessions for Russian companies under the UNGC accelerator modules on business and human rights;

b. strengthening awareness-raising by developing a communications website for the UNGC to support the business and human rights network;

c. promoting the application of an HRBA in the context of climate change; and

d. supporting public-private partnerships to promote the integration of the UNGPs into the national policy framework.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR continued leading the UN Gender Theme Group (GTG), with a focus on promoting gender equality and the protection of women's rights. In March, the Office of the Moscow City Ombudsperson and OHCHR organized a roundtable entitled "Women's progress: Thinking, talking, acting, changing the world together" on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March). The event was attended by the Federal Ombudsperson, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the National Global Compact Network, deputies of the State Duma and the Moscow City Duma, the Chairman of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Business Ombudsperson of Moscow City and women heads of medium and large businesses. OHCHR stressed the importance of investment in programmes to drive women's inclusion and leadership in economies, digital technologies, humanitarian efforts and climate action. Participants emphasized that women's entrepreneurship can help to eliminate structural and cultural barriers to women's economic empowerment and that support for women entrepreneurs is needed to scale up investments in innovative ideas. It was also noted that women's equality is a basic condition for progress in politics, economics, science, art and the social sphere.

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), OHCHR collaborated with the UN Information Centre in Moscow to organize a roundtable discussion on "The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Status of change and progress for the last five years." The event brought together representatives of UN agencies (ITU, OHCHR, UNIC, WHO, WIPO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ombudsperson's Office, the Human Rights Commissioner in the City of Moscow, State Duma deputies, NGOs dealing with disability issues, medical doctors, journalists and academics. Participants addressed a wide range of issues related to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, employment, an inclusive approach, inherent challenges and the practical integration of innovative rehabilitation technologies.

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 2024	2

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The HRA supported the organization of a broad-based consultative process, composed of more than 200 participants, for the development of a comprehensive CCA, including chapters on human rights, LNOB and gender equality. The CCA will contribute to the preparation of the new UNSDCF (2026-2030). These documents will be fully aligned with international human rights standards, take into account the recent recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Serbia and inform the UNCT's priorities. The HRA also chaired the LNOB and Human Rights Thematic Group, as well as the UNCT's UNSDCF Result 3 Group.

Due to the elections in December 2023 and the late formation of the Government in May 2024, numerous law and policy processes were delayed or postponed until 2025. For instance, the Gender Equality Law was suspended. In addition, a draft law on the special registry of agents of foreign influence was proposed. In response to requests for assistance, the HRA worked closely with civil society, HRDs and women's organizations to facilitate their communications with the international human rights mechanisms.

Non-discrimination

The HRA leads the "UN Free & Equal" national campaign that is being implemented by the UNCT. During the year, the HRA supported the organization of the regional LGBTQI+ Women's Conference, "Awakening: Resisting anti-gender movements," with the aim of creating a space for discussion, an exchange of experiences, the promotion of empowerment and the development of a joint strategy to protect and advance the rights of those who identify as women or queer. The conference gathered more than 60 participants from the LGBTQI+ community, as well as experts and activists from the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia). In addition, the HRA supported the organization of the Belgrade Pride Week (2-8 September). The annual Pride March was held under the slogan "Pride is People," on 7 September.

The HRA supported the development of the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia (2025-2030) and its Action Plan (2025-2027) by providing substantive inputs to ensure their alignment with international standards. The Strategy was discussed during public debates and was adopted by the Government in 2024.

The HRA provided technical support and participated in a social dialogue on accessibility entitled "Accessibility policies of the built environment: Serbia on the path to the European Union." The event was held on 20 December and was organized by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue and the Minister without a portfolio who is responsible for Gender Equality and OPDs. More than 60 participants attended, including representatives from State and local authorities, independent institutions, organizations of and for persons with disabilities based in Belgrade and other municipalities, CSOs and distinguished individuals, such as a Paralympic medalist. The dialogue led to the adoption of a Consent on Actions. This document stresses the need to establish a contact person within local self-government units who can deal with accessibility issues and engage in strategic planning for the development of accessibility and organize training for decision makers at all levels. Moreover, the document calls for a dedicated individual to address existing challenges in applying standards that outline mandatory technical measures and conditions for planning, designing and constructing/renovating facilities. Finally, the Consent on Actions recommends the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the implementation of laws with respect to improving all forms of accessibility.

Mechanisms

Human Rights Day (10 December) was jointly commemorated by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue and the Provincial Government of Vojvodina, with the support of the HRA, the RC, the UN in Serbia and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The event was celebrated alongside the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the NMIRF, known as the Government's Council for Monitoring and Reporting to the international human rights mechanisms. For the occasion, the HRA supported the production of a brochure on the NMIRF's achievements, which acknowledges the support provided by OHCHR since its establishment. The events brought together over 200 participants, including representatives of the Government, the Parliament, local self-governments, independent institutions, civil society, academia and the media, as well as religious leaders and local Ombudspersons.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser (based in Georgia); Human Rights Staff (based in UNCT Azerbaijan)
Countries of engagement	Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Baku (Azerbaijan) and Tbilisi (Georgia)
UN partnership framework	United Nations 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)
Staff as of 31 December 2024	11
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

In **Georgia**, OHCHR built on the work it had undertaken in previous years to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities, including by addressing persistent discriminatory legal provisions and practices. For instance, OHCHR assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs to close legislative gaps that hinder individuals with hearing disabilities from obtaining category B driving licenses unless they use hearing aids. To this end, OHCHR and UNDP developed a comparative analysis of international standards and good practices that promote independent living and improve access to transportation for persons with disabilities, which was shared with the Ministry. In October, the Ministry of Internal Affairs revised the regulatory framework to allow persons with hearing disabilities to obtain driving licenses and drive category B vehicles, thereby promoting independent living and improving their access to transportation.

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the capacities of the Public Defender's Office (PDO) (Georgia's NHRI), to raise awareness about and monitor the implementation of the CRPD Convention and the National Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This was achieved by strengthening the Consultative Council of the Public Defender of Georgia for Monitoring the Promotion, Protection and Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, assisting in the preparation of thematic reports and facilitating in-person meetings with stakeholders. OHCHR worked closely with UNDP to support the Consultative Council to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in monitoring activities, including through regular discussions with the PDO and organizing capacity-building initiatives.

OHCHR also facilitated in-person meetings among the PDO and territorial services of State social service and care agencies, educational resource centres, parents, primary healthcare institutions and councils of persons with disabilities, reaching more than 600 persons in 26 municipalities. This work enabled the PDO to meet with stakeholders and discuss legal gaps concerning the protection of the right to housing of persons with disabilities and ways forward. Findings from a study on the right to adequate housing, which is being developed in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, will be reflected in concrete recommendations.

Mechanisms

In **Azerbaijan**, OHCHR conducted a capacity-building programme for national CSOs to strengthen their ability to implement human rights initiatives and engage in international advocacy. This contributed to the submission of 21 alternative reports to international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR also provided direct legal assistance to 5,606 individuals (2,789 women) in vulnerable situations in Baku and regional areas and continued to monitor the outcomes of that assistance. More than 2,800 individuals reported that their cases were successfully resolved. Legal assistance primarily addressed social and economic rights. Further, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to two NGOs that prepared and submitted alternative reports to the CRPD Committee in anticipation of its review of Azerbaijan's combined second and third periodic reports, in March. In order to prepare their reports, the NGOs worked

closely with OHCHR and conducted human rights monitoring and assessments, including data collection, legal analysis, studies, surveys and research in Baku and regions of Azerbaijan.

In **Armenia**, OHCHR facilitated a training session, in September, for 15 Armenian NGO representatives (seven women) on the drafting of stakeholder submissions prior to the country's fourth UPR cycle, on 1 May. The training, conducted at the invitation of Armenian NGOs, reviewed guidelines for submissions and practical examples. These efforts contributed to the increased engagement of Armenia's civil society with the international human rights mechanisms. A total of 10 NGOs that had not previously participated in the UPR process submitted individual or joint reports for the first time.

Participation

In **Azerbaijan**, OHCHR extended financial support to the Law and Human Rights Public Institute to facilitate the launch of an online platform, in May, entitled "Digital human rights resources map." The platform was designed to compile and host publicly available information about State and non-State institutions and agencies involved in human rights activities across 74 cities, towns and districts in Azerbaijan. It currently includes information on 115 courts, 83 prosecutor's offices, 83 police departments, 33 penitentiaries, 3,216 NGOs, 39 mediation organizations, 64 residential childcare facilities and shelters, 13 mental healthcare facilities and 132 law offices. By mid-2025, the platform will offer a unified online search library containing human rights educational resources and relevant publications in the Azerbaijani language.

In June, OHCHR and the Law and Human Rights Public Institute co-organized a five-day training of trainers (ToT) for 21 legal professionals (eight women), including lawyers and legal researchers. The ToT aimed at creating a pool of new trainers in human rights, emphasizing international human rights law, key provisions and obligations of international human rights treaties, international and regional human rights mechanisms, the national human rights framework and tools and techniques for human rights monitoring. The trainers will be engaged in various training programmes in 2025.

Much of the work in **Georgia** revolved around the parliamentary elections that were held on 26 October. Earlier in the year, OHCHR participated in several meetings that were convened by the RC. One meeting, held in May, focused on election observation and was attended by members of the diplomatic community, including the Head of the Election Department of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In September, OHCHR participated in a meeting, hosted by UNDP, with youth organizations and activist groups to discuss their plans and advocacy campaigns related to the elections.

In September and October, within the framework of a joint project, OHCHR collaborated with other UN partners and Georgia's Central Election Commission to organize several awareness-raising events on voting rights and electoral procedures for the public, especially those living outside of the capital. As part of OHCHR's ongoing initiatives to promote civic engagement and increase awareness about election procedures and voting rights, a series of educational sessions were organized in cooperation with the electoral administration and UNFPA before election day. The sessions were held in four cities (Chiatura, Kutaisi, Rustavi and Tbilisi) and directed towards older persons, youth and intergenerational groups to equip them with essential knowledge to fully exercise their civic rights in the upcoming election. A total of 192 participants (115 women) attended the sessions.

Research is being carried out on national minorities and their participation in elections. A research report was finalized during the first quarter of 2025, which includes insights from full-day stationary observers who analysed polling stations in the Kakheti region. The research also examined electoral participation among ethnic minorities and identified regional characteristics and other influencing factors. The analysis provides valuable information that will inform future electoral strategies and policies.

From 21 to 25 October, OHCHR and UNDP launched a comprehensive voter education campaign on social media and formed partnerships with platforms, such as On.ge, reaching

over 1.1 million viewers. A key component of the campaign was the production of "Myth vs. Reality" videos; 18 concise and impactful videos designed to debunk common myths and misconceptions about voting procedures. The videos were widely disseminated on social media in the lead-up to election day and were instrumental in an improved understanding of the electoral process. In addition, step-by-step video instructions on the voting procedures were shown during the Kutaisi International Short Film Festival, reaching over 7,000 attendees. The initiative was amplified through screenings at six Cavea cinemas in Tbilisi, which ran for 10 days before election day and attracted nearly 100,000 viewers. In total, the step-by-step video reached more than one million views across all platforms, contributing to a well-informed and empowered electorate.

Accountability

OHCHR's contribution ensured that the CCA of **Azerbaijan** provides a comprehensive portrayal of the country's sociopolitical environment, thereby serving as a strong foundation for future UN programming and advocacy efforts. OHCHR's inputs to the CCA identify key human rights challenges, particularly those affecting members of vulnerable individuals and groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ persons. The inputs also cover issues related to the freedoms of expression, assembly and association, drawing attention to the shrinking civic space and the treatment of HRDs and activists. In addition, OHCHR's analysis identifies legislative trends that may impact on human rights in the country. Moreover, OHCHR provided information on progress made in implementing recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

In **Georgia**, OHCHR participated in the Annual Performance Review of the UNSDCF, in March, which was chaired by the RC. The results achieved by OHCHR were presented within the context of Outcomes 1 and 2 of the UNSDCF. In particular, the Human Rights Adviser to the Prime Minister noted that the National Human Rights Strategy and the National Human Rights Action Plan (2024-2026) had been developed in cooperation with OHCHR.

UKRAINE

Type of engagement	Human Rights Monitoring Mission (HRMMU)
Year established	2014
Field office(s)	Kyiv; field offices in Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Odesa; satellite office in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Transitional Framework 2022-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2024	78
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

The HRMMU's regular and impartial reporting served as an authoritative reference for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that were committed in the context of the invasion of Ukraine. This reporting informed the decision-making of the international community. In 2024, the HRMMU produced six OHCHR reports for discussion at the HRC, namely: four periodic reports covering the overall situation in Ukraine, including one with a special focus on the treatment of prisoners of war (POWs); and two thematic reports on 10 years of occupation of Crimea and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the occupied territory since February 2022. The HRMMU also contributed substantially to the Secretary-General's interim and final reports on the human rights situation in the occupied territory, including Crimea.

During the year, the Mission published a bulletin on attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure and continued its comprehensive recording of conflict-related civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, which it has done since 2014. The HRMMU was the main contributing organization undertaking monitoring of and reporting on the six grave violations against children at the country level. It also monitored and reported on cases of CRSV and regularly updated the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

In addition to serving as an authoritative reference, the Mission's work contributed to the strengthening of justice and accountability. For instance, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine directed his office to align the prosecution of "collaboration activities" with international law through an instruction that makes detailed reference to the HRMMU's findings and recommendations on this topic. In 2024, the HRMMU documented a reduction in convictions for "collaboration activities" that were not in conformity with international law.

During the year, a central priority of the HRMMU's work was monitoring and reporting on the treatment of POWs. This led to conclusions that the Russian authorities inflicted torture in a widespread and systematic manner against almost all Ukrainian POWs and that many Russian POWs were subjected to torture or ill-treatment in the initial stages of their captivity. Findings and tailored recommendations fed into advocacy documents for high-level meetings with Member States, in June. In Ukraine, the HRMMU's advocacy supported the launch of a criminal investigation by the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) regarding the use of torture at a transit facility for Russian POWs. The HRMMU is unaware if its reporting resulted in similar investigations in the Russian Federation. Its monitoring and advocacy also resulted in Ukrainian authorities improving the treatment and internment conditions of Russian POWs.

Judgments handed down by international courts extensively cited the HRMMU's findings. For instance, in contentious proceedings on the application of ICERD, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) cited the HRMMU's reporting at length, finding that the Russian Federation had violated ICERD by restricting access to education in the Ukrainian language in Crimea.

Peace and Security

The HRMMU remained a key authoritative source for verified and disaggregated data on civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. In 2024, it published: 12 monthly updates on civilian casualties and harm; a summary report on the two years since the full-scale invasion entitled Two-year update – Protection of civilians: Impact of hostilities on civilians since 24 February 2022; a dedicated bulletin on the impacts on civilians of attacks on critical energy infrastructure; and regular analysis in its four periodic reports, which included assessments of the overall scope and scale of torture and ill-treatment experienced by POWs since February 2022. In collaboration with other UN agencies, the Mission also published a fact sheet highlighting the impacts of the conflict on children, including educational disruptions, displacement and rising levels of trauma. These efforts helped to preserve factual public records and informed high-level advocacy at the UN and other international bodies and decision-making processes. For example, the HRMMU's findings were cited during 20 meetings of the Security Council.

The HRMMU's September bulletin on attacks against Ukraine's energy infrastructure provides an early warning about the potential future impacts of these attacks on civilians. The report documents patterns of attacks and harm, including the far-reaching impacts of such attacks on essential services, displacement and public health. This analysis informed advocacy at both the national and international level, provided early warning about the devastating impacts of these attacks and helped lay the groundwork for accountability. The findings were presented at high-level events, including a briefing that was organized by the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and attended by 39 ambassadors.

In 2024, the HRMMU focused on issues that either exacerbate tensions between and within communities or create conditions that are likely to prolong the conflict. The HRMMU's report on the Human rights situation during the Russian occupationof territory of Ukraine and its aftermath, issued in March, highlights a range of measures employed by Russian occupying authorities that disregard the Russian Federation's status as an Occupying Power and will make the reintegration into Ukraine of residents of the occupied territory more challenging. The aim of the report is also to provide a context for Ukrainian authorities as they develop and refine policies affecting people who have lived under occupation or seek to prosecute individuals accused

of collaboration activities. An accurate understanding of the context is vital to ensuring that such policies restore the rights of citizens and support their reintegration.

The HRMMU drew attention to restrictions on the right to freedom of religion by Ukrainian authorities through an analysis of the Law on the Protection of Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations (Law No. 3894-IX), which entered into force in September, and by reporting on conscientious objection.

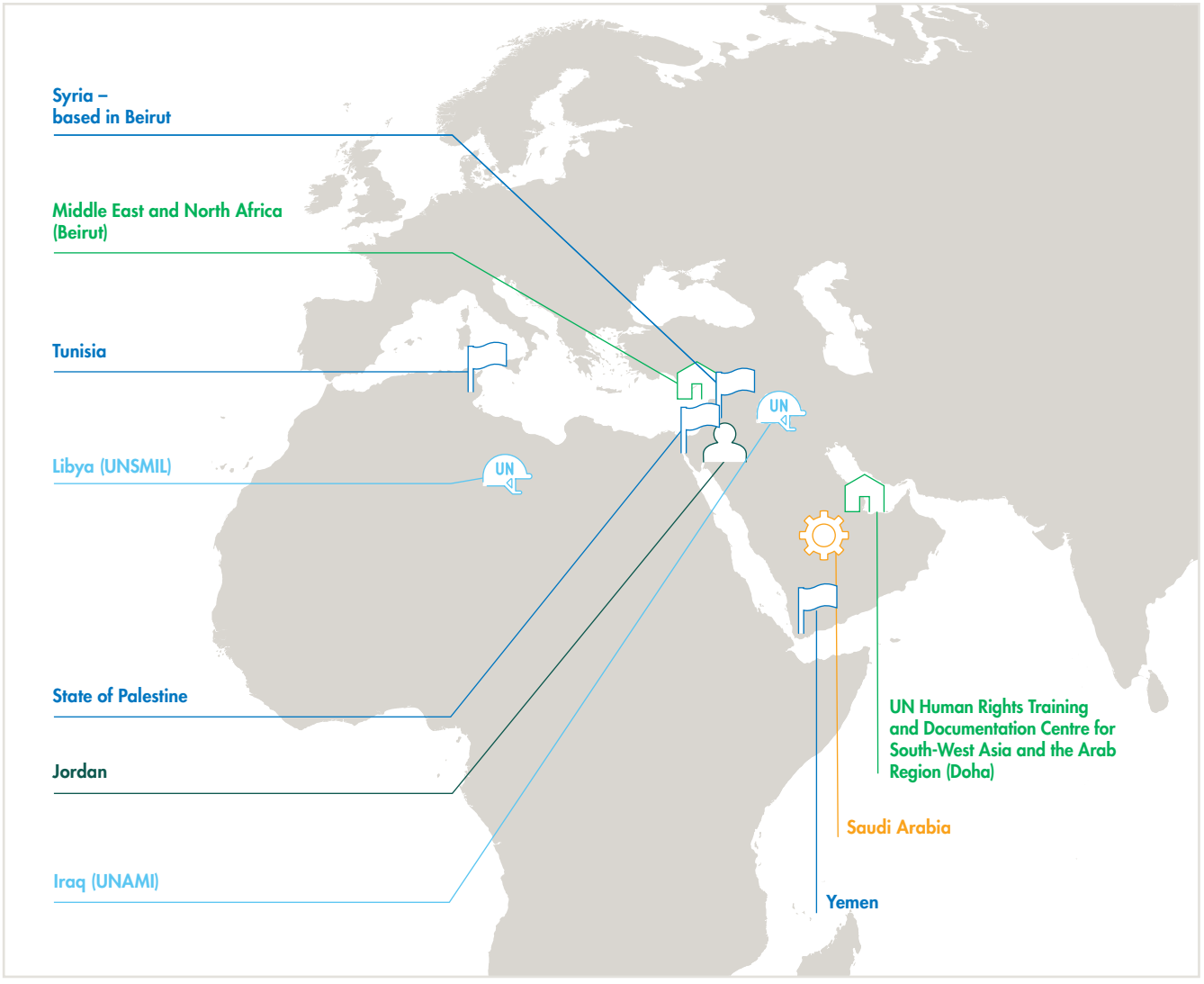
Also during the year, the HRMMU's Specialized Unit on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence documented 236 cases of CRSV, including 212 perpetrated by Russian authorities, bringing the reported total to 433 since the onset of the full-scale invasion. Cases included violations against women, men and children, underscoring the need for a gender-sensitive approach to addressing CRSV.

The HRMMU's survivor-centric advocacy and partnerships, including with UNFPA, the OPG, the Global Survivors Fund and the Register of Damage for Ukraine, were instrumental in expanding documentation and ensuring the access of survivors to services and reparations. Additionally, the HRMMU was involved in the Supervisory Board for the Pilot Project on Urgent Interim Reparations for CRSV Survivors, thereby ensuring the availability of immediate support for those affected, while also advocating for long-term systemic solutions.

UN Human Rights
in the Middle East and North Africa



A Palestinian citizen of Jit Village, Qalqilia, shows an OHCHR staff member where road settlers came from before attacking his house.
© OHCHR/Yusra Jamous



TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Country Offices	State of Palestine,[a] the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen
Regional Offices/Centres	Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon), UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
Human rights components of UN Peace/ Political Missions	Iraq (UNAMI) and Libya (UNSMIL)
Human Rights Advisers in UNCTs	Jordan
Other projects/Special presences	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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

In 2024, the work of UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region covered 19 countries and was carried out by staff in 10 field presences. The Office's engagement in the region was supported by the MENA Regional Office (ROMENA) in Beirut and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region in Doha; four country offices (in the State of Palestine,[24] the Syrian Arab Republic (in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen); one human rights adviser (HRA) in Jordan; two 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 implemented country programmes in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran from its headquarters, in Geneva.

The Office assisted 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 the independent human rights mechanisms dedicated to the human rights situations in Iran, Libya, the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Syria and supported the preparation of the mandated reports of the Secretary-General.

In 2024, the region experienced far-reaching changes due to the conflict in Gaza, one of the world's most violent conflicts in recent times, the hostilities in Lebanon and the overthrow of the former Syrian Government on 8 December. In early 2025, following 15 months of conflict, an incremental ceasefire agreement was reached in Gaza. During the conflict, more than 45,000 deaths were reported, 70 per cent of which were estimated to be women and children, over 100,000 people were injured, many permanently, and an entire population was uprooted and displaced in the midst of a catastrophic humanitarian crisis and grave concerns about widespread abuses and violations of international law, including atrocity crimes. An escalation of violence was also reported in the West Bank, further entrenching a discriminatory regime of occupation and continued Israeli presence in the oPt, which the International Court of Justice (ICJ) deemed unlawful in a landmark Advisory Opinion, issued in July. The conflict has also had devastating impacts across the region, as evidenced by intermittent hostilities in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. In Lebanon, approximately 4,000 people were reportedly killed by Israeli strikes and more than one million people were internally displaced before a fragile ceasefire was reached, in November 2024.

Insecurity endured in Libya in the context of an ongoing political stalemate; the situation in Western Sahara continued to be characterized by tensions and low intensity hostilities; ongoing conflict and insecurity in Yemen and the detention of OHCHR staff remained a significant concern; numerous demonstrations were held in support of Gaza throughout the region; and political unrest continued in Tunisia during the October presidential elections, which were marked by human rights concerns. The Security Council decided to end the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), including its human rights component, at the end of 2025.

In some States, climate change and extreme weather events negatively impacted on a range of economic and social rights, including the right to food. Discrimination against women persists in law and in practice across the region. Civic space was increasingly threatened and a number of States adopted or implemented new measures limiting the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Cases of arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, executions, torture and disappearances were documented. In some States, there are serious concerns relating to the lack of adherence to the rule of law and due process. Persistent impunity for past human rights violations and abuses perpetuated ongoing cycles of violence and limited progress was made towards ensuring accountability.

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

The Office responded to an exceptionally volatile situation in the region through monitoring, analysis, public reporting and strategic advocacy. OHCHR 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 and the Security Council. In addition, the Office organized high-level visits to Iran, the first visit in five years, and Qatar. In response to the fall of the previous Syrian Government, the Office deployed a surge capacity team to Damascus to provide requisite support during the transition and to better respond to human rights issues.

In February, the Office collaborated with the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar and other partners, including IFAD and UNDP, to co-organize an international conference to advance the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) entitled "Food justice from a human rights perspective: Challenges of reality and future stakes," held in Doha, Qatar. The conference resulted in a series of concrete recommendations on the right to food. During her visit to Qatar, the Deputy High Commissioner renewed OHCHR's partnership with Education Above All (EAA) Foundation as part of ongoing efforts to promote the rights of youth in conflict situations.

Tailored capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives were undertaken at the national level for judges, Members of Parliament, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs). Similar initiatives were carried out at the regional level, including with regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to enhance their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Additionally, OHCHR continued to engage with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in the region, for instance, in Egypt, thereby contributing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IRAQ: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

Type of engagement	Special Political Mission
Year established	2003
Field office(s)	Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2024	40
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

OHCHR and UNAMI jointly released a report entitled *Accountability for domestic violence in Iraq: Promoting justice and non-discrimination*. The report recommends measures that should be taken within judicial processes to improve the reporting of domestic violence cases, provide better protection for survivors and hold perpetrators accountable, in accordance with international human rights standards. A key recommendation urges the endorsement of a draft anti-domestic violence law, which has been stalled for several years. OHCHR promoted and disseminated the recommendations at roundtable events that were held in Baghdad and in field locations. The events included the participation of government officials, the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR), law enforcement officials, journalists, CSOs, human rights defenders (HRDs) and representatives of women's rights groups.

The UNAMI Human Rights Office (HRO) supported efforts to counter hate speech. Technical support was provided to the Secretariat of the Supreme Committee to Counter Hate Speech, established by the Prime Minister and chaired by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, to assist with the development of a national strategy to counter hate speech that aligns with international standards. The draft national strategy, prepared in consultation with national and international civil society and UNAMI, is being finalized.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) reviewed Iraq's combined twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh periodic reports, in Geneva, from 14 to 15 August. In its concluding observations, the Committee welcomed key legislative, institutional and policy measures undertaken by the State Party, for instance, the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan (2021–2025) and the Yazidi Female Survivors Law, adopted in 2021. The Committee raised concerns about a number of issues, such as the lack of comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, disaggregated by ethnicity, including with regard to members of the Roma minority group, people of African descent, stateless persons and non-citizens. It also noted with concern the absence of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that contains an explicit definition of racial discrimination on all grounds; and the low number of complaints of racial discrimination received by the IHCHR since 2019. CERD recommended that the Government expedite the adoption of legislation by the Council of Representatives that would criminalize genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity and enable domestic courts to prosecute these crimes. It further recommended that the Government facilitate the effective and meaningful participation and representation of ethnic and ethno-religious groups in national reconciliation and transitional justice processes. The Office will continue to engage with the Government and civil society to support the implementation of CERD's recommendations, including by advocating for the adoption of draft laws on diversity and anti-discrimination and the protection of minorities. It also recommended that technical support be provided to ensure that the draft legislation is aligned with international human rights standards.

Mechanisms

The HRO provided capacity-building support for the engagement of government bodies and CSOs with the international human rights mechanisms. Ahead of Iraq's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle, held in January 2025, the Office organized preparatory sessions with a range of national stakeholders, including members of the national committee tasked with drafting inter-

national reports and CSO representatives from diverse governorates. The sessions aimed to equip attendees with practical knowledge about the UPR process and share guidelines and good practices for preparing national and stakeholder reports. Iraq submitted its national report, in October. Participating CSOs were among the 61 stakeholders whose submissions were included in the OHCHR compilation of stakeholder reports, which was presented to the HRC prior to the UPR session.

Accountability

As of January, the detention monitoring programme in Federal Iraq remained suspended as the Government continued to deny authorization for the conducting of confidential interviews in detention facilities, under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

During the year, the HRO conducted 93 trial monitoring missions throughout Iraq. A total of 200 trials were monitored and 25 detention monitoring visits were undertaken in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, resulting in 39 interviews with individual detainees. The HRO monitored criminal trials and investigative hearings, including trials of those who had been prosecuted under Iraq's anti-terrorist laws. It engaged with authorities to promote respect for due process and fair trial standards and provided capacity-building support for law enforcement officials to promote the rights of detainees and fair trial guarantees. As a member of the Technical Working Group that is mandated to implement the One UN Plan to support the return of Iraqi nationals from northeast Syria, OHCHR engaged with Iraqi authorities to ensure adherence to international standards on the right to a fair trial and the treatment of prisoners for detainees who had been transferred to Iraq from prisons in northeast Syria.

Implementation of the death penalty in Iraq remained a serious concern. The Office documented the execution of at least 61 prisoners, including one woman, the majority of whom were convicted and sentenced to death for terrorism-related offences. In June, a joint communication was issued by special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, expressing their concerns about the large number of reported executions, such as those carried out following unfair trials that were based on forced confessions.

The HRO delivered a series of trainings for 841 government officials (151 women) to promote awareness of and respect for Iraq's international human rights obligations and core principles, the rights of detainees, investigations and information gathering and principles and concepts of international human rights law. The majority of the training participants were security sector officials working in Federal Iraq and Asayish and investigators from the governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Further, in May, the HRO and the IHCHR delivered a one-day training for 44 police officers at the Iraqi Ministry of Interior police academy, in Baghdad. The training focused on basic human rights principles, the prohibition of torture and the prevention of enforced disappearances in law enforcement operations.

Participation

In March, the HRO and the Iraqi Women's Journalist Forum organized a one-day symposium, in Baghdad, entitled "The reality of women journalists in conflict areas: Challenges and solutions." The event was attended by media professionals from the MENA region and included the Prime Minister's Adviser on Women's Affairs, Members of Parliament and CSO representatives. Participants discussed working papers on issues faced by women journalists in conflict situations, digital media reporting and laws and policies for the protection and safety of women journalists. Following the discussions, the participants issued 12 recommendations, including on the compliance of authorities with provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) related to freedom of expression, the establishment of regional and national mechanisms to enhance communication among journalists in the MENA region and increased cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Arab League. Media networks and CSOs agreed to engage with authorities to support the implementation of recommendations.

In June, the HRO facilitated a one-day dialogue on "Promoting freedom of expression in Iraq," providing journalists, defence lawyers, civil society representatives and social media influencers with an opportunity to engage in structured discussions with government officials and members of the judiciary. Participants discussed obstacles to the full enjoyment of freedom of expression and freedom of the media, both in online and offline environments, and identified potential solutions to address their concerns, including through legislative and institutional reform, consultative approaches to legislative and regulatory processes, awareness-raising programmes, online protection of social media influencers and the consistent application of Iraqi laws.

Peace and Security

Throughout the year, OHCHR documented 59 incidents of armed conflict, causing 123 civilian casualties (57 killed, including three women, five girls and 20 boys and 66 injured, including four women, three girls and 14 boys). This represents a 21 per cent decrease in civilian casualties compared with 2023. The Office monitored and reported on children in armed conflict and grave violations against children. More specifically, it verified grave violations against 51 children (14 girls), including 25 deaths (five girls) and 17 injuries (three girls); the recruitment and use of seven children (six girls); the abduction of two boys; and one attack on a hospital. This data informed the UN system, including the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC), and its advocacy on strengthening preventive and accountability measures for children in armed conflict. In January, OHCHR facilitated the visit to Iraq by the SRSG-CAAC to engage with senior government officials on the protection of children, including through the implementation of the Action Plan to prevent the recruitment and use of children by the Popular Mobilization Forces.

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 2024	4

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

Following OHCHR's support to the UNCT and the Jordan Economic and Social Council (JESC), in 2023, to facilitate advocacy before the State and other stakeholders to ensure that people were placed at the centre of public finance policies, OHCHR, UN-Habitat and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) forged a partnership with the Cities and Village Development Bank (CVDB). The objective of the partnership was to analyse municipal revenues and expenditures, inform public administration and decentralization reform, address geographic inequalities and allocate resources to those left furthest behind. The research revealed that a minor share of municipal revenue comes from taxation, while the biggest share results from government transfers. This highlighted some of the primary challenges being faced when transferring revenue to municipalities, including an absence of transparency and accountability. The research findings were presented at a workshop, in January 2025.

In August, OHCHR and the CVDB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their collaboration on promoting joint analyses, engaging in policy dialogue and advocating for the implementation of the SDGs; upholding the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB); securing financing for sustainable development; and undertaking macroeconomic analysis, including gender and human rights impact assessments. This work built on a previous partnership

with the JESC that was formed in accordance with an MoU signed in 2022.

A joint publication that was issued in March 2023 by the UN and the JESC, with OHCHR's support, entitled *Domestic resource mobilization: A human rights-based approach to tackling inequalities*, informed Jordan's UN country analysis and programming, including a UN joint submission in anticipation of Jordan's fourth UPR cycle, in January. Notably, the submission included a chapter on a Human Rights Economy, making it the first UN submission to do so. The chapter garnered significant media attention and public visibility and led to a national debate on public financing for human rights.

Participation

The HRA worked to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities across the country. In a joint project with ILO and UNDP, and following an inception workshop and group discussion with UN partners, persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), a Jordanian situation analysis was prepared on the participation of persons with disabilities in climate action. The analysis was submitted to Jordan's Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD) for review and publication in 2025. Further, a countrywide profile on the situation of persons with disabilities is being drafted as part of a joint project between the World Bank, the UNCT and the HCD. It is expected that the profile will be finalized in 2025, prior to the Global Disability Summit, which Jordan will co-host.

Within the context of the OHCHR-Fondation Botnar youth project, the HRA and UN-Habitat facilitated the engagement of Jordanian youth in research on "Youth participation in digital cities." This engagement will continue through the research validation process and the implementation of any recommendations, in partnership with the Greater Amman Municipality.

Mechanisms

Jordan underwent its fourth UPR cycle in January and July and accepted 204 of 279 recommendations. The HRA provided guidance and support to the Government, civil society and the UNCT regarding their implementation. In addition, the HRA worked closely with other UN agencies and developed a note on the role of the Parliament in promoting and protecting human rights, highlighting the UPR recommendations requiring parliamentary action, including the adoption or alignment of legislation, policies and programmes with international human rights standards. The note was submitted to the National Centre for Human Rights to encourage the preparation of a joint publication with the UN that could be used in future engagement with the Parliament, including in an advisory or capacity-strengthening role.

LIBYA: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Type of engagement	Special Political Mission
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 2024	14
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

During the year, the Office was committed to enhancing Libya's compliance with international human rights standards, including by strengthening the rule of law and national institutions to promote greater accountability for human rights violations and abuses.

The unsealing of six International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants, in October, with regard to persons linked to the Al Kaniyat militia group, marked a significant step towards achieving accountability for alleged war crimes in Tarhuna. The cases involved atrocities, including murder, torture, sexual violence and cruel treatment. For its part, the Office issued an earlier report that documents mass graves and serious human rights violations committed in Tarhuna from 2013 to 2022 by members of Al Kaniyat. It also urges accountability for years of violations and steps that need to be taken to address impunity for human rights violations and abuses, including evidence on patterns of atrocities, such as murder, torture and enforced disappearances committed by Al Kaniyat. The report was published on the International Day for Victims of Enforced Disappearances (30 August). On 28 August, OHCHR issued a report on violations of housing, land and property rights in Libya, which analyses how patterns of expropriation, supported by legislative measures adopted by the former regime, have fuelled conflict and instability, particularly with regard to internally displaced persons (IDPs). The two reports provide recommendations for accountability and contribute to a victim-centred transitional justice process. They were shared with relevant authorities.

Since 2016, the Office has focused on the plight of women and children associated with ISIS who are being arbitrarily detained. In 2024, OHCHR finalized an internal report and advocated with the Attorney General to request his support in addressing these cases.

The Office facilitated the development of draft legislation on transitional justice that is aligned with international norms. During an OHCHR/UNDP workshop, in December, an agreement was reached on key technical provisions. Its adoption was delayed by ongoing political divisions among stakeholders regarding control over the future Reconciliation Commission. The Office undertook broad-based consultations with victims' groups, CSOs and authorities to promote the importance of inclusive and rights-based approaches and ensure that the voices and needs of victims are reflected in a future legal framework.

The Office engaged with authorities in both eastern and western Libya and sent 15 letters with respect to cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearances and detention conditions and advocated for increased access to detainees. In 2024, five detention centre visits were carried out, including to the Bir-al-Ghanam detention facility, in January, to monitor the human rights situation of migrants detained under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior and to undertake individual interviews. The Office encountered restrictions in accessing several other detention centres where migrants were being held under the administration of the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration. Through these and other efforts, OHCHR directly contributed to the release of approximately 40 individuals who were unlawfully detained.

OHCHR documented over 200 human rights violations, including 69 incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention, 14 deaths in custody, 10 cases of detained LGBTQI+ individuals, more than 50 cases involving human rights violations against migrants, 27 cases related to child protection, 17 cases of denied humanitarian access and nine cases of killing and/or maiming.

Of the 22 cases of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) that OHCHR verified, 20 victims were migrants and asylum seekers and two were Libyan girls. The data gathered will inform ongoing advocacy and efforts to strengthen accountability.

The Office monitored three emblematic human rights trials to assess their compliance with international human rights standards and document any violations. The first case involves the religious freedom of 11 defendants who have been subject to criminal prosecution since their arbitrary arrest in 2023. The second case is a trial of a Member of the House of Representatives who was incarcerated after an arbitrary arrest and legal proceedings that included due process violations. The third case is a trial before the Tripoli High Court of Appeals involving the 1996 Abu Salim prison massacre, when security forces affiliated with Muammar Gaddafi's regime killed more than 1,200 prisoners after protests broke out inside the prison.

OHCHR continued to support an initiative on freedom of association that is being spearheaded by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, which advocates for the adoption of a legislative framework that upholds the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, in accordance with article 22 of ICCPR. OHCHR collaborated with the International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law Working Group and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies to hold two roundtables. The first, in February, led to the development of a road map to protect civic space. The follow-up, in October, consolidated two draft laws to safeguard the right to freedom of association. OHCHR reviewed the proposed draft laws and encouraged wider consultation with CSOs to establish an advocacy plan for their adoption. To this end, OHCHR finalized a draft of a Human Rights Defenders Protection Strategy, which will be circulated to CSOs, the Government and other stakeholders for their input. The Strategy aims to ensure that authorities meet their obligations to uphold fundamental rights and the freedoms of assembly and association, as guaranteed in the Constitutional Declaration, in particular Article 15. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be endorsed by the end of 2025.

The Office implemented the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) risk assessments for Libyan security forces and other entities receiving UN support. This included addressing violations committed by the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration, the Libyan Coast Guard, the General Administration for Coastal Security, Border Guards and other actors. Through meetings with the HRDDP Task Force, OHCHR highlighted human rights violations, such as those committed against migrants, and recommended mitigation measures to ensure compliance with international standards.

Non-discrimination

Following the 2023 endorsement by 20 Members of the House of Representatives of a draft law to protect women from violence, the Office supported efforts to address the continued absence of comprehensive legislation to combat violence against women. In January, the Legislative Committee approved the draft law and the Office proposed a conference to bring this vital piece of legislation to the attention of decision makers and promote its adoption in 2025.

In line with the Secretary-General's annual report on women, peace and security, which includes strong language on the protection of women HRDs (WHRDs), and to equip WHRDs with skills to engage with the international human rights mechanisms and strengthen their participation in civic space, OHCHR and UN Women organized a workshop, in June, on the integration of gender perspectives in the UPR process. A workplan was endorsed that includes establishing coalitions for gender mainstreaming, creating an outreach strategy and awareness-raising campaign on the UPR, preparing and submitting contributions to the UPR in 2025 and setting up a different workplan to monitor the implementation of recommendations in anticipation of the next UPR cycle, scheduled for 2029.

Participation

As the co-lead on youth engagement, OHCHR helped to develop and implement UNSMIL's Youth

Engagement Strategy, #YouEngage, which was launched in May. This initiative empowers Libyan youth through advocacy and by building skills and fostering collaborative networks. In 2024, the Strategy engaged close to 500 youth across Libya in online and workshop-based discussions on various issues, such as transitional justice, climate change, civic space, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), combating hate speech, human rights monitoring and reporting and disability rights. Recommendations from the discussions were shared through an online campaign to amplify the voices of youth and will be compiled in a report, in 2025, for advocacy with decision makers.

Further, the Office assisted the UN Ra'idat programme, aimed at developing the communication, leadership, teamwork and advocacy skills of young Libyan women, in accordance with a human rights-based perspective. A total of 35 young women from across the country, including youth with disabilities, were supported through the programme, which was featured in web communications related to Human Rights Day (10 December). OHCHR will continue to provide this support, including through training and mentorship, by setting up an alumni network. The objective is to secure the sustainability of the programme through the network in order to train future women leaders in Libya to champion human rights.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Beirut, Lebanon and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Staff as of 31 December 2024	30

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

In **Lebanon**, OHCHR collaborated with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) to promote non-discriminatory behaviour and equality in education and training. This resulted in the integration of equality and anti-discrimination principles, including international standards, legal frameworks and practical approaches to addressing racial profiling, into the curricula of the ISF and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). The ISF will begin using the curricula in their trainings in 2025.

During the year, three webinars were delivered in September and October, namely, "Saving migrant lives and preventing disappearances," "Promoting equality and inclusiveness for migrants" and "Reporting and follow-up to the international human rights mechanisms." The first webinar highlighted enforced disappearances among migrants in North Africa, referenced international legal frameworks and discussed humanitarian crises and State obligations. The second webinar explored racial discrimination and barriers faced by migrants and featured a refugee's personal story and good practices of inclusivity. The third webinar focused on the use of the international human rights mechanisms to protect the rights of people on the move. As a result of these events, 147 CSO representatives from North Africa (85 women) increased their knowledge and capacities in relation to the rights and protection of migrants.

OHCHR collaborated with ILO and IOM to finalize the development of a joint policy brief addressing absconding laws and policies that are often used to bring charges, with severe penalties, against migrant workers for 'unexplained absences' from the workplace in GCC countries. The policy brief will serve as a legislative reference on absconding practices in GCC countries and highlight good practices on the application of a rights-based approach to employment contract termination for migrant workers. The launch of the policy brief is expected in 2025.

In cooperation with the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality (Ra'edat), OHCHR organized a regional workshop in Casablanca, **Morocco**, entitled "Highlights on the legislation governing the work of financial institutions: Their role in enhancing the economic participation of women." The workshop was attended by 21 participants (15 women), including experts from international institutions, academia and Members of Parliament. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss the root causes of the limited economic participation of women in the region. They proposed actionable solutions to address barriers and produced a document that analyses challenges and outlines recommendations to enhance women's economic engagement. This document will serve as an advocacy tool for various stakeholders, including in efforts to encourage governments to implement policies to increase women's economic participation.

Mechanisms

In **Bahrain**, OHCHR delivered customized training for the Government on engagement with the UPR and the special procedures. A total of 35 participants (18 women) from public institutions attended and enhanced their understanding of international human rights mechanisms, their roles and functioning. In addition, the training supported the submission of Bahrain's mid-term report to the UPR.

In **Kuwait**, OHCHR organized various workshops to build the capacities of government officials to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. A total of 41 participants (29 women) from Kuwaiti government ministries attended. Discussions focused on preparation for the constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), on 21 May, regarding its review of Kuwait's sixth periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). During the dialogue, OHCHR observed the Kuwaiti delegation applying the knowledge gained at the training. Further, 46 government officials (24 women) attended a workshop on the UPR mechanism and learned about Kuwait's previous UPR submissions, human rights indicators and how to draft the national UPR report by applying a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to data collection and reporting. A total of 45 government officials (24 women) attended a workshop to support the development of a national human rights action plan (NHRAP) to monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR mechanism. This led to a discussion on Kuwait's vision regarding the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) and its potential to improve tracking of the implementation of recommendations, national report preparation and the development of an NHRAP.

In the **United Arab Emirates** (**UAE**), 25 members of the Permanent Committee for Human Rights (13 women) attended a workshop on their mandate and role in engaging with the international human rights mechanisms, reporting procedures and follow-up on recommendations issued by the mechanisms. After the workshop, the UAE officially requested the establishment and roll-out of the NRTD and capacity-building support from OHCHR to develop action plans to follow up on the implementation of recommendations issued by the CEDAW Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the UAE. In 2024, OHCHR took steps to implement the agreement between the UAE and OHCHR through a four-day session, in December, which included more than 30 participants (17 women) from UAE government institutions. Attendees were introduced to the mechanisms and reviewed the UAE's commitments and requisite follow-up. OHCHR provided capacity-building support for Members of the Permanent Committee for Human Rights in the UAE, with an emphasis on developing an action plan for the implementation of the concluding

observations issued by the CRC Committee to the UAE in 2015 and preparing the periodic reports that have been overdue since 2020. The activity also included a practical component of the roll-out of the NRTD. These capacity-building activities aimed to assist the UAE's NMIRF in submitting its due and overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies, in accordance with its obligations under the treaties.

In **Morocco**, OHCHR worked closely with the Government to enable the Délégation Interministérielle aux droits de l'Homme, the country's NMIRF, to better engage with the Committee against Torture (CAT), particularly with regard to reporting and follow-up on recommendations issued by the Committee. The NMIRF finalized the national report, which is being reviewed by the Parliament prior to its submission to CAT.

Accountability

OHCHR contributed to strengthening access to justice and protection mechanisms. As part of the regional anti-torture initiative, a region-wide workshop was organized in Casablanca, Morocco, on 19 and 20 November, for 60 State officials and CSOs (14 women) from all 22 Arab countries. The workshop enhanced the capacities of participants to implement effective remedies and reparations for torture victims, including by increasing their awareness of legislative safeguards and international standards on torture, particularly those related to the definition of torture provided in article 1 of CAT. The conclusions and recommendations emanating from the workshop will inform a road map on strengthening legislative guarantees to combat and prevent torture and ill-treatment.

In order to address prison reform and human rights protection, as well as critical challenges in detention facilities, OHCHR partnered with Penal Reform International to organize a high-level roundtable consultation in Amman, **Jordan**. The event engaged 54 stakeholders from the region, including government representatives, members of the judiciary, Members of Parliament and representatives of NHRIs. Through cross-sectoral discussions, participants exchanged experiences and suggested sustainable solutions to address systemic issues of overincarceration and overcrowding. OHCHR will use the outcomes of the roundtable in its 2025 advocacy.

In the context of the OHCHR-**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** technical cooperation programme, a study was undertaken to benchmark the prison inspection framework of the Saudi Human Rights Commission (SHRC) against international standards. It is anticipated that this work will be completed during the first quarter of 2025. The study will highlight gaps and provide recommendations to ensure that vulnerable groups are addressed and that inspection practices are aligned with international standards.

Participation

OHCHR and the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) of **Morocco** contributed to strengthening youth engagement on human rights by organizing the first session of the Youth Leadership Dialogue series, in November, entitled "The role of youth in the Middle East and North Africa in advocating for economic, social and cultural rights." A total of 27 youth (15 women, two persons with disabilities) attended the session. The dialogues introduced participants to human rights principles and underscored the importance of their roles in promoting human rights, particularly ESCRs.

On 12 August, International Youth Day, an online seminar was organized by the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha, **Qatar**, with a focus on digital protection for HRDs. The seminar featured expert discussions on resources and strategies for maintaining digital privacy and dealing with challenges related to artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights. The seminar was attended by 98 young participants from the region. Also in Qatar, a webinar on the rights of persons with disabilities in conflict zones was organized with the participation of 49 attendees. The webinar increased the awareness of Arab youth about the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in conflict-affected areas, such as Gaza and Lebanon.

The OHCHR-**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** technical cooperation programme finalized a project proposal to develop a framework for the

empowerment of NGOs in the field of human rights. This was approved by the SHRC. As part of the project, a normative study was undertaken to explore how NGOs and associations in the field of human rights can more effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

Peace and Security

The Office contributed to ensuring the application of an HRBA to peace and security initiatives across the region. For instance, OHCHR worked with RCOs and UN partners to encourage the integration of human rights into the UNCT's peace and security engagement, including through regular contributions to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 in **Lebanon**, and promoting the application of an HRBA to humanitarian response. In **Kuwait**, OHCHR conducted training for 32 law enforcement personnel (seven women) in various police ranks, emphasizing ethical conduct, detainee rights and the prohibition of torture. In **Lebanon**, OHCHR partnered with UNDP to implement its fourth training workshop for the Lebanese Armed Forces and trained 30 officers on the implementation of human rights principles during crises. The workshop covered crucial elements, such as international human rights law, international humanitarian law, the use of force protocols and investigations of human rights violations. OHCHR also developed practical resources, such as the *Human Rights Standards in Law Enforcement Booklet* for the Lebanese ISF.

Throughout the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, OHCHR monitored, documented and reported on the impact of the hostilities across **Lebanon**. This conflict monitoring benchmarked hostile incidents against an accountability framework of both international human rights law and international humanitarian law. At the peak of the conflict (from September to November), the Office prepared daily situation reports, covering every incident that occurred. The reports identified international human rights law and international humanitarian law concerns, including attacks on protected persons (disaggregated data on civilians, children, medical personnel, journalists and UN peacekeepers), as well as civilian infrastructure (disaggregated data on educational institutions, buildings dedicated to religion, cultural heritage sites, public infrastructure, hospitals, medical centres, ambulances, fire trucks, residential buildings and commercial property). OHCHR provided a human rights lens through which to view protection and humanitarian coordination efforts to ensure that human rights principles underpinned all response and recovery efforts.

Development

OHCHR organized a regional online consultation with CSOs and experts on environment-related issues, including climate change, and human rights. Approximately 60 participants attended and nearly 40 people responded to the pre-consultation survey. The consultation, survey data and participant discussions led to the identification of human rights concerns related to climate change, including reduced agricultural productivity and food availability, limited access to clean and safe drinking water, internal displacement and climate-induced migration. Migrants, women and children were recognized as among those most at risk from the adverse impacts of climate change in the region. The findings will be integrated into OHCHR's strategy for the region and will inform the implementation of various activities, such as the second Arab dialogue on Business and Human Rights, which will be held in 2025.

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 2024	62
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

In 2024, the human rights and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Gaza and the West Bank, reached unprecedented levels of protection concerns and humanitarian needs. As of the end of the year, more than 45,000 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023, the majority of whom were women and children. The number of deaths has surpassed all previous escalations. An estimated 1.9 million have also been displaced, many of them multiple times. The civilian infrastructure has been decimated. Despite overwhelming conditions, the Office continued coordinating the humanitarian protection response, engaging in human rights monitoring, undertaking legal analysis, reporting and advocacy and preparing for recovery efforts with national authorities and civil society. Significantly, the Gaza sub-office secured new premises in Deir al Balah and enhanced the operationalization of its protection coordination and response.

In Gaza, OHCHR continued leading the Protection Cluster and set up the Emergency Protection Responders (EPR) programme in order to scale up protection assessment and response activity. The programme is a protection model that was designed to create a pool of protection professionals and other frontline intersectoral humanitarian workers. They are engaged under the Protection Cluster umbrella to provide time-critical, lifesaving and general protection assistance to new or existing services in designated points across the oPt in a more coordinated and complementary manner and in consultation with affected communities. Tailored trainings equipped the staff of partners with essential EPR skills and improved their readiness to more efficiently address protection needs. As a result of these efforts, the Protection Cluster established a network of approximately 500 trained EPRs, all of whom are protection staff from nearly 20 Protection Cluster partners. The EPRs are being deployed to IDP camps, distribution sites and within the community to provide frontline support, on the spot responses and referrals for specialized services.

In October and November, the Protection Cluster carried out a participatory assessment exercise with more than 50 active protection partners, including OCHA and other operational clusters, to gain a better understanding of the shrinking protection environment, including stress drivers, major risks, threats, vulnerabilities and the capacities of affected communities across the Gaza Strip. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected through hybrid consultations (online and in person) and other innovative tools to ensure broad coverage and the triangulation of information, while ensuring that no one was put at risk. The assessment contributed directly to the identification of fundraising and advocacy priorities in the sector and the Protection Cluster's 2025 workplan.

Inclusive and integrated protection remained central to the Protection Cluster's strategy. To that end, mental health and psychosocial support interventions were expanded and integrated across protection activities, prioritizing trauma support for children, women and older persons at higher risk, including those in displacement. For example, customized interventions were put in place to address the psychosocial needs of persons with disabilities and individuals facing multiple vulnerabilities. Engagement with the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Gender in Humanitarian Action (GIHA) Working Groups facilitated the integration of safeguarding and gender-responsive approaches into protection and humanitarian responses, including through capacity-building and advisory support from the Cluster. It also prioritized gender-based

violence (GBV) and child protection by supporting the coordination of case management and promoting the development of shared referral pathways. Collaboration with the Accountability to Affected People/Risk Communication and Community Engagement (AAP/RCCE) Working Group strengthened accountability mechanisms by supporting community engagement and risk communication messages on protection and safeguarding. More specifically, a service directory was created to improve access to services and an awareness-raising campaign was launched to ensure communities in high-risk areas were informed about available protection mechanisms. AAP/RCCE communications were primarily distributed through mass media and online, thereby reaching most of the population. Coordination efforts among 15 specialized organizations and 53 protection partners enabled the provision of essential support to persons with disabilities and older persons.

In the West Bank, comprehensive coordination efforts that were undertaken during large-scale militarized operations ensured that localized responses were aligned with broader protection priorities. These efforts included rapid assessments, partner mobilization and advocacy for access to affected populations.

The Cluster played a strategic role in coordinating assessments of Bedouin and herder communities, shedding light on the coercive environment created by settler violence and forced displacement. The assessments informed advocacy and tailored interventions so that the needs of these marginalized communities would be prioritized in humanitarian response planning.

The Cluster's strategic coordination during the olive harvest safeguarded the livelihoods of farmers in over 70 high-risk communities. It worked closely with partners to monitor incidents and provide a protective presence, uphold the safeguarding and do-no-harm principles and advocate for improved access to agricultural lands in the Seam Zone and nearby settlements.

The Cluster strengthened coordination mechanisms through collaboration with Inter-Sector Clusters, such as WASH, Shelter, Food, Site Management and Health, resulting in an holistic and inclusive response to the multifaceted needs of affected populations. In the context of ceasefire planning, in late 2024, operational procedures were put in place to integrate protection teams into distribution sites and transit monitoring points. Other initiatives included ongoing cooperation on the integration of protection monitoring into site management activities, protection desks at health clinics and hospitals, intersectoral assessments at IDP sites and building the capacity to mainstream protection into other clusters.

Accountability

OHCHR is the lead on fatality tracking and verification for the UNCT, which is also one of its responsibilities as the Coordinator of the Protection Cluster. From 7 October 2023 to 31 December 2024, the Office applied its standard methodology to independently verify over 11,000 fatalities in Gaza, which were caused by alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In the West Bank, the Office conducted 360 in-person missions in 2024. As a result of its interventions, five Palestinians were released from unlawful detention.

On the basis of its far-reaching monitoring work, OHCHR documented and issued analyses, reports and statements, highlighting specific instances and trends of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Since the 7 October 2023 attacks, the Office has issued more than 100 statements, from Geneva and locally, and contributed to high-level addresses.

OHCHR's social media posts were seen or interacted with approximately 7.8 million times and many posts were picked up by the international media or led to follow-up interviews, thereby reinforcing the Office's role as a reliable source of human rights information on the oPt. In addition to mandated reports, OHCHR issued several thematic reports, including: one that analysed a pattern of violations of international humanitarian law during Israel's use of munitions; one on attacks on hospitals; a six-month update on the situation in Gaza; and a report on detention and torture or ill-treatment. OHCHR will continue to document credible allegations of torture and ill-treatment by

Israeli and Palestinian duty bearers. The violations are compounded by concerns about fair trial guarantees and an absence of accountability, even for undeniable cases of torture.

Mechanisms

The Office worked with Palestinian authorities, national institutions and CSOs to facilitate their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and align laws, policies and programming with human rights principles and their obligations. Efforts focused on improving compliance with recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and building the capacities of national institutions and CSOs.

The Office bolstered its working relationship with OPDs, including in Gaza, and umbrella organizations, such as the Palestinian General Union of Persons with Disabilities. A significant milestone was achieved with the organization of a workshop, in September, during which participants discussed the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in the State of Palestine. This work was complemented by a subsequent technical workshop, in December, to support Palestinian OPDs with drafting alternative reports and interacting with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

OHCHR engaged with Palestinian organizations working on the rights of the child to encourage them to submit reports and information to the CRC Committee. Seven Palestinian human rights organizations and OPDs contributed to reports that were submitted to the Committee. Several of these were supported by OHCHR during the process. In July, OHCHR cooperated with the Ministry of Social Development to conduct a training workshop for the Palestinian national team tasked with overseeing the implementation of and follow-up on the recommendations issued by the Committee.

The Office also established and strengthened partnerships with women's rights organizations and OPDs, resulting in improved collaboration on the provision of essential services and training for CSOs and EPRs.

Participation

OHCHR produced a crucial analysis on the situation of civil society in the oPt, which informed reports, briefings and the international community. In the report on settlements to the General Assembly, the Office highlights the connection between increasingly violent settler activity and growing anti-Palestinian sentiment. In a six-month update report on the human rights situation in Gaza, OHCHR provided a novel analysis of the impact of the destruction of Gaza on civil society and the rights relating to freedom of expression, as evidenced by the widespread killing of journalists and telecommunications staff and the demolition of telecommunications infrastructure. Some civil society actors continued to work despite their displacement, dispossession, the killing of their colleagues and destruction of their homes and offices.

The Office established and convened the West Bank Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), under the Protection Cluster. The HRWG has been pivotal in bringing together Palestinian and Israeli CSOs to engage in joint monitoring and documentation efforts. This has contributed to increased information-sharing among human rights groups, reduced duplication and multiplied advocacy efforts. A parallel group was also established for Gaza to ensure monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in the area. These efforts enabled the streamlining and coordination of human rights organizations in the oPt and helped build connections and trust among members.

Several trainings were organized for HRDs, media professionals, law students and others, including on monitoring and documenting human rights violations, engaging with the international human rights mechanisms, undertaking advocacy and providing essential services. In partnership with the Palestinian NGOs Network, OHCHR launched a capacity-building programme designed to enrich the advocacy skills of newly recruited staff of CSOs in Gaza. By the end of the programme, participants had produced a comprehensive set of advocacy materials to be used when engaged in advocacy with international partners.

As the lead of the human rights group within the Palestinian Security Sector Working Group, OHCHR worked closely with other members to develop specialized programmes to increase the awareness of law enforcement personnel about international human rights principles, the international human rights treaties and conflict prevention strategies. Additionally, OHCHR contributed to shaping the 2024-2025 strategic plans for the Palestinian Security and Justice Sectors, with a focus on aligning legislation with international human rights standards, protecting human rights and improving public security, particularly in marginalized communities.

The Office reinforced its partnership with the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), the NHRI in the oPt, which is based in Gaza and the West Bank. OHCHR met regularly with ICHR, exchanged information and analysis on human rights developments, held joint events and shared mutually supportive advocacy messaging. One priority moving forward is strengthening the capacity of ICHR, which has been badly affected by the escalations in Gaza. OHCHR included ICHR in the UN's recovery activities, as it will be a central player in any recovery and transitional processes in the oPt. It will also ensure that an HRBA is applied in broader recovery processes.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Damascus, Syria
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework 2022-2024
Staff as of 31 December 2024	18
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

During the year, OHCHR worked to ensure that people were made aware of their rights and knew about related avenues for accountability, effective remedies and reparations. The fall of the Syrian Government and shift in the control of the country at the end of the year marked a watershed moment. This will have wide-ranging implications for OHCHR's programming and require responses to new challenges and opportunities, in particular with regard to transitional justice.

OHCHR engaged in protection activities to help prevent further violations by parties to the conflict. For instance, the Office disseminated information on recent accountability measures, including: the pending ICJ case against Syria, brought by Canada and the Netherlands, alleging violations of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); the review of Syria's fourth periodic report by the Human Rights Committee; and the use of the individual complaint mechanism under the CRPD Convention. The Office also monitored universal jurisdiction cases related to Syria and tracked cases addressing violations and abuses committed by different parties to the conflict. OHCHR's analysis of non-State armed groups (NSAGs) in Syria emphasized the responsibilities of de facto authorities under international human rights law towards populations in areas under their control. OHCHR tracked legislative developments across Syria, such as the amnesty decrees issued by the Government, including Legislative Decree

No. 27 on military conscription, to ensure that policies adhere to international law and contribute to human rights protection.

OHCHR supported the operationalization of the Independent Institution on Missing Persons (IIMP), established in 2023, and raised awareness about how families of missing persons can use this entity to search for their loved ones.

Participation

OHCHR prioritized engagement with CSOs and HRDs as part of broad-based efforts to encourage participation and protect civic space. More specifically, the Office expanded its engagement through 26 new partnerships with CSOs working on both human rights and humanitarian issues. OHCHR increased the knowledge and capacities of its CSO partners at workshops on international human rights mechanisms, monitoring and reporting human rights violations, ESCRs, a webinar on the right to housing, land and property rights and HRBA programming. Following the workshops, five CSOs submitted mid-term reports in anticipation of Syria's fourth UPR cycle. In 2025, OHCHR will continue this work through sessions on monitoring legislation and policies, as well as reporting and follow-up mechanisms, to enhance the capacities of participants to effectively advocate for and protect ESCRs.

OHCHR's online initiatives expanded its outreach and enabled it to engage with HRDs and CSOs from across the country with diverse backgrounds. The Office also helped to strengthen network communications with the human rights community in Syria by convening bimonthly meetings of the Human Rights Reference Group (HRRG). The platform provided an opportunity for discussions on thematic issues, including emerging human rights violations and prevention measures, in line with CSO priorities. During the 2024 thematic sessions, discussions focused on the right to health, the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage, the human rights situation of refugees returning to Syria (as part of the ongoing influx of persons fleeing the armed conflict in Lebanon) and CSO inputs to the Human Rights Committee.

The Office promoted the integration of human rights into the humanitarian response for Syria by supporting the development, implementation and monitoring of the humanitarian programme cycle, such as the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Further, the Office produced a series of videos to improve the understanding of its partners on human rights issues in Syria, namely, on the rights to food and housing, education and the right to know. The videos reflected the latest needs identified in the UN's HNO. A fourth video, released in February 2025, addresses accountability avenues for Syria.

The Office collaborated with CSOs to mark International Youth Day (12 August), amplifying the voices of young HRDs in an online campaign entitled "Digital youth generation: Leaders of change." The campaign aimed to raise awareness about human rights and encouraged users to promote human rights. It reached an estimated 1,000 people via social media postings.

In a watershed moment for the country, after 13 years of conflict, the former regime fell in early December, leading to the formation of a transitional government. This coincided with Human Rights Day, on 10 December. To mark the occasion, OHCHR facilitated an event entitled "It is not only a need, but also a right," bringing together 40 partners, including representatives from Syrian families' associations, UN bodies, CSOs and Member States. Speakers emphasized the importance of adopting a rights-based approach to mitigate the effects of the conflict on the Syrian people and focused on the right to know of families of missing persons, integrating human rights into the humanitarian response and regulating the conduct of non-State armed groups. The event resulted in an agreement that called for joint efforts to plan a new chapter for Syria that is based on human rights and accountability to ensure the transition will be inclusive, sustainable and aligned with international human rights norms.

Non-discrimination

OHCHR applied a cross-cutting strategy to facilitate the mainstreaming of equality and

non-discrimination into all activities and advocacy efforts. To this end, OHCHR undertook an in-depth review of the detention of individuals at al-Hol Camp in northeast Syria. In May, it published a policy paper on *The lawfulness of women's deprivation of liberty in al-Hol Camp*, which combines a gender and legal analysis.

During the year, the Office organized an online discussion series that applied a gender lens to existing measures in order to address violations of housing, land, property and other rights and to issues such as arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and abduction. The discussion series improved the knowledge of CSOs about women's rights and gender equality and provided a better understanding of the need to integrate gender, diversity and inclusion into programmes and advocacy. More than 70 women, including CSO directors, programme managers and legal professionals, participated in the discussions.

In cooperation with humanitarian partners, the Office developed five advisory notes on economic and social rights in Syria. The objective of the notes was to ensure that the humanitarian response is adequate to the protection needs identified by affected communities and to provide stakeholders with guidance on the scope and meaning of relevant international norms. The notes were published on ReliefWeb, in Arabic and English, and provide an overview of economic and social rights and opportunities for humanitarian partners to engage in developing more inclusive prevention and response measures to comprehensively address these rights.

OHCHR supported linkages between the international human rights mechanisms and CSOs working on issues related to persons with disabilities to facilitate collaboration with the CRPD Committee and promote the use of the individual complaints procedure under the CRPD Convention. In 2024, the Office engaged with 11 CSOs that advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. Wider outreach and engagement with disability rights organizations is underway in anticipation of a 2025 workshop on engaging with the CRPD Committee and the individual complaints procedure.

Peace and Security

Notwithstanding the extremely challenging security situation in both Lebanon and Syria, as well as significant obstacles in accessing information on the ground, OHCHR closely monitored trends and patterns affecting human rights in Syria through remote monitoring and a field mission to Gaziantep, Türkiye, in September. In its February report, OHCHR highlighted human rights violations and concerns facing Syrian returnees, with a particular focus on women. The recommendations of the report highlight issues related to returns, including housing, land and property rights, military conscription and civil documentation.

Following extensive monitoring and research conducted during the year, a second report was prepared on the patterns of death in custody in the Syrian Arab Republic. The report is based on 142 interviews conducted with family members of victims who died in custody, former detainees and other persons who had direct access to information regarding the victims or people in detention. OHCHR organized a briefing for Member States to examine the regional impacts of the armed conflict from a human rights perspective. With the influx of Syrian refugees returning from Lebanon, the Office emphasized the need to protect this population, particularly in light of reports of arrests and detentions, including for reasons related to military conscription and desertion. Nine flash reports were produced, drawing attention to ongoing violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and providing early warning messages to prevent further violence and human rights violations.

OHCHR issued the findings and analysis of its human rights monitoring to inform UN reports and products, including the annual Secretary-General reports on the protection of civilians and on children and armed conflict. OHCHR's contributions also informed the work of the UNCT and of humanitarian partners in Damascus and Gaziantep.

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 2024	12
Key OMP pillars in 2024	

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

OHCHR has been working on securing sign language as an official language for many years, including by advocating for its use in public establishments and mapping actors who provide sign language interpretation. In 2024, OHCHR supported efforts to develop a draft law to recognize sign language as an official language in Tunisia for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. To that end, OHCHR collaborated with UNESCO to deliver a workshop, held in May, on a draft policy paper that identifies the legal and technical elements required for this legislation. A total of 20 people attended the event (nine women), including two Members of Parliament, the Regional Director of Social Affairs of Sfax and five young people with disabilities who represented Tunisian OPDs. In June, the Office and UNESCO organized a second workshop on the draft policy paper. The 29 participants (17 women) included representatives from associations of persons with disabilities, as well as Members of Parliament representing the Committee on Rights and Freedoms, the Committee on Health and Persons with Disabilities and the Committee of Planning. Following the workshops, the Members of Parliament prepared a draft law proposing the recognition of sign language as an official language, which will be presented to the Parliament for adoption.

In December, the Office conducted a multi-stakeholder symposium on "The phenomenon of gender-based violence against women and girls in Tunisia: Feminicide as an extreme form of gender-based violence," in the context of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The symposium was held at the University of Sousse and brought together 130 representatives from the Ministry of the Interior, a shelter for GBV survivors, legal professionals, including a lawyer and a judge, professors, researchers and UNFPA representatives. Participant evaluations noted their appreciation for an improved understanding of legal frameworks, such as Law No. 58 of 2017 on eliminating violence against women and its efficacy and the need to address feminicide within the cultural and social context of Tunisia.

Accountability

OHCHR conducted 22 unannounced prison visits to assess the conditions of detainees and advocate for necessary improvements. Dialogue with detainees and the penitentiary administration resulted in improvements in detention conditions for some detainees. For instance, after the prison administration improved his conditions, one detainee ended a two-month hunger strike that he had begun to protest ill-treatment. In April, during a joint visit with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to Messadine Prison (Sousse), the Office successfully advocated for the transfer of two detainees to a psychiatric hospital. In July, OHCHR and the Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT) successfully advocated for the release of a female detainee with chronic health issues. Moreover, in April, OHCHR cooperated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to deliver a workshop for members of the NPM on the rights of persons with disabilities in detention centres. The training was held to support the NPM in drafting its first report on the detention conditions of persons with disabilities.

Participation

In April, the Office facilitated a consultation with six CSO representatives (one woman) working on ESCRs, the rights of the child, minority rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. The objective of the consultation was to inform participants about the process of submitting alternative reports to the Pre-Sessional Working Group of

the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) prior to the Committee's review of Tunisia's fourth periodic report. The consultation enabled the CSOs to share their priority concerns and better understand the issues raised by other CSOs working on different mandates. The consultation mapped out the issues of concern that will be included in the individual and joint CSO reports to the Committee.

From 22 to 25 April, the Office collaborated with the Arab Institute for Human Rights to deliver a regional training course for young HRDs on "Rights and responsibilities of young human rights defenders and their role in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms." The training sought to empower participants in the region to engage with the international human rights mechanisms and advocate for their rights. The training was attended by 20 participants (10 women) from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Syria and Tunisia.

From 8 to 9 June, OHCHR and the Tunisian Bar Association co-organized a roundtable for lawyers on the "Role of lawyers to defend freedom of expression in Tunisia." The roundtable was held to strengthen the capacities of lawyers to address laws and practices which unduly restrict freedom of expression in Tunisia and to equip them with legal arguments and tools to more effectively defend their clients by referring to international standards. The event brought together 22 lawyers (10 women) from various regions of Tunisia and included two lawyers with disabilities, one of whom had a visual impairment.

The Office worked closely with the NPM to co-host a roundtable on the status of implementation of the recommendations issued by the CAT Committee, in 2016, following its review of Tunisia's third periodic report. A total of 38 participants (20 women) attended, including representatives of the Ministries of the Interior and Social Affairs, members of the Tunisian National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT), representatives of CSOs, HRDs, forensic pathologists, psychologists and lawyers. The session was led by an independent expert from the CAT Committee and an independent expert from the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT). The outcome document of the roundtable outlined a series of recommendations that will serve as a road map for future advocacy and the upcoming examination of Tunisia's fourth periodic report by the CAT Committee. In parallel to this activity, a podcast was recorded and broadcast by Radio Essaida FM to sensitize the public on the prevention of torture and an arts contest on human dignity for children and youth was launched, resulting in over 60 submissions.

On 10 July, the Office and the Human Rights Centre at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, launched the Arabic version of the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations. The Berkeley Protocol presents guidelines on how online content can be used when investigating violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law, as well as crimes under international law.

Peace and Security

In the context of the presidential elections on 6 October, the Office monitored the human rights situation throughout the electoral process. OHCHR developed and used a specialized online monitoring tool to track developments, prepared daily updates and detailed analytical notes, enabling it to offer real-time insights into incidents and trends related to the elections. Through this approach, the Office closely observed key developments, such as the evolving role of the Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) in media oversight, which raised concerns about media independence and equitable access for candidates. By systematically analysing and reporting on these issues, OHCHR contributed to a more informed electorate about the human rights dimensions of the electoral process.

In preventing violent terrorism, OHCHR provided technical support to the National Commission for Counter-Terrorism (CNLCT), under a joint project with UNESCO, entitled "Empowering the education system and school communities through the promotion of human rights, education for global citizenship and media and information literacy." In April, a workshop was held on "Best

practices in preventing violent extremism through a human rights and educational approach" for 70 participants (40 women). Together with the CNLCT, a workshop was held, in December, to develop a training of trainers (ToT) that is founded on a human rights-based approach. A total of 29 participants (14 women) attended. Also in December, the Office shared with the CNLCT a mapping document of training and development initiatives related to capacity-building to prevent violent terrorism. The document will be used to plan and design future capacity-building programmes.

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 2024	37

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

Following a widespread detention campaign carried out by de facto authorities, in June, against more than 50 humanitarian workers and 13 UN national staff, six of whom were UN Human Rights staff (one woman, five men), OHCHR advocated for the release of the detained staff through various channels, including the Crisis Management Team, led by the Resident Coordinator. In addition, OHCHR advocated for the release of four UN staff, including UN Human Rights staff who have been detained by the de facto authorities since 2021 and 2023, respectively. OHCHR also demanded that the de facto authorities facilitate the operations undertaken by UN entities and humanitarian actors to serve the people of Yemen, including by lifting the travel restrictions on staff in Sana'a.

OHCHR supported the implementation of the HRDDP in Yemen through the recruitment of an international consultant to develop the draft Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the General and Preliminary Risk Assessment Framework (GPRAF) and by providing technical advice to the UNCT. The draft SOP and GPRAF are pending approval by the UNCT but due to the prevailing context in Yemen, the approval process has been delayed.

OHCHR documented 49 arbitrary arrests and detention incidents, including four related to enforced disappearances, six related to torture

and allied violations, 14 related to extrajudicial killings, eight related to the excessive use of force, six related to the imposition of the death penalty, three related to conditions of detention and eight related to death in custody. A large number of violations of the rights to freedom of expression and association were also documented, including 30 cases of arrest and detention of people exercising freedom of expression or practicing journalism, five cases of threats and harassment, four cases of assault, one case of enforced disappearance and four cases of journalists being investigated by the prosecutor.

OHCHR conducted 10 advocacy meetings with authorities in the south to address allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and the use of illegal prisons. This contributed to the release of a journalist and a lawyer, in Aden. OHCHR had monitored the case of these two detainees, visited them in prison, coordinated with their legal teams and family members and engaged with the Attorney General, Correction Department and Ministry of Human Rights and Legal Affairs in Aden.

Accountability

OHCHR strengthened the capacities of key government agencies to effectively implement Yemen's human rights obligations.

Three training workshops were organized on law enforcement and the use of force, in Aden and Taiz, during the fourth quarter. A total of 98 security officials (16 women) attended and increased their understanding of the international and domestic legal frameworks on the use of force and firearms, the use of lethal weapons and legal accountability.

In November, a workshop was delivered on the classification of violations and the specificity of trials in the context of transitional justice for 27 participants from Aden, including nine investigators (one woman) from the National Commission of Inquiry (NCOI), and 18 civil society actors (12 women). The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to discuss the definition and verification of violations in accordance with international standards, understand trials regarding human rights violations and brainstorm about possibilities and challenges in exercising transitional justice. This heightened awareness will positively direct their future work.

In October, OHCHR facilitated a meeting in Mukalla City, in Hadramout Governorate, which equipped 40 NCOI field monitors (11 women) from various governorates with the skills to perform human rights investigations and undertake documentation and reporting. The meeting provided participants with an updated list of human rights violations, information about current patterns of human rights violations and an established risk mitigation pathway for NCOI field monitors. A follow-up meeting was arranged for staff from the NCOI and civil society actors, enabling attendees to learn more about the respective roles of CSOs and the NCOI in promoting and protecting human rights in Yemen and to explore the potential for a cooperation framework.

In February, 39 NCOI field monitors (eight women) based in different governorates attended a workshop that was hosted by OHCHR. Participants discussed the performance of NCOI field monitors in relation to human rights monitoring, documenting and reporting and highlighted their findings. The dialogue focused on cooperation in monitoring and analysing violations in line with international human rights and international humanitarian standards.

OHCHR visited 26 police stations, prisons, juvenile facilities and other places of detention in Aden and Hadramout, raising awareness among staff and detainees about their rights. This was primarily achieved through the distribution of more than 120 posters on human rights, including on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). In particular, OHCHR visited seven detention facilities and followed up by communicating with authorities on its observations and recommendations regarding the human rights situation within detention facilities. The authorities agreed to share consolidated official prison statistics with OHCHR.

Participation

OHCHR empowered civil society actors to promote and protect human rights in local communities and contribute to evidence collection.

More specifically, OHCHR delivered six human rights monitoring skills trainings in Aden, Hadramout, Marib and Taiz for a total of 187 participants (95 women). The participants learned about international human rights standards and frameworks, enhanced their skills in relation to documentation, information management, advocacy, security and monitoring. According to the pre- and post-training questionnaires, participants across the training sessions demonstrated an average 41 per cent improvement in their knowledge of the subject matter. The Arabic language version of the training module of OHCHR's *Manual on human rights reporting* provided the basis for these workshops and the materials were regularly reviewed.

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, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Doha, Qatar
Staff as of 31 December 2024	16

Key OMP pillars in 2024

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

In 2024, OHCHR supported efforts to promote the greater engagement of CSOs, NHRIs and journalists with the international human rights mechanisms.

Two online three-day trainings on "Engaging with the international human rights mechanisms" were organized in collaboration with the Sudanese Human Rights Monitor and the OHCHR Country Office in **Sudan**. A total of 46 participants (22 women) attended, including lawyers and HRDs. In addition, a regional training for junior Arab diplomats was organized in cooperation with the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy for 21 participants (13 women) from 13 Arab countries. The objective of the training was to enable participants to exchange good practices and strengthen their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and their capacities to apply human rights indicators as a way to measure progress in implementing recommendations.

In **Oman**, OHCHR and the Oman National Human Rights Commission delivered a three-day workshop on human rights indicators for 40 participants (21 women), including representatives of ministries, the Statistics Office, the police, the media and CSOs. The goal of the workshop was to enable participants to develop quantitative and

qualitative indicators that would facilitate the measurement of progress in the implementation of international human rights norms and principles. The workshop was followed by a four-day ToT to introduce 27 of those participants (13 women) to the OHCHR human rights training methodology. The workshop focused on designing, managing and implementing human rights training indicators. After the ToT, Oman issued Royal Decree No. 50/2024, establishing a working group to develop national-level human rights indicators in relation to the CEDAW Convention, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the CRPD Convention.

Participation

During the year, OHCHR undertook various initiatives to build the capabilities of key stakeholders, including NHRIs, CSOs, HRDs, students and media professionals, to engage in human rights advocacy.

For instance, a four-day regional ToT was organized in **Morocco**, in March, to improve the knowledge of State institutions about the design, management and delivery of human rights trainings. Representatives from 10 NHRIs attended and learned how to deliver human rights training in their respective institutions and other State entities involved in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Furthermore, efforts were undertaken to encourage media professionals to apply an HRBA to their work. In October, OHCHR supported the **Bahrain** NHRI in organizing a panel discussion on human rights standards for media professionals, with an emphasis on integrating human rights principles into their work.

In July, a three-day regional moot court competition was organized in **Jordan**. The competition was held at Jordan University, as part of the legal clinic programme, with an emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities under international standards. OHCHR staff contributed legal documents and served as human rights judges. In March, two online trainings were organized by L'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie on the individual complaints procedure under the CRPD Convention, in anticipation of the moot court competition. OHCHR developed materials describing how law students can submit complaints to the CRPD Committee. In total, 167 university students (87 women) from five countries in the region participated and gained a greater understanding of international standards on the rights of persons with disabilities and how to take action.

In collaboration with the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis, **Tunisia**, a four-day regional training course was organized for young HRDs, in April, entitled "Rights and responsibilities of young human rights defenders and their role in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms." The training strengthened the capacities of 18 participants (10 women) from the region to engage with the international human rights mechanisms and undertake advocacy for human rights.

In August, OHCHR attended the World Scout Conference, in **Egypt**, and delivered workshops for youth scout leaders on international human rights principles. Participants learned to replicate the workshop content in their national scout organizations. A total of 23 individuals (10 women) attended the workshops.

Development

OHCHR supported trainings to increase the participation of NHRIs and CSOs in advancing ESCRs. In Cairo, Egypt, a new flagship regional training was held for NHRIs, in November, on "Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights." The training was organized in collaboration with the Arab Network for NHRIs and hosted by the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights. It aimed to introduce participants to the concepts, principles and standards of ESCRs, as well as relevant international and national human rights mechanisms, while strengthening their capacity to promote and protect ESCRs in their respective countries, in accordance with the Paris Principles. A total of 24 participants representing 10 NHRIs attended. It is anticipated that the training will be delivered on an annual basis.

A four-day regional human rights training for media professionals was held, in **Morocco**, on "The role of media in promoting the enjoyment of the right to adequate food in the context of armed conflicts and environmental and climate change." The training was delivered in collaboration with the Al Jazeera Public Liberties and Human Rights Centre, the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, the National Human Rights Committee in the State of Qatar and the Al Shorouk Centre for Democracy, Media and Human Rights. The training covered human rights standards, international human rights mechanisms, the rights of media professionals, the right to food and State obligations with respect to ESCRs. It also sought to improve the capacities of the participants to apply human rights principles to their work. A total of 25 journalists (10 women) from 15 Arab countries participated.

To reach a wider audience, OHCHR will develop an e-learning course on ESCRs in 2025 to introduce government officials, NHRIs and other stakeholders to the concepts, principles and standards of ESCRs, the obligations of States and the roles of stakeholders in respecting, promoting, protecting and fulfilling those rights. Additionally, a series of knowledge management products were produced, in Arabic, and distributed to participants during trainings. They were also made available on the Centre's digital platforms to raise public awareness about key thematic areas of human rights and are available on the OHCHR Intranet for use by colleagues in the region.



A workshop on human rights indicators was held for participants of the Oman Human Rights Commission. © OHCHR

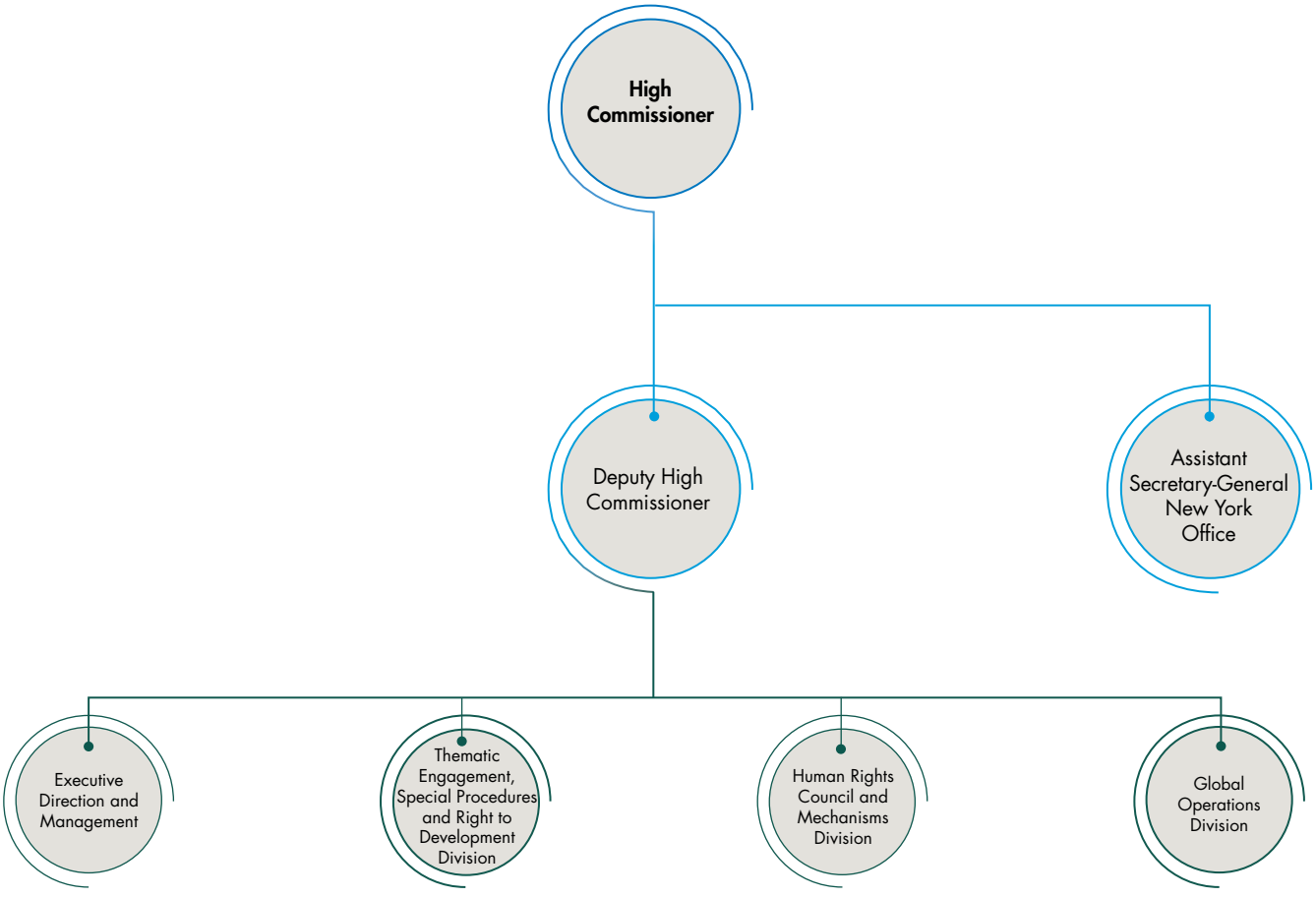
UN HUMAN RIGHTS

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 2024.

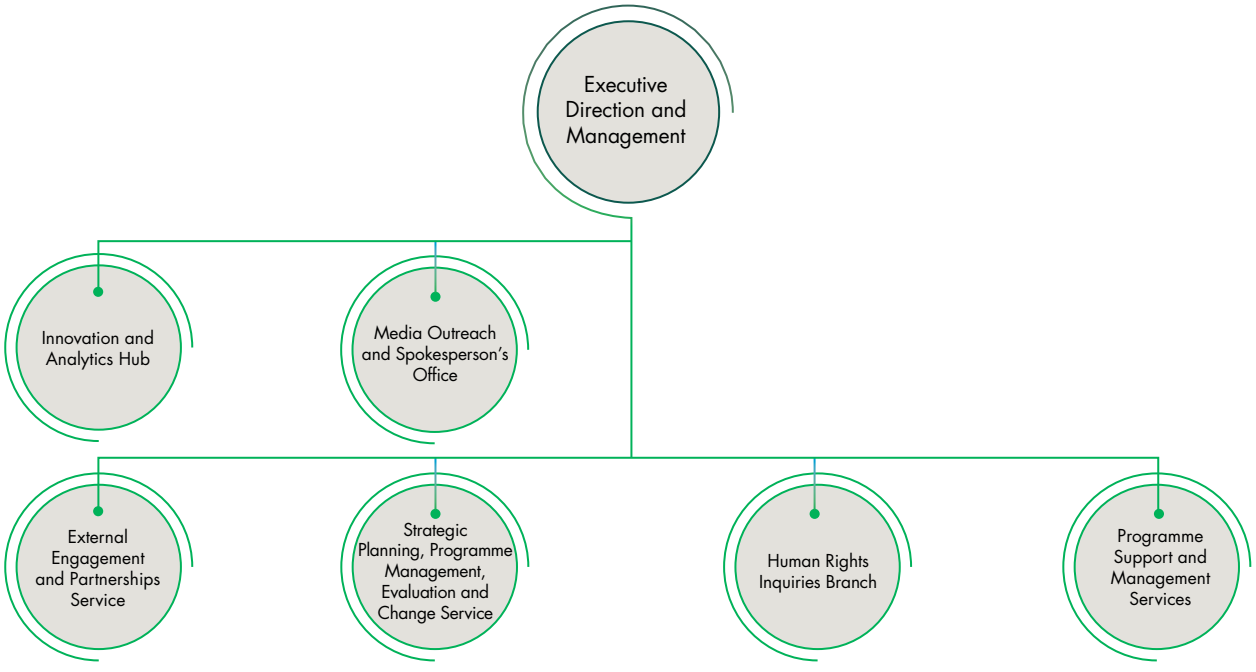


EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

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 (DHC) and the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Human Rights. It is composed of the Executive Office; the New York Office; the External Engagement and Partnerships Service; the Human Rights Inquiries Branch; the Innovation and Analytics Hub; the Media Outreach and Spokesperson's Office; the Programme Support and Management Services; and the Strategic Planning, Programme Management, Evaluation and Change Service.

In 2024, the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner strengthened partnerships with Member States as duty bearers by proposing assistance that would support them in building effective national human rights protection systems, including legal frameworks, institutions and practices, and promoting respect for and enjoyment of human rights for all, without discrimination. Furthermore, the implementation of the Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0) change management exercise was initiated to create an office that is 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 in order to 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 the divisions of the Office and the integration of its priorities into submitted inputs.

The EO is responsible for overall coordination with the UN system and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), in close collaboration with the New York Office, and for facilitating 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 the preparation for meetings with partners and in relation to the speeches and reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner that are delivered to the UN's intergovernmental bodies.

In 2024, the roll-out of OE 2.0 was led through the concerted engagement of the Executive Office, in cooperation with the implementation teams, with a particular emphasis on the integration of executive functions, budget, recruitment and internal governance bodies. In addition, the Executive Office provided support to the High Commissioner and his Deputy in their overall strategic and oversight responsibilities for office-wide implementation of the change process. The EO also provided crucial backstopping for a wide range of partnership engagements, including for new collaborations, notably in the private sector, as well as within the UN system.

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

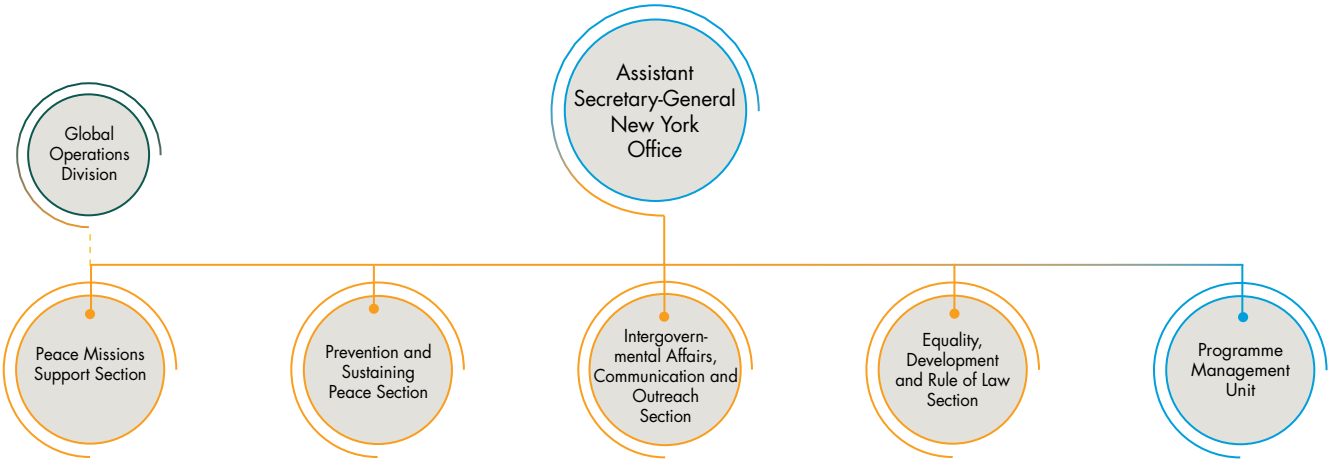
OHCHR's New York Office (NYO) is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The principal objective of the NYO is to integrate human rights norms and standards into policies, discussions and decisions made in intergovernmental, interdepartmental and inter-agency bodies at UN Headquarters in New York. This includes engagement with the UN's Member States and intergovernmental bodies, UN system entities, civil society organizations, 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 Front Office and the following four substantive sections, which are supported by the Programme Management Unit:

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 Global Operations Division, based at headquarters, in Geneva.

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 **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.



Innovation and Analytics Hub

In June, OHCHR launched the Innovation and Analytics Hub (IAH). Inspired by the Secretary-General's Quintet of Change, the Hub's mission is to drive impactful change for OHCHR, the UN system and the human rights community by connecting people, ideas and solutions.

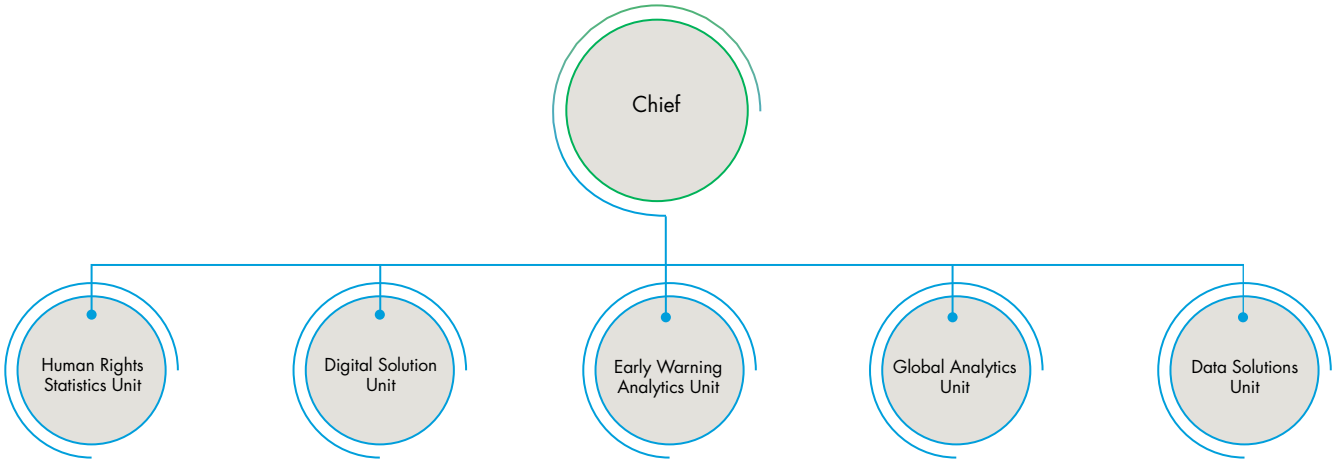
At a time of increasingly complex and interlinked human rights crises, traditional and manual approaches are no longer sufficient. The Hub's creation reflects the Office's commitment to leveraging data and technology for agile human rights analysis that supports preventive action and response. The responsible use of frontier technologies will empower the Office to deliver on its mandate with enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. The IAH brings together core expertise in digital transformation, data and analytics, human rights statistics, foresight-enabled early warning and prevention and applies innovative technology for human rights work.

As a service centre for the Office, the Hub is designed to help colleagues work in a more connected, integrated and digital way. The Hub also serves as an interface for collaboration with partners across the global human rights community, building partnerships within and across the UN system, as well as with civil society, academia, private companies and others.

In just six months, backed by 50 partners, the Hub provided support to more than 60 field offices and piloted several groundbreaking solutions that were powered by data, new technologies and artificial intelligence (AI). Drawing on over 350 staff-conceived ideas for innovation, the Hub launched four high-impact initiatives to strengthen the Office through: digital transformation; unlocking the potential of human rights data; enhancing risk analysis for early warning and prevention; and further developing human rights statistics. The Hub also provided opportunities for OHCHR staff to develop critical skills and capacities, promoting a data-driven culture across all work areas.

In 2024, the Office adopted its first Digital Transformation Road Map. Spearheaded by the IAH, UN Human Rights will unlock and use data as a strategic organizational asset, protected by the highest standards of data security. Leveraging the transformative power of AI will enhance cost efficiency in everyday workflows and free up resources for critical human rights work.

Through these measures, the IAH is strengthening the agility, responsiveness and effectiveness of OHCHR in fulfilling its mandate. As a result, the Office is better positioned to support and advise Member States and other constituencies.



Human Rights Inquiries Branch

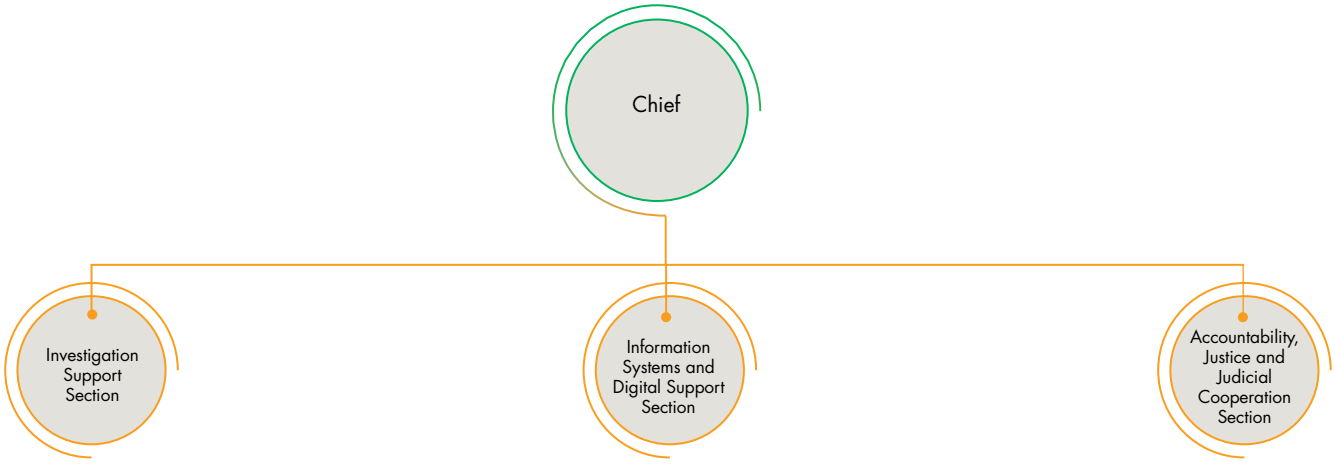
In 2024, the Human Rights Inquiries Branch (HRIB) became operational, with a view to providing a dedicated core capacity for an office-wide integrated, coherent and consistent approach to investigations and accountability. The Branch is comprised of three core areas of work, thereby providing a comprehensive suite of expertise and support for investigations that are mandated by the Human Rights Council (HRC) and those that are conducted under the High Commissioner's mandate. By enhancing its structure and optimizing its support functions, the HRIB ensures that OHCHR can better meet the growing demands for accountability and remain a central player in global efforts to combat impunity and uphold justice.

The **Investigations Support Section** is responsible for supporting all investigative work that is conducted under any mandate, from start-up to conclusion. It offers prompt, consistent and flexible capacities, as required, and provides timely and comprehensive operational support across all facets of investigations. During the year, the Section strengthened the capacities of 12 Council-mandated independent investigative bodies and of a fact-finding team deployed under the High Commissioner's global mandate.

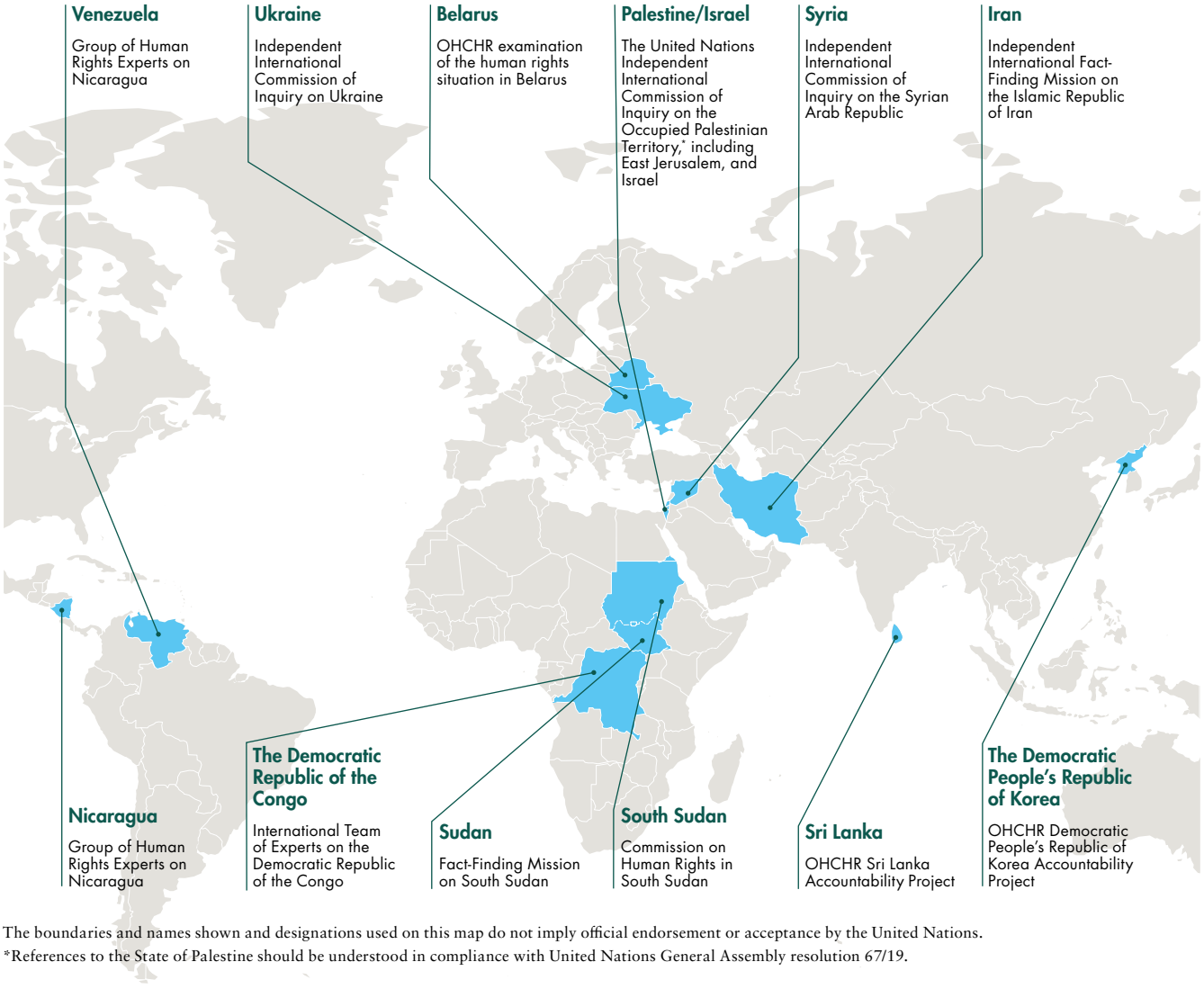
The **Information Systems and Digital Support Section** provides the necessary digital tools, infrastructure and expertise to ensure the secure and forensically sound collection, preservation and analysis of digital information and evidence, in line with international standards. The Section maintains a centralized archive and long-term home for physical and digital information and evidence for human rights investigations.

The **Accountability, Justice and Judicial Cooperation Section** seeks to deepen the analysis of investigative material for accountability purposes. It does so by strengthening partnerships with national, regional and international accountability mechanisms and actors, including accountability processes, NGOs, law groups and other civil society actors and criminal courts.

The Branch's flexibility and rapid deployment capacity was demonstrated in the swift response to a request of the Interim Government of Bangladesh for an impartial and independent fact-finding mission to investigate human rights violations that were committed during the suppression of protests that began in July. On 16 September, the Office deployed a specialized fact-finding team to Bangladesh, composed of experts on issues related to human rights, gender, forensic pathology and security sector/arms, with additional support from the Branch. The Geneva-based team provided critical assistance, including legal analysis, report drafting, open source investigations, digital forensics and administrative and operational support, ensuring an effective and efficient mission.

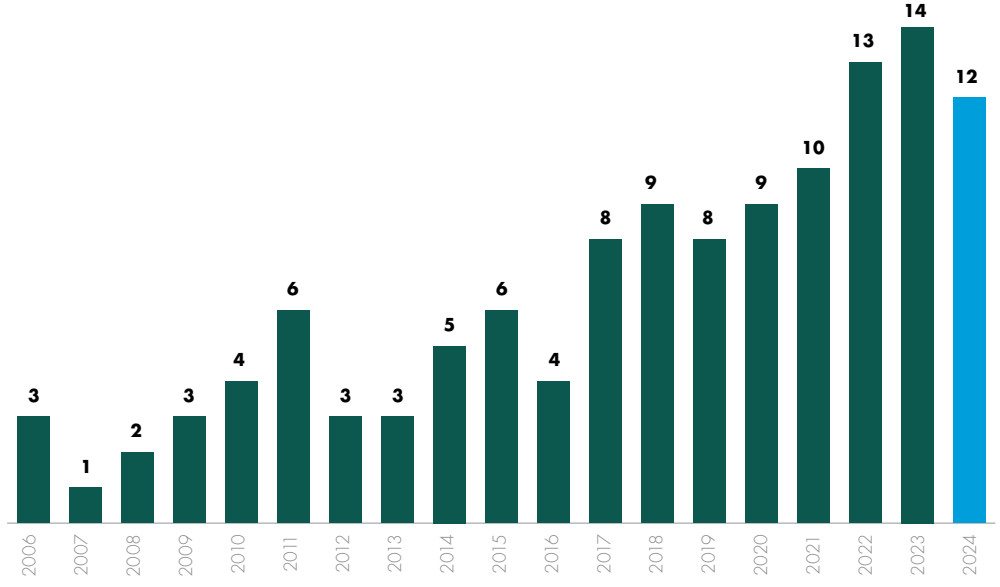


INVESTIGATIVE BODIES BY COUNTRY IN 2024



The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
*References to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

NUMBER OF NEW/EXTENDED INVESTIGATIVE BODIES SINCE 2006



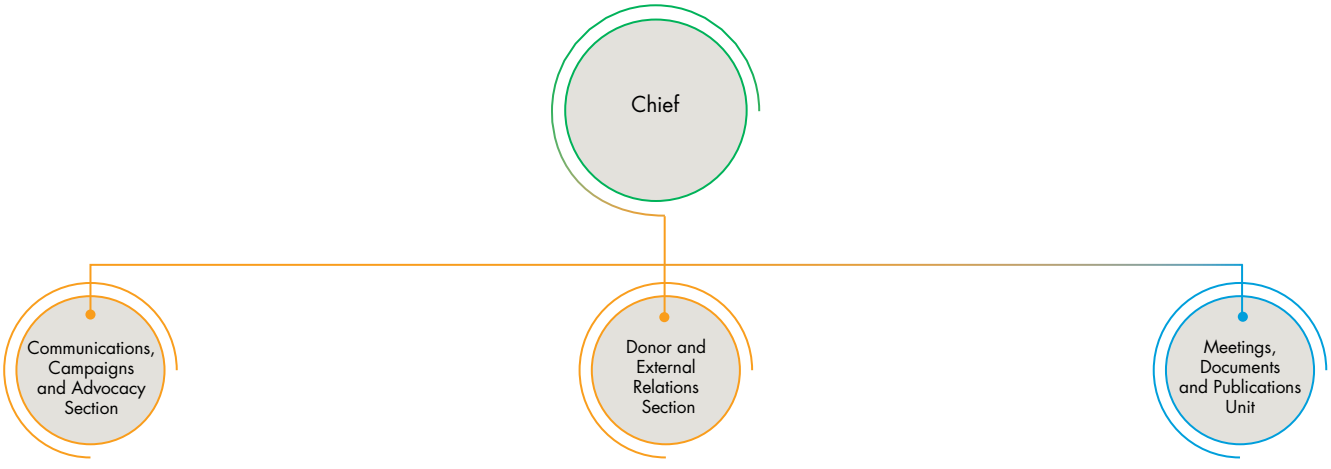
External Engagement and Partnerships Service

The External Engagement and Partnerships Service (EPS) leads OHCHR's external relations efforts. It consists of three sections that work in synergy, namely:

The **Communications, Campaigns and Advocacy 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 various digital platforms, including the Office's website and social media, and with UN partners to mainstream human rights into outreach efforts.

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) (2024-2027). It builds robust relationships with existing funding partners and explores opportunities with potential partners through meetings, briefings and consultations. The Section negotiates and manages a large number of contribution agreements and serves as an entry point for partners 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 and verifies and submits all OHCHR official documents for processing. The Unit also manages the OHCHR publications programme, including oversight for quality assurance, global distribution and the impact assessment of publications. These include publications issued in print and electronic mediums, in official UN languages and in formats that are accessible to persons with disabilities. The Unit provides policy advice and operational support to OHCHR's publications governing body, the Publications Committee.



Media Outreach and Spokesperson's Office

The Media Outreach and Spokesperson's Office focuses on engagement with the media and supports the High Commissioner and staff in headquarters, regional and country presences to produce speeches, news releases, press briefings, social media content for news purposes, talking points and other news media products and activities. It also serves as the Spokespeople for the Office and manages crisis communications.

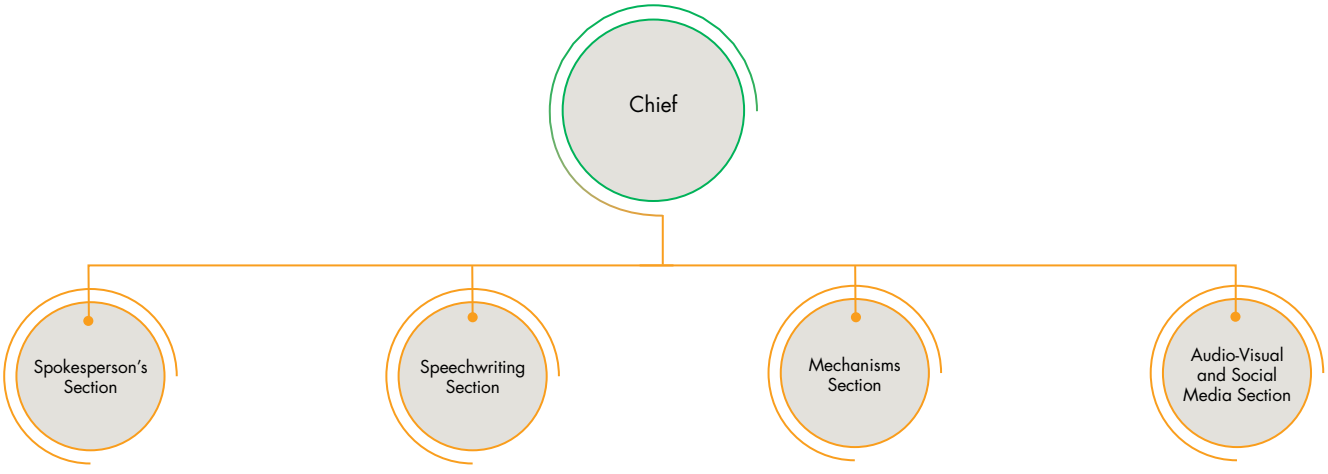
The team consists of the Spokesperson's Section, the Speechwriting Section, the Mechanisms Section and the Audio-Visual and Social Media Section. A number of public information officers who are based in regional and country offices report to the team at headquarters.

The **Spokesperson's Section** drafts and issues media statements and builds and nurtures relationships with journalists at the UN in Geneva, New York and globally. It provides media advice to the High Commissioner and senior managers, carries out crisis communications responses and serves as the Spokespeople for the Office.

The **Speechwriting Section** works closely with the High Commissioner to draft speeches, including flagship speeches and policy speeches for the Organization, as well as supporting the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, as needed.

The **Mechanisms Section** provides media and social media outreach for the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies.

The **Audio-Visual and Social Media Section** generates and produces material for TV broadcasters and online platforms, including social media platforms.

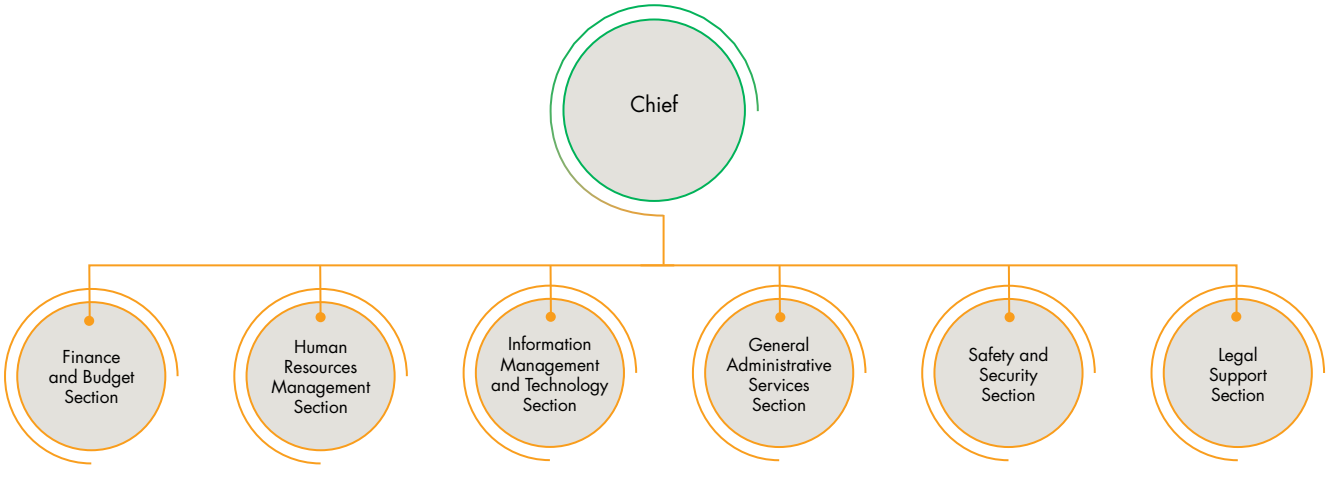


Programme Support and Management Services

The Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS) provides administrative support within the Office and is responsible for budgetary and financial, management, recruitment and human resources management, procurement, asset management and general logistical support, staff safety and security, staff legal services, audits, travel and registry services, information technology and cyber security and talent management. PSMS consists of the Finance and Budget Section, the General Administrative Services Section, the Human Resources Management Section, the Information Management and Technology Section, the Safety and Security Section and the newly established Legal Support Section. PSMS is also responsible for the Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning, the Delegation of Authority Initiative, staff welfare and well-being, staff learning and the co-management of sustainable environmental management. PSMS ensures that all financial transactions, logistical and human resources support are made available to regional and country presences and headquarters divisions to guarantee the continuity of OHCHR operations.

Strategic Planning, Programme Management, Evaluation and Change Service

The Strategic Planning, Programme Management, Evaluation and Change Service (SPECS) leads the translation of the High Commissioner's strategic vision into concrete objectives and operational programmes that are aimed at achieving measurable results. The Service fosters a results-based culture across the Office. More specifically, 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 in order to enhance organizational efficiency and effectiveness.



GLOBAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Global Operations Division (GLO) is responsible for overseeing and supporting OHCHR's work at the country and regional level, including through advisory services and technical cooperation.

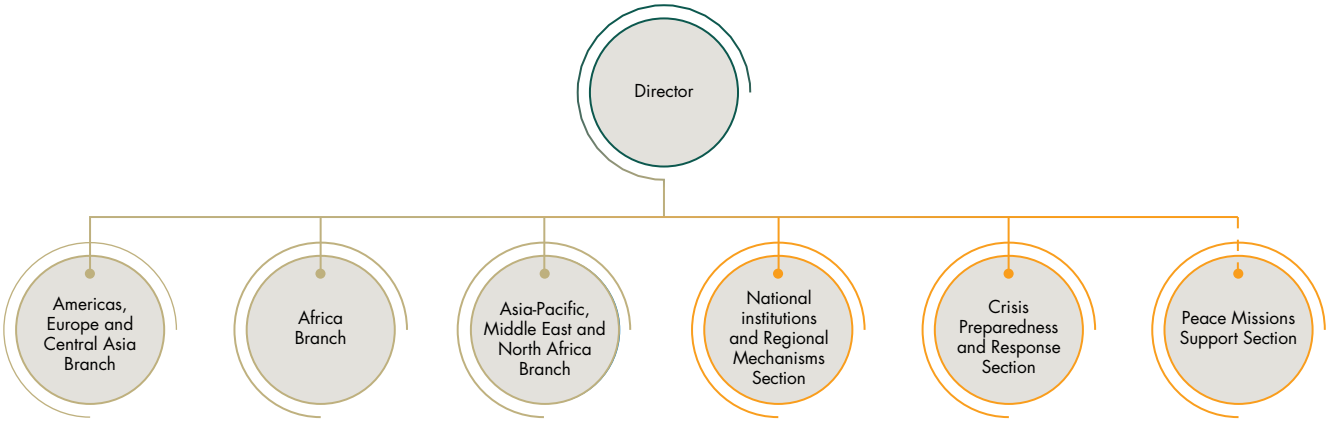
GLO is composed of the Office of the Director, three geographic branches and three thematic sections. The geographic branches are divided into six sections, namely: Africa I (East and Southern Africa); Africa II (West and Central Africa); Asia-Pacific; Middle East and North Africa (MENA); the Americas; and Europe and Central Asia (ECA). Together, they are responsible for OHCHR's day-to-day work. This includes following human rights developments at the national and regional level and engaging with governments and national authorities, supporting engagement in humanitarian action and with regional mechanisms, NHRIs, civil society and the UN system, particularly the international human rights mechanisms.

The three thematic sections are the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section; the Crisis Preparedness and Response Section; and the Peace Missions Support Section, which is based in New York.

GLO is responsible for the implementation of the High Commissioner's mandate at the country and regional level. This is achieved through different types of human rights presences that undertake monitoring, analysis and reporting on human rights developments, conduct early warning and prevention activities, provide advisory services and technical cooperation, develop the human rights capacities of 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.

GLO 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. GLO contributes to the UN's broader efforts related to the three United Nations pillars, namely, human rights, peace and security and development. This is accomplished through the integration of human rights across and into all pillars and the mainstreaming of human rights-based peacebuilding and programming for sustainable development.

GLO supports the implementation of specific OHCHR mandates of the HRC and the General Assembly regarding monitoring and public reporting on human rights issues and offers technical assistance and cooperation. This includes support for the HRC's special procedures country mandates and the establishment of and support for the international commissions of inquiry (COIs), fact-finding missions and investigations that are mandated by the Council. GLO leads the implementation of the Humanitarian Strategy for OHCHR. It also administers the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and serves as the Secretariat of its Board of Trustees.



The **National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section** provides legal and technical assistance with respect to the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 16.a.1). The Section works closely with GLO geographic desk officers, regional and country presences, other UN agencies, funds and programmes and regional networks of NHRIs. In addition, it offers legal advice to Member States on NHRI legislation and carries out capacity-building activities for NHRIs. This includes support for NHRI engagement with the human rights treaty bodies and the international human rights system.

As the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the Section provides substantive and financial assistance, including technical advice and secretariat services, in relation to GANHRI's annual and bureau meetings and the biannual sessions of its Sub-Committee on Accreditation.

The **Crisis Preparedness and Response Section** coordinates OHCHR's engagement in and effective response to ongoing or emerging crises. It maintains a prevention perspective and ensures that potential crisis situations are addressed through the provision of early warning and information management, the deployment of surge capacity to promote the integration of human rights into humanitarian response and the integration of human rights into humanitarian action. In addition, it supports OHCHR's engagement as a full member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Global Protection Cluster. Further, it facilitates OHCHR's access to humanitarian programming and funds. The Section is also responsible for setting up the seven Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in OHCHR regional offices and coordinating and delivering substantive and programmatic support.

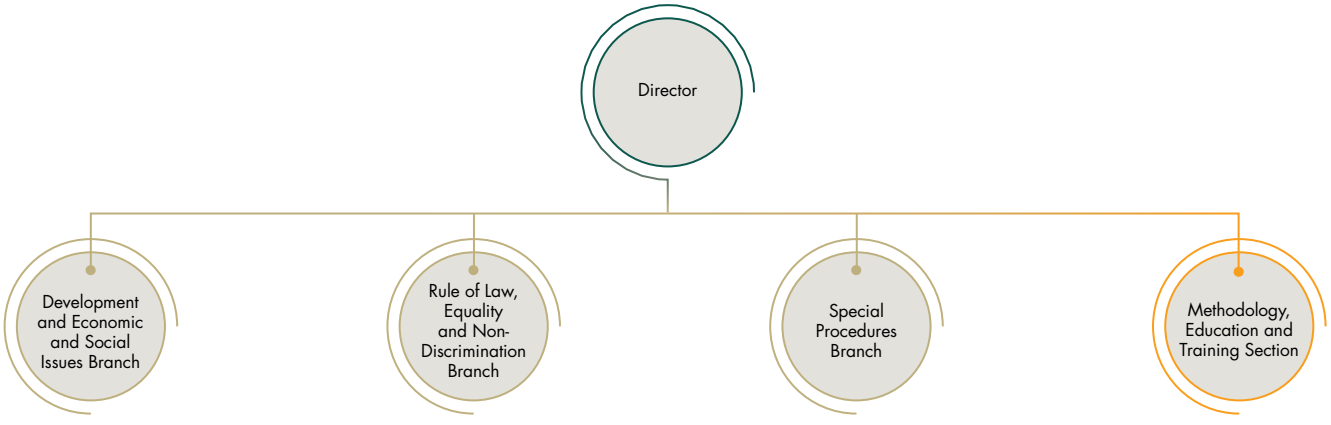
The **Peace Missions Support Section**, located in the NYO, leads the integration of human rights into Security Council mandates for UN and non-UN peace missions, such as those led by regional organizations or Member States. This includes supporting the compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law of the peace support operations in regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF). In close coordination with OHCHR's geographic branches, the Section engages the Security Council, the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations (DPPA-DPO) and UN partners to ensure that human rights are integrated into Security Council resolutions and the UN's peace and security agenda at the political, strategic and operational level.

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 measures include: undertaking research, advice and advocacy; supporting norm-setting processes; developing methodologies, procedures, guidance and tools; offering legal and policy support; providing technical advice and expertise; delivering capacity-development; and supporting the subsidiary bodies of the HRC.

The Division's 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, with a special focus on the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations;
- Leading OHCHR's work on individuals and population groups that are often marginalized and discriminated against, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, people on the move, Indigenous Peoples, minorities, LGBTQI+ persons and persons facing racial and other forms of discrimination. This work is founded on advocacy, capacity-building, supporting policy development to combat inequalities and discrimination and promoting the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB);
- Providing substantive assistance to countries regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and extending thematic support to Member States and UNCTs, including towards Human Rights Economies;
- Supporting the integration of human rights into regulations, practices and outcomes, such as: intergovernmental norm and standard-setting processes; operational policies of multilateral development banks (MDBs); business policies and practices in line with the UN Guiding



Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs); processes relating to the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; and 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 issues, drug policy, the death penalty, the prevention of genocide, counter-terrorism, media freedom, democracy and the promotion and protection of human rights in situations of armed conflict and violence;
- Enhancing knowledge and an understanding of human rights, including under the Plan of Action for the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2020-2024), by launching its Fifth Phase (2025-2029) and undertaking campaigns and awareness-raising activities;
- Supporting the international human rights mechanisms, in particular the special procedures and other mechanisms, such as the Forum on Business and Human Rights, the Forum on Minority Issues, 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 (EMRIP), the follow-up mechanisms to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent;
- Ensuring the application of an HRBA and integrating a gender and a disability rights perspective throughout OHCHR's work; and
- Supporting OHCHR's digital transformation and enhancing its capacity to deliver on its mandates. This is being accomplished by harnessing the potential of digital platforms to promote human rights, thereby reinforcing data-driven human rights advocacy, ensuring that OHCHR's information and processes are accessible to users and 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 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, ESCRs and the right to a healthy environment. To this end, support is elicited from relevant UN bodies. The two Branches also undertake human rights advocacy work and contribute to national-level implementation, including through advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity-development, which are often undertaken by OHCHR regional and country presences.

The **Special Procedures Branch** supports the special procedures system and its thematic mandates. The special procedures system is composed of 60 mandates (46 thematic and 14 country mandates) and 87 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 in relation to human rights cases and issues, provide advisory services and engage in awareness-raising activities. The Branch supports the mandates in these functional areas with regard to policy issues and by adopting efficiency measures that streamline their work processes and strengthen the special procedures system. Moreover, 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 stakeholders.

The **Methodology, Education and Training Section** seeks to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of human rights work that is undertaken by OHCHR and international, regional and national actors. Strategies include: developing good practice-based policies, methodologies and tools and providing advice and support in their implementation; facilitating knowledge management; designing and delivering human rights training; using quality data to advance and assess human rights; and promoting the use of innovative methodologies to advance the application of international human rights standards. The work of the Section spans all of OHCHR's operations, across regional and country presences and headquarters, and focuses on core areas, including: monitoring the application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law; conducting fact-finding and investigations; developing UN system-wide human rights policies; engaging with security forces; delivering human rights education and training; undertaking analysis and early warning; supporting innovation; promoting dynamic knowledge; and maintaining the UN Human Rights Gateway/OHCHR Library.

Special procedures mandate holders
(as of 31 December 2024*)

MANDATE	ESTABLISHED	MANDATE HOLDER(S)
Country mandates		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Afghanistan**	2021	Mr. **Richard Bennett** (New Zealand) since May 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Belarus**	2012	Mr. **Nils Muiznieks** (Latvia) since November 2024
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Burundi**	2021	Mr. **Fortuné Gaetan Zongo** (Burkina Faso) since May 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Cambodia**	1993	Mr. **Vitit Muntarbhorn** (Thailand) since May 2021
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the **Central African Republic**	2013	Mr. **Yao Agbetse** (Togo) since November 2019
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**	2004	Ms. **Elizabeth Salmón** (Peru) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Eritrea**	2012	Mr. **Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker** (Sudan) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**	2011	Ms. **Mai Sato** (Japan) since August 2024
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Mali**	2013	Mr. **Eduardo Gonzalez** (Peru) since May 2024
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar**	1992	Mr. **Thomas H. Andrews** (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Palestinian territories**[a] occupied since 1967	1993	Ms. **Francesca Albanese** (Italy) since May 2022
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Russian Federation**	2022	Ms. **Mariana Katzarova** (Bulgaria) since May 2023
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Somalia**	1993	Ms. **Isha Dyfan** (Sierra Leone) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Syrian Arab Republic**	2011	Mr. **Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro** (Brazil) will begin once the mandate of the commission of inquiry ends
Thematic mandates		
Working Group of Experts on People of **African Descent**	2002	Ms. **Isabel Mamadou** (Spain) since September 2024 Ms. **Catherine S. Namakula** (Uganda) since May 2021 Ms. **Miriam Ekiudoko** (Hungary) since August 2021 Ms. **Barbara G. Reynolds** (Guyana) since November 2021 Ms. **Bina D'Costa** (Bangladesh) since May 2023
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with **albinism**	2015	Ms. **Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond** (Zambia) since August 2021

* An updated list is maintained on the special procedures website.

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

Working Group on **Arbitrary Detention**	1991	Ms. **Miriam Estrada-Castillo** (Ecuador) since November 2020 Mr. **Mumba Malila** (Zambia) since November 2020 Ms. **Priya Gopalan** (Malaysia) since May 2021 Mr. **Mathew Gillett** (New Zealand) since May 2022 Ms. **Ganna Yudkivska** (Ukraine) since November 2022
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other **business** enterprises	2011	Ms. **Lyra Jakulevičienė** (Lithuania) since August 2024 Ms. **Fernanda Hopenhaym** (Mexico) since November 2021 Ms. **Pichamon Yeophantong** (Thailand) since May 2022 Mr. **Damilola Olawuyi** (Nigeria) since August 2022 Mr. **Robert McCorquodale** (Australia) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of **climate change**	2021	Ms. **Elisa Morgera** (Italy) since May 2024
Special Rapporteur in the field of **cultural rights**	2009	Ms. **Alexandra Xanthaki** (Greece) since November 2021
Special Rapporteur on the right to **development**	2016	Mr. **Surya Deva** (India) since May 2023
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with **disabilities**	2014	Ms. **Heba Hagrass** (Egypt) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on the right to **education**	1998	Ms. **Farida Shaheed** (Pakistan) since August 2022
Working Group on **Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**	1980	Ms. **Aua Baldé** (Guinea-Bissau) since November 2020 Ms. **Gabriella Citroni** (Italy) since August 2021 Mr. **Mohammed Al-Obaidi** (Iraq) since November 2024 Ms. **Grażyna Baranowska** (Poland) since August 2022 Ms. **Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez** (Mexico) since May 2023
Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable **environment**	2012	Ms. **Astrid Puentas Riano** (Mexico) since May 2024
Special Rapporteur on **extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**	1982	Mr. **Morris Tidball-Binz** (Chile) since May 2021
Special Rapporteur on the right to **food**	2000	Mr. **Michael Fakhri** (Lebanon) since May 2020
Independent Expert on the effects of **foreign debt** and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Ms. **Attiya Waris** (Kenya) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to **freedom of opinion and expression**	1993	Ms. **Irene Khan** (Bangladesh) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**	2010	Ms. **Gina Paola Romero Rodriguez** (Colombia) since May 2024

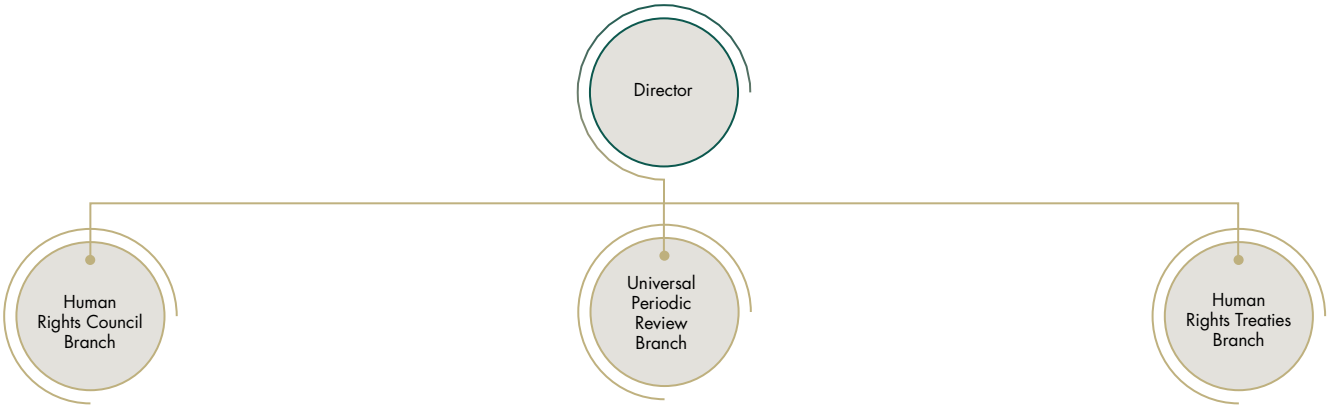
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of **hazardous substances and wastes**	1995	Mr. **Marcos A. Orellana** (Chile) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental **health**	2002	Ms. **Tlaleng Mofokeng** (South Africa) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on adequate **housing** as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Mr. **Balakrishnan Rajagopal** (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of **human rights defenders**	2000	Ms. **Mary Lawlor** (Ireland) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the **independence of judges and lawyers**	1994	Ms. **Margaret Satterthwaite** (United States of America) since November 2022
Special Rapporteur on the rights of **Indigenous Peoples**	2001	Mr. **Albert Kwokwo Barume** (the Democratic Republic of the Congo) since January 2025
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **internally displaced persons**	2004	Ms. **Paula Gaviria Betancur** (Colombia) since November 2022
Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable **international order**	2011	Mr. **George Katrougalos** (Greece) since May 2024
Independent Expert on human rights and **international solidarity**	2005	Ms. **Cecilia Bailliet** (Argentina) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by **leprosy** (Hansen's disease) and their family members	2017	Ms. **Beatriz Miranda Galarza** (Ecuador) since November 2023
Working Group on the use of **mercenaries** as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Ms. **Michelle René Small** (South Africa) since May 2024 Ms. **Joana Lopes de Deus Pereira** (Portugal) since August 2024 Mr. **Ravindran Daniel** (India) since November 2020 Mr. **Andrés Macias Tolosa** (Colombia) since November 2024 Ms. **Jovana Jezdimirovic Ranito** (Serbia) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **migrants**	1999	Mr. **Gehad Madi** (Egypt) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on **minority issues**	2005	Mr. **Nicolas Levrat** (Switzerland) since November 2023
Working Group on the rights of **peasants** and other people working in rural areas	2023	Ms. **Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile** (Nigeria) since April 2024 Ms. **Shalmali Guttal** (India) since April 2024 Mr. **Davit Hakobyan** (Armenia) since April 2024 Mr. **Carlos Duarte** (Colombia) since April 2024 Ms. **Geneviève Savigny** (France) since April 2024
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by **older persons**	2013	Ms. **Claudia Mahler** (Austria) since May 2020

Special Rapporteur on extreme **poverty** and human rights	1998	Mr. **Olivier De Schutter** (Belgium) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to **privacy**	2015	Ms. **Ana Brian Nougrères** (Uruguay) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of **racism**, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Ms. **Ashwini K.P.** (India) since November 2022
Special Rapporteur on freedom of **religion** or belief	1986	Ms. **Nazila Ghanea** (Islamic Republic of Iran) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on **the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children**	1990	Ms. **Mama Fatima Singhateh** (Gambia) since May 2020
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on **sexual orientation and gender identity**	2016	Mr. **Graeme Reid** (South Africa) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of **slavery**, including its causes and its consequences	2007	Mr. **Tomoya Obokata** (Japan) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering **terrorism**	2005	Mr. **Ben Saul** (Australia) since November 2023
Special Rapporteur on **torture** and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Ms. **Alice Jill Edwards** (Australia) since August 2022
Special Rapporteur on **trafficking** in persons, especially women and children	2004	Ms. **Siobhán Mullally** (Ireland) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of **truth**, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	2011	Mr. **Bernard Duhaime** (Canada) since May 2024
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of **unilateral coercive measures** on the enjoyment of human rights	2014	Ms. **Alena Douhan** (Belarus) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on **violence against women and girls**, its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. **Reem Alsalem** (Jordan) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking **water and sanitation**	2008	Mr. **Pedro Arrojo-Agudo** (Spain) since November 2020
Working Group on discrimination against **women and girls**	2010	Ms. **Dorothy Estrada-Tanck** (Mexico) since November 2020 Ms. **Claudia Flores** (United States of America) since November 2023 Ms. **Haina Lu** (China) since November 2023 Ms. **Ivana Krstic** (Serbia) since November 2023 Ms. **Laura Nyirinkindi** (Uganda) since November 2023

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND MECHANISMS DIVISION

The Human Rights Council and Mechanisms Division (CMD) consists of the Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch, the Universal Periodic Review Branch and the Human Rights Treaties Branch. The Division has a core mandate to support the HRC and its subsidiary mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the human rights treaty bodies. It is 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. The Council is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.



Highlights of the Human Rights Council in 2024

The HRC held three regular sessions in 2024 and expanded the range of issues being brought to its attention through the adoption of 140 resolutions, decisions and President's statements. As of January 2025, 124 States have served as HRC members.

In an historic achievement, Indigenous Peoples participated in their own name, for the first time in the Council's history. In addition, 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, facilitated the participation of 43 beneficiary delegates (23 women) at the fifty-fifth (26 February to 5 April), fifty-sixth (18 June to 12 July) and fifty-seventh (9 September to 11 October) regular sessions of the Council. All 43 beneficiaries received the necessary support for their participation through the Trust Fund's delegates programme. Among these government officials, 21 were from Africa, 13 were from Asia-Pacific and nine were from the Caribbean and Latin America. Six representatives were from States without permanent representation in Geneva and 14 were 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[25] in preparing the reports on the recommendations formulated during the UPR Working Group sessions and supports the adoption of the outcome reports during the HRC plenary sessions. The UPRB also assists States to prepare for their Geneva-based reviews and to implement the recommendations they receive.

In 2024, the UPRB serviced three UPR Working Group sessions (forty-fifth, forty-sixth and forty-seventh), during which 42 countries were reviewed. It prepared 84 pre-session reports, 42 Working Group reports and summaries of the UPR outcomes of the 42 countries were reviewed. Member States and other stakeholders actively participated in the peer review process. A total of 722 delegates (45 per cent of whom were women) from States under review (SuRs), including high-level and composite delegations from capitals, participated in the three UPR Working Group sessions. During each review, an average of 101 Member States and observers delivered statements. An average of 270 recommendations were formulated per review. On average, the SuRs supported 76 per cent of the recommendations made in relation to them. There was also a significant increase in submissions from CSOs, NHRIs, regional organizations and UN entities (1,333 submissions in total, including 1,149 from civil society, 109 from UN entities, 32 from regional organizations, 21 from NHRIs and 22 from other stakeholders). The UPRB also provided funding for the participation of delegates from SuRs in the interactive dialogues through the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review.

The UPRB supports the implementation of UPR recommendations through the development of specific tools and the provision of in-country technical and financial assistance. In 2024, the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review supported projects in 18 countries. Based on HRC resolution 51/30, the UPRB deployed UPR advisers to OHCHR regional offices in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Bishkek, Brussels, Dakar, Panama City, Pretoria, Santiago and Yaoundé. Beirut and Suva deployments are underway.

The Human Rights Treaties Branch (HRTB) supports the human rights treaty bodies, which are independent committees that are established under and monitor the national-level implementation of the nine international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, namely:

- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW);
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and
- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).

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. SPT began its work in 2007 and employs a proactive approach to fulfil its mandate to prevent 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 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 periodic reports that are submitted by States Parties or through on-site visits.

25 Each State review is assisted by groups of three States, known as "troikas," which serve as rapporteurs.

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/general recommendations on thematic or procedural issues.

In 2024, the treaty bodies reviewed the national-level implementation of the international human rights treaties by 145 State Parties and issued 64 lists of issues (LoIs) and 39 lists of issues prior to reporting (LoIPRs). They also adopted 622 views on individual communications and supported the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies in developing constructive conclusions on treaty body strengthening processes. The HRTB provided support to the work of 172 treaty body experts during 29 sessions. Nearly 200 media statements, press releases and media advisories were issued (reflected in the media section under treaty bodies on the OHCHR website). A total of eight States Parties were visited by SPT. A total of three general comments were adopted. There were 13 new ratifications of and accessions to the human rights treaties and eight new ratifications of optional protocols by a total of 15 States Parties. A total of 1,416 submissions from UNCTs, civil society and NHRIs were received. The committee secretariats provided support to the committee focal points on reprisals and responded to allegations of reprisals.

These results were achieved in the context of a liquidity crisis that restricted recruitment and created uncertainties and challenges for the Secretariat.

During the year, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme (TBCBP) (established by General Assembly resolution 68/268 to support States Parties in building their capacities to implement their treaty obligations) organized 134 activities worldwide. Of these, 70 were held online or in hybrid format and 64 were held in person, engaging 4,700 participants (1,140 women). In the course of the 134 activities, State representatives were involved in 74, members of National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRFs) were involved in 37, civil society representatives were involved in 69, UNCTs were involved in 15 and Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) were involved in four. In addition, parliaments were involved in seven activities, regional organizations were involved in three and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) were involved in four.

An increasing number of States have shown an interest in using the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD), which was relaunched in 2022, to help improve the information management capacity of their NMIRFs. In 2024, the tool was rolled out in 12 States.

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 in 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.

Significant progress was achieved in handling individual communications, including through the establishment of a dedicated Intake Team within the Petitions Section to facilitate a more systematic processing of complaints. The Branch made strides towards greater efficiency, streamlined workflows, improved coordination and planning and enhanced knowledge management. The petitions database was upgraded and, as part of the ongoing digital transformation project, an online submission form was launched. Combined with the automation of specific correspondence, these innovations helped to lay the groundwork for greater efficiency once they were fully integrated with a case and document management system.

Detailed information on the trust funds is presented in the chapter on Funds Administered by UN Human Rights on pages 94-112.



Mechanisms (M)

Improving the implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms

In 2024, a total of **13 new ratifications of human rights treaties were recorded, with an additional eight new ratifications of optional protocols by a total of 15 States Parties**. In 2025, the Office will follow up on ratification-related pledges and pursue treaty- and region-specific strategies.

OHCHR provided assistance, which included the delivery of training and the development of training materials for 84 countries on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies. It also undertook advocacy and extended technical cooperation, including through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, which led to the **establishment of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) in Fiji and the strengthening of NMIRFs in 12 countries**, namely, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Gabon, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Vanuatu. Despite these efforts, progress remained modest in relation to reporting compliance. Only nine of the targeted 113 long overdue reports were submitted in 2024. It is hoped that the roll-out of National Recommendations Tracking Databases (NRTDs), with functionalities that are supported by artificial intelligence (AI), will help to address undercompliance in countries with long overdue reports. In 2024, the Office **rolled out the NRTDs in six countries**, namely, Gabon, Guinea, the Maldives, Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. In 2025, the application will be rolled out in 10 additional countries and its reporting module will be expanded to include mid-term reporting for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which will be supported by AI features.

In 2024, OHCHR successfully carried out its duties as the Secretariat. More specifically, it convened three sessions of the UPR Working Group (forty-fifth, forty-sixth and forty-seventh) and three regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) under item 6, covering the reviews and adoption of the outcomes in relation to 42 States. Further, the Office ensured the timely preparation and submission of 84 pre-session reports and 42 Working Group reports and made contributions to three HRC reports that include the summaries of the UPR outcomes. Prior to the reviews, OHCHR's active engagement with stakeholders, including civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and UN entities, led to a **20 per cent increase in the number of submissions received**, compared to the third UPR cycle. The submissions served as part of the pre-session documentation and informed the UPR reviews.

In 2024, a **record number of written statements from NGOs** were received in relation to the HRC sessions, totalling 1,031 submissions, reflecting their growing participation.

OHCHR enhanced the capacities of stakeholders to engage with the human rights treaty bodies. It processed allegations of reprisals and assisted the treaty bodies in addressing them. During the year, OHCHR supported the **adoption of 622 decisions on cases and registered 268 new individual communications to treaty bodies**, resulting in the analysis and processing of 10 per cent of the communications received that year.

In **Cuba**, OHCHR's first workshop for representatives of the Government, the Parliament and the judiciary on **the implementation of the accepted 2023 UPR recommendations** led to a consensus on next steps and the drafting of an implementation plan. The workshop also served as a platform to emphasize the transformative potential of using the NRTD to digitalize implementation plans.

In **Egypt**, the Office played a pivotal role in supporting the **UN Country Team (UNCT) to prepare a comprehensive joint submission for the country's fourth UPR cycle**, in January 2025. The report addressed a broad spectrum of civil, political, economic and social rights, along with the right to development and the right to a healthy environment, and focused on the rights of specific groups. The report's 80 actionable recommendations are strategically aligned with the broader goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing to the advancement of sustainable development and the protection of human rights in Egypt.

OHCHR prepared a report on ***Strengthening a child rights-based approach in the work of the United Nations***, presented at the HRC's fifty-fifth session. On the basis of the report's recommendations, the HRC decided to: request that the Secretary-General expand the capacities of OHCHR; advance the mainstreaming of the rights of the child into the work of the Office and the human rights accountability and investigative mechanisms that it supports; and provide advice and technical assistance on issues concerning the implementation of the rights of the child to States, upon their request, and to all relevant United Nations organizations and bodies, as appropriate. This decision is reflected in the Council's biennial resolution on the rights of the child (A/HRC/RES/55/29), adopted on 5 April, which also calls upon the special procedures and other international human rights mechanisms to continue to integrate a child rights perspective into the implementation of their mandates and to monitor and more consistently analyse the root causes of child rights violations and abuses.

In June, the **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan presented a landmark report to the Council**, shedding light on the institutionalized system of discrimination, segregation, disrespect for human dignity and exclusion of women and girls in the country. The Special Rapporteur's regular written report helped to focus global attention on systemic human rights violations against marginalized individuals and groups, including journalists, minorities, persons with disabilities, women and children. These findings were amplified through an oral update, delivered in September, and a comprehensive report to the General Assembly. Interviews with individuals based inside and outside Afghanistan provided a more thorough understanding of the human rights situation in the country, including operational barriers.

In 2024, the **International Court of Justice (ICJ) referred to the international human rights treaties and the work of the human rights treaty bodies in several decisions**, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

For instance, with respect to the Occupied Palestinian Territory[26] (oPt), the Court referred to the Human Rights Committee's "deep concern that the systematic practice of demolitions and forced evictions based on discriminatory policies have led to the separation of Jewish and Palestinian communities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which amounts to racial segregation" (para. 219).

OHCHR supported the **work of 60 mandates and 87 mandate holders** of the HRC, including by facilitating the inputs of mandate holders to the Summit of the Future. More specifically, the Office worked closely with the special procedures mandate holders in developing and presenting 181 reports to the HRC and the General Assembly, supported 57 country visits to 44 States (including a first-time visit to Vanuatu) and helped to produce 500 media products and 665 communications.

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

Development (D)

Advancing sustainable development through human rights

The Office provided substantive inputs and guidance, in alignment with international human rights standards, towards the development of a UN System Policy Paper entitled ***Transforming care systems in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Our Common Agenda***, which was launched at ECOSOC, in July. The paper provides a framework for UN agencies to address care within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promotes comprehensive care systems that ensure gender equality and social justice.

In **operationalizing the right to development in implementing the SDGs**, OHCHR collaborated with universities to conduct two trainings for 221 participants (53 per cent of whom were women). Since its 2018 launch, the interactive online module has been used to train over 1,400 participants from 166 countries.

In **mainstreaming the right to development into Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**, OHCHR cooperated with academic partners to deliver two online workshops to 214 participants (50 per cent of whom were women), including representatives from governments, civil society, UN agencies, academia and the private sector. Since 2022, a total of 478 individuals from 122 countries have participated in the training.

To increase the **integration of human rights into environmental action**, the Office engaged with various partners regarding environmental negotiations and processes. These engagements contributed to the inclusion of human rights language in resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the integration of human rights into climate and biodiversity outcomes and increased the support of Member States for the inclusion of human rights language in the draft UN plastics treaty.

In 2024, with the Office's support, the international human rights mechanisms were increasingly engaged on environmental issues. The Office undertook a number of steps, for instance, it: produced a report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on *Measures for minimizing the adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food*; convened an annual panel discussion on loss and damage (fifty-sixth session of the HRC); and produced a report of the Secretary-General entitled *Analytical study on the impact of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, exploring equity-based approaches and solutions to addressing the same* (fifty-seventh session of the HRC). **In 2024, the HRC adopted 17 resolutions related to the environment**, including on climate change, biodiversity and the nuclear legacy of

the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), thereby reflecting a growing international engagement on environmental issues.

OHCHR collaborated with the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar, UNDP and IFAD to co-organize an international conference on "Food justice from a human rights perspective," in Doha, **Qatar**, from 6 to 7 February. The conference resulted in a set of actionable recommendations that are aimed at **advancing the right to food**. The event also enabled the Office to reaffirm its partnership with the Education Above All Foundation, strengthening efforts to promote the rights of youth in conflict-affected areas.

The Office produced guidance and advocacy materials to support the **application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to environmental action**, including through the publication of: *The right to development and its synergy with the right to a healthy environment* (November); *A guide for integrating human rights and sustainable development in the Global Goal on Adaptation* (October); and *Aligning States duties and business responsibilities related to plastics with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* (April).

In contributing to the efforts of Member States and the Secretary-General to reform the international financial and tax architecture to create a more inclusive, equitable and effective international system, in line with OHCHR's vision of a Human Rights Economy, the Office provided substantive inputs and assistance, for instance, through the organization of side events during the intergovernmental negotiation processes. Member States were encouraged to integrate **human rights into the guiding principles that are articulated in the draft Terms of Reference for the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation**. This contributed to moving towards a more representative governance of global tax policy and fairer rules, including to address tax evasion and avoidance that limits revenues for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs). On 24 December, the General Assembly adopted the Terms of Reference, laying the groundwork for the next round of intergovernmental negotiations.

Through sustained advocacy and engagement with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) negotiation process, OHCHR contributed to maintaining critical language on human rights in its establishing resolution (A/RES/79/226), which requests that the UN development system assist governments to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations, as part of efforts to **operationalize the pledge to uphold the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)**.

The Office provided UNCTs with **human rights analyses and operational advice in relation to 44 Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs)**, including through its Surge Initiative. At the global and country level, it supported 15 trainings on the three guiding principles of the HRBA, gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and LNOB. The training at the global level was delivered to UN staff through the roll-out of a second e-course edition, which was offered in collaboration with the UN System Staff College and other UN entities. The trainings focused on the UNCT's preparation of UNSDCFs in 2024 and 2025 and equipped them with the necessary knowledge and practical skills to ensure that the three guiding principles will be integrated into all phases of the UNSDCF process.

Through its Surge Initiative, OHCHR provided financial and technical support to 17 seed projects. The projects aim to **operationalize the human rights strategy** by expanding fiscal space for ESCRs and investing in quality public services, thereby contributing to the implementation of the SDGs and combating economic and other inequalities. For instance, in the **Republic of the Congo**, OHCHR provided support and guidance to the authorities to inform human rights-based budgeting, other public finance policies and decision-making entry points.

This led to OHCHR's development of a guide to enable the Court of Audit and Budgetary Discipline to evaluate public policies from a human rights perspective.

Efforts were undertaken to establish a new **helpdesk on business and human rights**. The helpdesk provides authoritative guidance and clarification to States, business, civil society and other external stakeholders regarding the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). In addition to organizing an event on establishing effective business and human rights helpdesks, OHCHR organized a network of these helpdesks around the world to exchange experiences and ideas about operational, practical and substantive issues. OHCHR's helpdesk will be launched in 2025.

OHCHR co-organized the **Third African Business and Human Rights Forum**, in Nairobi, Kenya, from 8 to 10 October. The theme of the Forum was "Promoting responsible business conduct in a rapidly changing context." It was attended by over 500 participants from more than 100 countries and featured over 100 speakers. The Forum built on the successes of the First and Second Business and Human Rights Forums, which were held in Ghana (2022) and Ethiopia (2023), respectively. The 2024 edition provided participants with a platform for an interactive analysis of the current business and human rights landscape in Africa, fostered a nuanced examination of diverse local contexts, legal and policy frameworks, cultural dynamics and stakeholder needs and offered critical insights to help advance responsible business conduct across the continent.

The Thirteenth United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights took place in Geneva, from 25 to 27 November, under the theme "Realizing the 'smart mix of measures' to protect human rights in the context of business activities." The Forum is the world's biggest annual event dedicated to business and human rights. In 2024, nearly 3,000 in-person participants and over 1,000 attendees joined online from 156 countries. Attendees included representatives of civil society (46 per cent) and the private sector (34 per cent), Member States and academics. Additionally, OHCHR organized four regional forums under different themes, in cooperation with UN partners in Africa, Arab States, Asia-Pacific and Europe, to enable dialogue among various stakeholders.

OHCHR contributed technical submissions to the Environmental and Social Policy reviews of two **multilateral development banks** (MDBs) and to the accountability policy reviews of three MDBs, encouraging their alignment with the UNGPs and related international human rights standards. In September, OHCHR published a policy brief entitled *Multilateral development banks and digital risks: The role of environmental and social safeguard policies*. In October, it co-convened a webinar on development finance institutions (DFIs) and digital risks, involving 104 participants. In November, OHCHR launched consultations with DFIs and other stakeholders on a report on the same subject, which is scheduled for publication in 2025.

Peace and security (PS)

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

OHCHR supported the **implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces**, including in relation to country-specific risk factors and mitigation measures tailored to UN peace operations and UN partners. OHCHR supported the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in developing the standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the implementation of the HRDDP. It also assisted UNISFA with the development of an HRDDP risk assessment regarding its support to non-UN security elements in Abyei and provided technical and substantive advice to the European Union (EU) in the development of its HRDDP and implementation guidance.

OHCHR published a ***Toolkit on strengthening human rights in counter-terrorism strategy and policy*** to assist government officials and decision makers at the national or local level with integrating human rights into the design, implementation and evaluation of counter-terrorism strategies and policies. The toolkit sets out actionable steps to assist States in utilizing human rights to shape their strategies and policies in three areas: 1) incorporating human rights into the content of a counter-terrorism strategy and policy (Tool 1); 2) enhancing institutional human rights specialist capacity in counter-terrorism (Tool 2); and strengthening government engagement with civil society in counter-terrorism (Tool 3).

The *Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on terrorism and human rights* (A/HRC/57/29) is the **first in-depth analysis of the human rights impacts of recurring counter-terrorism and administrative measures**. These impacts include detention without trial, surveillance, travel bans and terrorist listings. The report underlines how such measures are often used as shortcuts to bypass the oversight and procedural safeguards in criminal processes. Unchecked, these measures can severely affect the rights of individuals, heightening risks of discrimination and stigma, particularly among individuals and groups already vulnerable to human rights violations. In the report, the High Commissioner calls on States to ensure that procedural safeguards are in place when administrative measures are applied so that criminal charges are laid in compliance with international human rights law. States are also urged to avoid using these measures to sidestep the controls of criminal law. The report was widely disseminated and well received by stakeholders, including Member States, UN agencies,

national institutions and civil society. OHCHR co-organized a well-attended launch event at the fifty-seventh session of the HRC, during which human rights defenders (HRDs) shared powerful testimonies about the harmful effects of administrative measures. The report was also presented to members of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. It is available as a briefer in Arabic and English.

The ***Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and transitional justice*** (A/HRC/58/36) was published. The report identifies good practices and lessons learned relating to transitional justice processes in the context of sustaining peace and sustainable development, in accordance with SDG 16. The report is informed by five regional meetings that were organized by OHCHR between October 2023 and September 2024 and gathered 140 participants (70 women) from nearly 80 countries. Attendees included representatives from national entities that are implementing transitional justice measures, victims' associations and CSOs, human rights protection systems and transitional justice experts and practitioners. The report provides a remarkable list of victim-centred and innovative practices upon which States, the UN and CSOs can build, including in challenging and adverse contexts. It also contains recommendations that amplify the positive impacts and sustainability of good practices and encourage the adoption of similar measures as part of a rights-based and holistic approach to transitional justice that promotes truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

In 2024, a new **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Transitional Justice** was established to promote the effective operationalization of the *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on transitional justice: A strategic tool for people, prevention and peace*. Co-chaired by OHCHR and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Task Force brings together 15 UN entities that are working on transitional justice issues and encourages strategic, innovative and coordinated UN support in this area of work. The Task Force undertook its first joint mission in support of the UNCT in Bangladesh to help develop a transitional justice support strategy that is politically sensitive, gender-responsive and incorporates an intergenerational perspective.

As mandated by HRC resolution 54/5, OHCHR collaborated with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to organize a panel discussion on "**Quality education for peace and tolerance for every child**," on 18 September, at the HRC's fifty-seventh session. A total of 27 delegations took the floor and many emphasized the central role of quality education in fostering peace and tolerance, particularly in conflict-affected areas. A number of speakers stressed that education is a fundamental right and a key factor in building sustainable societies and preventing future conflict. The outcomes of the panel discussion, and of consultations and expert group meetings that were co-organized with Arigatou International, are being used to prepare a report on the same topic. The report will be presented to the HRC at its fifty-ninth session, in 2025.

OHCHR's Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) contributed to strengthening the UN's ability to anticipate and respond to human rights risks, enhancing preventive actions and supporting the protection of vulnerable populations worldwide. In 2024, the ERTs developed actionable early warning data and risk analyses; strengthened collaboration with UN agencies, civil society and regional partners; and enhanced capacity-building efforts to address emerging human rights challenges in the regions where they operate. For instance, the South America ERT, deployed to **Brazil** following the 2024 floods in Rio Grande do Sul, highlighted key issues related to housing, land and property and identified discrimination in aid distribution against people of African descent, the homeless population and other vulnerable categories, such as LGBTQI+ individuals, people deprived of liberty, migrants and Indigenous and Quilombola communities. OHCHR's recommendations were incorporated into high-level discussions, with a particular focus on securing the **protection of the most vulnerable populations during emergencies**, as well as to address xenophobia, transphobia and discrimination.

Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

The year 2024 witnessed important developments in OHCHR's support for comprehensive anti-discrimination law around the world. More specifically, the Office provided technical assistance and undertook advocacy to promote the **adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation**, in line with international human rights standards, by building the capacities of CSOs in **Indonesia**. The Office provided legal analyses on the impacts of draft legislation in: **Tajikistan** on the right to privacy, freedom of religion or belief and the prohibition of discrimination; **Georgia** on Family Values and the Protection of Minors; and **Ukraine** on the Law on the Protection of Constitutional Order in the Sphere of Activities of Religious Organizations. The objective of the analyses was to ensure the compliance of those governments with international human rights norms and standards. In anticipation of the revision of Cuba's new Code of Childhood, Adolescence and Youth, OHCHR helped to shape a system that will be set up to address the situation of children that are in conflict with the law, but are not criminally responsible, by offering insights on how to align this framework with international human rights principles.

The Office launched Spanish- and Russian-language versions of the publication ***Protecting minority rights: A practical guide to developing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation*** at events in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), in San Jose, Costa Rica. The guide was used by authorities, civil society and NHRIs in a variety of countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal and Thailand, and served as the basis for recommendations regarding revisions of national law.

In the Americas, OHCHR helped to **enhance the knowledge and advocacy capacities of Indigenous women and organizations**. As part of these efforts, in **Ecuador**, OHCHR partnered with UN Women and the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Amazon to assist Indigenous women with drafting their priorities as a means of strengthening their mobilization, advocacy and political participation. The document, which is being finalized, will serve as a basis for advocacy with national authorities.

OHCHR and the international human rights mechanisms advocated for a **Second International Decade for People of African Descent** (2025-2034), which was proclaimed, on 19 December, through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/193. The Second Decade will provide continuity to the theme and objectives of the First International Decade for People of African Descent, "People of African descent: Recognition, justice and development."

The High Commissioner for Human Rights will continue to serve as Coordinator of the Decade and support efforts towards the implementation of the programme of activities. During the year, 10 Fellows of African descent from 10 countries (seven women) participated in OHCHR's annual Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent, which formed part of the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

The Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action made substantive advancement on the **Chair's draft Declaration on the Human Rights of People of African Descent**. This Declaration will reinforce the international legal framework for people of African descent.

From 9 to 11 December, the Government of **Cuba** organized a meeting on the closure of the International Decade for People of African Descent. During the meeting, the Government presented a **revised National Action Plan against Racism**, "Cuban Color." The revisions were aligned with OHCHR's guidance on the elaboration of action plans to combat racial discrimination.

The **UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples** supported the participation of 188 Indigenous representatives, including 100 women and six LGBTQI+ persons, in 20 UN meetings and processes that were specific or relevant to Indigenous issues. Similarly, the Fund delivered 15 online preparatory trainings and two in-person preparatory trainings for grantees and interested individuals, benefiting more than 2,000 participants. With regard to the **Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme**, 48 Indigenous representatives (26 women) from 33 countries and 29 minority representatives (16 women) from 26 countries participated in the Programme. Moreover, OHCHR recruited 17 former Indigenous and Minority Fellows (nine women) who undertook on-the-job training for six months to two years at OHCHR headquarters, in Geneva, and regional and country offices, including in UNCTs.

Since 2022, OHCHR has organized an annual **International Art Contest for Minority Artists**, in cooperation with Freemuse, Minority Rights Group International and the City of Geneva. The contest supports minority artists who are committed to defending human rights around the world. In 2024, the theme of the third edition of the contest was "Memory in the present," giving visibility to narratives, histories and memories that were expressed through the arts by minority individuals and communities. In addition, OHCHR and the Centre des Arts of the International School of Geneva organized a six-week public exhibition of artworks that were created by the 22 laureates of the first two editions of the contest (2022-2023). Moreover, OHCHR launched a **global communication campaign**, featuring minority artists, to raise awareness about the crucial role that minority artists play as HRDs throughout the world.

On International Roma Day (8 April), OHCHR collaborated with academic institutions and launched the **Romani Memory Map for the Americas**. The Memory Map is a crowd-sourced initiative that maps Romani Memory Points, such as places of memory that are relevant to Romani history or culture. As of 31 December, 29 places had been mapped.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) adopted **General Recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems**, which was developed with the support of OHCHR. In the course of its elaboration, and through partnerships with civil society and academia, five expert group meetings were convened to explore frontier issues related to this General Recommendation. In partnership with UN Women, five regional consultation meetings were organized in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Bogotá, Cairo and Istanbul. The expert group meetings and consultations involved over 300 experts, academics, civil society representatives and members of the UN family, ensuring that the draft reflected existing challenges and solutions to advance women's participation in decision-making across all

regions. This milestone document underscores the importance of achieving parity between women and men in all decision-making systems, including in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. The General Recommendation provides comprehensive guidance to States Parties on addressing structural barriers, discriminatory practices and systemic inequalities that hinder women's equal and inclusive representation in decision-making.

The **Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) adopted General Comment No. 6**. Two regional consultations were organized to discuss the convergence of the Convention and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The General Comment provides authoritative guidance to States Parties on the implementation of their obligations and their commitments under the Global Compact for Migration. It addresses the cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles between the Convention and the Global Compact, such as the management of irregular migration, international protection of all migrants, family reunification, facilitating the return and reintegration of migrants and their children and the principle of non-discrimination.

In November, OHCHR organized the fifth annual meeting of the **Faith for Rights commUNity of practices**, which was held in Geneva and online. The meeting facilitated dialogue and an exchange of information among faith-based organizations, parliamentarians and academic communities. More than 200 participants (over 100 women) discussed the potential of using the peer-to-peer learning methodology that is applied by various academic institutions as a way to enhance skills and optimize the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders. In accordance with the commitments of Faith for Rights and HRC resolutions 16/18, 53/1 and 55/16, the meeting emphasized the promotion of gender equality and freedom of religion or belief and the importance of countering the instrumentalization of religions, beliefs or their followers to incite hatred and violence.

OHCHR strengthened its engagement with **athletes as HRDs** and deepened its partnerships with stakeholders operating in the field of sport. During the "Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal," held in July, the High Commissioner briefed the HRC about the urgent need for a global commitment to combat racism in sport and called for inclusiveness. To this end, the Office organized various panels and briefings on combating racial discrimination in and through sport, which resulted in various actions. For instance, the Regional Dialogue Forum on "Human Rights: Promoting equality and combating discrimination, including in the context of migration," which was held in July, issued a recommendation to "unify…efforts among stakeholders to combat racism in and through sports by establishing policies, plans of action, campaigns." Furthermore, the summary document that was issued following the Berlin panel discussion on "Combating Antisemitism in the Context of Football," held in June, includes good practices and follow-up recommendations. OHCHR will support the implementation of these recommendations.

OHCHR led the "**#StandUp4Migrants**" **campaign** to reframe harmful narratives about people on the move. Collaborating with civil society and artists, OHCHR published a comic on cultural rights and illustrations to promote solidarity and challenge the criminalization of people supporting the rights of migrants.

Under the leadership of the Office, the new **UN Secretariat Strategy on the protection from violence and discrimination of LGBTQI+ persons** was adopted. The Strategy seeks to ensure safety and security, equal treatment and an inclusive organizational culture within the Organization. At the same time, it aims to promote anti-discrimination outside of the Organization by facilitating the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons in programming, the safe and meaningful engagement of LGBTQI+ persons in programmes and policies that impact on them and the strengthening of partnerships with diverse representative organizations of LGBTQI+ persons.

The Office supported "**UN Free & Equal**" **national campaigns** in 16 countries, namely: Albania, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Bhutan, Brazil, Cabo Verde, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Liberia, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Venezuela. The campaigns were undertaken in close collaboration with local decision makers, civil society and community representatives. Activities included the delivery of trainings to magistrates and staff from the Albania Office of the Ombudsperson on LGBTQI+ inclusion; working with journalists in the Dominican Republic to ensure fair reporting on LGBTQI+ issues; producing a guide on the legal recognition of gender identity in Panama; and combating bullying and advancing equality in education in Timor-Leste. The global "UN Free & Equal" campaign reached 384.1 million social media feeds, received 31 million likes, clicks and shares and its videos were seen over 35 million times.

Pursuant to HRC resolution 51/10, OHCHR issued a ***Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on countering cyberbullying against persons with disabilities***, which was submitted to the fifty-sixth session of the HRC. The report raises awareness about the experiences of persons with disabilities with cyberbullying and provides a set of recommendations aimed at assisting individuals, communities, States and digital technology companies with the development of responses to cyberbullying against persons with disabilities, while ensuring their participation in and accessing the benefits of the digital environment.

Partially due to advocacy undertaken by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and her participation in the open-ended Working Group on ageing (OEWG), the Working Group recommended that Member States **adopt a legally binding instrument to protect the human rights of older persons**. This was recommended in its final report to the General Assembly, in May. A total of 47 Member States expressed support for this recommendation in the context of the OEWG and 60 Member States have done so in the context of the Human Rights Council. The significant support for the Independent Expert's proposal has paved the way for a crucial step in the international legal protection of older persons against discrimination.

Accountability (A)

Strengthening governance, the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations and abuses

OHCHR provided legal advice on the **enabling legislation of NHRIs** in Benin, Brazil, the Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Namibia, Nepal, North Macedonia, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal and Uzbekistan to ensure their compliance with the Paris Principles. In addition, OHCHR supported the accreditation review by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Sub-Committee on Accreditation of 35 NHRIs to determine their compliance with the Paris Principles.

With the aim of ensuring that victims of human rights violations and abuses have access to effective remedies and reparations, OHCHR worked closely with the International Dalit Solidarity Network and the Asia Dalit Rights Forum to examine access to justice by persons from descent-based communities in **Bangladesh**, **India**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan** and **Sri Lanka**. This engagement contributed to the assessment of the political, legal and judicial landscape of each country and access to **justice for persons from descent-based communities**, including through existing judicial and non-judicial mechanisms. The outcome document identifies good practices to strengthen and/or establish structures, policies and practices that provide access to effective justice mechanisms to persons from descent-based communities.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Secretariat of the **Escazú Agreement** and worked with CSOs in the Americas. This contributed to the adoption by States Parties, in April, of the action plan for implementing Article 9 of the Agreement, representing an important result that could increase the **protection of environmental human rights defenders** in the region.

Following technical support from OHCHR for the preparation and **adoption of national action plans on business and human rights in Africa**, the action plans are aligned with the UNGPs and underscore the obligations of various stakeholders. For instance, States must protect human rights in business operations, businesses must respect human rights and duty bearers must provide an effective remedy for business-related human rights abuses. Liberia adopted its first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights on 14 August.

The **B-Tech Community of Practice** (CoP) continued its geographical expansion with the inclusion of companies from Asia and Africa, reaching a total of 19 members. During the year, the CoP demonstrated that it can facilitate **constructive engagement** between human rights practitioners and the tech sector on complex challenges related to managing tech-related

human rights. In addition to regular sessions, specific work streams were kicked off that emphasize ways to conduct more effective stakeholder engagement and focus on tech regulation and governance.

The **Global Digital Compact,** to which OHCHR has contributed extensively, was adopted, in September. The Compact establishes commitments **for the global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence.** OHCHR's efforts ensured that upholding and advancing human rights was recognized as a cross-cutting principle. As a result of its contributions, OHCHR was designated as one of the five UN entities to support Member States in the implementation of their commitments. In this capacity, OHCHR will provide advisory support on human rights in the digital space, expert advice and practical guidance on human rights- and technology-related issues. Further, OHCHR will prioritize a number of key policy issues, including: protecting online civic space and participation; the right to privacy in the digital age; human rights due diligence for the use of technology; the application of the UNGPs in the technology sector; and technical standard-setting processes.

As a follow-up to the Secretary-General's call to develop **UN system-wide guidance on human rights due diligence (HRDD) for the use of digital technologies,** OHCHR spearheaded the drafting and consultation process that led to the *Human rights due diligence for digital technology use: Guidance of the Secretary-General*. The Guidance was endorsed by the Secretary-General's Executive Committee, in May, and supports UN entities to implement and undertake human rights due diligence with regard to the use of digital technologies across their lifecycle.

In order to explore issues related to the **impact of digital technologies on the rights of the child,** OHCHR and UNICEF developed a paper entitled *Taking a child-rights-based approach to implementing the UNGPs in the digital environment: A contribution to the B-Tech project*. The paper outlines the primary elements for implementing the UNGPs across all three of the UN's pillars. It also offers an introduction to fundamental child rights concepts for advancing business and human rights in the context of digital activities that may directly or indirectly impact children.

OHCHR strengthened the understanding of the potential **human rights impacts of artificial intelligence** and highlighted the actions that States and companies need to take to guide coherent governance and ensure corporate respect for human rights in the AI ecosystem. To this end, the Office issued B-Tech's *Taxonomy of human rights risks connected to generative AI* as a supplement to B-Tech's *Foundational paper on the responsible development and deployment of generative AI*. The Office is also preparing a forthcoming paper that will provide States with guidance on regulating AI, in line with international human rights law.

The Office substantially contributed to the *Report of the Secretary-General on human rights in the administration of justice* (A/79/296), issued in August. The report is the first to highlight the human rights challenges and good practices of the **application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the administration of justice.**

In 2024, the **Human Rights Council-mandated investigative bodies** on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela were renewed and received OHCHR's operational and substantive support, including for the recruitment of essential positions and the identification of high-level experts. In addition, the Council established one new investigative body, the Group of Independent Experts on the human rights situation in Belarus, for a renewable term of one year. OHCHR appointed a start-up team of three staff members to fully operationalize the Group of Independent Experts, including by designing the concept of operations and budget that will be submitted for approval and by managing the process to identify and appoint the expert members and recruit the secretariat staff. During the year, the Office ensured strength-

ened support to 12 independent investigative bodies that were mandated by the HRC, as well as a fact-finding team deployed under the High Commissioner's global mandate.

OHCHR partnered with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to develop a set of **guidelines on addressing trafficking in persons in the aviation and airlines supply chains.**

The ***Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights impact of arms transfers*** (A/HRC/56/42), issued in April, exposed shortcomings related to access to information on and the transparency of arms transfers by States and the private sector. As the first report of its kind, it reveals a general lack of compliance with public reporting requirements, routine rejections of requests for access to information and the consequential undermining of the oversight function of courts and parliaments by the executive branch, with limited accountability of the executive branch or the private sector. To overcome these challenges, the report details the precise information that is needed to ensure effective oversight and prevent, mitigate and address violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

In 2024, the **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) adopted its first General Comment** (CAT/OP/GC/1). General Comment No. 1 provides legal guidance on article 4 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), in particular regarding the definition of places of deprivation of liberty. During the year, the SPT undertook eight country missions and conducted unannounced visits to more than 180 places of deprivation of liberty.

The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights led two high-level specialized dialogues with senior government officials in Tehran, as part of the country programme for **Iran**, specifically, one on the **death penalty** and another on the **rights of women and girls.** This resulted in a two-year technical cooperation framework with a well-defined timeline and expected outcomes, designed to engage with over 20 State institutions on critical human rights issues. A commitment was secured by Iran to seek OHCHR's support to reduce the application of the death penalty.

The **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture** awarded a total of 190 annual grants in 93 countries to assist approximately 48,800 torture survivors and their families. In addition, through its emergency procedure, the Fund provided eight emergency grants to CSOs in seven countries for the delivery of critical services to an estimated 5,540 torture survivors and their family members in the context of humanitarian or human rights crises. Also, the Voluntary Fund's Board of Trustees hosted a hybrid meeting to discuss strategies to prevent, combat and address the consequences of torture. The meeting was attended by representatives of the United Against Torture Consortium (UATC), which is composed of: the Association for the Prevention of Torture; the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture; the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims; the Omega Research Foundation; REDRESS; and the World Organization Against Torture. During the meeting, the Board of Trustees agreed to cooperate with the Consortium to strengthen emergency response and capacity development through referral pathways and reinforce the engagement of survivors by bringing their voices to the forefront of relevant deliberations.

The **United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery** awarded a total of 45 grants to assist more than 10,800 people who had been subjected to contemporary forms of slavery in 34 countries. For instance, in the Netherlands, approximately 150 victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour received legal aid, social services and training about their rights. This created a positive multiplier effect as many went on to inform and assist their peers.

Participation (P)

Enhancing participation, protecting civic space and human rights defenders

OHCHR's **Civic Space Pulse** was instrumental in tracking the state of civic freedoms worldwide. It was awarded a Bronze Medal at the Microsoft Hackathon. Utilizing open source data, the platform monitored 45,105 global protests, 8,117 of which involved allegations of repression. This initiative provides actionable insights to safeguard civic space and protect fundamental freedoms.

Through the "**Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and Safety of Journalists**," OHCHR facilitated activities in relation to media freedom and the safety of journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal and Tunisia. These activities fostered strengthened partnerships with journalists, their associations and media freedom organizations, enabled State mechanisms to better protect journalists, lawyers and media freedom and enhanced the national and global movement for human rights.

A **Community of Practice**, founded and led by OHCHR, Humanity United and Action Aid Denmark, gathered more than 80 representatives of governments, UN partners, civil society protection actors and philanthropy donors, with a view to identifying protection gaps and stepping up responses when these actors are at risk. An article highlighted the Community of Practice as an example of effectively leveraging the complementarity of different protection actors.

OHCHR contributed to the Plan of Action for the Fifth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2025-2029), which will serve as guidance for national-level implementation and as an advocacy tool for all stakeholders. As requested by the HRC in 2023, the **Plan of Action focuses on human rights education for children and youth**, with a special emphasis on human rights and digital technologies, the environment and climate change and gender equality. Between January and March, OHCHR prepared a preliminary draft based on related UN instruments and documents and the plans of action from the previous phases. In April, on the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the Office undertook two in-person consultations on the preliminary draft, bringing together more than 65 children and youth. It also organized a two-day expert consultation with 32 participants, including representatives of UN entities, CSOs and networks, as well as children and youth. In May, OHCHR circulated a consolidated text to Member States, UN entities, NHRIs and civil society and invited them to submit their views and comments. OHCHR received 34 submissions and all comments were integrated into the final text that was submitted to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/57/34).

OHCHR is working closely with the Education Above All Foundation to implement a project aimed at **empowering young people**, particularly those living in situations of conflict and insecurity, to stand up for human rights. The first phase of the project resulted in the development of the Youth Rights Advocacy Toolkit, launched in 2023 as the "YES: Youth Empowerment System." In 2024, a new phase of the project began, which focuses on using YES to build the capacities of young people in Colombia, South Africa and the State of Palestine. As of the end of the year, more than 70 young people (56 women) in Colombia had been trained.

OHCHR made significant progress in advancing its project "**Making cities right for young people**" through the implementation of pilot projects in Fiji, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan. Initial field visits to the pilot project sites were concluded in October. During the field visits, the Office engaged with over 30 young people through informant interviews, focus groups and capacity-building workshops. Local Youth Project Advisory Groups were established at each of the pilot project sites to support advocacy planning and implementation.

Under the umbrella of the global **#IStandWithHer campaign**, the Office paid tribute to the **vital work of women human rights defenders** and feminist movements, particularly in conflict settings, and reaffirmed its commitment to amplify their voices and support their calls to action. The campaign featured impactful elements, including messages shared through posts, a statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a compelling web story and a podcast.

With UNODC, OHCHR supported the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in developing a **Model Protocol for Law Enforcement Officials to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Context of Peaceful Protests**, which was presented to the HRC's fifty-fifth session (A/HRC/55/60). The aim of the Model Protocol and its accompanying toolkit is to enhance the capacities and practices of law enforcement agencies to fulfil their duty to promote and protect human rights in the context of peaceful protests.

On 7 November, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, OHCHR supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression to organize a multi-stakeholder consultation on **freedom of expression in the context of elections in the African region**. The consultation gathered civil society actors, journalists and international organizations to identify and discuss the main challenges to freedom of expression when using digital technologies in the context of elections. The consultation will provide inputs to the Special Rapporteur's thematic report on this topic, which will be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2025.

During the year, OHCHR implemented new tools to facilitate the **participation of civil society and NGOs in the sessions of the HRC**. Notably, an information note was developed for NGOs participating in each HRC session and subsequently translated into French and Spanish. The document provides a comprehensive overview of all steps that need to be taken to ensure that interventions, including those delivered via pre-recorded video messages, are duly processed. The Office facilitated regular exchanges between NGOs and the President of the HRC and sought to ensure that civil society had opportunities to raise concerns directly with the President. This contributed to enhancing existing child safeguarding measures to enable the inclusive and safe participation of children in the work of the HRC.

MANAGEMENT



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

Accountability and **governance framework**

INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING

OHCHR revised and strengthened its internal governance structure in 2024 and developed new governance bodies consisting of the Senior Executive Team (SET) and the Leadership Team (LT) and their respective terms of reference (ToRs). The SET advises the High Commissioner for Human Rights with respect to the UN and office-wide policies and strategies, organizational innovation and change, crisis response, external positioning, country situations, thematic strategies and related guidance and methodologies. The LT is a broader senior-level consultative body that supports and advises the High Commissioner's decision-making on strategic positioning and corporate priorities; global and regional political developments; branding; alignment with UN strategies; and monitoring of the implementation of organizational change management initiatives and programmes. The Operations Working Group (OG) advises the High Commissioner, the SET and the LT on budgetary and financial issues, including regular budget and extrabudgetary contributions, and the allocation of resources.

During the year, the SET met 21 times and the OG held 11 meetings. In addition, the internal governance structure considered 75 fundraising and fund allocation proposals. Accountability was increased through the implementation of the online Decision Tracking System, which was created as part of OHCHR's larger accountability framework.

Results-based **management**

PLANNING

UN Human Rights finalized its new OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) (2024-2027). This process began at the end of 2023 and was shaped by consultations held in the context of the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative.

The OMP serves as the architecture that office-wide results orientation is founded upon. This is accomplished through the articulation of the pillar strategies and the Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans, which operationalize the outcomes of the Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0) change management exercise, and of the country and regional strategies and programmes.

The OMP is the outcome of comprehensive and substantive programmatic analyses and a reflection of the achievements realized and the lessons learned during the previous cycle. The new OMP is developed around 33 global results and a comprehensive monitoring system that tracks implementation across the cycle. As of the end of December, all headquarters and regional and country presences had developed workplans to reflect the vision of the new OMP.

MONITORING

In 2024, OHCHR undertook comprehensive and substantive programmatic analyses of the implementation of the previous OMP (2018-2021), which was extended to 2023, in order to identify and communicate to senior management about the Organization's achievements, draw on what had been learned and inform the preparation of the new OMP (2024-2027). The impacts of COVID-19 and the extension of the previous OMP were included in the analysis. As a transition year between OMPs, and in light of comprehensive planning that was conducted in the middle of the year, the 2024 end-of-year reporting period provided the Office with the first opportunity to assess the uptake of the targets outlined in the new OMP.

Monitoring the performance of UN Human Rights against the targets set by the OMP takes place through the Performance Monitoring System (PMS), a tailored online tool that facilitates planning, monitoring and reporting on a common set of office-wide results, in line with the principles and standards of results-based management (RBM). To align the PMS with the changes made to the organizational framework, including the alignment of the country programmes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and their cycles, the System was upgraded to introduce new functionalities, such as refinements of its existing modules.

The Organization supported staff across the world in programme implementation, including through clinics for the preparation of the 2024 and 2025 annual workplans and the 2024 end-of-year reporting.

EVALUATION

The Office improved its understanding of the outcomes of its programmatic implementation and the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the work accomplished through evaluations. These evaluations informed the SET about areas of work where the Office had made achievements, generated a greater awareness about lessons learned and led to the development of recommendations for improvement and good practices that can be replicated in other areas.

At the global, regional and country level, 10 evaluations were finalized, including office-wide programmes, such as the "Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists" and the project on "Model National Human Rights-Based Responses to Counter Terrorism." Evaluations were also undertaken in relation to country programmes in Bolivia, Cambodia, Mozambique and Ukraine and regarding regional and country projects, including: "Addressing the human rights, migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region (CLIMIS);" "Implementing the State of Palestine's[27] human rights treaty obligations: Capacity-building for implementation and accountability;" "Strengthening the guarantee of the rights of human rights defenders, social leaders and their organizations in Colombia;" and a project that is funded by the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights and the European Union (EU) entitled "Technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines." Management responses to the completed evaluations were prepared and submitted to the SET, including action plans for the implementation of their recommendations to ensure that lessons were learned from programming and that resource allocation was aligned with strategic priorities.

The evaluations also contributed to external assessments of office-wide results. To this end, support was provided to the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in conducting an evaluation of OHCHR that focused on the promotion and protection of human rights through the strengthening of national protection systems at the country level. Assistance was also given in the context of inter-agency humanitarian evaluations that were undertaken in Afghanistan and Ethiopia and with regard to the OIOS triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations it had issued following its evaluation of human rights in peacekeeping operations.

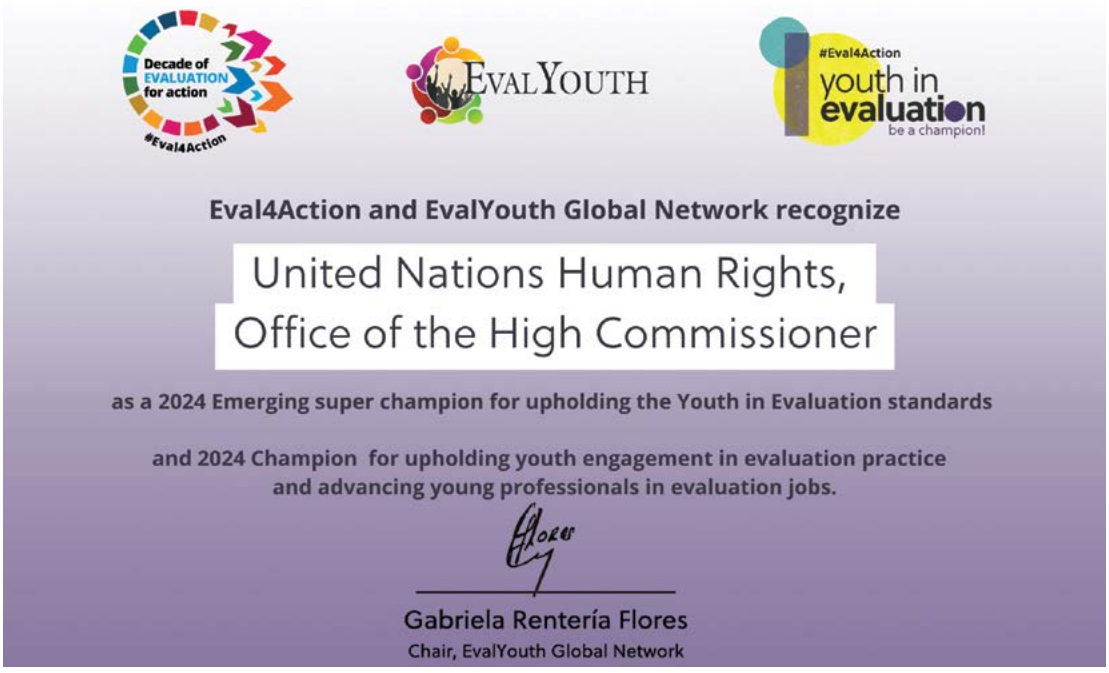
Policies and strategies were informed by programming experiences and evaluation recommendations that were incorporated into the Decision Tracking System. Progress was reported to the SET every six months. Recommendations to the OG were revised to ensure that evaluation learnings were reflected in planning. Data that was uploaded to the PMS evaluation module was instructive for the Office as it facilitated enhanced results measurement in planning, reporting and analysis at the end of the programming cycle.

OHCHR's evaluation guidance and templates were updated in accordance with the Evaluation Policy that was revised in 2023. In addition, the Office maintained the database and mailing list of evaluation consultants and the evaluation report repositories on its Intranet, external website and the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) portal. During the year, communication on the evaluation process was enhanced through the preparation of a dissemination strategy, which included evaluation summaries and newsletters, to promote the use of evaluation findings.

Through its leadership role in the UNEG, the Office supported the mainstreaming of gender equality and disability inclusion into the evaluation processes across the UN system. This was highlighted in 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 a co-convener of the UNEG Working Group on gender, disability and human rights, the Office contributed to the integration of these themes into evaluations across the UN system. OHCHR also contributed to the development of new norms and standards on the inclusion of environmental issues in evaluations.

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

The office reported on the implementation of youth with respect to evaluations standards across six dimensions, namely, leadership and accountability; practice; advocacy and capacity-development; knowledge management and communication; human resources; and financial resources. As a result of its contributions to mainstreaming youth engagement into evaluation processes, OHCHR was recognized as an "Emerging super champion for upholding the Youth in Evaluation standards" and as a "Champion for upholding youth engagement in evaluation practice and advancing young professionals in evaluation jobs" during the "Youth in Evaluation" week, which was aligned with the United Nations Summit of the Future.



In 2024, OHCHR received the award for "Emerging super champion for upholding the Youth in Evaluation standards" from the EvalYouth Global Network. © OHCHR

AUDITS

In 2024, the Office underwent a combination of financial, operational and governance audits to evaluate compliance, transparency and operational efficiency. Undertaken by independent auditors, both internal and external, these audits assessed risk management strategies, internal controls and overall governance practices necessary to support and strengthen accountability and enhance decision-making.

External audits conducted by the United Nations Board of Auditors included:

- **A final financial audit of the accounts of OHCHR for 2023 and an interim financial audit of the accounts of OHCHR for 2024** were conducted in March and December, respectively. The audits examined OHCHR's financial accounts in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and article VII of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.
- **OHCHR's cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system**, which began in September. The audit examined the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the cooperation between OHCHR and the other entities of

the United Nations system. It also considered OHCHR's coordination with other bodies and compliance with its rules and practices regarding the management of support functions, such as finance, human resources, asset management, procurement and information and communication technology. The audit was undertaken at headquarters, in Geneva, and in two field locations, specifically, the Regional Office for Southern Africa, conducted in December, and the Country Office in Guatemala, conducted in January 2025.

Internal audits conducted by OIOS included:

- **An audit of human resources management at OHCHR**, conducted in June. This examined the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes in ensuring the effective management of human resources at OHCHR. The audit included a review of human resources targets and strategies and aspects of operations in staff recruitment, consultancies, education grants and the administration of time and attendance.
- **An audit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico** (Country Office), conducted in April. The audit aimed to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control processes in ensuring the effective management of the operations of OHCHR-Mexico.
- **An audit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office for Eastern Africa**, which began in December. The objective of the audit is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework and control processes for the management of administrative functions and services at the Regional Office for Eastern Africa, in Addis Ababa.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk assessments are carried out during the drafting of project proposals, country programmes, annual workplans and regular office-wide risk management reviews. Risk mitigation measures are addressed during the programme implementation process. They are monitored and reported on during the mid-year review, the end-of-year review and as part of the annual reporting requirements to the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC).

In 2024, OHCHR reviewed and updated its office-wide Risk Register and implemented the risk treatment and response plans for the very high and high-risk categories. It also reported to the DMSPC on progress achieved in the implementation of the risk treatment and response plans.

The Office participated in the United Nations Working Group on Enterprise Risk Management, thereby contributing to the Secretariat-wide effort undertaken by the Management Committee Task Force on Enterprise Risk Management.

Organizational effectiveness **results**

UN Human Rights defined eight interrelated Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs) in its OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) (2024-2027). These plans were developed to reflect and guide UN Human Rights' commitment to improving programme delivery and increasing the impact of its operations.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS ACTION PLANS

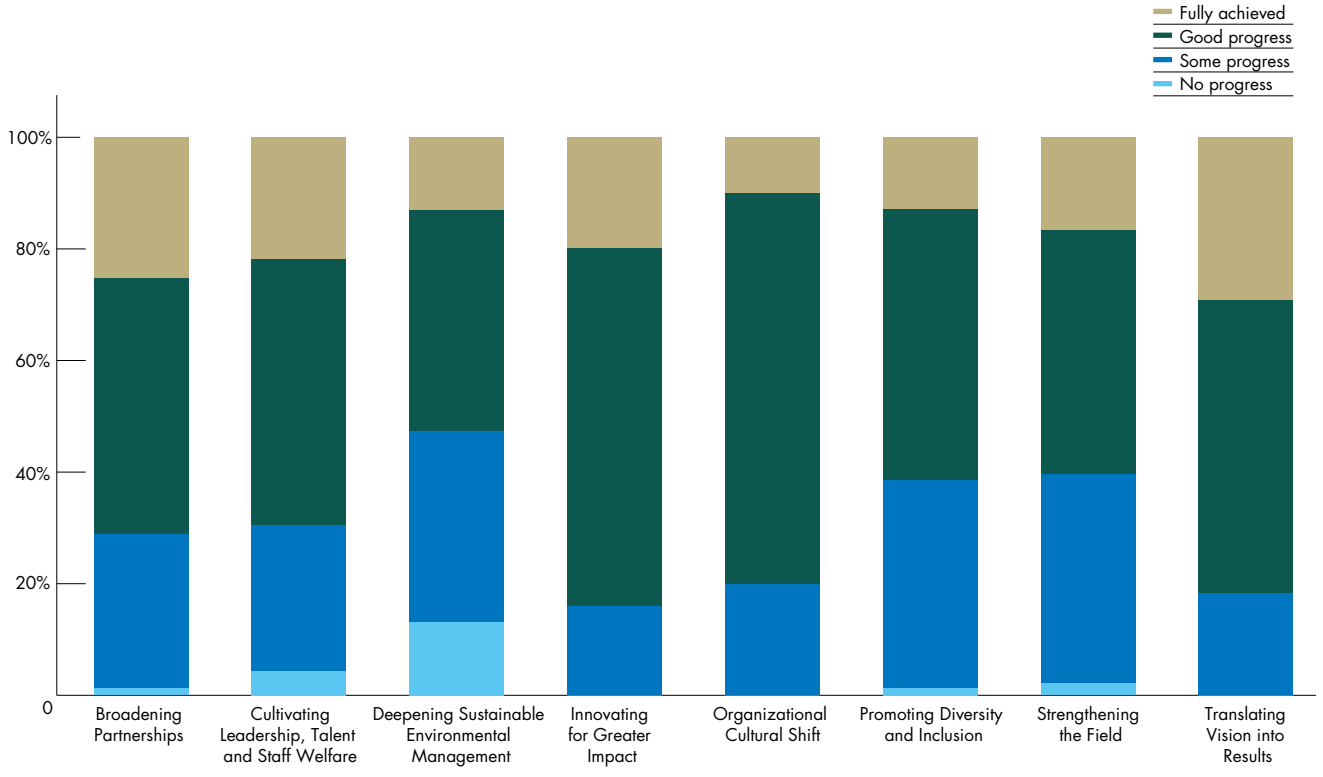


LEVEL OF PROGRESS TOWARDS OEAP RESULTS

During 2024, there was a high level of progress in the implementation of the OEAPs. A total of 70 per cent of outputs were reported as having attained good progress or fully achieved and outputs that reached some progress accounted for 28 per cent.

The greatest progress was observed under the Translating Vision into Results OEAP, highlighting OHCHR's enhanced managerial structure and improved alignment between strategic planning and implementation. The lowest achievement rate was reported under the Cultural Shift OEAP. This may be attributed to the fact that the OEAP was developed in the context of the new OMP and an extended timeframe is typically required for the implementation of culture changes.

PROGRESS REPORTED UNDER EACH OEAP IN 2024





TRANSLATING VISION INTO RESULTS

UN Human Rights strengthens strategic decision-making, programmatic coherence and risk management and strives for continuous organizational development.

The OEAP seeks to translate the High Commissioner's vision into operational results and impacts on the ground. To achieve this, the OEAP emphasizes the importance of setting the strategic direction for the programming cycle and scaling up the office-wide results-based management (RBM) capacity-building programme. It highlights the need to ensure that programmes are focused on results and informed by knowledge, data and risk. It also stresses that the use of innovative and creative approaches is essential to the achievement of effective results and that cross-functional collaboration is vital. Further, it accentuates the role of the internal governance bodies and the need to ensure that roles and responsibilities are defined across teams and departments.

Highlights in 2024

- The **capacities of staff** in relation to RBM and monitoring were increased through interdivisional workshops. This work will continue in order to bolster OHCHR's ability to leverage data and evidence.
- Through **10 evaluations**, the Office improved its analysis of the outcomes of its programmatic implementation and the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the work it carried out. This resulted in a better understanding of good practices, lessons learned and the generation of recommendations.
- OHCHR's **internal governance structure** was revised and reinforced and new governance bodies were created, namely, the Senior Executive Team (SET) and the Leadership Team (LT). The Operations Working Group (OG), which focuses on finances and human resources, was established to advise and support the SET's decision-making.
- OHCHR's **risk management** capacities were enhanced through an update of the OHCHR Risk Register, the revision of guidance for colleagues on conducting risk assessments, the delivery of trainings on risk management and the review of risk assessments that were included in project proposals. In line with previous audit recommendations, risk identification, assessment and management were strengthened in the annual workplan and end-of-year reporting processes.

Integrating human rights into **"The pact for the future"**

The High Commissioner's vision statement entitled "*Human rights: A path for solutions*," laid the groundwork for the effective incorporation of human rights into all five chapters of "*The pact for the future*," which was endorsed by Member States, in September.

The High Commissioner's vision statement was informed by an enriching engagement with a diverse set of actors throughout the Human Rights 75 (HR75) Initiative, which was launched in 2023 to commemorate 75 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The statement outlines eight recommendations to guide OHCHR's future work.



STRENGTHENING THE FIELD AND ALIGNING HEADQUARTERS, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION

UN Human Rights strengthens its regional- and country-level engagement and enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations.

The OEAP outlined OHCHR's strategy and a comprehensive approach to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities at headquarters and the regional and country level. By reviewing and streamlining administrative processes and adopting new technologies, the Office sought to increase its efficiency and impact. Within appropriate control and governance frameworks, the Office expanded the Delegation of Authority Initiative to deliver operational effectiveness in areas such as procurement, travel and human resources management services.

Highlights in 2024

- In accordance with the OEAPs on Translating Vision into Results and on Cultural Shift, a six-month process of inclusive and extensive in-house consultations was concluded. As a result, a **renewed field structure** was adopted to provide enhanced support in order to increase OHCHR's human rights impact at the operational level.
- **Programme and resource mobilization officers** were deployed to the Regional Offices of Central America, the Middle East and South-East Asia. In implementing Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 51/30, OHCHR deployed nine regional Universal Periodic Review (UPR) advisers (two more are under recruitment), complementing the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme (TBCBP).
- Security was provided to monitoring and investigative activities in field locations. The Office **deployed security officers** to 24 missions led by human rights mandate holders, OHCHR investigation missions and Human Rights Council mandates.

Strengthening efficiency and effectiveness with the **UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)**

Efforts to strengthen field operations and optimize administrative alignment with headquarters resulted in more effective mandate delivery across Ukraine. Strategically leveraging global UN Hub resources facilitated the rapid deployment of critical assets, such as armoured vehicles and emergency communication systems. Technological integration through Umoja, coupled with expanded delegated authority, enhanced operational agility and decision-making. The integration of digital tools and streamlined administrative processes increased efficiency, thereby supporting high standards of operational security and staff safety, including in challenging operational circumstances.

- The organizational change management project reviewed and delivered **internal processes** to ensure a more efficient, substantive and programmatic mandate delivery through decentralized administrative services, streamlined annual budgeting and financial planning, overhauled grants management and optimized recruitment. The internal clearance process for public reports was also revised and shortened.
- The **Delegation of Authority** Initiative was expanded by: integrating an additional 302 global users into the Umoja Enterprise Resource Planning and streamlining service delivery across 50 field offices to enable the delivery of procurement on low value acquisitioning for purchase orders up to US$10,000; procurement and payment of consultants and individual contractors; processing of commercial and non-commercial local travel; grantor management for implementing partners; and signing local memorandums of understanding (authorization granted to 26 heads of offices).
- An online **travel booking tool** generated sizeable cost savings, as did a travel processing office in the Americas that has eliminated the need for external service providers.
- **Service level agreements** were signed with six new UN service providers for more cost-effective and streamlined service delivery.



INNOVATING FOR GREATER IMPACT

UN Human Rights embraces the potential of data, digital transformation, strategic foresight and behavioural science to promote and protect human rights more effectively.

The objective of this OEAP is to enhance OHCHR's innovation capabilities so that it can respond to complex human rights challenges. It emphasizes nurturing a culture of collaboration, open communication and knowledge-sharing across the Organization and beyond. It advocates for the integration of dynamic knowledge and innovative solutions from internal and external actors to accelerate human rights impact. Key strategies include building staff capacities, investing in the Quintet of Change (data, digital transformation, innovation, strategic foresight and behavioural science) and leveraging partnerships. The OEAP also focuses on scaling up successful initiatives, integrating innovation into core programmes and developing new governance frameworks for accountability. It aims to promote agility, risk-taking and continuous learning, ultimately strengthening the implementation and effectiveness of OHCHR's global mandate and ensuring that innovation leadership for human rights impact is enhanced. The development of a transparent and accountable governance framework contributed to organizational performance and alignment across the Office.

Highlights in 2024

- Adoption of the **Digital Transformation Road Map**: In September, OHCHR adopted its first Digital Transformation Road Map, which sets out a comprehensive vision for a digitally-enabled organization that delivers more value through the responsible use of frontier technology. By providing streamlined governance and boosting enablers, the Road Map allows the Office to embrace a more digital office, unlock the power of transformative digital technologies and scale up innovation. In addition, it provides a strategic lever for new data, technology and partnerships, 50 of which were established in 2024.
- **Ideas Lab and Lighthouse Network's community of practice**: During the year, the Office conducted a collaborative "Ideas Lab" to identify priorities for innovation, resulting in more than 350 ideas that were generated by staff. Based on these inputs, 14 "Lighthouse projects" were launched that will catalyse innovation efforts in 2025 and beyond, spanning four high-impact areas. A Lighthouse Network community of practice will connect OHCHR staff, partners and experts to co-create impactful, scalable in-house solutions for advancing human rights analytics and field-focused tools and services.

The Innovation and Analytics Hub

In June, OHCHR launched the Innovation and Analytics Hub, bringing together approximately 20 staff with competencies across the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change in order to form a service centre for the Organization. The Hub spearheads the implementation of the Digital Transformation Road Map (2024–2027), which will enable the Organization to leverage the potential of digital technology for its work. Tools that are powered by artificial intelligence (AI) are being piloted to enhance operational efficiency and support human rights analysis. This includes the prize-winning Civic Space Pulse, a digital product that employs AI to analyse information about public demonstrations from open sources to detect signs of repression that require monitoring by human rights officers. The tool was jointly developed with colleagues from the OHCHR Civic Space Unit in an exemplary cross-team collaboration.

BROADENING PARTNERSHIPS

UN Human Rights fully leverages strategic communications and partnerships to ensure sustainable funding and investment in digital communication tools to support global outreach and service delivery.

The OEAP aims to develop a more coordinated, organization-wide approach to partnerships and communications through advocacy, outreach and engagement. Strengthening support for and trust in UN Human Rights and its mandate will reinvigorate the global movement for human rights, help shape the human rights agenda and ensure sustainable funding. Diversifying and deepening a network of partners will increase awareness about OHCHR and its work and contribute to strengthening the positioning of human rights as one of the three founding pillars of the United Nations system.

Highlights in 2024

- **Voluntary contributions,** which account for over 60 per cent of the Office's annual budget, totalled US$269.4 million in 2024. A total of 95 partners contributed, consisting of 66 Member States and 29 non-State partners, including other international organizations and private sector organizations. OHCHR stressed the importance of unearmarked funds with all partners. As a result, 21 Member States increased their unearmarked funds and multi-year agreements were signed with 13 partners.
- The Office maintained its **strong engagement with partners** throughout the year, providing regular updates on OHCHR's work through 290 bilateral meetings and 31 consultations and briefings. A total of 112 funding agreements were signed.
- OHCHR applied an **RBM approach to fundraising proposals and reporting**, which are key to building trust and ensuring accountability. The Office submitted 131 proposals and 188 narrative and financial reports to donors. It also distributed the UN Human Rights Annual Report and Annual Appeal.

- **The Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy** (RMPS) was revised and updated. A draft Private Sector Partnerships and Fundraising Strategy informed efforts to strengthen existing partnerships and tap into opportunities for new partnerships. During the year, OHCHR received funding from 17 private sector and philanthropic donors, representing the highest number of partners OHCHR has had in a given year. To ensure greater partner visibility, OHCHR acknowledged the contributions of its partners through 167 tweets on its X account for Partners (public and private donors). Bimonthly newsletters highlighting OHCHR's work were shared with funding partners.
- OHCHR continued to **decentralize its fundraising capacities** through the recruitment of a new staff member to support the East Africa Regional Office, in Addis Ababa. This is the fourth regional office equipped with a dedicated fundraising capacity.
- A small **partnerships function** was established within the External Engagement and Partnerships Service to expand OHCHR's public outreach and mobilization efforts. This supported cross-functional teamwork to better leverage existing relationships and nurture new ones, including to mobilize resources. The Office is developing an overarching partnerships framework and formulating comprehensive, country-focused partnership engagement strategies, with a view to securing promising engagement opportunities in 2025.
- Strengthening OHCHR's visual identity and focus on **impact communications** led to increased engagement on social media and the web, reaching over 26 million people across the Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X platforms, representing a 36.7 per cent increase over last year. This growth was particularly evident on OHCHR's institutional channels. On Instagram, its reach increased by 34.5 per cent, driven by impactful partnerships with CPJ, Survival International and Vinicius Jr. Similarly, engagement with the Office's Facebook page saw a 22.2 per cent increase, reaching 4.2 million people. By the end of 2024, there had been 43.8 million page views, in all UN languages, on the UN Human Rights website.
- A new multi-year campaign, **"Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now,"** was launched, promoting human rights as a preventive, protective and transformative force. The campaign garnered widespread engagement with UN partners, civil society, influencers and other key stakeholders and will be expanded in 2025. Outreach was bolstered through tailored events and partnerships around the world, contributing to increased brand awareness, enhanced support for the work of the Office and the growth of the human rights community.

In partnership with the Right Here, Right Now (RHRN) **Global Climate Alliance**

In 2024, OHCHR continued its partnership with the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Alliance to foster understanding and build support for the advancement of human rights-based climate action. This collaboration offered valuable opportunities for broad public outreach and fundraising, including through celebrity engagement on social media and partnerships within the Alliance. Successful examples include a forged partnership with Fotografiska and another with the Recording Academy, which led to the co-organization of a musical event during the General Assembly.

In mid-2025, OHCHR and the University of Oxford will co-host the second Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit. The Summit will benefit from a strong collaboration with the International Universities Climate Alliance and participating universities around the globe, including eight universities that are also hosting engagements. The event will provide the Office with an opportunity to engage with new stakeholders, including those in the worlds of the arts and philanthropy.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

UN Human Rights will seek to track, report on, share good practices and improve its carbon footprint across its presences, in accordance with the Greening the Blue Initiative, the right to a healthy environment and the UN Strategy for Sustainability Management (2020-2030).

The OEAP seeks to integrate environmental sustainability into OHCHR's programmes and operations and focuses on developing, maintaining and implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS). This includes operationalizing a three per cent carbon levy on all air tickets purchased by OHCHR; improving environmental footprint reporting; advancing environmental sustainability and social governance frameworks; enhancing staff engagement through behavioural change, capacity-building, sharing of good practices and impact stories, peer-to-peer collaboration, impact communication and feedback mechanisms across UN Human Rights; and increasing the integration of sustainable environmental management into daily programming and operations.

Communication, advocacy and partnerships on sustainable environmental management, for instance, with the UN Environment Management Group (EMG), UNEP and 2050Today, were solidified through the engagement and participation of staff, including senior management. Funding proposals were strengthened through the integration of environmental assessments, sustainability and social safeguards.

Highlights in 2024

- OHCHR sustained its International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/PC250 liaison membership, contributing to the revision of the ISO 20121 (event sustainability management systems) standard. This resulted in the **improved integration of human rights**, including the rights of the child, into the updated standard that was launched, in March.
- A 57 per cent increase, compared to 2023, in field office reporting of environmental data improved the accuracy of the **Office's environmental footprint analysis**. This milestone was achieved through collaboration with the UN Greening the Blue Initiative. In comparison to 3.8 tCO2eq reported in 2022 (based on 2021 data), the overall OHCHR carbon emissions reported in 2023 (based on 2022 data) rose to 4.2 tCO2eq, but remained 22 per cent below pre-pandemic levels.
- Staff engagement and participation in **sustainability initiatives** grew significantly, for instance, through the office-wide Green Week, a bike-to-work competition and the Geneva-wide reusable tableware challenge.
- **Seven Green Fund projects** were implemented in: Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; the Syria Office in Lebanon; the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa; Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso; Mexico City, Mexico; and Bogotá, Colombia. Projects targeted energy efficiency, waste management and environmental awareness. At headquarters, in Geneva, a project was initiated to replace personal bins with recycling stations, which was underpinned by a waste management audit.
- The Office maintained its partnership with 2050Today, leading to the drafting of **action plans on energy**, waste and mobility, thereby advancing cross-sectoral collaboration and promoting environmental management.

Harvesting rainwater **brought us together**

"Through the 'rainwater harvesting project,' the entire team gained a deeper understanding of the water-climate crisis, the interdependence of human rights and our ability to implement sustainable environmental actions, both at home and in the Office," noted Bernardo Serrano, Focal Point on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sustainable Environmental Management at OHCHR-Mexico.

Mexico City faces a severe water crisis, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change on rainfall and rising temperatures. In early 2024, OHCHR-Mexico experienced a total water outage, forcing staff to work from home. This challenge sparked a sustainable solution, namely, a rainwater harvesting project that was supported by the OHCHR Green Fund.



OHCHR-Mexico team inspecting the water project.
© OHCHR

"Knowing that our water storage capacity was limited, I decided to research rainwater harvesting projects in Mexico City and submitted a proposal to the OHCHR Green Fund," said Elisa Trejo, staff member of the Administration Unit.

Subsequently, the Office implemented a system to capture, treat and redirect rainwater, meeting 40 per cent of OHCHR-Mexico's annual water needs, equivalent to over 220m³ of harvested rainwater. The underground storage capacity of 13m³ has significantly reduced OHCHR's dependence on municipal systems and ensured the uninterrupted operation of the Office. The project was complemented by staff training on the use and maintenance of the system.

"We now use less water from the public system and the operation of the water project is user-friendly and accessible for the whole team. The city should widely implement this innovative system," said Silverio Martinez, staff member of the Maintenance Unit.

This initiative addresses water scarcity while also fostering environmental stewardship, reducing costs and demonstrating how institutions can adapt to climate challenges. Amid Mexico City's prolonged dry seasons, OHCHR's project stands out as a model for scalable, sustainable water management and is a testament to collective action and the potential for positive change.

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP, TALENT AND STAFF WELFARE

OHCHR invests in the full potential of all staff, proactively nurturing talent, enhancing staff well-being and cultivating strong managers and inspirational leaders who bring the OHCHR transformational vision to life.

The OEAP aims to empower leaders to bring the Office's transformational vision to life, in line with the UN Leadership Framework, which has been adapted for OHCHR's needs. Unlocking the full potential of OHCHR's workforce is a central goal of UN Human Rights and part of its commitment to attract diverse talent. In this process, the welfare of OHCHR's staff is a priority. The Office is committed to the implementation of frameworks to effectively prevent, manage and address workplace stress and trauma, including secondary trauma.

Highlights in 2024

- Strengthening the OHCHR community of practice for leadership and management continued in 2024, primarily through sessions that were convened on **Leadingnet**, a forum gathering mid- and senior level managers to share information, good practices and experiences on leadership- and management-related topics. During the year, a total of six Leadingnet sessions brought together more than 200 staff to address a range of issues, including internal communication, performance management, talent management and career support. The sessions also provided an enabling environment for innovation.
- Another important step in building a healthier work environment was completed with the establishment of a **dedicated Staff Well-being Unit**. The Unit is responsible for developing and implementing policies and practices concerning stress and trauma and undertakes comprehensive mental and emotional wellness initiatives.
- Recognizing that many staff are at risk of experiencing trauma, OHCHR is taking steps to promote and protect the **overall well-being** of staff through increased access to psychological care, in all official UN languages. In addition, the Office strengthened channels for handling complaints concerning behaviour that is not conducive to a safe and healthy work environment. An Ombudsperson was brought on board and a new Independent Assessment Unit was created to handle formal complaints, thereby complementing the services offered by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

Ensuring a whole-of-office approach **to staff welfare**

To enhance staff welfare and promote a healthy work environment, OHCHR created a dedicated Staff Well-being Unit, which develops policies and practices concerning stress and trauma and implements comprehensive mental and emotional wellness initiatives. OHCHR also increased the availability of support for staff who are at high risk of experiencing trauma, including by facilitating access to psychological care in all official UN languages; providing mandatory trauma awareness in pre- and post-mission briefings; and developing mandatory training for managers to enable them to detect signs of trauma.

The Office is working to create more effective channels and mechanisms for handling conduct-related complaints, particularly with regard to behaviour that is not conducive to a harmonious work environment. An OHCHR-dedicated Ombudsperson, belonging to the Office of the United Nations Ombudsperson and Mediation Services, has been appointed to help prevent and de-escalate workplace tensions. OHCHR also established a staff legal service that will provide an independent mechanism for managing issues pertaining to conduct and discipline and the management of formal complaints.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

OHCHR promotes a diverse and gender-balanced workforce at every level and a workplace culture that respects, engages and includes all, with inclusive leadership and greater accountability.

The Office promotes an organizational culture that is founded on inclusive leadership and supports a sense of equality, fairness, dignity and belonging across its global operations. This is achieved through dialogue, communications and engagement of all personnel. To this end, OHCHR strengthened its recruitment practices, which contributed to improvements in the equal representation of women and regional group diversity in its workforce, particularly among countries that are unrepresented or underrepresented. The Office expanded access to entry-level employment opportunities for youth from all backgrounds, including from developing economies. Racism and all forms of discrimination in the workplace were addressed through regular assessments, inter-agency cooperation and staff engagements within OHCHR, supplemented by the introduction of new mechanisms and processes to ensure equality, non-discrimination, accountability and impact transparency. Mechanisms for reporting and addressing discrimination and misconduct were introduced or strengthened. Support for initiatives and practices, such as values-based behaviour and family-friendly policies, contributed to improving a work-life balance. Briefings and messaging on workplace culture and standards of conduct resulted in a more dignified and respectful work environment.

Highlights in 2024

- Strengthened **competency-based recruitment practices**, including through improved assessments and outreach, helped to address geographical imbalances and improve regional group diversity and the representation of countries that are unrepresented and underrepresented.
- Gender parity has been achieved across all levels in the Office and OHCHR's **Recruitment Framework** is being updated. The Framework uses more granular data to support and inform the hiring of managers. This had a positive impact on recruitment and promotion decisions in the Professional and General Service categories.
- OHCHR published its internal and external **Global Leadership Team** web pages, providing the photos, names, titles, regional groups, nationalities and levels of its senior leaders. This step is crucial to building greater trust and transparency with stakeholders and partners.
- The Office increased **opportunities for youth** from developing countries and all backgrounds to undertake professional work experiences at OHCHR's offices around the world. OHCHR increased the number of entry-level positions at the P-1 and P-2 levels to attract more young people. It also expanded the University UNV (UUNV) programme, enabling young people to learn about and contribute to the work of the Office.
- Efforts were undertaken to cultivate **fairer recruitment processes and expand career development opportunities**. These efforts included workforce analyses and the use of enhanced staffing data for workforce rejuvenation, innovation, outreach, talent development, coaching, mentoring and performance management.
- The **OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme** launched its fourth cycle in two country offices, namely, Mauritania and Peru, providing tailored support, including the delivery of trainings on bias and stereotypes for all staff. Examples of achievements and progress on the Programme can be found on pages 74-75.
- OHCHR engaged with and provided leadership on **UN system-wide working groups** on disability, racism and discrimination, sexual harassment, youth, gender equality and geographic diversity in the workplace. The Office provided regular technical advice and coordination on practices, policies and implementation of key UN frameworks and processes.
- The Office established a partnership with the Harvard Law School to deliver a **Youth Summer Fellowship Programme** for young people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples and minorities, as well as law students working on issues relating to torture and slavery.

Global Leadership Team **brought us together**

OHCHR published its internal and external Global Leadership Team web pages, highlighting the regional group, nationality and gender representation of the senior leadership. The Global Leadership Team (GLT) supports the High Commissioner by providing strategic leadership and management advice and leading the translation of the High Commissioner's vision and strategic directions into programmes that are focused on results and impacts for people across the globe.

The GLT works with personnel based in all worldwide presences to implement the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, UN system-wide policies and strategies, international human rights law and standards and crisis response and mandates on thematic issues and country situations. Information dedicated to the GLT that is posted on internal and external web pages seeks to generate trust and enhance transparency with all stakeholders and partners.

CULTURAL SHIFT

UN Human Rights sets out a strategy for fostering an organizational culture that strengthens the Office's collective focus, rewards results and innovation and values commitment and inclusion.

In 2024, the OEAP laid a strong foundation to strengthen the Office's collective focus and to embed a culture of innovation, collaboration, inclusion and accountability across its programmes and operations. A systematic approach to culture change is being implemented through strategic initiatives, capacity-building and internal communication efforts.

A quality assurance process was undertaken for all OEAPs to ensure that the change requirements outlined in the Cultural Shift OEAP and the culture aspects related to specific OEAPs were included to increase coherence and accountability. A dedicated monitoring framework was developed to track progress, ensure alignment and institutionalize positive culture shifts. In addition, awareness about the OEAP was raised through trainings and guidance on integrating the concept into the annual workplan and end-of-year reporting processes.

Highlights in 2024

- Enhanced staff awareness and engagement in **Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 (OE 2.0)** change management initiatives was achieved through various activities, including a series of town halls and briefings on approved OE 2.0 changes. As of the end of 2024, five all staff town halls had taken place, with an average of 350 participants who attended each meeting from around the world. Positive culture change was also promoted during several events and trainings dedicated to the innovative spirit of the Quintet of Change. More than 900 staff from the Office participated in at least one culture change event.

- **Engagement of staff** was strengthened through improved information flows. Regular and strategic information was promoted via weekly office-wide updates, broadcast messages and events. The High Commissioner maintained direct engagement with staff, including through all staff meetings and podcast episodes. Cross-functional collaboration was also expanded, fostering greater knowledge-sharing and consistency. In this context, the Ideas Lab was organized, engaging over 900 staff and UN partners to ensure a better understanding of data and innovation needs.

- The culture of proactive **risk management** was reinforced. In addition to training courses, the first workshop on global risk management was delivered, in collaboration with the UN Enterprise Risk Management Section and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC). The workshop significantly increased awareness and the understanding of risk management across the Office. To enhance the risk management of specific projects, systematic reporting to the Operations Working Group was established with respect to the implementation of large interdivisional projects. Moreover, improvements were identified based on the recommendations of the Working Group.



A workshop was held for CSOs on the Universal Periodic Review, in the region of Gabu, Guinea-Bissau. In 2024, CSOs from the region presented two joint reports. No reports were submitted during previous cycles. © OHCHR

FUNDING

Voluntary contributions to UN Human Rights in 2024

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 2024).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2024 (by earmarking and in descending order)

	United States of America	European Commission	Germany	Sweden	Norway	United Kingdom	UNDP
Unearmarked	11,000,000	5,048,160	4,889,966	9,961,104	18,420,053	3,901,170	
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva			1,169,730				203,514
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	300,000	4,046,421	3,722,078				401,771
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies			953,556				
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation			915,381	686,939			
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures			1,767,617			42,391	
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	15,478,662	14,575,719	8,233,156	11,061,470	2,394,828	10,396,217	13,881,339
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities	*1,150,000*		*1,337,064*				*3,619,017*
Africa	*2,209,450*	*6,545,598*	*1,060,190*	*4,755,922*		*1,505,024*	*6,902,034*
Americas	*8,500,000*	*2,234,750*	*1,123,439*	*3,364,371*	*1,165,225*	*6,816,959*	*1,200,736*
Asia and the Pacific	*1,064,255*	*1,980,048*	*538,038*	*1,992,320*	*440,249*	*31,807*	*717,845*
Europe and Central Asia	*1,854,957*	*3,613,428*	*1,697,620*		*789,355*	*1,300,441*	*1,176,147*
Middle East and North Africa	*700,000*	*201,895*	*2,476,805*	*948,857*		*741,986*	*265,560*
Humanitarian Trust Funds	9,250,000		1,026,499		284,846	209,344	
Miscellaneous*			213,904				
Total contributions by donor	**36,028,662**	**23,670,300**	**22,891,886**	**21,709,513**	**21,099,728**	**14,549,122**	**14,486,624**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

	Netherlands	Denmark	Switzerland	Finland	Ireland	Canada	France
Unearmarked	5,268,704	3,939,306	3,750,000	6,437,768	4,842,068	736,920	2,973,856
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva		2,352,103	300,000				54,466
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis			455,000	565,818			54,466
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies		141,483	50,000				272,331
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation		716,435	100,000				
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures	45,000		283,000	225,225	97,192	37,092	239,651
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	5,127,760	4,461,796	5,474,983	2,439,024	1,796,737	5,718,992	1,797,386
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities		4,093,390	850,340	2,439,024	172,786		
Africa	1,991,757	368,406	2,058,511		803,859	15,723	326,797
Americas	177,193		539,189		711,160	5,703,269	54,466
Asia and the Pacific	90,043						
Europe and Central Asia	25,004		50,000				544,662
Middle East and North Africa	2,843,763		1,976,942		108,932		871,460
Humanitarian Trust Funds		741,778	330,000	64,378	269,978	44,215	54,466
Miscellaneous*	4,011,000		850,340				
Total contributions by donor	**14,452,464**	**12,352,900**	**11,593,323**	**9,732,214**	**7,005,976**	**6,537,219**	**5,446,623**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Italy	Korea, Rep. of	Belgium	China	Spain	Saudi Arabia	Luxembourg	New Zealand	Australia
747,639	2,450,000	2,972,652	200,000			216,450	2,006,689	
	100,000		*750,000*	65,582				114,504
	600,000		2,055,000		270,000			127,226
	200,000		150,000	*52,466*	120,000			30,544
	300,000		200,000		200,000			270,356
15,740	350,000		645,000	262,330	219,866	46,071		31,807
4,325,834	900,000	1,137,122		2,227,333	1,633,610	2,140,316		925,573
	700,000			*884,050*				*493,003*
1,610,559		*862,999*		*158,228*		*816,993*		
228,780				*1,010,168*		*272,331*		
	200,000					*272,331*		*432,570*
2,486,494		*274,123*		*174,886*	*1,633,610*	*778,660*		
7,870				10,493	150,000	32,468		152,672
5,097,082	**4,900,000**	**4,109,773**	**4,000,000**	**2,618,204**	**2,593,476**	**2,435,305**	**2,006,689**	**1,652,682**

	Austria	ILO	Japan	UNICEF	UNDOS	Qatar	Iceland
Unearmarked	*756,757*					*750,000*	*577,284*
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva	*187,567*						
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	254,054	899,359					36,080
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies							
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation			155,858				
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures	54,054	365,096	12,270				72,160
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	*54,054*		*1,046,392*	*1,180,409*	*999,316*		
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities							
Africa			*623,765*				
Americas					*999,316*		
Asia and the Pacific							
Europe and Central Asia	*54,054*			*100,000*			
Middle East and North Africa			*422,627*	*1,080,409*			
Humanitarian Trust Funds	*329,730*						
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	**1,636,216**	**1,264,456**	**1,214,520**	**1,180,409**	**999,316**	**750,000**	**685,525**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

IOM	India	Kuwait	Microsoft	OCHA/CERF	Portugal	Liechtenstein	Poland	Education Above All Foundation
		500,000			257,398	59,032		
	100,000						173,913	
			505,000			354,191		405,205
	350,000	20,000			83,945		49,689	
643,988	100,000	22,600		499,966	120,672		248,447	
	100,000						*124,224*	
				499,966	*31,480*			
					10,493			
643,988					*26,233*			
							124,224	
		22,600			*52,466*			
	50,000	10,000			20,986	59,032		
643,988	**600,000**	**552,600**	**505,000**	**499,966**	**483,001**	**472,255**	**472,050**	**405,205**

	The Schmidt Family Foundation	UN Women	Morocco	UNRCO	Cyprus	United Arab Emirates	World Bank
Unearmarked			300,000		260,771		
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva							
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	375,000					75,000	
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			30,000		39,683	25,000	
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences		356,265		302,308		153,680	282,145
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities							
Africa		*356,265*					*282,145*
Americas							
Asia and the Pacific				*302,308*			
Europe and Central Asia							
Middle East and North Africa						*153,680*	
Humanitarian Trust Funds						30,000	
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	**375,000**	**356,265**	**330,000**	**302,308**	**300,454**	**283,680**	**282,145**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Ford Foundation	Türkiye	Nia Tero Foundation	Latvia	The Philippines	Czech Republic	Unilever	UNODC	Mexico
			53,022		108,885			100,000
265,363	100,000				17,422	190,928		
		223,089			17,422			55,466
					34,843			
	10,000			80,000	17,422			
	150,000		159,067	40,000			176,236	
				40,000				
							176,236	
			159,067					
	150,000							
				80,000				18,619
265,363	**260,000**	**223,089**	**212,089**	**200,000**	**195,993**	**190,928**	**176,236**	**174,085**

	Thailand	Kazakhstan	Inditex	Greece	Belgique / Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles	Algeria	Open Society Foundations
Unearmarked	20,000			108,460		100,000	
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva							
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis			109,409				
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies							
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation							
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		15,000					
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	100,000	100,000			100,301		100,000
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities	*100,000*						
Africa					*100,301*		
Americas							
Asia and the Pacific							*100,000*
Europe and Central Asia		*100,000*					
Middle East and North Africa							
Humanitarian Trust Funds							
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	**120,000**	**115,000**	**109,409**	**108,460**	**100,301**	**100,000**	**100,000**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	Rockefeller Brothers Fund	The Asia Foundation	Estonia	Monaco	Coventry University**	Indonesia	David Clark Cause, Inc.	The UN Foundation
			38,293	43,764		30,000		
100,000							50,000	
								49,819
			10,493	37,513				
	95,000	90,843	32,823		61,831	30,000		
	95,000							
		90,843			*61,831*			
			32,823					
						30,000		
100,000	**95,000**	**90,843**	**81,609**	**81,277**	**61,831**	**60,000**	**50,000**	**49,819**

** OHCHR's work is supported by the UKRI GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub (MIDEQ) hosted by Coventry University, which is a five-year research project funded by the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

	Lithuania	UN Trust Fund for Human Security	Loterie Romande	Republic of Slovenia	Azerbaijan	Malaysia	Uruguay
Unearmarked	21,209			33,040			30,000
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva							
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis			35,294		15,500		
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies							
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation							
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures					15,500		
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	26,998	40,130					
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities							
Africa							
Americas							
Asia and the Pacific		*40,130*					
Europe and Central Asia	*26,998*						
Middle East and North Africa							
Humanitarian Trust Funds							
Miscellaneous*						30,000	
Total contributions by donor	**48,207**	**40,130**	**35,294**	**33,040**	**31,000**	**30,000**	**30,000**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Peru	Malta	Hungary	Andorra	Montenegro	Ville de Genève	Albania	Singapore	Slovak Republic
20,133	26,795			16,520		10,521		11,669
		26,657				5,313	15,000	
					17,321			
					17,321			
6,896			21,906	3,148				
27,029	**26,795**	**26,657**	**21,906**	**19,668**	**17,321**	**15,834**	**15,000**	**11,669**

	San Marino	Armenia	Bangladesh	Costa Rica	Georgia	Mauritius	Kyrgyz Republic	Bahamas
Unearmarked	10,846	10,000	10,000	9,993			4,912	
Executive Direction and Management - New York and Geneva								
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis								
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies								
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation								
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures					7,000	5,000		1,133
Support to the Programmes								
Field Presences								
Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities								
Africa								
Americas								
Asia and the Pacific								
Europe and Central Asia								
Middle East and North Africa								
Humanitarian Trust Funds								
Miscellaneous*								
Total contributions by donor	**10,846**	**10,000**	**10,000**	**9,993**	**7,000**	**5,000**	**4,912**	**1,133**

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.



OHCHR provides assistance for the anthropological analysis of the bones of victims at the Kananga forensic medical laboratory in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in August. © OHCHR

Donor Profiles

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

Earmarked funds

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1/95

36,028,662

31% $11M

69% $25M



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

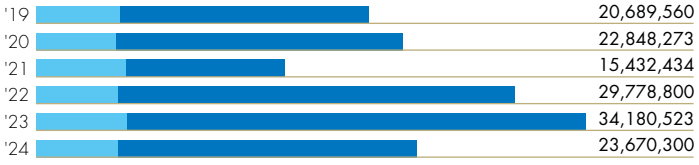
2/95

23,670,300

22,043,214 (EUR)

21% $5M

79% $18.6M



GERMANY

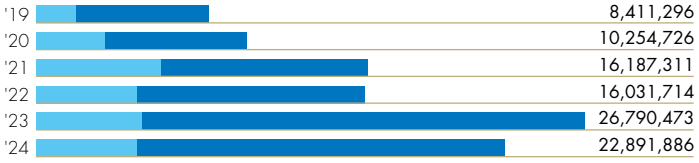
3/95

22,891,886

21,328,957 (EUR)

21% $4.9M

79% $18M



SWEDEN

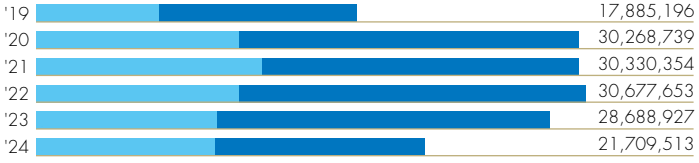
4/95

21,709,513

228,500,000 (SEK)

46% $9.9M

54% $11.7M



NORWAY

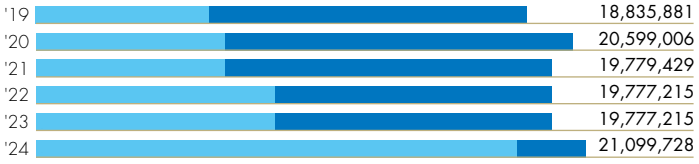
5/95

21,099,728

220,815,000 (NOK)

87% $18.4M

13% $2.7M



UNITED KINGDOM

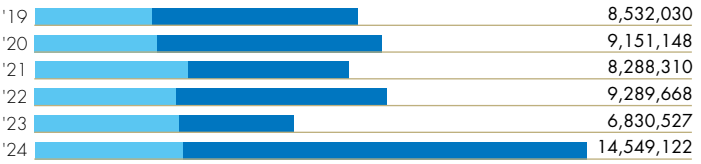
6/95

14,549,122

11,374,179 (GBP)

27% $3.9M

73% $10.6M



Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

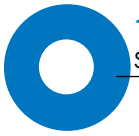
Unearmarked funds

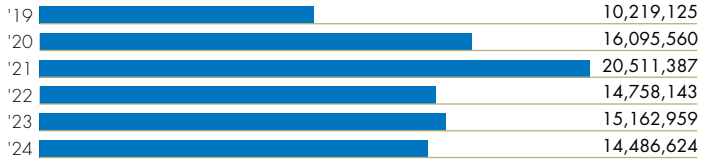
Earmarked funds

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

7/95

14,486,624



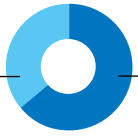


THE NETHERLANDS

8/95

14,452,464
13,835,456 (EUR)

36%
$5.3M



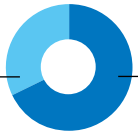


DENMARK

9/95

12,352,900
86,000,000 (DKK)

32%
$3.9M



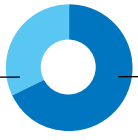


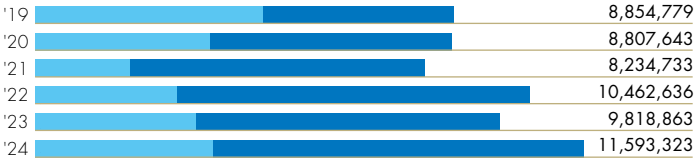
SWITZERLAND

10/95

11,593,323
10,335,390 (CHF)

32%
$3.8M



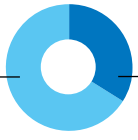


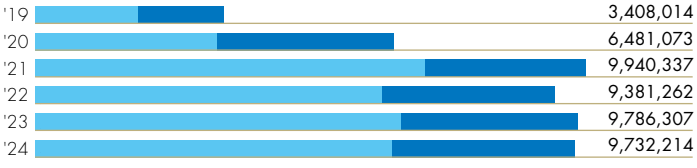
FINLAND

11/95

9,732,214
8,770,000 (EUR)

66%
$6.4M



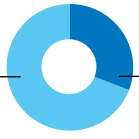


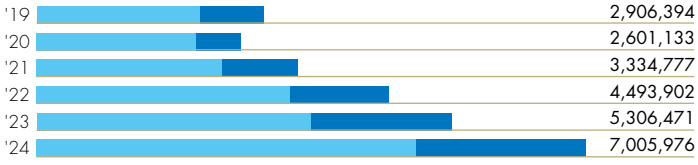
IRELAND

12/95

7,005,976
6,500,000 (EUR)

69%
$4.8M





Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

Earmarked funds

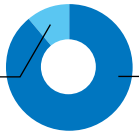
CANADA

13/95

6,537,219
8,911,092 (CAD)

11%
$737K

89%
$5.8M



'19	5,525,752
'20	9,619,194
'21	6,510,026
'22	6,902,097
'23	5,947,066
'24	6,537,219

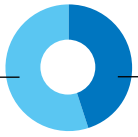
FRANCE

14/95

5,446,623
5,000,000 (EUR)

55%
$3M

45%
$2.4M



'19	3,119,443
'20	3,316,011
'21	5,304,878
'22	4,276,058
'23	11,429,965
'24	5,446,623

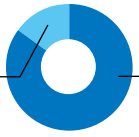
ITALY

15/95

5,097,082
4,782,017 (EUR)

15%
$747K

85%
$4.3M



'19	1,261,887
'20	917,556
'21	536,986
'22	693,856
'23	5,612,253
'24	5,097,082

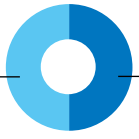
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

16/95

4,900,000

50%
$2.4M

50%
$2.4M



'19	2,500,000
'20	1,601,416
'21	2,114,000
'22	1,653,000
'23	1,995,000
'24	4,900,000

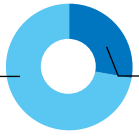
BELGIUM

17/95

4,109,773
3,550,000 (EUR)

72%
$3M

28%
$1.1M



'19	3,230,479
'20	5,262,171
'21	6,020,282
'22	6,261,371
'23	5,162,709
'24	4,109,773

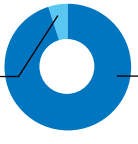
CHINA

18/95

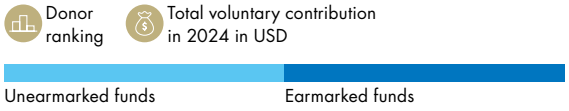
4,000,000

5%
$200K

95%
$3.8M



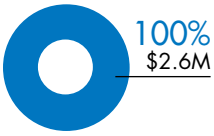
'19	800,000
'20	800,000
'21	800,000
'22	800,000
'23	4,000,000
'24	4,000,000



SPAIN

19/95

2,618,204
2,481,996 (EUR)

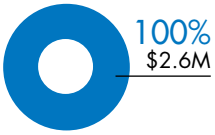


'19	1,501,515
'20	2,452,177
'21	2,883,807
'22	2,630,740
'23	4,277,422
'24	2,618,204

SAUDI ARABIA

20/95

2,593,476



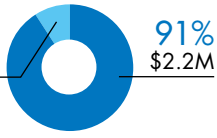
'19	1,149,867
'20	1,949,867
'21	2,004,111
'22	2,330,133
'23	1,927,722
'24	2,593,476

LUXEMBOURG

21/95

2,435,305
2,253,800 (EUR)

9%
$216K



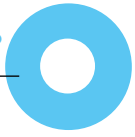
'19	268,602
'20	404,716
'21	1,674,827
'22	2,107,407
'23	2,112,077
'24	2,435,305

NEW ZEALAND

22/95

2,006,689
3,000,000 (NZD)

100%
$2M

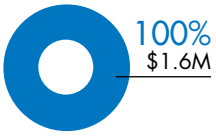


'19	2,051,984
'20	2,051,984
'21	2,051,984
'22	2,805,404
'23	2,018,974
'24	2,006,689

AUSTRALIA

23/95

1,652,682
2,596,000 (AUD)



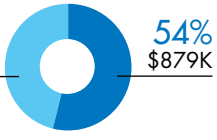
'19	1,936,192
'20	2,073,096
'21	2,092,079
'22	2,071,239
'23	2,345,835
'24	1,652,682

AUSTRIA

24/95

1,636,216
1,515,000 (EUR)

46%
$757K



'19	120,349
'20	122,212
'21	118,906
'22	2,831,360
'23	486,780
'24	1,636,216

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

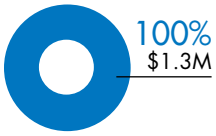
Earmarked funds

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

25/95

1,264,456

1,159,096 (EUR)

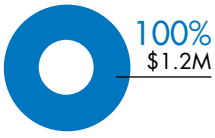


'19	1,048,024
'20	2,009,455
'21	0
'22	0
'23	717,618
'24	1,264,456

JAPAN

26/95

1,214,520

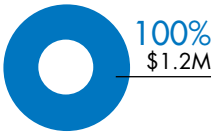


'19	117,133
'20	65,000
'21	258,340
'22	280,350
'23	1,763,471
'24	1,214,520

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

27/95

1,180,409

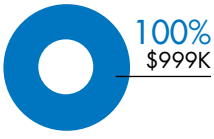


'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	20,865
'23	0
'24	1,180,409

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

28/95

999,316



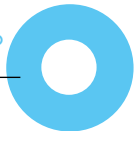
'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	999,316

QATAR

29/95

750,000

100%
$750K



'19	89,911
'20	0
'21	1,020,000
'22	1,000,000
'23	1,000,000
'24	750,000

ICELAND

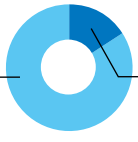
30/95

685,525

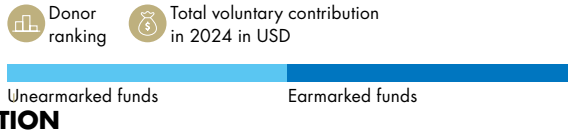
95,000,000 (ISK)

84%
$577K

16%
$108K



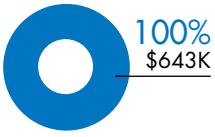
'19	200,000
'20	180,950
'21	154,476
'22	432,589
'23	325,398
'24	685,525



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

31/95

643,988

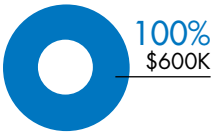


'19	0
'20	0
'21	123,753
'22	27,730
'23	234,281
'24	643,988

INDIA

32/95

600,000

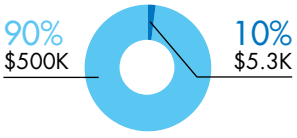


'19	300,000
'20	400,000
'21	400,000
'22	400,000
'23	450,000
'24	600,000

KUWAIT

33/95

552,600

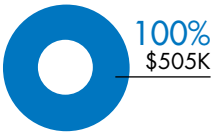


'19	510,000
'20	510,000
'21	0
'22	510,000
'23	510,000
'24	552,600

MICROSOFT

34/95

505,000

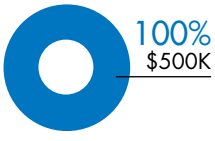


'19	850,000
'20	880,000
'21	600,000
'22	600,000
'23	2,400,000
'24	505,000

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

35/95

499,966



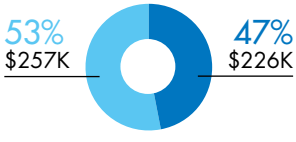
'19	624,334
'20	500,000
'21	765,285
'22	2,982,409
'23	799,341
'24	499,966

PORTUGAL

36/95

483,001

460,300 (EUR)



'19	375,028
'20	100,000
'21	387,021
'22	371,855
'23	445,200
'24	483,001

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

Earmarked funds

LIECHTENSTEIN

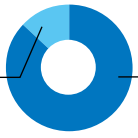
37/95

472,255

400,000 (CHF)

13% $59K

87% $413K



'19	155,155
'20	160,124
'21	214,823
'22	421,067
'23	456,621
'24	472,255

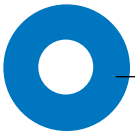
POLAND

38/95

472,050

1,900,000 (PLN)

100% $472K



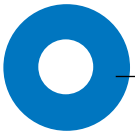
'19	335,239
'20	79,805
'21	74,900
'22	87,474
'23	112,375
'24	472,050

EDUCATION ABOVE ALL FOUNDATION

39/95

405,205

100% $405K



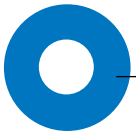
'19	0
'20	0
'21	101,509
'22	101,509
'23	0
'24	405,205

THE SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION

40/95

375,000

100% $375K



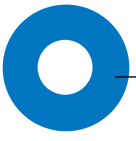
'19	0
'20	150,000
'21	250,000
'22	325,000
'23	325,000
'24	375,000

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

41/95

356,265

100% $356K



'19	125,630
'20	217,153
'21	388,756
'22	314,437
'23	165,056
'24	356,265

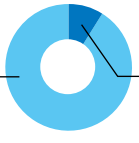
MOROCCO

42/95

330,000

91% $300K

9% $30K



'19	300,000
'20	500,000
'21	300,000
'22	300,000
'23	150,000
'24	330,000

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

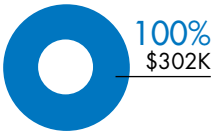
Unearmarked funds

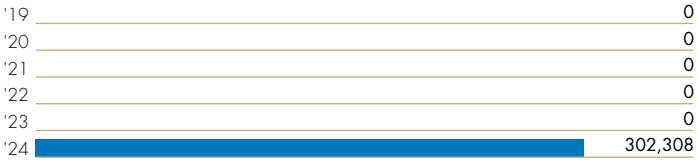
Earmarked funds

UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE

43/95

302,308





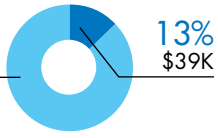
CYPRUS

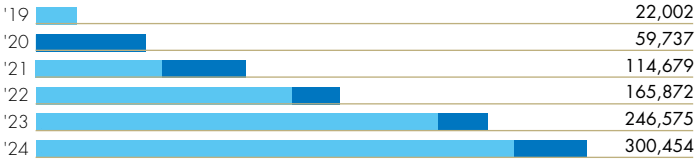
44/95

300,454

265,000 (CHF)

87%
$261K

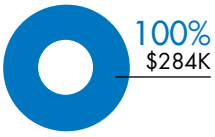


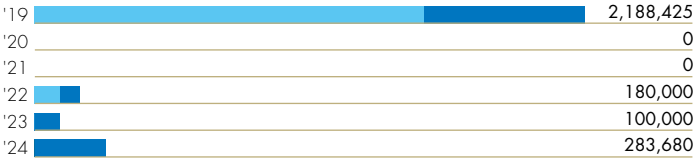


UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

45/95

283,680

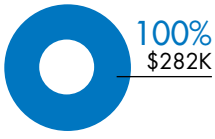


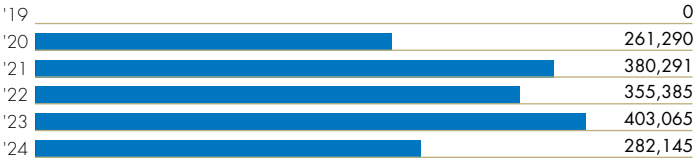


WORLD BANK

46/95

282,145

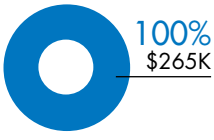




FORD FOUNDATION

47/95

265,363

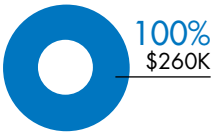


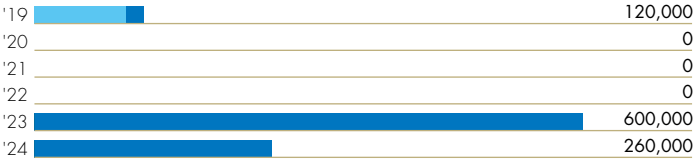


TÜRKIYE

48/95

260,000



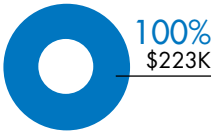




NIA TERO FOUNDATION

49/95

223,089



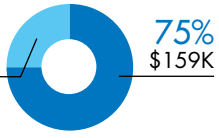
'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	223,089

LATVIA

50/95

212,089
200,000 (EUR)

25%
$53K

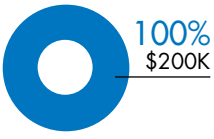


'19	11,001
'20	17,921
'21	11,261
'22	0
'23	15,940
'24	212,089

THE PHILIPPINES

51/95

200,000



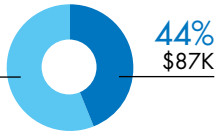
'19	2,500
'20	0
'21	100,000
'22	100,000
'23	100,000
'24	200,000

CZECH REPUBLIC

52/95

195,993
4,500,000 (CZK)

56%
$109K

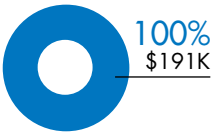


'19	117,296
'20	136,811
'21	168,856
'22	169,072
'23	199,443
'24	195,993

UNILEVER

53/95

190,928
181,000 (EUR)

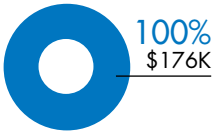


'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	190,928

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIMES

54/95

176,236



'19	0
'20	878,462
'21	2,117,899
'22	985,436
'23	1,016,165
'24	176,236

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

Earmarked funds

MEXICO

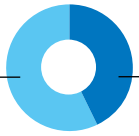
55/95

174,085

3,305,955 (MXN)

57% $100K

43% $74K



'19	238,288
'20	124,118
'21	197,721
'22	177,060
'23	49,358
'24	174,085

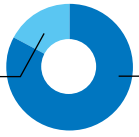
THAILAND

56/95

120,000

17% $20K

83% $100K



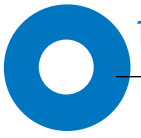
'19	20,000
'20	20,000
'21	120,000
'22	20,000
'23	20,000
'24	120,000

KAZAKHSTAN

57/95

115,000

100% $115K



'19	5,000
'20	25,000
'21	30,000
'22	65,000
'23	115,000
'24	115,000

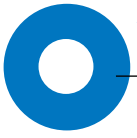
INDITEX

58/95

109,409

100,000 (EUR)

100% $109K



'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	109,409

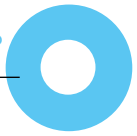
GREECE

59/95

108,460

100,000 (EUR)

100% $108K



'19	0
'20	0
'21	46,893
'22	0
'23	107,875
'24	108,460

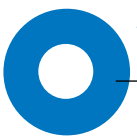
BELGIQUE / FEDERATION WALLONIE-BRUXELLES

60/95

100,301

100,000 (EUR)

100% $100K



'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	100,301
'23	100,301
'24	100,301

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

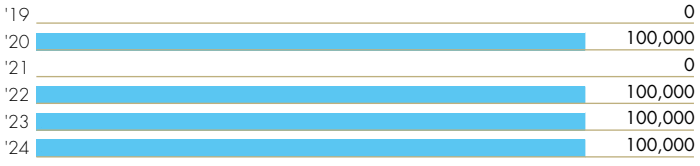
Earmarked funds

ALGERIA

61/95

100,000

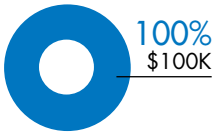
100%
$100K



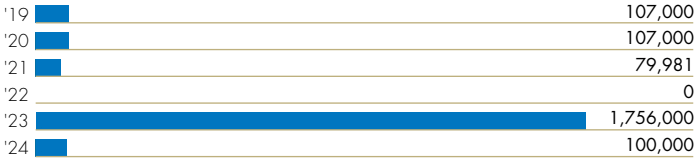
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

61/95

100,000



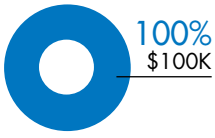
100%
$100K



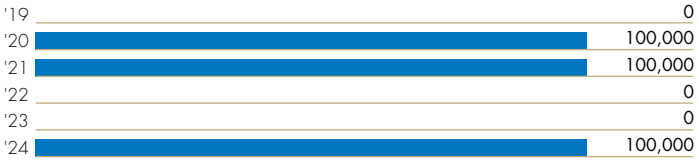
WELLSPRING PHILANTHROPIC FUND

61/95

100,000



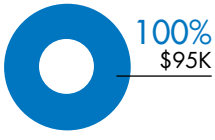
100%
$100K



ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND

64/95

95,000



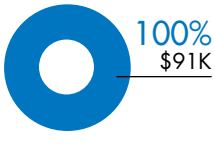
100%
$95K



THE ASIA FOUNDATION

65/95

90,843



100%
$91K

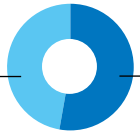


ESTONIA

66/95

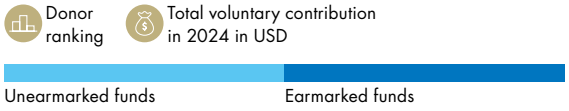
81,609
75,000 (EUR)

47%
$38K



53%
$43K





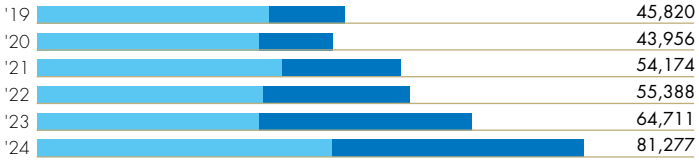
MONACO

67/95

81,277
75,000 (EUR)

54%
$44K

46%
$37K

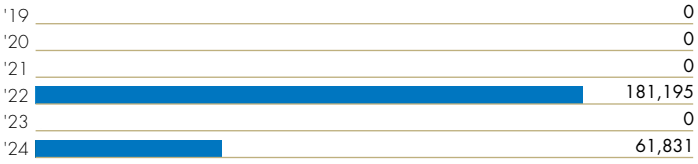


COVENTRY UNIVERSITY*

68/95

61,831
48,847 (GBP)

100%
$62K



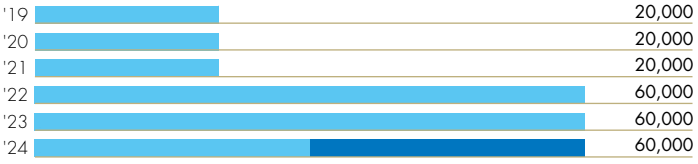
INDONESIA

69/95

60,000

50%
$30K

50%
$30K

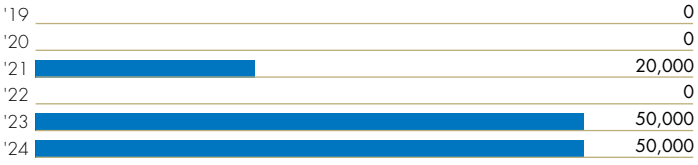


DAVID CLARK CAUSE, INC.

70/95

50,000

100%
$50K

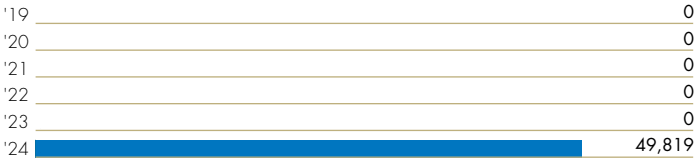


THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

71/95

49,819

100%
$50K



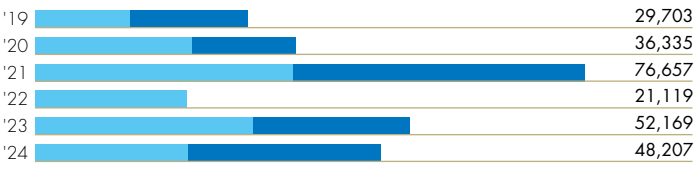
LITHUANIA

72/95

48,207
45,000 (EUR)

44%
$21K

56%
$27K



* OHCHR's work is supported by the UKRI GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub (MIDEQ) hosted by Coventry University, which is a five-year research project funded by the UKRI Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

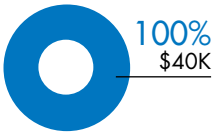
Unearmarked funds

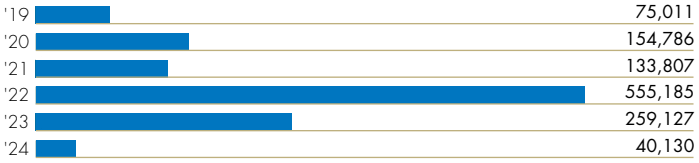
Earmarked funds

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY

73/95

40,130



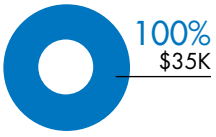


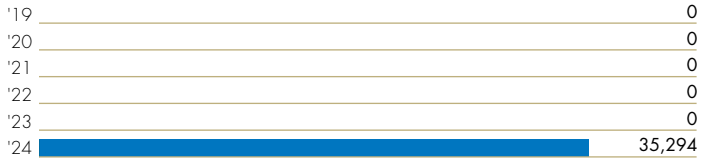
LOTERIE ROMANDE

74/95

35,294

30,000 (CHF)



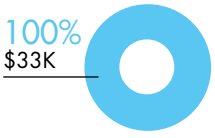


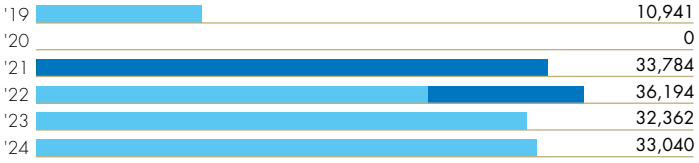
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

75/95

33,040

30,000 (EUR)

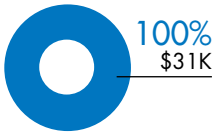


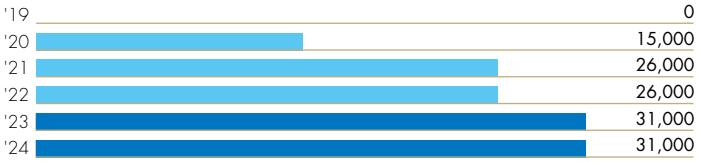


AZERBAIJAN

76/95

31,000

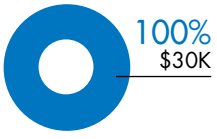


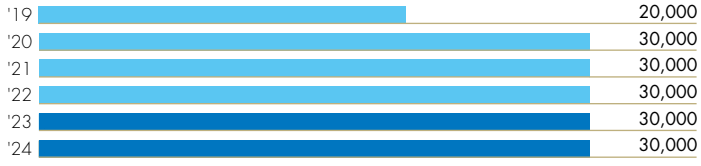


MALAYSIA

77/95

30,000

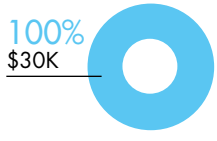


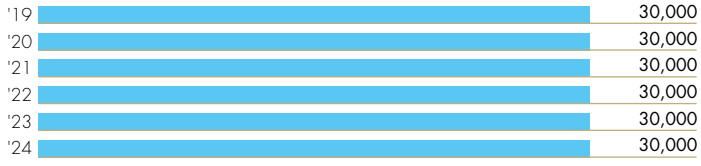


URUGUAY

77/95

30,000

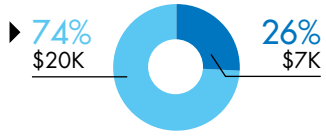


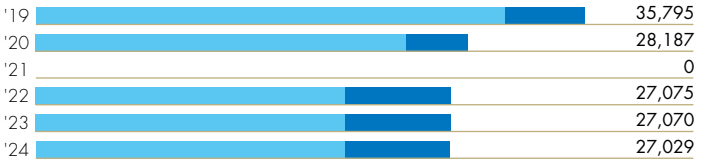


Donor ranking
Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD
Unearmarked funds
Earmarked funds

PERU

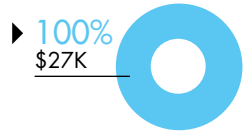
79/95
27,029

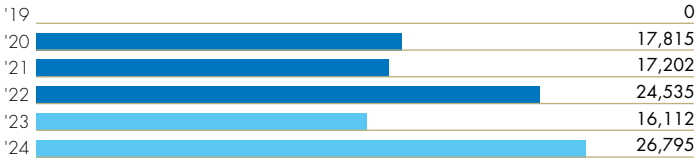




MALTA

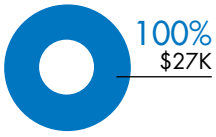
80/95
26,795
25,000 (EUR)





HUNGARY

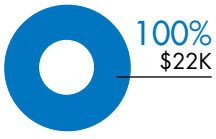
81/95
26,657
25,000 (EUR)

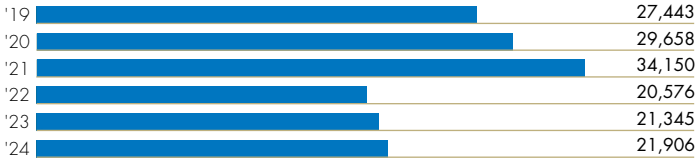




ANDORRA

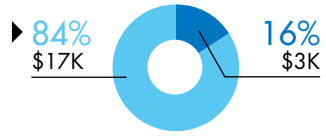
82/95
21,906
20,000 (EUR)

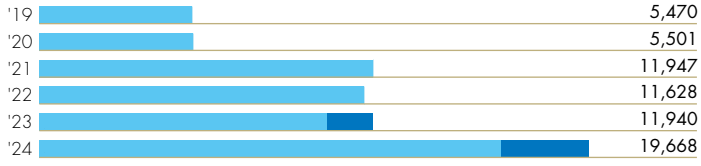




MONTENEGRO

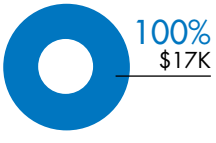
83/95
19,668
18,000 (EUR)

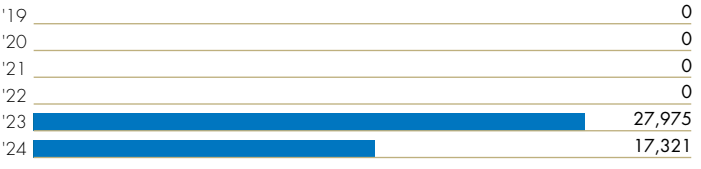




VILLE DE GENEVE

84/95
17,321
15,000 (CHF)





Donor ranking

Total voluntary contribution in 2024 in USD

Unearmarked funds

Earmarked funds

ALBANIA

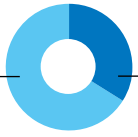
85/95

15,834

12,500 (EUR)

66%
$11K

34%
$5K



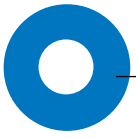
'19	2,283
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	5,459
'24	15,834

SINGAPORE

86/95

15,000

100%
$15K



'19	15,000
'20	15,000
'21	15,000
'22	15,000
'23	15,000
'24	15,000

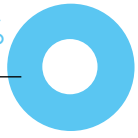
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

87/95

11,669

10,000 (EUR)

100%
$11.7K



'18	32,012
'19	10,309
'20	11,025
'21	123,135
'22	53,937
'23	11,669

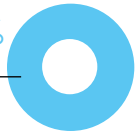
SAN MARINO

88/95

10,846

10,000 (EUR)

100%
$10K



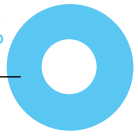
'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	10,846

ARMENIA

89/95

10,000

100%
$10K



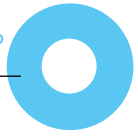
'19	2,500
'20	26,285
'21	30,000
'22	0
'23	27,000
'24	10,000

BANGLADESH

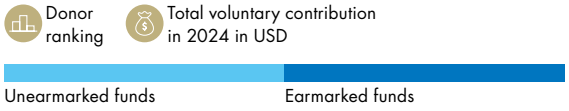
89/95

10,000

100%
$10K



'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	10,000

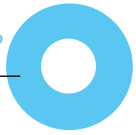


COSTA RICA

91/95

9,993

100%
$10K



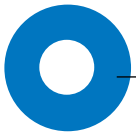
'19	6,727
'20	13,938
'21	9,946
'22	9,828
'23	11,791
'24	9,993

GEORGIA

92/95

7,000

100%
$7K



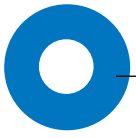
'19	20,000
'20	0
'21	0
'22	22,000
'23	22,000
'24	7,000

MAURITIUS

93/95

5,000

100%
$5K



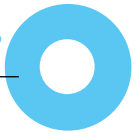
'19	1,843
'20	0
'21	0
'22	10,000
'23	1,461
'24	5,000

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

94/95

4,912
4,229 (CHF)

100%
$5K



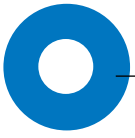
'19	0
'20	0
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	4,912

THE BAHAMAS

95/95

1,133
1,000 (CHF)

100%
$1K



'19	0
'20	2,000
'21	0
'22	0
'23	0
'24	1,133

Extrabudgetary
Income and Expenditure in 2024

Overall summary (in US$)

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
HEADQUARTERS				
Executive Direction and Management and New York Office (EDM)				
EO - Executive Office of the High Commissioner	1,840,502.00	75,058.98	2,054,800.00	1,788,927.69
EO - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 75th Anniversary	198,253.00	104,770.20	49,975.00	131,321.20
EOS - Communications Section	6,435,142.00	69.85	5,749,400.00	5,506,560.52
EOS - Donor and External Relations Section	4,625,698.00	131,855.01	4,605,721.47	4,092,536.10
EOS - External Engagement and Partnerships Service	714,567.00	19,300.14	755,600.00	658,706.26
EOS - Media and Public Positioning Section	3,736,997.00	187,202.86	3,755,500.00	3,550,481.09
EOS - Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit	2,114,654.00	22,992.01	1,696,600.00	1,476,255.45
NYO - (MPTF) UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict	348,915.00	355,598.34	183,513.64	157,474.82
NYO - New York Office	4,655,007.10	388,697.08	4,285,866.23	4,050,628.47
NYO - National Human Rights-Based Counter-Terrorism Responses	348,051.00	351,735.72	0.00	311,042.39
NYO - UN's Response on Reprisals	609,690.00	126,839.73	650,013.24	581,204.27
Human Rights Inquiries Branch	2,429,624.27	0.00	2,696,679.50	2,243,187.90
Innovation and Analytics Hub	2,275,812.00	0.00	2,092,885.20	1,610,995.39
Strategic Planning, Programme Management, Evaluation and Change Service	3,239,056.00	-143,086.40	3,093,700.00	2,590,308.71
Subtotal EDM	**33,571,968.37**	**1,621,033.52**	**31,670,254.28**	**28,749,630.26**
PROGRAMME OF WORK (SUBPROGAMME 1 TO 4)				
Subprogramme 1 - Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis				
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,871,815.00	331,197.80	1,739,700.00	1,767,894.04
Human Rights and Technology Issues (digital space)	115,473.00	93,485.96	769,230.32	381,420.36
(EU) Promotion and Protection of Digital Rights	2,470,669.00	1,955,680.15	2,106,270.39	2,082,884.51
METS - Human Rights Indicators	751,191.56	54,215.00	845,000.00	738,782.52
METS - Methodology, Education and Training	2,926,688.00	30,928.76	2,759,470.41	2,472,056.36
BHRU - Business and Human Rights	1,222,613.00	1,068,040.49	218,357.34	702,723.13
BHRU - Business and Human Rights Helpdesk	0.00	0.00	297,425.85	0.00

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
BHRU - Making Smart Cities Right For Young People	357,833.00	429,832.29	0.00	322,613.48
CSU - Civic Space Unit	822,711.00	325,749.02	528,798.69	773,196.88
CSU - Online Platforms on Protecting Human Rights Defenders*	0.00	0.00	200,000.00	0.00
CSU - Support the Creation of a Global Initiative for the Freedom of Human Rights Defenders	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	20,791.36
Human Rights Online, Innovation and Technology Outreach	1,385,362.00	606,037.10	814,300.00	1,114,735.67
HRESIS - Child and Youth Rights	1,051,003.00	331,728.57	804,759.03	911,215.66
HRESIS - Human Rights of Youth (in vulnerable situations, insecurity)	483,748.00	80,418.98	339,204.55	258,747.77
HRESIS - Disabilities	597,125.00	323,070.84	289,747.90	409,090.97
HRESIS - Human Rights Due Diligence in Development Finance Institutions Operational Policies and Projects (DFIs)	442,131.00	0.00	690,454.81	320,969.98
HRESIS - Economic and Social Issues	594,567.00	427,841.76	500,000.00	507,032.14
HRESIS - Human Rights of Migrants at International Borders	275,747.00	124,046.69	20,000.00	107,331.54
HRESIS - Migration	885,848.00	40,865.80	825,389.80	796,746.48
HRESIS - Political Constituency Building on Human Rights Economy	90,000.00	89,998.50	0.00	23,577.21
HRESIS - Rights of Older Persons*	0.00	0.00	75,199.74	0.00
HRESIS - Strengthening Capacity and Facilitating Knowledge of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs)(Knowledge Hub)*	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00	0.00
HRESIS - (MPTF) Enabling the Development of Community Support and Care Systems	86,670.00	86,670.00	0.00	61,948.99
HRESIS - (MPTF) Unpaid Care, Disability and Gender Transformative Approach	83,923.00	0.00	251,771.00	37,729.45
RTDS - Right to Development	693,587.00	683,587.43	550,000.00	543,336.17
RTDS - Corruption and Human Rights	191,001.00	205,397.10	111,346.77	101,113.57
RTDS - Environment and Climate Change	762,082.00	337,643.16	479,689.80	709,208.16
RTDS - (MPTF) Climate Change, Disability Inclusion and Intersectionality Multi-Country Programme	185,633.00	191,492.95	0.00	163,899.91
SDGs - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)	1,052,364.00	68,621.53	1,337,300.00	1,134,886.37
SDGs - Washington Liaison Office	527,002.00	36,480.25	604,300.00	491,586.48
ARDS - Anti-Discrimination	1,292,821.00	633,662.06	998,027.81	1,263,444.32
ARDS - (UNFPA) Contribution to the Implementation of the Mandate of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent	622,928.00	1,166,813.34	0.00	244,143.25
ARDS - Supporting the Work on the Intersectionality of Race and Gender Issues	303,169.00	404,304.00	0.00	48,511.76
IPMS - Indigenous Peoples and Minorities	2,418,428.47	1,222,465.34	1,600,074.73	2,469,271.98
IPMS - (USAID) Support to Indigenous Fellowship Programme*	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
IPMS - Protection of Religions Minorities	539,197.00	241,957.30	433,300.00	542,923.73
ROLDS - Global Drive for Media Freedom, Access to Information and the Safety of Journalists	421,040.73	342,521.09	0.00	336,739.97
ROLDS - Rights-Based Drug Policy through the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy	105,621.00	0.00	150,000.00	31,571.68
ROLDS - Rule of Law and Democracy	1,630,368.73	26,223.27	1,940,172.12	1,617,728.08
ROLDS - Supporting the Work on the Intersectionality of Race and Gender Issues	82,490.00	98,310.00	0.00	71,345.48
ROLDS - Support to OHCHR's Work on Accountability	285,371.00	334,563.35	356,718.19	291,768.40
ROLDS - Support to Transitional Justice	79,549.00	0.00	100,000.00	10,846.95
ROLDS - (UNESCO) Promotion of Media Freedom and the Safety of Journalists in the Digital Age	182,863.00	193,302.92	0.00	177,036.10
WHRG - Project for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (LGBTQI+ Rights)	1,904,384.00	297,882.81	2,099,111.55	1,893,951.50
WHRG - Review of Criminal Codes under International Human Rights Law*	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00
WHRG - Supporting the Work on the Intersectionality of Race and Gender Issues	302,834.00	504,705.00	0.00	152,470.15
WHRG - Women's Human Rights and Gender	2,312,898.00	784,816.08	2,389,770.58	2,376,033.92
Subtotal subprogramme 1	**32,510,749.49**	**14,174,556.69**	**28,524,891.38**	**28,483,306.43**
Subprogramme 2 - Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies				
Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture	401,924.00	273,844.89	583,586.47	285,682.64
Support to Treaties Bodies and Organs	3,862,630.00	753,305.00	3,903,280.75	3,312,826.54
HRTB - (UNFIP) Digital Transformation of Human Rights Mechanisms*	0.00	0.00	49,819.18	46,876.72
Support to Treaties Bodies - (MPTF) National Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	58,197.57	48,475.33	0.00	48,712.42
Subtotal subprogramme 2	**4,322,751.57**	**1,075,625.22**	**4,536,686.40**	**3,694,098.32**
Subprogramme 3 - Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation				
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,414,678.00	32,080.02	1,244,500.00	1,088,397.35
Headquarters' Coordination and Support to Human Rights Advisers	270,805.58	0.00	299,600.00	228,173.99
Human Rights Education Unit*	0.00	0.00	103,600.00	47,965.94
Africa Branch	2,688,267.74	102,929.17	2,963,700.00	2,783,480.34
Americas Branch	702,855.48	62,557.88	657,500.00	664,335.04
Americas - OHCHR's Work in the Spanish Caribbean Region	299,859.06	250,664.45	128,125.00	259,133.96
Europe and Central-Asia Branch	2,672,808.21	81,799.17	2,480,654.58	2,236,449.52
Asia-Pacific Branch	2,875,631.91	370,501.64	2,288,763.53	2,299,564.87

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Middle East and North Africa	1,956,825.52	354,148.33	1,462,032.46	1,419,667.32
ERS - Emergency Response Section	1,206,815.00	317,578.77	994,961.56	1,117,813.74
ERS - (EU) Combatting Impunity	2,116,480.86	1,130,552.83	1,276,100.00	815,864.25
ERS - Investigative Capacity**	1,288,121.00	1,378,120.97	-115,000.00	1,263,659.21
ERS - Prevention and Early Warning Capacity - Emergency Response Teams	4,155,232.00	1,615,015.31	2,847,882.46	3,543,802.37
MENA - Protection of Human Rights in the Arab Region	390,593.54	604,877.02	200,000.00	343,949.69
MENA - Strengthening Human Rights in Egypt	399,945.42	144,156.31	285,186.00	248,858.37
MENA - (EU) Strengthening Human Rights in Egypt	829,596.68	865,749.97	0.00	264,995.05
MENA - Strengthening Human Rights in Iran	399,518.28	-100,328.07	538,212.72	325,505.03
National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms	883,418.18	244,878.47	1,091,620.23	825,689.31
PMSS - Peace Missions Support Section	1,191,911.57	5,180.87	1,026,300.00	836,115.62
PMSS - Human Rights Protection and Peace Operations	864,466.95	330,037.32	751,409.01	1,117,752.99
Subtotal subprogramme 3	**26,607,830.98**	**7,790,500.43**	**20,525,147.55**	**21,731,173.96**
Subprogramme 4 - Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures				
HRCB - Director's Office - Coordination and Management	2,372,184.00	84,382.34	2,013,300.00	1,772,361.45
HRCB - Human Rights Council (HRC) Activities	2,840,232.00	229,386.58	2,680,527.81	2,544,128.11
HRCB - HRC and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Webcasting	60,206.00	92,137.62	0.00	53,836.03
UPRB - UPR Branch	334,711.00	-18,257.16	346,700.00	289,382.19
Support to Special Procedures	7,464,753.00	-41,893.36	8,098,170.41	7,240,596.38
SPB - Coordination, Information and Communication Unit	216,651.00	138,811.06	117,846.22	139,182.90
SPB - (ILO/EU) Responsible Business Conduct in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC)	706,375.00	105,015.94	1,257,976.37	614,212.19
SPB - Support to Special Rapporteur Mandates	3,351,724.16	3,257,319.38	2,326,246.03	2,308,664.69
Subtotal subprogramme 4	**17,346,836.16**	**3,846,902.40**	**16,840,766.84**	**14,962,363.94**
Total programme of work (subprogramme 1 to 4)	**80,788,168.20**	**26,887,584.74**	**70,427,492.17**	**68,870,942.65**
Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS)				
PSMS - Programme Support and Management Services	10,157,680.00	42,365.14	9,548,139.77	8,559,026.61
SSS - Safety and Security Section	1,705,836.00	14,442.49	2,099,500.00	1,701,687.32
Subtotal PSMS	**11,863,516.00**	**56,807.63**	**11,647,639.77**	**10,260,713.93**
Total headquarters	**126,223,652.57**	**28,565,425.89**	**113,745,386.22**	**107,881,286.84**

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
FIELD PRESENCES				
Africa				
Burkina Faso - Country Office	3,876,026.56	2,385,630.93	2,581,666.00	3,812,041.81
Burkina Faso - (EU) Appui au Respect des Droits Humains et du Droit International Humanitaire par les Volontaires pour la Défense de la Patrie	1,089,867.76	0.00	1,089,868.00	587,054.17
Burundi - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	171,882.66	62,862.26	30,500.00	72,258.65
Burundi - (MPTF) Strengthening Human Rights Architecture and Response	910,634.20	0.00	1,462,795.00	518,621.38
Burundi - Human Rights Adviser	857,133.25	52,852.02	505,000.00	418,811.78
Cameroon - (MPTF) Strengthening Disability Rights	42,853.50	15,577.82	147,651.00	36,530.37
Central Africa (Yaoundé) - Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy	452,101.70	-23,997.97	405,300.00	462,637.39
Central Africa (Yaoundé) - Integrating Human Rights into the COVID-19 Response and Recovery	37,999.64	38,641.60	0.00	16,746.93
Central African Republic - Support to Peace Mission	84,750.00	7,100.00	111,000.00	75,000.00
Central African Republic - (EU) Projet de Protection des Défenseurs des Droits Humains	477,902.00	0.00	716,853.00	446,637.00
Chad - Country Office	1,852,592.06	568,918.45	1,497,032.46	1,919,746.36
Chad - (EU) Appui aux Organisations de la Societé Civile Promouvant les Droits de L'homme	1,065,148.62	753,820.96	0.00	324,995.39
Chad - (PBF) Appui à la Mise en Place d'un Observatoire de la Promotion de l'Egalité et de l'Equité de Genre	336,796.41	247,827.41	0.00	246,175.88
Chad - (PBF) Appui à la Promotion et à la Protection des Droits de l'Homme	1,710,835.84	1,200,000.00	0.00	748,070.18
Congo-Brazzaville - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	168,195.44	58,772.32	112,700.00	170,191.64
Congo-Brazzaville - Human Rights Adviser	151,169.14	0.00	204,000.00	154,455.45
DRC - Human Rights Promotion and Protection in the Electoral Context (Election II)	3,966,956.69	75,747.87	4,513,013.44	4,383,321.74
DRC - (MPTF) Digital Identification Programme*	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00
DRC - (MPTF) Inception Phase 4th Funding Round	392,082.24	314,726.40	0.00	249,950.35
DRC - (MPTF) JAD Lutte contre la Violence Basée sur le Genre	32,923.90	50,373.16	96,634.18	18,700.39
DRC - (PBF) Promotion de la Gouvernance Sécuritaire Inclusive dans la Province du Tanganyika	567,780.52	360,780.33	176,550.00	285,276.38
DRC - Transitional Justice, fight against impunity, protection	1,039,194.33	547,730.76	527,426.16	828,113.93
DRC - (UNTFHS) Promoting Human Security Approach for Empowerment of Most Vulnerable People and Communities Affected by Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Tanganyika	120,843.66	109,821.59	0.00	105,781.27
East Africa (Addis Ababa) - Regional Office	4,654,623.68	620,974.15	4,612,036.16	4,785,227.67

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
East Africa (Addis Ababa) - (EU) Enhancement and Operationalization of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework	5,951,490.87	1,358,704.67	3,448,224.40	2,559,789.94
Equatorial Guinea - Human Rights Adviser*	0.00	0.00	709,450.00	0.00
Eswatini - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	138,288.94	35,684.75	102,400.00	136,421.88
Eswatini - Human Rights Adviser	116,681.54	0.00	106,100.00	67,060.90
Ethiopia - Human Rights Priorities	4,554,744.11	1,201,283.17	5,105,143.26	4,692,066.51
Ethiopia - (CERF) Emergency Protection for Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence (CRSV)/GBV*	0.00	0.00	499,966.06	0.00
Ethiopia - (OCHA) Protection Response in Underserved Areas of Southern, Western Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz Region	165,697.74	165,034.64	300.00	165,257.30
The Gambia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	145,487.90	54,586.49	96,100.00	145,463.20
The Gambia - (PBF) Support to the Implementation and Monitoring of the Truth	252,313.49	-90,737.27	337,500.20	181,817.49
The Gambia - (PBF) Support to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Secretariat to Enhance Coordination and Peacebuilding Impact (PBF/GMB/D-3 ID 00134234)	118,737.90	0.00	120,554.23	125,780.43 T
Guinea - Country Office	3,203,563.56	270,320.71	3,123,422.45	3,176,080.84
Guinea - (PBF) Appui à la Promotion et à la Protection des Droits de l'homme Pour la Consolidation de la Paix	502,350.00	0.00	660,468.00	214,666.50
Guinea - (PBF) Project d'Appui au Renforcement de la Cohésion Sociale et à la Réconciliation Nationale	694,401.11	96,365.11	398,361.00	178,381.82
Guinea - (UNTFHS) Using Human Security Approach to Empower and Protect Individuals Against Human Trafficking	110,920.48	75,220.99	0.00	28,895.62
Guinea Bissau - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	202,692.24	53,542.34	146,000.00	200,015.65
Guinea Bissau - Human Rights Adviser	167,621.94	0.00	168,279.54	27,592.70
Guinea Bissau - (PBF) Enhancing the Human Rights Protection System	279,288.19	353,597.25	273,697.76	424,479.25
Kenya - Multi-Country Office in East Africa (Nairobi)	655,233.89	0.00	995,387.00	805,222.18
Kenya - Human Rights Adviser	893,459.36	6,482.81	1,039,500.00	753,256.28
Kenya - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	168,897.36	63,032.59	104,800.00	154,405.90
Kenya - (MPTF) Integrating Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Refugee Management*	0.00	0.00	268,001.93	0.00
Kenya - (PBF) Promoting peace and Inclusive Development in Borderlands Countries in North-Eastern Kenya	150,000.09	136,000.00	150,000.00	208,670.46
Kenya - (UN Women) Amplifying and Consolidating Women Leadership in Local Governance, Peace and Security Processes in Bungoma and Vihiga Counties	52,727.46	0.00	52,726.98	52,726.12
Kenya - (UN Women) Safeguarding the Rights of Women through Strengthening Access to Justice for GBV Survivors	367,350.26	102,907.56	303,537.92	215,049.42
Lesotho - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser**	20,749.00	26,764.17	-10,700.00	15,352.75
Lesotho - Human Rights Adviser	21,912.96	0.00	21,400.00	16,095.63

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Liberia - Country Office	1,920,575.12	297,148.53	1,819,693.09	1,878,470.02
Liberia - (PBF) Accelerating Digital Opportunities for Youth Civic Participation	435,036.32	0.00	435,036.00	97,986.36
Liberia - (PBF) Promoting Peaceful Electoral Environment and Community Security	259,544.55	31,250.16	253,890.00	230,447.98
Madagascar - Human Rights Adviser	107,414.41	22,436.43	51,500.00	70,496.04
Madagascar - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	141,098.76	95,633.91	73,500.00	109,265.89
Madagascar - (PBF) Appui à la Protection des Jeunes Défenseuses et Défenseurs des Droits Humains	533,615.42	0.00	747,061.59	212,921.12
Madagascar - (PBF) Rapprochement de la Justice Traditionnelle et Formelle pour une Meilleure Cohésion Sociale	843,209.22	843,209.00	0.00	404,385.87
Malawi - Human Rights Adviser	169,524.86	0.00	262,700.85	55,002.22
Mali - (EU) Force Conjointe du G5 Sahel - Support to the Internal Security Forces**	2,430,500.84	2,751,644.73	-363,439.57	2,383,157.67
Mali - (PBF) Appproche Intégrée pour Lutter contre l'Impunité	0.00	586,550.85	0.00	0.00
Mauritania - Country Office	2,059,378.67	386,019.15	1,345,000.00	1,470,743.90
Mauritania - (PBF) Promotion de la Justice Sociale à Travers le Renforcement de l'Accés à l'Etat Civil, l'Exploitation de la Terre et Aux Modes de Prevention et Réglement de Conflit pour les Femmes et les Jeunes de la Region du Guidimakha	734,905.96	366,385.46	240,000.00	215,367.99
Mauritania - (PBF) Prevention des Conflits y Compris les Discours Haineux en Période Préélectorale**	833,583.50	194,186.35	270,000.00	-75,717.07
Mozambique - Country Office	739,726.00	0.00	2,456,595.09	596,460.24
Mozambique - Advancing the Human Rights Agenda	809,471.00	350,164.19	460,000.00	801,712.47
Mozambique - (MPTF) Disability Fund Inception Phase 4	90,270.00	180,541.00	0.00	0.00
Mozambique - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	148,941.00	39,945.05	82,300.00	115,277.34
Mozambique - Human Rights Adviser	129,043.74	0.00	41,900.00	40,841.62
Mozambique - (UNESCO) Protection and Promotion of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism	52,063.00	55,063.06	0.00	3,005.12
Niger - Country Office	1,810,634.74	7,713.12	1,990,707.84	1,817,731.23
Niger - (UNDP) Monitoring des Droits de l'Homme dans le Cadre du Programme de Renforcement du Système Pénitentiaire (PRESPEN)	253,000.43	0.00	254,000.00	253,882.09
Niger - (PBF) Accélérer la Mise en Oeuvre de l'Agenda Femme, Paix et Sécurité dans la Région de Tahoua et Zinder	429,883.20	196,345.38	161,050.00	201,225.20
Nigeria - (PBF) Strengthening the Conflict and Gender Sensitive Oversight Mechanisms of the Police Force	256,315.29	115,530.42	94,500.00	221,708.09
Nigeria - (UNDP) Strengthening Local and State level Peace Architecture	153,842.46	156,756.56	0.00	199,716.96
Nigeria - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	248,058.10	92,450.76	99,900.00	161,795.19
Nigeria - Human Rights Adviser	98,100.95	0.00	54,800.00	29,818.09

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Rwanda - Human Rights Adviser	641,381.22	285,882.64	273,822.56	195,241.08
Rwanda - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	165,970.91	77,281.32	95,200.00	166,582.28
Rwanda - Strengthening the Capacities of the National Commission for Human Rights	220,950.03	2,575.20	150,000.00	173,976.33
Rwanda - Support to Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Recommendations*	0.00	0.00	63,643.00	0.00
Senegal - Response to Human Rights Violations against LGBTQI+ Persons	59,614.28	48,097.08	14,552.76	47,166.17
Sierra Leone - (PBF) Enhance Strategic Direction, Coordination and Peacebuilding Impact	158,767.00	0.00	195,284.00	193,042.82
Sierra Leone - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	202,636.60	87,957.86	127,617.35	210,120.51
Somalia - Support to Peace Mission	363,957.18	226,828.32	322,131.19	322,086.00
South Africa - Strengthen Women Human Rights Defenders	31,499.88	0.00	89,044.00	26,153.29
Southern Africa (Pretoria) - Regional Office	1,505,791.00	-519.23	1,327,600.00	1,132,130.12
South Sudan - Support to Peace Mission	121,107.75	0.00	117,300.00	107,175.00
Sudan - Country Office	8,697,613.00	6,818,464.23	2,974,441.03	6,617,732.28
Tanzania - Human Rights Adviser	173,407.54	0.00	79,000.00	0.00
Tanzania - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	200,000.06	0.00	104,000.00	103,763.90
Uganda - Country Office	230,295.54	169,717.45	54,200.00	229,466.39
Uganda - (UNDP) Strengthening Electoral Processes (SEPU)	0.00	53,158.94	0.00	0.00
West Africa (Dakar) - Regional Office	1,205,907.75	175,136.75	891,720.25	900,930.48
West Africa (Dakar) - Appui á la Protection des Enfants Victimes de la Violation de Leurs Droits (PAPEV)	2,908,595.14	1,684,090.20	1,610,559.47	323,972.81
West Africa (Dakar) - (UNODC) PROMIS Project Phase 3	2,512,272.26	2,167,168.04	-0.15	1,481,338.36
West Africa (Dakar) - (UNODC) PROMIS IV Strengthening the Capacities of States to Develop a Human Rights-Based Response to Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons	202,726.42	0.00	176,235.89	68,045.16
Zambia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	169,714.84	64,587.26	128,100.00	176,877.10
Zambia - Human Rights Adviser	141,589.00	0.00	398,100.00	76,697.57
Zimbabwe - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	151,691.76	48,763.22	108,300.00	152,316.14
Zimbabwe - Human Rights Adviser	133,493.68	0.00	184,900.00	119,937.93
Subtotal Africa	**78,881,624.57**	**30,035,113.43**	**57,387,092.37**	**59,531,348.23**
Americas				
Argentina - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	98,375.80	43,493.64	25,000.00	66,122.16
Argentina - Human Rights Adviser	75,642.20	0.00	83,200.00	79,001.91
Barbados - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	164,850.62	46,083.00	105,400.00	153,866.73

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Barbados - Human Rights Adviser	145,844.58	0.00	370,139.01	138,248.28
Belize - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	105,072.93	38,607.08	39,850.00	79,585.99
Belize - Human Rights Adviser	79,179.10	0.00	81,600.00	54,351.09
Bolivia - (EU) Strengthening Respect for Human Rights	210,719.38	-42,140.73	180,594.00	-83,073.14
Bolivia - Strengthen Respect for Human Rights	275,326.76	128,131.89	219,968.60	122,818.96
Brazil - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	104,453.40	16,298.23	85,000.00	95,293.68
Brazil - Human Rights Adviser	82,060.60	0.00	87,300.00	55,346.46
Colombia - Country Office	13,202,690.61	1,838,209.90	11,556,979.17	10,877,266.91
Colombia - (EU) Fortaleciendo la Garantia de los Derechos de Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos	124,968.51	125,730.32	4,000.00	151,106.44
Colombia - (PBF) Agile and Flexible Response Mechanism to Support Peace Dialogues	669,780.41	690,251.00	0.00	264,206.40
Chile - Regional Office for South America	1,738,051.87	37,505.44	1,662,600.00	1,406,893.97
Ecuador - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	103,398.38	27,099.16	64,100.00	90,324.08
Ecuador - Human Rights Adviser	80,946.42	0.00	77,100.00	65,192.05
Guatemala - Country Office	3,967,616.45	708,615.60	3,911,736.40	3,792,032.29
Guatemala - Increase Protection of Human Rights	1,097,601.77	878,501.46	629,884.25	673,145.63
Guatemala - (EU) Fortalecimiento del Espacio Civico y la Protección de las Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos	277,838.34	36,848.69	234,653.00	181,814.84
Guatemala - (MPTF) Establishing Preconditions to Institutionalize the Rights of Guatemalans with Disability	50,469.76	34,656.34	137,891.00	42,906.51
Guatemala - (PBF) Conflictividad Agraria en el Valle del Polochic	151,375.04	68,990.93	225,942.00	45,975.87
Guatemala - (PBF) Independence of Justice	292,505.90	220,646.63	140,373.51	84,372.27
Guatemala - (PBF) Juventudes Mayas y Mestizas Organizadas	416,047.03	423,672.86	0.00	338,739.81
Guyana - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	66,197.69	27,434.49	35,000.00	57,863.17
Guyana - Human Rights Adviser	46,402.32	0.00	74,285.23	40,121.46
Haiti - Support to Peace Mission	994,363.84	175,153.55	1,067,266.23	879,987.71
Haiti - Addressing Gang-related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)	1,518,501.91	0.00	4,464,574.87	841,361.79
Haiti - Multinational Security Support Mission	292,067.71	0.00	459,920.46	108,746.42
Haiti - Strengthening Human Rights Compliance of the Multinational Security Support Mission*	0.00	0.00	6,321,112.52	0.00
Haiti - (DPO) Multinational Security Support Mission	668,176.48	0.00	999,315.80	46,340.74
Haiti - (EU) Soutien Aux Pôles Judiciaires, Mécanismes Judiciaires Non-formelles et Incubation et Accompagnement de Defendeurs des Droits Humains	1,337,164.68	0.00	1,259,583.79	1,143,346.63
Haiti - (MPTF) Support to Multinational Security Support Mission*	0.00	0.00	350,000.20	0.00

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Haiti - (PBF) Construction et Institutionnalisation des Fondations de l'Infrastructure Nationale de Paix	730,891.32	412,184.91	346,529.04	523,922.88
Honduras - Country Office	4,230,162.91	-149,035.96	4,415,362.67	3,796,192.23
Honduras - (PBF) Abordaje de los Conflictos Territoriales y de Tierras de Comunidades Garifunas y Afrohondurenas	1,033,185.58	972,129.71	0.00	540,642.42
Honduras - (PBF) Prevenir y Gestionar la Conflictividad Social Vinculada a la Tierra y Territorio	0.00	34,203.75	0.00	31,764.15
Mexico - Country Office	3,407,025.71	8,072.23	2,861,714.77	2,437,212.22
Mexico - (EU) Strengthening the Protection of Rights	113,184.60	73,217.27	22,805.00	49,039.46
Nicaragua - Monitoring, Documenting and Reporting on Human Rights Situation	231,187.83	209,665.53	0.00	160,117.00
Panama - El Salvador - Human Rights Engagement	463,626.57	155,009.52	719,689.11	324,040.78
Panama - El Salvador - (UNFIP) Protection of Civic Space*	0.00	0.00	95,000.00	0.00
Panama - Regional Office for Central America	703,011.42	171,055.83	1,217,927.45	645,357.32
Panama - Strengthening the Regional Approach for the Protection of Specific Human Rights Concerns in LAC	1,366,776.81	21,411.69	1,359,641.12	947,876.60
Paraguay - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	82,088.26	16,432.21	58,450.00	74,497.14
Paraguay - Human Rights Adviser	58,441.34	0.00	60,000.00	44,216.69
Peru - Promoting and Protecting Human Rights	1,545,391.39	1,577,776.07	563,918.08	1,196,283.52
Peru - (EU) Fortaleciendo el Mecanismo Intersectorial para la Protección de las Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos	556,136.78	0.00	556,136.96	427,263.91
Peru - (PBF) Fortalecimiento Institucional Descentralizado para la Prevención y Gestión de Conflictividad	648,772.03	633,258.96	0.00	573,315.11
Trinidad y Tobago - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	104,092.81	47,491.20	45,000.00	89,478.92
Trinidad y Tobago - Human Rights Adviser	85,751.18	0.00	94,800.00	46,487.49
Uruguay - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	0.00	2,417.52	39,677.00	41,790.31
Venezuela - Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting on Human Rights Situation	3,887,275.71	3,631,915.13	1,102,995.26	2,199,126.10
Venezuela - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees	702,275.79	510,922.97	16,000.00	526,167.04
Subtotal Americas	**48,386,968.53**	**13,851,918.02**	**48,530,016.50**	**36,568,098.40**
Asia and the Pacific				
Afghanistan - Support to Peace Mission	212,892.00	95,363.42	143,200.00	136,690.66
Bangladesh - Human Rights Adviser	761,388.35	17,890.86	1,336,061.20	626,531.43
Bangladesh - Strengthening Human Rights Protection and Reforms	84,837.01	0.00	318,854.03	75,077.00
Cambodia - Country Office	1,987,326.48	1,214,445.52	772,881.44	2,035,681.81
Cambodia - (EU) Human Rights-Based Prevention to Sustain Development	34,586.68	1,110.23	1,950.39	822.98

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Cambodia - (EU) Promoting and Protecting Civic Space in Cambodia and Ensuring Comprehensive and Inclusive Participation	701,912.51	0.00	765,175.00	638,499.22
Cambodia - (MPTF) Accelerating Disability Rights**	7,971.50	7,972.10	184,105.00	-1,394.57
Cambodia - (UNESCO) Building Back Better through Participation	54,547.53	50,910.42	-1.00	52,067.92
Cambodia - (UNESCO) Monitoring, Reporting and Analysis of the Safety of Journalists and Freedom of Expression	86,271.96	70,125.30	1,500.00	71,621.68
DPRK - Country Office (based in Seoul)	262,556.00	228,400.43	200,000.00	193,833.38
Maldives - Human Rights Adviser	254,582.22	73,309.17	218,200.00	223,767.46
Maldives - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	159,650.42	45,666.12	98,100.00	134,633.63
Mongolia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	67,420.70	20,382.70	30,000.00	38,408.51
Mongolia - (HRA) Human Rights Adviser	42,951.30	0.00	42,000.00	32,277.61
Myanmar - (UNRCO) Senior Human Rights Adviser	302,307.00	0.00	312,308.00	280,681.50
Myanmar - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	2,779,534.00	697,792.71	2,036,937.76	2,202,282.61
Nepal - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	61,574.22	18,459.02	40,000.00	52,215.44
Nepal - Human Rights Adviser	81,976.98	0.00	91,600.00	24,195.56
Pacific Region (Suva) - Regional Office	1,147,384.00	221,849.49	1,005,533.09	968,886.07
Pacific Region (Suva) - (IOM) Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme Phase 2	442,606.00	97,246.47	643,988.48	171,610.88
Pacific Region (Suva) - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Disability Activities in Fiji	39,590.00	83,095.55	0.00	39,271.70
Pacific Region (Suva) - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Economic Transformation in South Pacific	289,989.26	289,990.12	0.00	131,899.47
Pacific Region (Suva) - (MPTF) Strengthen Social Cohesion Pathways, Human Rights and Women's Civic Participation	256,800.00	256,800.00	0.00	116,003.53
Pacific Region (Suva) - (UNTFHS) Strengthen Social Cohesion post-COVID 19	319,076.00	354,535.74	0.00	158,609.12
Pacific Region (Suva) - (UNTFHS) Partnership for Climate Mobility*	0.00	0.00	40,130.00	0.00
Papua New Guinea - Human Rights Adviser	380,697.00	126,602.97	201,900.00	252,906.80
Papua New Guinea - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser**	154,137.78	41,613.54	-19,000.00	16,767.07
Papua New Guinea - (PBF) Empower Her - Peace Initiative	127,387.78	0.00	194,740.00	117,138.64
The Philippines - Human Rights Adviser	181,188.72	57.36	264,500.00	161,407.06
The Philippines - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	234,645.00	18,211.80	213,400.00	231,360.08
The Philippines - Strengthening Human Rights and Protecting Civic Space*	0.00	0.00	433,294.44	0.00
The Philippines - Strengthening Civil Society Engagement*	0.00	0.00	90,043.00	0.00
The Philippines - UN Joint Programme on Human Rights**	0.00	194,145.21	-189,644.11	4,614.49
The Philippines - (EU) Increasing Access to Justice Contribution to the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights	174,233.00	139,638.30	0.00	40,982.66
The Philippines - (MPTF) UN Joint Programme on Human Rights	712,562.00	376,156.71	339,000.00	710,234.62

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Samoa - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	143,224.00	34,525.04	103,600.00	135,871.39
Samoa - Human Rights Adviser	123,005.02	0.00	172,500.00	112,841.35
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Regional Office	1,500,136.76	382,393.62	1,234,388.19	1,315,320.51
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - (EU) Strengthening National Capacity to Prevent and Respond to Torture and Enforced Disappearances	399,294.81	0.00	736,874.00	122,982.49
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - (EU) Strengthening the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	731,203.81	194,330.70	498,380.62	540,735.76
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Strengthening Capacity of Regional Actors to Promote Human Rights Accountability	2,037,135.01	1,580,731.90	792,693.37	1,881,736.33
Sri Lanka - Human Rights Adviser	740,835.12	776,274.25	0.00	493,105.59
Sri Lanka - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	113,796.88	43,345.28	44,100.00	87,046.36
Timor Leste - Human Rights Adviser	141,620.64	23,408.91	129,632.95	127,924.89
Timor Leste - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser**	0.00	23,547.82	-19,600.00	1,610.34
Subtotal Asia and the Pacific	**18,334,835.45**	**7,800,328.78**	**13,503,325.85**	**14,758,761.03**
Europe and Central Asia				
Azerbaijan - (EU) Protecting Human Rights of Vulnerable Groups	236,569.51	282,854.75	0.00	130,180.27
Azerbaijan - (EU) Empowering Civil Society and Protecting Vulnerable Groups	52,680.38	0.00	584,599.00	42,865.42
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Multi-Country Office in Western Balkan (Sarajevo)	302,578.97	0.00	201,005.00	185,816.60
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Human Rights Adviser	214,272.86	61,973.21	100,566.23	114,538.96
Bosnia and Herzegovina - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	135,573.28	37,349.70	100,000.00	132,334.59
Central Asia (Bishkek) - Regional Office	1,120,819.88	122,016.75	1,421,704.00	854,772.13
Europe (Brussels) - Regional Office	845,816.30	36,181.37	591,800.00	513,543.13
Georgia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	153,850.63	63,963.67	72,000.00	135,592.11
Georgia - (MPTF/EU) Human Rights for All - Phase 3	69,414.11	30,059.96	556,875.00	30,059.58
Georgia - (MPTF) Leave No One Behind (LNOB), from Policy and Principles to Practice in Disability Inclusive Development	52,542.35	867.58	100,000.00	44,946.72
Georgia - (MPTF) Support to Georgia's 2024 Parliamentary Elections	101,536.58	0.00	296,997.00	81,340.91
Kazakhstan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	122,050.62	27,419.63	79,800.00	113,259.46
Kazakhstan - Human Rights Adviser	100,644.58	0.00	152,100.00	101,416.65
Kyrgyzstan - Promotion and Protection of Civic Space	149,805.00	0.00	230,566.53	144,530.80
Kyrgyzstan - (PBF) Inclusive Governance and Shared Identity for Sustainable Peace and Development	81,091.02	133,395.46	0.00	86,228.30
Macedonia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	70,712.02	913.03	55,500.00	58,918.03
Macedonia - Human Rights Adviser	95,114.36	0.00	64,400.00	47,874.11

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Moldova (Republic of) - Human Rights Adviser	525,401.92	69,162.95	422,300.00	413,143.08
Moldova (Republic of) - (EU) Improving Equal Access to Services and Assistance for Refugees	884,420.27	264,406.70	686,695.28	615,339.14
Moldova (Republic of) - (EU) Strengthening the Rights of Minorities	528,447.32	0.00	539,952.00	386,267.01
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	142,566.80	87,081.06	76,000.00	157,586.63
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) UN Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region	182,565.54	4,937.68	222,275.00	146,849.40
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) Paradigm Shift to Disability Inclusive Services	172,370.02	69,310.47	700.00	70,673.31
Moldova (Republic of) - (PBF) Building Sustainable and Inclusive Peace, Strengthening Trust and Social Cohesion	568,976.78	442,215.82	0.00	439,854.54
Montenegro - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	145,293.16	40,562.96	56,803.77	124,115.22
Montenegro - Human Rights Adviser	113,000.00	0.00	103,500.00	97,494.16
Montenegro - (UNICEF) Enhancing Citizens' Trust in Institutions and Building Resilient Communities	94,695.00	0.00	100,000.00	50,581.36
Russian Federation - Technical Cooperation	724,888.22	-164,108.94	601,200.00	363,349.56
Russian Federation - Projects on Human Rights Awareness Raising and Training Activities**	14,904.70	27,197.44	0.00	-533.64
Serbia - Human Rights Adviser	274,400.16	3,043.43	320,000.00	275,596.83
Southern Caucasus - Human Rights Advisers	770,133.42	205,364.93	717,491.36	744,360.73
Tajikistan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	141,909.82	19,805.78	41,100.00	64,314.18
Tajikistan - Human Rights Adviser	121,617.38	0.00	161,900.00	103,613.69
Ukraine - (MPTF) Support to Human Rights Monitoring Mission	508,386.96	488,431.59	0.00	503,457.90
Ukraine - Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)	12,689,671.74	13,506,681.63	7,807,653.48	11,351,855.87
Subtotal Europe and Central Asia	**22,508,721.66**	**15,861,088.61**	**16,465,483.65**	**18,726,136.74**
Middle East and North Africa				
Iraq - Support to Peace Mission - Accountability for Abduction and Torture	678,769.53	466,458.46	700,000.00	616,142.83
Iraq - Support to Peace Mission	273,182.42	-6,419.53	174,800.00	85,498.66
Iraq - Support to Peace Mission - Rights of Religious Minorities**	246,481.50	-56,999.18	152,100.00	-5,450.52
Jordan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	128,846.19	42,020.71	83,400.00	121,793.07
Jordan - (MPTF) UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) - Inception Phase 4th Funding Round	65,805.00	0.00	99,510.00	48,162.09
Jordan - Human Rights Adviser	140,825.12	0.00	106,500.00	102,252.50
Libya - Support to Peace Mission	139,125.60	45,824.28	46,700.00	84,850.27
Middle East (Beirut) - Regional Office	3,036,964.27	184,577.12	3,614,690.25	2,928,986.77
Saudi Arabia - Financial and Technical Assistance through the Saudi Human Rights Commission (in Coordination with ROMENA)	1,490,877.93	657,760.92	1,323,610.08	1,293,654.48

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
South West and Arab Region (Doha) - Training and Documentation Centre	1,699,760.69	348,265.41	712,900.00	963,992.64
State of Palestine**** - Stand-Alone Office	6,583,228.58	2,659,748.80	4,936,831.45	4,384,056.67
State of Palestine - (EU) Implementing Palestine's Human Rights Treaty Obligations**	38,948.00	45,249.56	0.00	-25,236.36
State of Palestine - (MPTF) Enabling a Disability-Inclusive and Equitable International Response in Gaza	31,303.92	0.00	166,050.00	0.00
State of Palestine - (UNICEF/ECHO) Joint Programme on Humanitarian Needs	585,008.59	0.00	1,095,380.83	374,969.23
Syria - (EU) Strengthening Rights, Protection and Justice	549,250.26	549,250.00	0.00	845,634.01
Syria - International Response to the Human Rights Situation in Syria (Refugees/IDPs/TJ)	3,993,864.00	1,176,481.26	3,898,200.05	3,425,086.59
Tunisia - Country Office	3,387,359.19	530,678.57	2,553,938.00	1,744,095.51
Tunisia - (MPTF) Inception Phase 4 - UNPRPD Fund**	53,443.29	73,508.94	0.00	-19,731.35
Tunisia - (UNESCO) National Action Plan (NAP) - Empowering the Education System and School Communities through the Promotion of Human Rights	214,034.24	222,428.22	0.00	23,286.45
Yemen - Country Office	7,189,509.74	1,264,530.72	4,584,669.50	5,449,918.71
Yemen - Building Capacity on Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting for Civil Society and the National Commission of Inquiry	805,630.11	141,901.11	653,439.00	505,827.98
Yemen - (EU) Protecting and Expanding Civil Society Space	349,258.70	8,775.16	201,895.00	154,439.00
Subtotal Middle East and North Africa	**31,681,476.87**	**8,354,040.53**	**25,104,614.16**	**23,102,229.23**
Contingency Fund				
Contingency Fund - Emergency Response Projects	714,795.38	682,750.56	131,496.24	401,927.28
Subtotal Contingency Fund	**714,795.38**	**682,750.56**	**131,496.24**	**401,927.28**
Total field presences	**200,508,422.46**	**76,585,239.93**	**161,122,028.77**	**153,088,500.91**
Cross-Entities Global Projects				
Human Rights Up Front Action Plan	899,762.00	-13,618.03	1,012,800.00	896,954.58
OHCHR - Sustainable Environmental Management	309,728.00	15,358.88	216,300.00	212,840.09
OHCHR Human Rights Disability Rights Strategy - Reasonable Accomodation Costs	123,449.00	6,247.36	93,900.00	85,181.55
Task Force ESCR, SDGs and Prevention	1,627,382.00	29,245.87	1,454,300.00	1,597,699.82
Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief	0.00	71,521.87	0.00	4,144.44
Support to Digital Transformation of UN Human Rights	1,484,236.49	645,333.37	1,546,538.00	1,515,033.43
Subtotal Cross-Entities Global Projects	**4,444,557.49**	**754,089.32**	**4,323,838.00**	**4,311,853.91**
Total headquarters and field presences	**331,176,632.52**	**105,904,755.14**	**279,191,252.99**	**265,281,641.66** ▸

	REQUIREMENTS	FUNDS AVAILABLE (PRIOR PERIOD)	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
OTHER TRUST FUNDS				
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	11,054,929.00	12,664,866.56	11,678,994.54	10,296,640.04
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,315,429.97	1,515,396.55	1,391,429.10	1,284,889.18
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	1,035,210.00	1,184,722.96	531,390.27	960,108.50
Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR	519,800.00	1,355,240.25	527,376.38	318,608.75
Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR	213,234.00	737,005.64	186,235.95	163,681.69
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	1,242,297.00	1,308,642.70	945,525.49	1,218,706.41
Total other trust funds	**15,380,899.97**	**18,765,874.66**	**15,260,951.73**	**14,242,634.57**
Other income/expenditure				
Unearmarked reserves for allocations to project requirements (HCA trust fund)	0.00	32,040,533.35	-23,469,845.99	0.00
Reserves for allocations to VFTC project requirements (AHA trust fund)	0.00	12,380,130.53	-3,258,489.68	0.00
Other income/expenditure not reported above***	0.00	15,845,858.99	7,245,466.75	-236,504.59
Subtotal other income/expenditure	**0.00**	**60,266,522.87**	**-19,482,868.92**	**-236,504.59**
Grand total	**346,557,532.49**	**184,937,152.67**	**274,969,335.80**	**279,287,771.64**

Total Income 2024 = Voluntary contributions pledged to OHCHR in 2024 (US$ 269,444,668), gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions and interest income (US$ 5,524,768).

* New project with income from contributions received at year-end.

** Includes prior period income and/or expenditure adjustments.

*** Includes miscellaneous income and interest for 2024, 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 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
-	-	EDM
(a) Total contributions to EDM	**0**	
Australia	114,504	Response to reprisals
Austria	187,567	Human Rights Inquiries Branch
China	750,000	Innovation and Analytics Hub (OHCHR's Organizational Effectiveness 2.0)
France	54,466	Death Penalty
Germany	1,069,519	Human Rights Inquiries Branch
	100,211	Innovation and Analytics Hub
India	100,000	Innovation and Analytics Hub
Poland	173,913	Human Rights Inquiries Branch
Republic of Korea	100,000	Human Rights Inquiries Branch (Digital Investigation Support Cell)
Spain	65,582	Human Rights Inquiries Branch (in particular Afghanistan and Syria)
Switzerland	50,000	Human Rights 75 (including High-Level Event)
	250,000	Innovation and Analytics Hub
UNDP (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence)	203,514	UN Team of Experts on Sexual Violence in Conflict
(b) Total contributions to specific sections/ projects	**3,219,276**	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to EDM (a) + (b)	**3,219,276**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to EDM	28,431,921	Unearmarked
(d) Total uneamarked funds	**28,431,921**	
Other income adjustments	19,057	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
(e) Total other adjustments	**19,057**	
(f) Total XB funds available for EDM (c) + (d) + (e)	**31,670,254**	

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT (EDM)

RB & XB funds made available for EDM in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for EDM	11,986,616	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	**11,986,616**	**27.5%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to EDM	0	0.0%
Earmarked funds for the Human Rights 75 Initiative	3,219,276	10.2%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to EDM	28,431,921	89.8%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	19,057	0.1%
Subtotal XB funds	**31,670,254**	**72.5%**
Total RB + XB funds	**43,656,870**	**100.0%**

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (TESPRDD)

Voluntary contributions in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
-	0	
(a) Total contributions to TESPRDD	**0**	
Australia	31,807	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section)
	95,420	Implementation of the UN Sectretariat LGBTQI+ Strategy
Austria	162,162	Civic space Unit
	91,892	Regional Gender Advisers
Azerbaijan	15,500	Right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
China	50,000	Advancing the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing inequalities
	100,000	Anti-racial discrimination
	100,000	Disabilities and rights of older persons
	200,000	Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs)
	1,000,000	Knowledge hub on economic, social and cultural rights
	130,000	Permanent Forum of People of African Descent
	400,000	Right to development
	50,000	Women human rights and gender (including commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action)
Czech Republic	17,422	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
Education Above All Foundation	405,205	Human rights of youth (phase II)
European Commission	525,850	Human rights-based approach (HRBA) to data
	2,244,471	Digital rights
Finland	171,674	Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section
	394,144	Women Human Rights and Gender Section
Ford Foundation	165,363	Indigenous Fellowship Programme
	100,000	Safety of human rights defenders and journalists
France	54,466	LGBTQI+ rights
Germany	114,880	Anti-corruption and integrity
	150,316	Anti-racial discrimination
	119,883	B-Tech project (in particular in the use of technology across the African continent)
	140,295	Child and youth rights
	80,169	Disabilities
	200,422	Education and training
	156,139	Environment
	364,979	Indigenous peoples and minorities
	156,139	Migration
	230,485	Rule of law

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Germany	680,772	Supporting the integration and implementation of human rights due diligence in Development Finance Institutions' (DFIs) operational policies and projects
	1,327,598	Women human rights and gender
Iceland	36,080	LGBTQI+ rights
Inditex	109,409	Business and human rights in technology (Helpdesk)
Liechtenstein	354,191	Accountability and transitional justice as means to prevent and remedy human rights violations and abuses
Loterie Romande	35,294	Minority Art Contest
Microsoft	105,000	B-Tech Africa and B-Tech gender workstream
	400,000	To support OHCHR's work relating to human rights online, innovation and technology, business and human rights and advocacy
Republic of Korea	300,000	Economic, social and cultural rights Section (activities for local government and human rights)
	300,000	New and emerging digital technologies and human rights
Saudi Arabia	120,000	Anti-racial discrimination (in the context of sports)
	150,000	Right to Development Section
Switzerland	100,000	Business and human rights in technology
	80,000	Gender Accreditation Programme
	100,000	Support to implementation of Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Transitional Justice
	175,000	Tech @ borders
The Schmidt Family Foundation	375,000	Human rights defenders and online civic space
Türkiye	100,000	OHCHR's activities related to combating Islamophobia
Unilever	190,928	Business and human rights in technology (Helpdesk)
UNDP	150,000	Implementation of rights-based drug policies
UNDP (UNPRPD)	251,771	Unpaid care, disability and gender transformative approach
United Arab Emirates	25,000	Child and youth rights
	25,000	Disabilities
	25,000	Rights of older persons
United States of America	100,000	Indigenous Fellowship Programme
	200,000	Protecting human rights defenders online
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	100,000	Review of the criminal codes under international human rights law
Private donor	55,310	Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section
(b) Total contributions to specific sections/ projects	**14,240,437**	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to TESPRDD (a) + (b)	**14,240,437**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to TESPRDD projects	14,489,050	Unearmarked
(d) Total uneamarked funds	**14,489,050**	
Other income adjustments	-204,596	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
(e) Total other adjustments	**-204,596**	
(f) Total XB funds available for TESPRDD (c) + (d) + (e)	**28,524,891**	

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (TESPRDD)

RB & XB funds made available for TESPRDD in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for TESPRDD	24,454,113	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	**24,454,113**	**46.2%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to TESPRDD - all projects	0	0.0%
Earmarked funds for specific sections/projects	14,240,437	49.9%
Unearmarked/softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to TESPRDD	14,489,050	50.8%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-204,596	-0.7%
Subtotal XB funds	**28,524,891**	**53.8%**
Total RB + XB funds	**52,979,004**	**100.0%**

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES BRANCH (HRTB)

Voluntary contributions in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Germany	344,452	HRTB
Spain	52,466	HRTB
(a) Total contributions to HRTB - all bodies	**396,918**	
Australia	30,544	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to HRTB-Groups in Focus Section)
Czech Republic	17,422	OPCAT Special Fund
Denmark	141,483	OPCAT Special Fund 2024-2025
France	54,466	Committee on Enforced Disappearences (organization of World Congress)
	217,865	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (including promotion of General Recommendation (GR) 40)
Germany	429,779	OPCAT Special Fund
Mexico	55,466	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (promotion of GR 39)
Nia Tero Foundation	223,089	Stregthening the UN Treaty Body System to better support Indigenous Peoples
Republic of Korea	50,000	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
	50,000	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
	50,000	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
	50,000	Human Rights Committee
Saudi Arabia	120,000	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Switzerland	50,000	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (promotion of GR 40)
UN Foundation	49,819	Digital transformation of human rights mechanisms
(b) Total contributions to specific bodies/projects	**1,589,934**	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to HRTB (a) + (b)	**1,986,851**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to HRTB	2,554,900	Unearmarked
(d) Total uneamarked funds	**2,554,900**	
Other income adjustments	-5,065	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
(e) Total other adjustments	**-5,065**	
(f) Total XB funds available for HRTB (c) + (d) + (e)	**4,536,686**	

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES BRANCH (HRTB)

RB & XB funds made available for HRTB in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for HRTB	18,458,870	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	**18,458,870**	**80.3%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to HRTB - all bodies	396,918	8.7%
Earmarked funds for HRTB specific bodies/projects	1,001,250	22.1%
Earmarked funds to OPCAT Special Fund	588,683	13.0%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to HRTB	2,554,900	56.3%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-5,065	-0.1%
Subtotal XB funds	**4,536,686**	**19.7%**
Total RB + XB funds	**22,995,556**	**100.0%**

GLOBAL OPERATIONS DIVISION (GLO)

Voluntary contributions in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Australia	480,280	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region
	493,003	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region*
	222,646	National Human Rights Institutions
Austria	54,054	Bosnia and Herzegovina*
Belgium	539,374	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (transitional justice, fight against impunity and protection in Kasaï and Ituri)
	323,625	Guinea
	274,123	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine* **
Belgique/Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles	100,301	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
Canada	221,239	Bolivia
	4,378,545	Haiti (addressing gang-related sexual and gender-based violence)
	368,732	Peru
	15,723	Senegal (response to human rights violations against LGBTQI+ persons)
	734,754	Venezuela
China	200,000	Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa Branch
Coventry University	61,831	Regional Office for South-East Asia (work on migration)
Czech Republic	13,066	Belarus
	21,777	Emergency Response Section
Denmark	368,406	Ethiopia
	716,435	Human rights protection and peace operations
	4,093,390	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Estonia	32,823	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
European Commission	584,599	Azerbaijan (empowering Civil Society Organizations)
	180,594	Bolivia
	1,089,868	Burkina Faso
	765,175	Cambodia (promoting and protecting civic space)
	716,853	Central African Republic (protection des défenseurs des droits humains)
	3,666,882	East Africa (enhancement and operationalization of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework (AUCF) for African Union (AU) inclusive of peace support operations)
	1,071,995	Ethiopia (strengthening protection in Northern Ethiopia)
	234,653	Guatemala

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
European Commission	1,240,561	Haiti (soutien aux pôles judiciaires, mécanismes judiciaires non-formelles, et incubation et accompagnement des défendeurs des droits humains)
	1,802,503	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	22,805	Mexico
	686,374	Moldova (assistance for refugees with specific needs and the most vulnerable host community members)
	539,952	Moldova (rights of minorities)
	1,276,100	OHCHR's work on combatting impunity
	556,137	Peru (human rights defenders)
	477,999	Thailand
	736,874	Thailand (strengthening national capacity to prevent and respond to torture and enforced disappearances)
	201,895	Yemen
Finland	2,439,024	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
France	108,932	Belarus
	108,932	Chad*
	217,865	Ethiopia
	54,466	Haiti*
	435,730	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	108,932	Iran
	544,662	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	217,865	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
Germany	55,928	Bangladesh*
	1,123,439	Colombia
	210,970	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
	1,069,684	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers*
	765,064	Emergency Response
	267,380	Field presences
	106,952	Georgia*
	1,590,668	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	157,057	Iran
	426,182	Myanmar
	150,316	National Human Rights Institutions
	793,291	Regional Office for East Africa

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Germany	542,764	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
	55,928	Regional Office for South-East Asia
	55,928	Sudan
	663,017	Syria
	1,113,967	Yemen
India	100,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Indonesia	30,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
IOM	643,988	Pacific climate change migration
Ireland	711,160	Colombia
	172,786	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers*
	803,859	Ethiopia
	108,932	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Italy	108,108	Colombia
	1,227,313	Lebanon
	120,672	Regional Office for Central America
	1,610,559	Regional Office for West Africa (appui à la protection des enfants PAPEV II)
	1,259,182	Syria
Japan	155,858	OHCHR's work on accountability
	623,765	Sudan
	422,627	Yemen (accountability and rule of law for sustainable peace)
Kazakhstan	100,000	Regional Office for Central Asia
Kuwait	22,600	Regional Office for the Middle East (training activities in the field of Human Rights for employees of Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Latvia	159,067	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Lithuania	26,998	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Luxembourg	272,331	Myanmar
	778,660	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	272,331	Regional Office for East Africa
	272,331	Regional Office for Western Africa
	272,331	Regional Office fro Central America
	272,331	Rwanda*

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
	1,100,605	Burkina Faso
	166,667	Colombia
	238,465	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
	285,186	Egypt
	1,000,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	90,043	The Philippines*
Netherlands	63,643	Rwanda (implementation of CEDAW recommendation)
	89,044	South Africa (strengthening women human rights defenders)
	500,000	Sudan
	905,138	Tunisia
	25,004	Turkmenistan
	10,526	Venezuela
	653,439	Yemen
	701,403	Guatemala
Norway	463,822	Haiti (Multinational Security Support Mission)
	789,355	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	440,249	The Philippines*
OCHA/CERF	499,966	Ethiopia (protection against gender-based violence)
Open Society Foundations	100,000	Bangladesh*
The Philippines	40,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Poland	124,224	Contingency Fund
	124,224	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	31,480	Guinea-Bissau*
Portugal	52,466	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	26,233	Timor-Leste*
	10,493	Venezuela
	100,000	Asia Pacific Branch
	100,000	Emergency Response Section
Republic of Korea	200,000	Field-based structure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
	100,000	OHCHR's partnership activities with the Justice Rapid Response
	700,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Rockefeller Brothers Fund	95,000	Protection of civic space in El Salvador

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Saudi Arabia	200,000	Capacity building for the Middle East and North Africa Region
	310,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	1,323,610	Technical assistance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Spain	47,831	Colombia
	161,946	El Salvador
	779,119	Field work (including in Latin America, Afghanistan, Sahel and the State of Palestine)
	136,411	Gender work in regional offices in Latin America
	151,563	Guatemala
	174,886	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	162,644	Regional Office for Central America (migration and Spanish speaking Caribbean)
	158,228	Regional Office for West Africa (countering the pushback against gender equality)
	104,932	Technical cooperation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*
	349,773	Venezuela
Sweden	727,537	Asia-Pacific (strengthening the capacity of regional actors to promote human rights, accountability, democratic space and gender equality in the region)
	320,161	Bangladesh*
	944,622	Cambodia
	1,285,890	Colombia
	1,524,545	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (enhancing and protecting the civic space and responding to conflict-related sexual violence)
	655,196	Guatemala (countering racial discrimination and combating impunity)
	2,315,458	Mozambique
	686,939	Regional emergency response
	1,423,285	Strengthening the regional approach for the protection of specific human rights concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean
	915,919	Sudan
	948,857	Yemen

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
	1,481,111	Burkina Faso*
	100,000	Colombia
	389,189	Honduras
	50,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	100,000	Iran
Switzerland	1,376,942	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	850,340	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers*
	200,000	Rwanda*
	50,000	Spanish Caribbean
	377,400	Sudan
	500,000	Tunisia
Thailand	100,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
The Asia Foundation	90,843	Bangladesh*
Türkiye	150,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
United Arab Emirates	153,680	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
	194,049	Colombia (promoting prevention and protection from violence and insecurity for communities, victims and human rights defenders and promoting their participation on transitional justice processes)
	31,807	Bangladesh*
	130,039	Barbados*
	846,600	Ethiopia (leveraging the peace process for stronger support of human rights)
	42,263	Guatemala (empowering civil society advocacy)
	6,321,113	Haiti (strengthening human rights compliance of the Multinational Security Support Mission)
United Kingdom	1,076,082	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	224,359	Kyrgyzstan
	133,480	Malawi
	19,255	Niger
	101,781	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	129,495	Peru (accountability for violations committed during the protests)
	505,689	Sudan
	640,205	Syria

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
United States of America	1,064,255	Bangladesh*
	5,000,000	Colombia
	300,000	El Salvador
	709,450	Equatorial Guinea*
	1,500,000	Ethiopia
	1,000,000	Guatemala
	1,000,000	Honduras
	1,854,957	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	700,000	Iraq (accountability for abduction, torture and enforced disappearance)
	1,000,000	Mexico*
	200,000	Regional Office for Central Amercia
	1,150,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
UN Department of Operational Support	999,316	Haiti (Multinational Security Support Mission)
UN Resident Coordinator Office	302,308	Myanmar*
UN Women	52,727	Kenya (increasing the role of women leaders)*
	303,538	Kenya (strengthening access to justice for gender-based violence survivors)*
UNDP (UN managed pooled and trust funds funding)	1,462,795	Burundi (Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF))
	184,105	Cambodia (UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD))
	147,651	Cameroon (UNPRPD)
	96,634	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (Joint Project)
	176,550	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (Peacebuilding Fund (PBF))
	60,000	The Democratic Repuplic of the Congo (Joint SDGs Fund)
	3,619,017	Deployment of human rights advisers*
	458,054	The Gambia (PBF)
	853,872	Georgia (Joint Project)
	100,000	Georgia (UNPRPD)
	366,316	Guatemala (PBF)
	137,891	Guatemala (UNPRPD)
	1,058,829	Guinea (PBF)
	273,698	Guinea-Bissau (PBF)
	696,529	Haiti
	99,510	Jordan (UNPRPD)

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
UNDP (UN managed pooled and trust funds funding)	268,002	Kenya (Joint SDGs Fund)
	150,000	Kenya (promoting peace)*
	688,925	Liberia (PBF)
	747,062	Madagascar (PBF)
	510,000	Mauritania (PBF)
	222,275	Moldova (2030 SDGs Partnership)
	253,000	Niger
	161,050	Niger (PBF)
	94,500	Nigeria (PBF)
	194,740	Papua New Guinea (UN Country Fund II)
	339,000	The Philippines (Joint Project)
	195,284	Sierra Leone (PBF)
	166,050	The State of Palestine (UNPRPD)
	100,000	Tanzania*
UNICEF	100,000	Montenegro
	1,080,409	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
UNODC	176,236	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
UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)	40,130	Partnerships for climate mobility
Ville de Genève	17,321	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
World Bank	282,145	Ethiopia (strengthening the AU's early warning methodologies through the integration of a human rights-based approach into the AU Continental Early Warning System)
Total earmarked contributions	**128,214,558**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to GLO	54,334,982	Unearmarked
Total unearmarked funds	**54,334,982**	
Other income adjustments	-902,364	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
Total other adjustments	**-902,364**	
Total XB funds available for GLO	**181,647,176**	

* 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.

GLOBAL OPERATIONS DIVISION (GLO)

RB & XB funds made available for GLO in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for GLO - Headquarters	53,096,346	74.5%
Regular budget allotment for GLO - Field presences	15,543,844	21.8%
Regular programme of technical cooperation for GLO - Field presences	2,620,500	3.7%
Subtotal RB funds	**71,260,690**	**28.2%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to VFTC	8,622,414	4.7%
Earmarked funds for specific field presences/activities	119,467,921	65.8%
Earmarked funds for the Contingency Fund	124,224	0.1%
Unearmarked/Soflty earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to GLO	54,334,982	29.9%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-902,364	-0.5%
Subtotal XB funds	**181,647,176**	**71.8%**
Total RB + XB funds	**252,907,866**	**100.0%**

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BRANCH AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW BRANCH (HRCB/UPRB)

Voluntary contributions in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
Germany	150,316	HRCB
(a) Total contributions to HRCB/UPRB	**150,316**	
Republic of Korea	50,000	Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council
(b) Total specifically earmarked contributions	**50,000**	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to HRCB/ UPRB (a) + (b)	**200,316**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to HRCB	4,494,300	Unearmarked
Unearmarked funds allocated to UPRB	346,700	Unearmarked
(d) Total uneamarked funds	**4,841,000**	
Other income adjustments	-789	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
(e) Total other adjustments	**-789**	
(f) Total XB funds available for HRCB (c) + (d) + (e)	**5,040,528**	

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BRANCH AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW BRANCH (HRCB/UPRB)

RB & XB funds made available for HRCB and UPRB in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for HRCB	4,692,066	43.8%
Regular budget allotment for UPRB	6,010,957	56.2%
Subtotal RB funds	**10,703,023**	**68.0%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to HRCB/UPRB	150,316	3.0%
Earmarked funds for HRCB-specific activities	50,000	1.0%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to HRCB	4,494,300	89.2%
Unearmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to UPRB	346,700	6.9%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-789	0.0%
Subtotal XB funds	**5,040,528**	**32.0%**
Total RB + XB funds	**15,743,551**	**100.0%**

SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH (SPB)

Voluntary contributions in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
Germany	1,225,823	SPB
(a) Total contributions to SPB - all mandates	**1,225,823**	**Mandate/Earmarking**
Austria	54,054	Forum on Minority Issues
China	150,000	Countering terrorism
	50,000	Minority issues
	220,000	Negative impact of unilateral coecive measures
	50,000	Working Group on discrimination against women
Cyprus	17,007	Cultural rights
Czech Republic	17,422	Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
Finland	73,198	Extreme poverty
	104,730	Rights of persons with disabilities
	47,297	Summary executions
France	108,932	Working Group on arbitrary detention
	108,932	Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances
Germany	42,781	Adequate housing
	42,781	Environment
	69,114	Forum on Business and Human Rights
	108,460	Freedom of religion or belief
	42,781	Right to privacy
	42,781	Trafficking in persons
	42,781	Water and sanitation
Hungary	26,657	Minority issues
India	50,000	Right to development
	50,000	Rights of persons with disabilities
ILO	365,096	Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)
	899,359	Responsible business conduct in LAC (phase II)
Ireland	43,197	Coordination Committee
Japan	12,270	Leprosy
Luxembourg	24,974	Coordination Committee
Monaco	37,513	Environment
Portugal	20,986	Education

DONOR	PLEDGE US$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
Republic of Korea	50,000	Coordination Committee
	50,000	Violence against women
	50,000	Working Group on discrimination against women
Saudi Arabia	70,000	Violence against women
Spain	31,480	Countering terrorism
	31,480	Human rights defenders
	31,480	Rights of persons with disabilities
	31,480	Sexual orientation and gender identity
	10,493	Summary executions
	20,986	Trafficking in persons
	31,480	Water and sanitation
	31,480	Working Group on discrimination against women
Switzerland	163,000	Right to food
	120,000	Trafficking in persons
(b) Total contributions to specific mandates	**3,646,459**	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to SPB (a) + (b)	**4,872,283**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to SPB	6,665,815	Unearmarked
Unearmarked funds allocated to specific mandates	295,362	Unearmarked
(d) Total uneamarked funds	**6,961,177**	
Other income adjustments	-33,221	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
(e) Total other adjustments	**-33,221**	
(f) Total XB funds available for SPB (c) + (d) + (e)	**11,800,239**	

SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH (SPB)

RB & XB funds made available for SPB in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for SPB	17,572,508	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	**17,572,508**	**59.8%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to SPB - all mandates	1,225,823	10.4%
Earmarked funds for specific mandates	3,646,459	30.9%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to SPB	6,665,815	56.5%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to SPB specific mandates	295,362	2.5%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-33,221	-0.3%
	11,800,239	**40.2%**
Total RB + XB funds	**29,372,747**	**100.0%**

CROSS-ENTITY PROJECTS

Voluntary contributions in 2024

DONOR	US$	EARMARKING
	0	
(a) Total contributions to Cross-Entity projects	**0**	
China	150,000	Digital transformation (strengthening complaints procedures of the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies)
	25,000	Surge Initiative
Denmark	2,352,103	OHCHR's Organizational Effectiveness 2.0
Germany	393,229	Digital transformation (including petitions)
Malaysia	30,000	Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) related activities
Switzerland	100,000	Prevention
(b) Total contributions to specific Cross-Entity projects	**3,050,331**	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to Cross-Entity projects (a) + (b)	**3,050,331**	
Unearmarked funds allocated to Cross-Entity projects	3,653,060	Unearmarked
(d) Total uneamarked funds	**3,653,060**	
Funds transfers	-2,352,103	Earmarked funds for Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 re-allocated to field presences and EDM projects
Other income adjustments	-27,451	Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments
(e) Total funds transfer and other adjustments	**-2,379,554**	
(f) Total XB funds available for cross-entity projects (c) + (d) + (e)	**4,323,838**	

CROSS-ENTITY PROJECTS

RB & XB funds made available for Cross-Entity projects in 2024

	US$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment	0	0.0%
Subtotal RB funds	**0**	**0.0%**
XB funds		
Earmarked funds for specific cross-entitiy projects	3,050,331	70.5%
Unearmarked/Softly earmarked funds from voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to cross-entity projects	3,653,060	84.5%
Earmarked funds for Organizational Effectiveness 2.0 re-allocated to GLO-field presences and EDM projects	-2,352,103	-54.4%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions, prior period income adjustments	-27,451	-0.6%
Subtotal XB funds	**4,323,838**	**100.0%**
Total RB + XB funds	**4,323,838**	**100.0%**

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