

2009 REPORT

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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Contents

Foreword by the High Commissioner	5
I. Summary of Results.....	7
II. OHCHR 2009 Report.....	15
About OHCHR	16
Support for the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures.....	22
Support for International Human Rights Treaty Bodies.....	37
Thematic Human Rights Challenges and Human Rights Mainstreaming.....	42
Outreach.....	61
Programme Planning, Management and Support.....	69
OHCHR in the Field.....	72
Introduction	72
Africa	75
The Americas	109
Asia and the Pacific.....	125
Europe and Central Asia.....	142
Middle East and North Africa	158
Rapid Response and Support for Peace Missions	166
Supporting National Human Rights Institutions and Regional Mechanisms	169
III. Humanitarian Funds	173
IV. Financial Statements for Year Ending 31 December 2009.....	179
V. Funding and Donor Profiles.....	187
Annexes	
1. Organizational Chart.....	223
2. OHCHR's Expected Accomplishments for 2008-2009 – Results Table	224

Foreword by the High Commissioner



This report, my second as High Commissioner for Human Rights, presents in all its diversity the work carried out in 2009 by UN human rights officers in Geneva and around the world. It spells out many of the specific activities implemented during the course of the year, the results achieved and the challenges encountered along the way. The report is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the almost 1,000-strong staff of my Office and other UN staff working with us to support international human rights bodies and mechanisms, to monitor and draw attention to human rights problems, and to strengthen human rights institutions, laws and policies at national level.

Over the past year, OHCHR has responded to a series of new and emerging challenges while maintaining its efforts to counter long-standing and chronic human rights conditions. The cataclysmic earthquake that struck Haiti and its aftermath illustrated the multiple and deeply rooted vulnerabilities that leave so many unprotected in the wake of a natural disaster. We were able to swiftly deploy a team to Haiti, where we were tasked to lead the UN protection cluster, and fielded seven other rapid response missions following unfolding crises, including three in Africa, three in the Middle East and one in South America.

We added to our existing network of field presences with the opening of the new UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region in Qatar; a Regional Office for South America in Santiago de Chile (upgrading of a former liaison office); and a new Regional Office for Europe, in Brussels, which became operational in late 2009. An agreement with the Government of Mauritania was signed in September 2009 to establish a country office that will become operational in 2010.

In Geneva, in a busy year at the inter-governmental level, we lent our support to the effort to find a consensus among countries on one of the great human rights issues of our age: racial discrimination. The Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in April, showed that it is possible for States to come together and debate and agree to steps to tackle an issue that undermines the rights of people in every country in the world. After a lengthy and at times tense preparatory process, 182 States agreed on a common document, called the Outcome Document, enshrining a common aspiration: to defy intolerance in all its manifestations and work to stamp it out. Discrimination was also the theme of a global public information campaign that I launched in South Africa on Human Rights Day in December under the slogan “Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination.”

Finally, 2009 also saw considerable effort applied to the preparation of the Office’s principal planning document for the new biennium: the High Commissioner’s Strategic Management Plan (SMP) 2010-2011. The new SMP, which builds on the biennial programme of work approved by the General Assembly in December 2008, reflects my determination for the Office to develop a

sharper strategic focus and a better definition of those areas where we expect to see measurable progress being made by the end of the biennium. For planning purposes we have selected six thematic priorities on which we will concentrate our efforts going forward. Of these, one relates to strengthening the effectiveness of the wider human rights system, especially the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review mechanism; the remaining five reflect age-old human rights challenges – impunity, discrimination, conflict and poverty – as well as one more contemporary, emerging challenge, that is posed by unprecedented levels of migration in a globalized world. These thematic priorities have been integrated into the work of all parts of the Office – from the field to headquarters. They will help us to better organize our interventions and better measure our impact.

In closing, allow me to thank all those who have contributed to our work over the past year and continue to support us in our current efforts. In this I include, of course, our staff, partners within the United Nations system, Member States, national human rights institutions and civil society. Our appreciation goes in particular to our donors – new and old, large and small – without whose voluntary contributions only a fraction of the work presented here would have been possible. It was a considerable relief that last year, with the world economic crisis at its height, donors were able to maintain their funding for our work. We count on continued support in this new biennium, as we work to identify and develop potential new sources of funding to reinforce the support provided by our regular donors.



Navanethem Pillay
High Commissioner

April 2010

Summary of Results

Key initiatives in 2009

After several years of rapid growth in staffing and spending, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) focused in 2009 on consolidating its programmes at Headquarters and in the field. Particular emphasis was given to strengthening linkages between work in Geneva, including support for setting international human rights standards and monitoring compliance, and the protection and technical cooperation work by human rights officers in the 55 field presences where OHCHR is active.

Further steps were taken toward completion of a planned global network of regional offices with the establishment of the new Regional Office for Europe in Brussels and a UN Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region in Qatar. A former regional liaison office in Santiago, Chile, was upgraded to become a Regional Office for South America. By the end of 2009, OHCHR had in place 12 regional offices or centres, ten country or stand-alone offices and 17 human rights advisers in UN Country Teams, and supported the human rights components of 16 UN peace missions. Discussions continued regarding establishment of a Regional Office for North Africa. A new country office is expected to open in Mauritania in 2010, following an agreement signed in September 2009 with the Government.

In response to emerging human rights crises or situations of urgent concern, the Office fielded teams of experts to Gabon, Honduras, Iraq, Madagascar and the occupied Palestinian territory, and provided staff to support the International Commission of Inquiry into events in Guinea and the Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. In an effort to further strengthen the Office's capacity to dispatch personnel to the field at short notice, the Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Section, which has a full-time staff of 14, maintained an internal roster of 75 OHCHR human rights officers available for field deployment.

At the inter-governmental level, the Office continued to provide support to the Human Rights Council, including the Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, under which the human rights

situation in all 192 UN Member States is reviewed on a rolling basis. With the end of the first cycle of reviews approaching in 2012, the focus is shifting to implementation of recommendations, an area where OHCHR stands ready to assist and is already active. OHCHR also provided support to the April 2009 Durban Review Conference, tasked with assessing implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action agreed at the 2001 World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. OHCHR support and the High Commissioner's personal efforts to identify lines of agreement contributed to an Outcome Document supported by 182 countries that commits both States and the United Nations to further steps to combat racism.

Public Information impact continued to grow. Broadcast, online and print media published more of the High Commissioner's statements and speeches. Human Rights Day on 10 December 2009 began a year-long special focus on discrimination under the slogan "Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination." An extensive assessment of the website resulted in development of a plan for the next biennium that will better align OHCHR's Web operations with organizational objectives.

A major management challenge in 2009 was the preparation of the Office's Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for 2010-2011. The SMP builds on Programme 19 of the Secretary-General's Strategic Framework for 2010-2011, approved by the General Assembly in December 2008, and sets out accomplishments the Office expects to achieve over these two years, the strategies proposed to achieve them, and the indicators by which progress can be measured. This was the first such planning process conducted under the leadership of High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay, and staff across the Office contributed to the final document. In addition to an improved system for monitoring performance and results, the new SMP features a sharper focus on six thematic priorities. In a further effort to strengthen managerial capacity, in 2009 the Office initiated an Organizational Effectiveness Programme, which will seek to clarify how different parts of the Office can best contribute to the achievement of Office-wide goals and improve working practices.



High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay at a press conference.

The chapters that follow set out the activities carried out during 2009 and associated results, arranged in accordance with OHCHR's organizational structure, by division, field presence or other organizational unit. In addition to monitoring results at the level of activity, the Office also is committed to measuring progress made toward the Office-wide expected accomplishments set out in its Strategic Management Plan. For 2008-2009, nine expected accomplishments were identified, each intended to highlight the kind of changes the Office seeks to bring about through its collective efforts both at Headquarters and in the field. The sections below provide a summary of progress toward each of these expected accomplishments, with additional data contained in the logframe in Annex II (pages 224-227).

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 1:
INCREASED COMPLIANCE OF
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, LAWS AND
PROGRAMMES WITH INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS.**

Technical advice provided to governments and legislatures helped inform the content of some 61 new human rights-related laws or legislative amendments adopted in 38 countries in 2009. Examples include a new law in Colombia making it easier to trace and identify victims of enforced disappearance; the withdrawal, in Rwanda, of a proposal that would have criminalized homosexuality; revisions to the Children's Act in Uganda; criminal justice reform in Georgia; anti-discrimination legislation in Albania and the Republic of Moldova; legislation on domestic violence in Kazakhstan; a new penal code in Timor-Leste; a law strengthening protection of women's rights in Afghanistan; and a new Constitution and legislation on transitional justice in Nepal. In addition, OHCHR's advice helped shape

many draft laws still under review, including bills on violence against women in Guatemala, El Salvador and Sudan; mental health in Uganda; rights of persons with disabilities in Sierra Leone; witness protection in Argentina; establishment of a torture prevention body in Lebanon (a national preventive mechanism in the context of implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture); and crimes committed in the name of "honour" in the occupied Palestinian territory. OHCHR also initiated an agreement with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces to strengthen human rights protection through improved procedures, development of a code of conduct and a training programme.

The Office's input was also visible in a series of policy announcements and Ministerial decisions executed by governments in 2009, including policies on housing, the homeless and the health of prisoners in Cambodia; a new National Disability Policy in Papua New Guinea; a new strategy for addressing the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kenya; a presidential decree in Djibouti on reporting to treaty bodies; and the adoption, by Ministerial decree, of a unified contract for migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. Expert legal advice provided by OHCHR staff also helped courts in their application of human rights principles. In Guatemala, for example, the Office's submission of an *amicus curiae* brief in 2008 contributed to a Supreme Court decision on enforced disappearances, opening the way for the first convictions in 2009 of military personnel for disappearances in the context of the 1980s conflict.

The Office's efforts to support the establishment and strengthen the independence and capacity of national human rights institutions continued to show results in 2009. A law was approved in Bahrain to establish a national human rights institution, and other legislation

relating to the work of national human rights institutions was adopted in Bangladesh, Chile, Nauru, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. In Iraq, following the adoption of legislation on a national human rights commission in late 2008, OHCHR lent guidance to the United Nations Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in its efforts to assist the establishment of an expert committee tasked with selecting commissioners for this new body. During 2009, OHCHR provided training or supported training activities organized by partner organizations to develop the capacity of national human rights institutions in some 56 countries. By the end of the year, 65 national human rights institutions had been awarded 'A'-status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (one more than at the end of 2008); 16 had 'B'-status (three more than in 2008); and nine had 'C'-status (one more than in 2008).

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 2:
INCREASED COMPLIANCE AND
ENGAGEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS WITH
UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND
MECHANISMS (I.E. TREATY BODIES,
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,
SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
MECHANISM).**

The year 2009 saw a high level of activity and engagement on the part of the special procedures mandate-holders — the independent experts appointed by the Human Rights Council to investigate and report on human rights problems. Overall, mandate-holders undertook 73 fact-finding missions to 51 countries (up from 53 missions to 48 countries in 2008). Reflecting the extent of cooperation of States with special procedures, 66 countries issued standing invitations to special procedures mandate-holders in 2009, three more than in 2008. Seventy States received one or more requests to allow visits by mandate-holders, of which 58 responded positively to at least one such request. About a third of all communications sent by mandate-holders to governments, drawing their attention to specific allegations of human rights violations, elicited a response (a similar rate of response as in recent years).

OHCHR-supported treaty bodies held 20 sessions in Geneva and New York in 2009, amounting to 64 weeks of meetings, with each session lasting one to four weeks. A total of 103 State reports were reviewed in Plenary and in Working Groups, where relevant. It was necessary for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to hold

one of its sessions in two chambers, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination extended one of its sessions by a week to address the backlog of reports awaiting review. Reflecting greater recognition of the need to give more priority to follow-up and implementation of recommendations of treaty bodies, four treaty bodies have developed specific follow-up procedures for their concluding observations. Under procedures now in use by the Committee against Torture (CAT), for example, 25 countries were expected to submit information in 2009 on steps taken in follow-up to earlier recommendations; ten did so.

OHCHR supported 24 weeks of meetings of the Human Rights Council, including regular and special sessions and organizational meetings and meetings of the Council's subsidiary bodies, including the UPR. Since its inception, the UPR has seen 100 per cent participation of States to be reviewed, with 48 countries reviewed in 2009. 16 countries received financial assistance from the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, and OHCHR organized seven regional training sessions to inform States and other stakeholders about the UPR and facilitate the preparation of national reports.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 3:
INCREASED RATIFICATION OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTRUMENTS AND REVIEW OF
RESERVATIONS.**

Eighty-seven new ratifications of international human rights treaties were recorded in 2009, compared with 100 in 2008 and 63 in 2007. Nine countries removed one or more reservations. Of particular note: Since its opening for signature in September 2009, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has already been signed by 31 countries; this is the first international treaty to provide a comprehensive framework for individuals to lodge complaints of violations in the field of economic, social and cultural rights.

Further to OHCHR's efforts to achieve universal ratification, to date 99 per cent of all Member States have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child; more than 95 per cent have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and, with a few notable exceptions, among them the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

and Members of their Families, ratification of most other existing conventions is running at between 70 and 80 per cent. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force less than two years ago, had been ratified by 76 States by the end of 2009, with nine States doing so in 2009 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Latvia, Maldives, Mauritius, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Zambia).

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 4:
JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MECHANISMS ESTABLISHED AND
FUNCTIONING IN ACCORDANCE WITH
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
STANDARDS TO MONITOR,
INVESTIGATE AND REDRESS CIVIL,
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS.**

Some 42 countries where OHCHR has been actively engaged have established special commissions, judicial mechanisms and taken other initiatives to monitor, investigate and provide redress for human rights violations. OHCHR has worked toward ensuring that such mechanisms meet international standards, wherever relevant providing advice and technical assistance, highlighting shortcomings, sharing lessons learned and best practice and proposing improvements. Examples include, in Togo, the national consultative process on transitional justice, which OHCHR facilitated, and establishment of a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; a Commission on declassification of military archives in Guatemala; a report into the Pando massacre in Bolivia; and a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the causes and consequences of post-election demonstrations in the Republic of Moldova.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 5:
MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE
ACCESS OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS
AND THOSE SUFFERING
DISCRIMINATION, PARTICULARLY
WOMEN, TO JUSTICE AND BASIC
SERVICES AND TO ALLOW THEIR
PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING
AND MONITORING PROCESSES AND
ENSURE THEIR ACCESS TO JUSTICE
AND TO BASIC SERVICES.**

The most marginalized in society and those suffering discrimination, especially women, tend to be excluded from decision-making and denied equal access to justice as well as to basic services, such as health and

education. Helping redress these injustices is a priority that runs through much of the work carried out by OHCHR, including at country level. In 2009, 44 countries where OHCHR was engaged introduced measures to this end, with the Office typically supporting the process by providing technical advice and training. Examples include measures to provide legal assistance for the poor and women and to encourage participation of women in elections in Togo; legal aid for Makeni in Sierra Leone; the creation of child and family protection units in the Karamoja region of Uganda; protection of human rights defenders in Cambodia; strategic litigation on indigenous rights in Guatemala; school enrollment of Batwa and stateless children in Burundi; the approval for the first time by a court in the Republic of Moldova of a protection order for a victim of domestic violence; and promotion of the right to adequate housing in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 6:
INCREASED NUMBER AND DIVERSITY
OF RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND NATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
ACTING ON THEIR BEHALF THAT MAKE
USE OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES
AND MECHANISMS.**

The heavy flow of documentation submitted to treaty bodies, special procedures mandate-holders and the Human Rights Council, including in the context of the UPR, provides an important indication of the use being made of UN human rights bodies and mechanisms by national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individual rights-holders. In 2009 OHCHR dedicated significant effort, in Geneva and in the field, to assist both national human rights institutions and civil society — including through training, dissemination of information materials, and on-site assistance at key inter-governmental meetings — to engage more effectively with the UN human rights system.

Correspondence addressed to treaty bodies in 2009 increased by 10 per cent over 2008, with 9,900 pieces of correspondence received, of which 110 were considered admissible individual complaints. Meanwhile, correspondence to special procedures from national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and individuals increased by almost a quarter — from 1,397 pieces of correspondence in 2008 to 1,725.

Submissions by NGOs and national human rights institutions to the Human Rights Council also rose.

NGOs with consultative status to the Economic and Social Council submitted 252 documents during regular and special sessions of the Council in 2009 (compared with 200 in 2008); national human rights institutions submitted 27 (compared with 11 in 2008). However, complaints registered through the confidential complaint mechanism were down: The mechanism registered 1,479 communications from individuals in 2009 (compared with 3,169 in 2008), and 19 communications from NGOs (compared with 91 in 2008). As in past years, most registered complaints by individuals were in the form of mass communications.

In the context of the UPR, 811 submissions were received from civil society organizations (up from 654 in 2008) and 14 from national human rights institutions (compared with 16 in 2008). A total of 13 submissions also were received from regional organizations and 39 from other UN entities.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 7:
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
INCREASINGLY AWARE, ALERT AND
RESPONSIVE TO CRITICAL HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND ISSUES.**

In addition to four special sessions on urgent human rights issues in 2009, the Human Rights Council held seven special events, discussions and/or panels focusing on the rights of persons with disabilities; the right to food; rights of the child; women's rights; human rights and climate change; human rights of migrants in detention centres; and integration of a gender perspective into the work of the Council. In addition, a large number of side events took place during the Durban Review Conference in April, many jointly organized by OHCHR and other UN partners, including on HIV-related discrimination, extreme poverty and human rights, migration, and work-related discrimination.

OHCHR continued to work to instill a human rights perspective at various events organized by inter-governmental bodies, including the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, as well as a joint OHCHR/Africa Union/Economic Commission for Africa meeting on the African Peer Review Mechanism. The Office also participated in the development of the Comprehensive Framework for Action by the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

Among dozens of initiatives in the field, OHCHR worked with the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Children's Fund

(UNICEF), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Resident Coordinator's Office in Kenya to develop materials to raise awareness of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In South Africa, joint efforts involving OHCHR, UN partners and the South African authorities contributed to a highly visible series of events marking Human Rights Day. The Office also worked with national authorities and civil society in Nicaragua to promote international human rights treaties, and in Papua New Guinea to promote human rights activism. It worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) to support a human rights film festival in Jerusalem and with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the occupied Palestinian territory to help organize a human rights poster competition that attracted widespread interest. OHCHR also trained troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on human rights, as well as members of the UN Country Team in Lebanon, on applying a human rights-based approach in their respective areas of work. It provided technical assistance and training to the League of Arab States and the newly created Arab Human Rights Committee.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 8:
INCREASED INTEGRATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES,
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO
DEVELOPMENT, INTO UN SYSTEM
POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES WITH
RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT,
HUMANITARIAN ACTION, PEACE AND
SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL ISSUES.**

Sixteen major policy documents, position statements and UN guidelines integrating human rights concerns were adopted by other UN and multilateral development agencies (compared with ten in 2008). Highlights included the adoption of system-wide guidance on democracy assistance, with an explicit basis in international human rights norms; system-wide endorsement of an OHCHR Guidance Note on Transitional Justice; adoption of new Integrated United Nations Standards on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, in which human rights are fully integrated; and adoption of human rights-sensitive guidelines on strategic assessment and planning for integrated missions. OHCHR input also helped ensure a human rights perspective was included in many other key publications, speeches, statements and briefing notes in 2009, including statements by the Secretary-General and progress reports and press releases prepared by other multilateral agencies.

UN Country Teams in nine rollout countries for the Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) included references to relevant recommendations of UN human rights bodies and mechanisms in their CCA/UNDAFs (compared with seven UN Country Teams that did so in 2008). Moreover, input from OHCHR contributed to human rights activities being included in programming documents and specific projects implemented by UN partners in 51 countries — 20 in Africa, ten in Asia and the Pacific, nine in the Americas, seven in Europe and Central Asia and five in the Middle East and North Africa.

In November, on the High Commissioner's behalf the Deputy High Commissioner addressed the Security Council on the issue of protection of civilians, emphasizing the importance of recognizing that many peace and security challenges contain an important human rights dimension. OHCHR continued to support the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs in day-to-day planning, recruitment and implementation with respect to integrated peace missions, ensuring the human rights components of these missions were adequately staffed, funded and supported with necessary training and guidance materials. OHCHR and the Department of Political Affairs also undertook a joint review to assess and enhance the integration of human rights in missions led by the Department.

Through its role as one of the principal protection actors in humanitarian action, OHCHR integrated human rights in Humanitarian Country Teams' overall preparedness and response efforts. In particular, OHCHR played a lead role in some ten field Protection Clusters, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Fiji, Haiti, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Timor-Leste. OHCHR field offices also mainstreamed human rights considerations and a human rights-based approach in Common Humanitarian Action Plans and Consolidated Appeal Processes (CHAP/CAP), and in 2009 presented human rights projects in CHAP/CAPs issued for Nepal, the occupied Palestinian territory and Uganda.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT 9:
ENHANCED COHERENCE AND
CONSISTENCY OF UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND
MECHANISMS.**

The UPR provides an opportunity to bring together all relevant recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures as they apply to each State under



Marching to mark International Human Rights Day in Kathmandu, Nepal.

review and to represent them in a coherent way to the State concerned. In 2009 OHCHR continued to work to ensure that all relevant recommendations were included in supporting documentation; between 30 and 40 per cent of these recommendations were referred to by members and observers of the Human Rights Council in their interventions during UPR sessions. It also was noted that a number of States coming up for review moved to act on overdue reports to treaty bodies, and several issued invitations to mandate-holders to visit and address issues of concern.

Further progress was made toward encouraging more coherence and harmonization in the working methods of treaty bodies, with nine countries submitting common core documents in 2009, compared with five in 2008 and four in 2007. All countries concerned were considered to have satisfied the guidelines. One further treaty body adopted treaty-specific guidelines and the Inter-Committee Meeting agreed on a revised format, including the establishment of a working group on follow-up. An effort to review current practices and develop new proposals to strengthen the treaty body system gained traction in 2009, with several meetings held or planned with OHCHR participation.

Several special procedures mandate-holders worked closely with treaty bodies to ensure that references to their recommendations were included in treaty bodies' concluding observations wherever appropriate. Similarly, OHCHR supported special procedures to integrate the outcomes of treaty bodies and the UPR into their work. The Special Procedures Coordination Committee continued to encourage greater coordination among special procedures mandate-holders. Mandate-holders also sent 689 communications to 119 States in 2009 — two-thirds as joint communications involving more than one mandate. Of the 223 press releases and public statements issued by mandate-holders in 2009, some 14 per cent were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

Donor Support Holds Steady in Spite of the Financial Crisis

Once again in 2009, OHCHR relied on voluntary contributions from donors to provide almost two-thirds of the funds needed to implement its programme of work. In spite of the global economic and financial crises and subsequent global recession, which created mounting budgetary pressures for most donor countries, donors broadly maintained the level of their support for OHCHR at 2008 levels —providing US\$118.1 million (compared with US\$119.9 million in 2008), of which 56 per cent was unearmarked (compared with 54 per cent in 2008).

While in U.S. dollars the total value of contributions was 1.5 per cent below the 2008 peak, contributions from Member States actually increased slightly. Measured not in

dollars but in donors' own currencies, contributions rose relatively strongly — up by more than 5 per cent over the 2008 level — although the increase was masked by the strength of the dollar. This was especially notable during the first half of 2009, when most contributions were registered. However, a steep drop occurred in the number of Member States making a contribution, from 83 to 69; many newer or irregular donors, some of whom contributed for the first time in 2008 after a special appeal for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declined to renew their support in 2009.

While these results demonstrate the overall strength and durability of donor support for the UN human

rights programme, the Office remains concerned about the sustainability of current levels of funding in 2010 and 2011, when the impact of public spending cuts on aid budgets of a number of major donors is expected to deepen. With the economic downturn and a food and energy crisis endangering the livelihoods and rights of hundreds of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable, there could be no worse time for the United Nations to scale back its activities in the field of human rights. Against this backdrop, OHCHR appeals to all Member States and the wider donor community to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to allow the Office to continue its work undiminished.





OHCHR 2009 Report



About OHCHR

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity. Ideals that began in ancient philosophical thought are now enshrined in international human rights law. The United Nations human rights programme aims to make the protection of human rights law a reality in the lives of people everywhere. In so doing, the Office plays a crucial role in safeguarding the integrity of the three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, human rights, and development. As part of the United Nations Secretariat, OHCHR has its headquarters in Geneva, a presence in New York, and staff in regional and country offices, United Nations peace missions and UN Country Teams in more than 50 countries.

Mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

General Assembly resolution 48/141 charges the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with “principal responsibility” for human rights in the United Nations, with the mandate:

- To promote and protect all human rights for all
- To recommend to bodies of the United Nations system the improved promotion and protection of all human rights
- To promote and protect the right to development
- To provide technical assistance for human rights activities
- To coordinate United Nations human rights education and public information programmes
- To actively work to remove obstacles to the realization of human rights
- To actively work to prevent the continuation of human rights violations
- To engage in dialogue with governments, with the aim of securing respect for all human rights
- To enhance international cooperation
- To coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system
- To rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the UN human rights machinery

Method

The Office's work encompasses three broad areas: human rights standard-setting, monitoring and implementation. Substantive as well as secretariat support are provided to the various UN human rights bodies as they undertake their standard-setting and monitoring duties. Ongoing knowledge and awareness of all five categories of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – are developed with research and analysis. Experts also are deployed to field offices and other types of missions, including in circumstances of crisis, to help countries meet their human rights obligations.

Supporting the bodies and mechanisms

The Human Rights Council, comprising representatives of 47 Member States of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly for fixed terms, is given substantive and technical support by the Office in all its work, including its regular and special sessions, organizational meetings, and meetings of its subsidiary bodies. Stakeholder meetings with, for instance, civil society representatives, special events, discussions and expert panels also are organized by the High Commissioner's Office.

Staff also support the functioning of the new cooperative mechanism, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which between its first session in April 2008 and its sixth in December 2009 reviewed the human rights situation in half – i.e., 96 – Member States of the United Nations. The Office organized numerous trainings and briefings on the new mechanism around the globe to inform States and other stakeholders about the UPR and facilitate preparation of reports.

The High Commissioner's Office gives substantive and operational support to the group of independent human rights experts known as special procedures, who are appointed by the Council, with their country visits, investigations and reports.

The Office also provides similar expert support to nine committees, the treaty bodies, which meet regularly to monitor countries' efforts to meet the requirements of the international human rights treaties they have signed. Some of these committees,

History of the UN Human Rights Programme

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

three pillars of the organization's role—peace and security, development and human rights.

The growth in UN human rights activities reflects the increasing strength of the international human rights movement since the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. Drafted as “a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations,” the Declaration sets out basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy. Over time, this unprecedented affirmation of human rights has become widely accepted as the standard to which all governments should adhere. Indeed, 10 December is observed worldwide as International Human Rights Day. The Declaration, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two optional protocols, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, form the “International Bill of Human Rights.”

As international human rights law developed, a number of UN human

rights bodies were established to respond to evolving human rights challenges. These bodies, which rely on the High Commissioner's Office for substantive and secretariat support, can be either Charter-based (political bodies composed of states' representatives, with mandates established by the UN Charter) or treaty-based (committees composed of independent experts, established by international human rights treaties and mandated to monitor States Parties' compliance with their treaty obligations). The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which was established in 1946 and reported to the Economic and Social Council, was the key United Nations inter-governmental body responsible for human rights until it was replaced by the Human Rights Council in 2006. In addition to assuming the mandates and responsibilities previously entrusted to the Commission, the Council reports and recommends to the General Assembly ways of further developing international human rights law. Two years after its first session the Council operationalized the newest international human rights mechanism, the Universal Periodic Review.

such as the Human Rights Committee, which monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also consider individual complaints against violations of treaty provisions. These decisions help to build the body of jurisprudence on international human rights law.

Developing human rights knowledge and awareness

The Office works to ensure the integration of the human rights perspective into development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance and rule of law programmes in the United Nations system. It aims for an approach based on respect for all human rights of individuals and is particularly protective of those who have been the victims of human rights violations or are most vulnerable to

violations. The work ranges from mapping emerging trends in human rights, to addressing problems and documenting good practices, to developing tools and learning packages – all with a mix of internal and external expertise. Support and outreach to multiple stakeholder groups, including individual rights holders, civil society, national and regional human rights institutions, and UN Member States, is an integral part of the Office's approach to implementing the High Commissioner's mandate.

Working in countries

By the end of 2009, OHCHR was running or supporting 55 field presences, with an additional five planned for the biennium 2010-2011. Presence in-country is essential for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights

challenges in close collaboration with governments and the United Nations system. It can involve training police, soldiers and judges or helping draft new national laws that are in line with international human rights standards. In many countries, the High Commissioner's Office also works with human rights institutions, with academic and research institutions and with civil society – charities, advocacy groups and other social justice organizations not linked to government – to strengthen their effectiveness. Staff also are deployed to rapidly developing humanitarian or other crises and to support fact-finding missions or commissions of inquiry into serious human rights abuses.

Staff

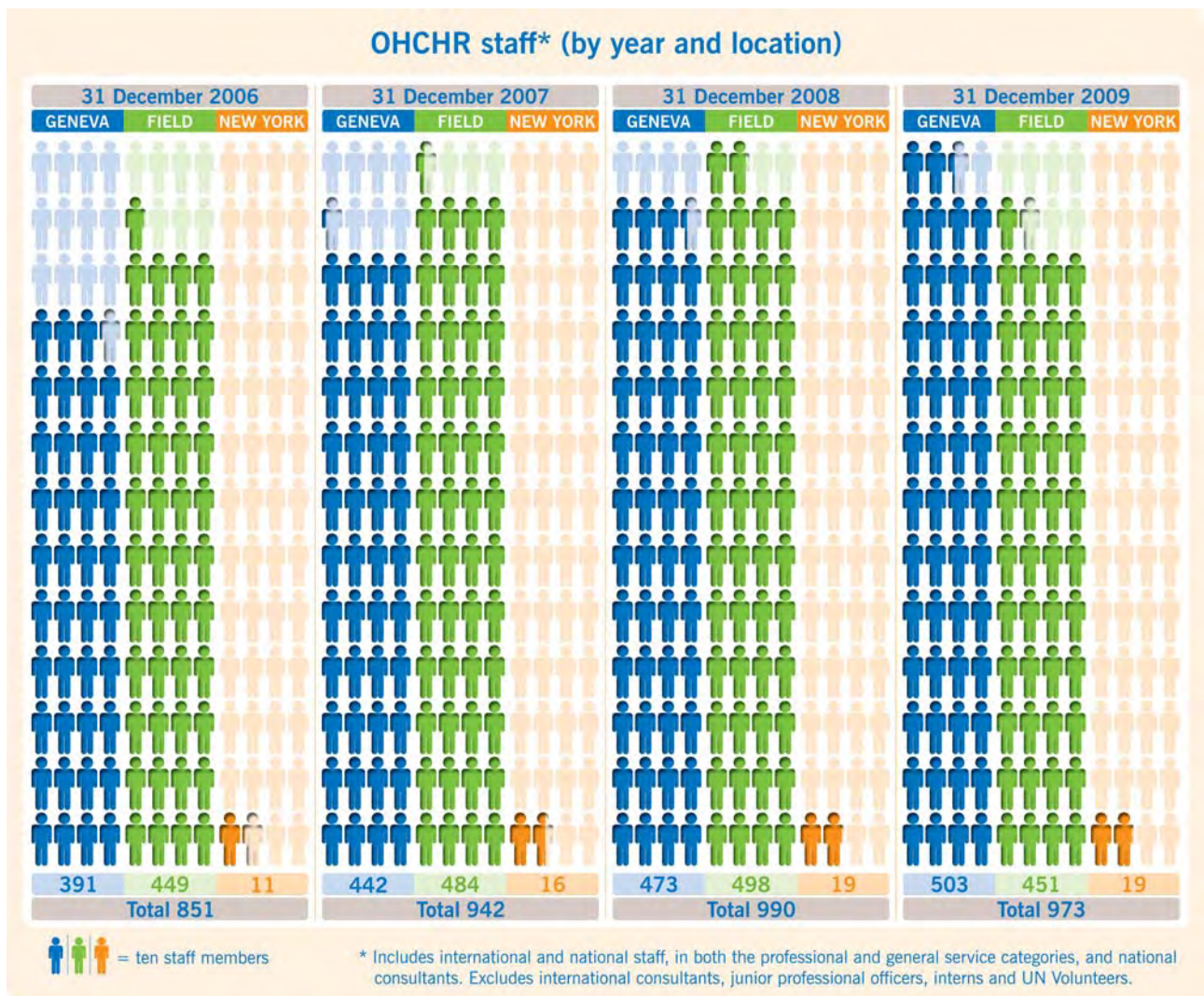
To implement its comprehensive mandate, the High Commissioner's Office as of 31 December employed 973 staff, of whom 451 (46 per cent) were based in the field, 503 (52 per cent) in Geneva, and

19 (2 per cent) in New York. It also supported human rights officers serving in 16 UN peace missions and 17 human rights advisers in UN Country Teams in the field.

Structure

In addition to its headquarters in Geneva, the organization has an office at UN Headquarters in New York and, as of 31 December, at 12 regional offices or centres as well as ten country or stand-alone offices (see map on pages 20-21). The Office also supports human rights components of UN peace missions and deploys human rights advisers to work with and advise UN Country Teams.

Following an internal restructuring exercise, effective 1 January 2010, OHCHR has four substantive divisions: (1) the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division, which provides substantive secretariat support to the Human Rights Council, the





OHCHR Headquarters, Geneva.

Council's Universal Periodic Review process and the Council's independent experts assigned different thematic or country-specific mandates; (2) the Human Rights Treaties Division, which supports the work of treaty bodies and various working groups; (3) the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, responsible for overseeing and implementing the Office's work in the field; and (4) the Research and Right to Development Division, which carries out thematic research on human rights issues and provides expert advice. Core administrative, planning, coordination and outreach functions are handled separately by dedicated sections reporting directly to the Deputy High Commissioner. In December 2009, the General Assembly approved the upgrading of head of the New York office to Assistant Secretary-General. For a current organization chart, please refer to page 223.

How OHCHR Is Funded

OHCHR is funded from the United Nations regular budget, which provides slightly more than one-third of resources required to implement the Office's

programme of work, and from voluntary contributions from donors, mainly Member States. Recent years have seen strong growth in the amount OHCHR receives, both from the regular budget and as voluntary contributions. Regular budget resources have grown by 78 per cent since the 2004-2005 biennium. Voluntary contributions have risen faster still: from US\$120.8 million in the 2004-2005 biennium to US\$238.0 million in 2008-2009. Meanwhile the proportion of contributions provided free of earmarking rose from 22.8 per cent in 2004-2005 to 55 per cent in 2008-2009.

Please refer to pages 188-199 for more information on who funds OHCHR, key trends and challenges, and to pages 200-219 for profiles of all institutional donors in 2009.

How OHCHR Spends Its Budget

Total expenditures, including expenditures under both the regular budget and extra-budgetary spending, edged up slightly in 2009 to US\$158.8 million (compared to US\$158.3 million in 2008). The increase followed several years of strong growth in spending, as the Office sought to push forward its plans for an expanded, more operational human rights programme that is more active at country level.

Excluding expenditures associated with three grant-making humanitarian funds administered by the High Commissioner's Office, around 50 per cent of the Office's total expenditure in 2009 was devoted to fieldwork, principally capacity development projects and human rights monitoring, and was financed mostly through voluntary contributions. About 14.5 per cent was spent on thematic research and human rights mainstreaming, 14.2 per cent on supporting the human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its various subsidiary bodies, and 7.5 per cent on support to the Council's special procedures mandate-holders. The remainder was devoted to programme support (4.5 per cent) and to executive direction and management, fundraising and outreach activities (9 per cent).

Financial accounts for the year to 31 December, as well as additional information on the breakdown of expenditures and allocation of voluntary contributions, can be found in Section IV, pages 179-185.

OHCHR at a glance





Countries covered from Regional Offices:

Africa

- East Africa - from Addis Ababa
- Southern Africa - from Pretoria
- Central Africa - from Yaoundé: Sub-regional centre on human rights and democracy
- West Africa - from Dakar

Americas

- Central America - from Panama
- South America - from Santiago de Chile

Asia-Pacific

- Southeast Asia - from Bangkok
- Pacific - from Suva

Europe and Central Asia

- Europe - from Brussels
- Central Asia - from Bishkek

Middle East and North Africa

- Middle East - from Beirut

Staff numbers are as of 31 December 2009. Map only refers to No. of staff at headquarters, New York office, regional and country offices. Number of staff working with human rights advisers and human rights officers serving in the human rights components of UN peace missions are not indicated.

Support for the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures

This chapter describes and assesses the results of OHCHR's work in support of the UN Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, amongst them the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (UPR), and human rights special procedures—independent experts appointed by the Council to investigate and report on thematic and country-specific human rights concerns. The Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division plays a major role in the Office's work in both areas, in collaboration with the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation, Research and Right to Development, and Human Rights Treaty Bodies Divisions.

Human Rights Council

Context

The Human Rights Council, which replaced the former Commission on Human Rights in 2006, is an inter-governmental body comprising 47 States responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It holds three regular sessions a year and may hold special sessions as needed to address specific human rights issues or situations of concern; four special sessions were held in 2009. Also during 2009, the Council's subsidiary bodies and mechanisms held regular sessions, including the Working Group on the UPR; the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, which provides expertise and advice to the Council through substantive research and studies on thematic issues; and the Working Groups on Situations and on Communications, the Council's complaint procedure. OHCHR provides substantive and technical support to the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

The UPR, through which the Council periodically reviews the fulfilment of human rights obligations by all Member States, meets three times a year; its 2009 sessions, each 10 working days, took place in February, May and December. A total of 48 countries were reviewed by the Working Group, 16 at each of

the three sessions. The review consists of an interactive dialogue between the Council and the State under review, with the outcome considered and adopted by the Council in the following plenary session. By the completion of its sixth session in December 2009, the Working Group had reviewed the human rights situation in 96 countries – half of the Member States – since the process was initiated in April 2008. Remaining States are scheduled to be

Universal Periodic Review

- The UPR, established in 2006, is a cooperative mechanism reminding all Member States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Its ultimate aim is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur.
- Between the first session in April 2008 and the sixth session in December 2009, half of all UN Member States — i.e., 96 countries — were reviewed under the UPR.
- The UPR has seen 100 per cent participation of States to be reviewed.
- In 2009 a total of 16 countries received financial assistance under the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR. These included Senegal, Djibouti, Mauritius, Chad, Yemen, Central African Republic, Belize, Vanuatu, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Costa Rica, Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Cambodia and Dominican Republic.
- More than 420 documents have been produced in the framework of UPR since the first session in April 2008.
- A substantial number of recommendations have been made during the first two years of the Working Group, some of which were accepted by the State under review, some rejected, and some, according to the State concerned, already implemented. States are expected to act on recommendations and report thereon under the next cycle of UPR reviews, scheduled to begin in 2012.
- Seven pre-session regional briefings were organized for States to be reviewed in 2008-2009.

reviewed by the end of 2011, after which the process will recommence with a second cycle of reviews.

Activities

- ▶ Provided substantive and technical support to more than 24 weeks of meetings of the Council, including regular and special sessions and organizational meetings, as well as meetings of the Council's subsidiary bodies, including the UPR.
- ▶ Contributed to the successful high-level segment of the Council at its tenth regular session in March, in which some 66 dignitaries took part, and facilitated high-level visits of a further nine dignitaries during the June and September sessions.
- ▶ Supported four special sessions: on violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in the occupied Gaza Strip (January); on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka (May); on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and East Jerusalem (October); and on the impact of the global economic and financial crises on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights (February), at a second thematic Special Session.
- ▶ Briefed Member States in Geneva on the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council in advance of each of the three regular sessions.
- ▶ Provided support and advice to the President of the Council and the Bureau, both in-session and between sessions, at 13 Bureau meetings.
- ▶ Together with the Civil Society Section, organized and facilitated 16 meetings with stakeholders, including civil society. This included meetings amongst the President, the Bureau, the Secretary of the Human Rights Council and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- ▶ Supported seven special events, discussions and panels on the rights of persons with disabilities, the right to food, rights of the child, women's rights, rights of migrants in detention centres, human rights and climate change, and integration of a gender perspective in the Council's work.
- ▶ Supported the two annual sessions of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, in January and August, and supported the complaint procedure of the Council and its Working Groups on Situations and on Communications, which held two sessions each in 2009.



Human Rights Council in session, October 2009.

- ▶ Facilitated the presentation of new reports by all special procedures mandate-holders and the holding of interactive dialogues with the mandate-holders, as well as consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner at Council sessions.
- ▶ Supported three sessions of the UPR Working Group, which met for 30 working days in 2009 and reviewed 48 countries. OHCHR's contribution included preparing two ten-page reports for each review, one on findings and recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures as well as on information from other UN sources, and the other summarizing information from stakeholders, including NGOs. The Office assisted in the preparation, within 48 hours, of a report on each Working Group review session. It prepared summaries, integrated into each Council session report, on consideration of review outcomes in the Council plenary.
- ▶ Organized seven regional training sessions, in Panama City, Bishkek, Dakar, Addis Ababa, Beirut, Brussels and Bangkok, to inform States and other stakeholders about the UPR and facilitate the preparation of national reports. Organized two briefings in New York and three pre-session briefings in Geneva for Member States, providing countries to be reviewed in 2009 with technical information on the UPR process. Under the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR Mechanism, OHCHR financially supported 16 developing countries to facilitate participation in UPR proceedings.
- ▶ Introduced innovative outreach tools (detailed below) to sessions of the Human Rights Council and UPR Working Group.



President of the Human Rights Council, Mr. Alex Van Meeuwen, speaks to the High Commissioner during a session of the Human Rights Council.

Results

- ▶ Dedicated organizational and substantive input ensured that the UPR Working Group continued its work successfully. Through regional training sessions, information briefings and financial assistance, OHCHR also ensured that all States reviewed in the second year of the first four-year UPR cycle were represented in Geneva and could meaningfully participate in the review.
- ▶ More use was made of a variety of communication tools to disseminate information relating to the work of the Council. Steps were taken to improve the availability of information via the extranet, which serves as a valuable portal for delegations and other participants, providing easy access to up-to-the-minute information on the Council's work. In addition to regularly posting oral statements made during the sessions and other relevant information on the extranet, OHCHR launched an SMS alert service and Twitter account, where last-minute changes to the Council's work programme could be communicated in real time. The Office also produced and circulated a briefing kit for the benefit of newcomers to the Human Rights Council, which contained basic information on the Council, its mandate, mechanisms and membership. In addition, it introduced a visual directory of the Secretariat, containing contact information of Secretariat staff and practical information, including how to table resolutions, inscribe on the list of speakers, and book a room. This was created and distributed in hard copy to delegations accredited to the Human Rights Council; it also was available electronically on the extranet. These initiatives resulted in positive feedback from participants in Council sessions, who acknowledged the usefulness of these innovative, contemporary tools.



Promotional material distributed by candidate states prior to the election of new members of the Human Rights Council by the General Assembly, May 2009.

- ▶ OHCHR's commitment to reaching as wide an audience as possible led it to pilot the production of video highlights of the 12th regular session of the Council, which were distributed via the video-sharing website YouTube. This initiative made available to the public an overview of what the Council is, how it operates and some of the issues considered by it, all in a mini-documentary format.
- ▶ During its second cycle (third and fourth sessions), the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

developed and submitted for Council consideration a draft declaration on human rights education. It also approved and submitted to the Council a progress report on best practices in the field of missing persons and a preliminary study on discrimination in the context of the right to food. The Advisory Committee has advanced in drafting a set of guidelines and principles on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, expected to be submitted to the Council at its 15th session.

Country-level Results of the Universal Periodic Review in 2009

While the UPR first cycle is still ongoing and implementation will become more evident as States enter the second cycle in 2012, a number of States have voluntarily started to share information on progress to date. OHCHR is involved in assisting Member States, at their request, to advance implementation of key recommendations. As per Council resolution 5/1, during the second cycle States will be reporting on progress in implementation of recommendations. Examples of steps taken to date include:

Colombia (examined in December 2008)

- Established an inter-institutional mechanism to follow-up on UPR outcomes, voluntary pledges and commitments, as well as the recommendations/outcomes and urgent communications of other UN human rights mechanisms.
- With the assistance of OHCHR, recommendations have been grouped in six clusters and 17 thematic areas to facilitate follow-up.
- Extended invitations to four special procedures mandate-holders to visit the country in 2009.
- In consultation/cooperation with civil society, took steps toward adoption and implementation of a strategy to protect human rights defenders.

Bahrain (examined in April 2008)

- Adopted/initiated implementation of an Action Plan to implement Bahrain's pledges, voluntary commitments and UPR outcomes.
- Established a National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and a National Commission for Human Rights.
- Signed and initiated implementation of a cooperation agreement with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in support of Bahrain's Action Plan, including for the setting up of a national human rights database and information system and strengthening Bahrain's capacities for applying a human rights-based approach to development.

Republic of Korea (examined in May 2008)

- Ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a reservation, in December 2008. Proposed a revision of the domestic law that would, if approved by the National Assembly, facilitate the withdrawal of the reservation.
- Established a procedure whereby implementation of UPR recommendations is monitored by the National Human Rights Policy Council, along with the follow-up to the National Action Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Switzerland (examined in May 2008)

- Engaged in consultations with civil society in relation to UPR outcomes.
- Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in September 2008 and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in September 2009.
- Developed education and awareness raising programmes on gender equality at work and on the fight against racism; in addition human rights have been included in police curricula.

United Kingdom (examined in April 2008)

- Formally removed in November 2008 its final two reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Parliament passed the Child Poverty Act 2010, which enshrines in law a commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.
- Parliament passed the Equality Act 2010, which, *inter alia*, strengthens safeguards against age-based discrimination.
- The Government introduced a new community sentence for under-18 year-olds to reduce incarceration rates of children.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ To respond to numerous requests by States for assistance in formulating their UPR national reports and preparing for the review, OHCHR organized regional training sessions as well as selected briefings for individual States. Regional briefings proved conducive to rich and useful sharing of experiences and best practices amongst participants.
- ▶ Meeting the extensive documentation demands of the Human Rights Council continues to represent a challenge and will require further improvements in the process of document preparation and dissemination.
- ▶ Support clearly exists for contemporary outreach tools; they are functional, add value to the quality of servicing and have been welcomed by Council participants, Member States and NGOs alike. The challenge is to ensure that information is updated promptly and accurately, as well as to continually secure funding.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: OUTCOME OF SESSIONS HELD IN 2009

SESSIONS	OUTCOMES
Tenth session (2-27 March)	<p>The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic, social and cultural rights, including on the right to food. ● The consideration of a new thematic mandate, in the field of cultural rights, and extension of several thematic and country-specific special procedures mandates. ● Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights. ● Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. ● A number of thematic human rights challenges, including enforced or involuntary disappearances; the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights; arbitrary deprivation of nationality; torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment; discrimination based on religion or belief; rights of persons with disabilities; climate change; combating defamation of religions; arbitrary detention; and the rights of the child. ● Human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice. ● Forensic genetics and human rights. ● UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and the World Programme for Human Rights Education. ● The Social Forum. ● The human rights situation in Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, occupied Palestinian territory and other occupied Arab territories. ● The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocols. ● Action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. ● Technical cooperation and advisory services in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ● The composition of the staff of OHCHR. ● Outcomes of the UPR of Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Colombia, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.
11th session (2-18 June)	<p>The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic, social and cultural rights, including the right of peoples to peace and the effects of foreign debt. ● The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. ● The effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. ● The consideration and extension of several thematic and country special procedures mandates. ● Human rights issues in a number of thematic areas, including violence against women, preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, trafficking in persons, right to education, and the human rights of migrants in detention centres. ● The human rights situation in Sudan. ● The system of special procedures. ● Outcomes of the UPR of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Germany, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Senegal.



SESSIONS	OUTCOMES
12 th session (14 Sept-2 Oct)	<p>The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The consideration and extension of several thematic and country special procedures mandates. ● Human rights issues in a number of thematic areas, including independence of the judiciary, jurors and lawyers; freedom of opinion and expression; civilians in armed conflict; discrimination against women; discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; access to medicine; access to safe drinking water and sanitation; toxic wastes; international solidarity; traditional values; the right to development; unilateral coercive measures; migrants; indigenous peoples; protection of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS; transitional justice; and the right to truth. ● Follow-up to the special sessions on the right to food and on the impact of the global economic and financial crises. ● The situation of human rights in Cambodia, Honduras and Somalia, as well as with regard to Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners. ● Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. ● Draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights. ● World Programme for Human Rights Education. ● Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. ● Review of the Human Rights Council and functioning. ● Outcomes of the UPR of Afghanistan, Belize, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen.
Ninth special session (9, 12 Jan)	The Council adopted a resolution on “The grave violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly due to the recent Israeli military attacks against the occupied Gaza Strip.”
Tenth special session (20, 23 Feb)	The Council adopted a resolution on “The impact of the global economic and financial crises on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights.”
11th special session (26 - 27 May)	The Council adopted a resolution on “Assistance to Sri Lanka in the promotion and protection of human rights.”

Special Procedures

About Special Procedures

The special procedures of the Human Rights Council comprise independent human rights experts with mandates to investigate, report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. With their independence, impartiality and flexibility, special procedures mandates represent a central element of the UN human rights machinery and cover all sets of rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social, as well as the right to development. They constitute a unique link amongst States, national institutions and civil society, given that they are able to deal with human rights situations and allegations of violations wherever they may occur in the world, including in the context of crises and emergencies. Moreover, they are the most directly accessible mechanism of the international human rights machinery.

Special procedures mandates undertake country visits agreed with governments and act on individual cases and human rights concerns of a broader, structural nature, including through regular preparation of written submissions, or “communications,” addressed to governments. Likewise, they conduct studies and convene expert consultations; develop international human rights standards; engage in advocacy and raise public awareness; and provide advice and support for technical cooperation. Special procedures report annually to the Human Rights Council. Most also report to the General Assembly. With their mandates established by the Human Rights Council, mandate-holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members and do not receive financial remuneration. Those who hold special procedures mandates – Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, members of Working Groups and (Special) Representatives of the Secretary-General – must act with integrity, competence, probity and good faith.

Effective follow-up and the implementation of special procedures’ recommendations are intrinsically linked to cooperation and support by States. To enhance protection and promotion, and to encourage such cooperation and follow-up, special procedures engage constructively with a wide variety of partners: other international and regional human rights bodies, governments, UN entities, national human rights institutions, and civil society, including NGOs and academic institutions. The experts interact regularly with actual and potential victims of human

rights violations, as well as with human rights defenders worldwide.

By the end of the year, OHCHR supported 39 special procedures (31 thematic mandates and eight mandates relating to countries or territories) with 55 mandate-holders. It also provided support to the system of special procedures, notably its Coordination Committee. The Office provides thematic, fact-finding, policy, legal and methodological expertise, conducts research and analysis, prepares documentation, and assists with logistical and administrative matters. OHCHR’s Special Procedures Branch (formerly Division) provides direct support for the majority of thematic mandates and works closely with other parts of OHCHR, in particular the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, which supports country mandates, and the Research and Right to Development Division, which provides support to some thematic mandates.

Developments in 2009

In 2009, the Human Rights Council continued to fill protection gaps by creating an additional special procedures mandate, the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan was replaced with the mandate

Special Procedures in Figures

73 country visits carried out by mandate-holders in 2009. Mandate-holders visited 51 countries and territories.

689 communications sent to 119 States – two-thirds as joint communications involving more than one mandate. These communications covered at least 1,840 individuals and numerous groups of individuals; 13.5 per cent concerned women. By 31 December, governments had responded to 32 per cent of communications sent since 1 January 2009. Mandate-holders followed up on one in five of their communications.

136 reports submitted by mandates to the Human Rights Council in 2009, including 47 annual reports and 51 country-visit reports. The General Assembly received 24 reports.

223 public statements issued by mandates in 2009, including 29 statements issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

of an Independent Expert. Six new mandate-holders were appointed in 2009; this has brought the total number appointed over the past two years under the new selection procedure to 33.

The Council mandated additional or follow-up reporting in the context of special sessions on thematic issues or on crisis situations in countries or territories, including in relation to the occupied Palestinian territory, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the global food crisis. In 2009, further mandates – 22 thematic and three country mandates – were requested to report to the General Assembly. Additional activities mandated in recent years increased the thematic outreach and impact of special procedures: for example, the Working Group on mercenaries held regional consultations, and the Independent Expert on minorities provided guidance to the annual Forum on Minorities. Special procedures also took a number of important initiatives to develop further international human rights law and standards. In addition, they contributed to the success of the Durban Review Conference that reviewed implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism.

With the support of the Office, the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures continued its work to harmonize special procedures' working methods and supported an initiative to prepare a joint communications report in 2010-2011 for all mandate-holders that submit urgent appeals and allegation letters to governments. The Committee advocated on behalf of the system and continued to make itself available, both informally and through its internal advisory procedure on practices and working methods, to all those who wished to bring to its attention issues related to the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Three more States, Albania, Chile and Kazakhstan, issued standing invitations to special procedures, bringing the total of such invitations to 66 at the end of 2009. Further synergies developed between the special procedures and the UPR, with several States under review inviting mandate-holders to visit and addressing other issues of concern to special procedures before, during and in their follow-up to the review process.

Special procedures continued to enhance strong linkages with the work of other expert human rights mechanisms at international and regional levels, as well as with OHCHR's work on the ground. Several mandate-holders and the OHCHR staff worked closely with treaty bodies to ensure that references



UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ms. Asma Jahangir, during her visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic, November 2009.

to recommendations by mandate-holders were included in treaty bodies' concluding observations wherever appropriate, and that special procedures take into account the treaty bodies' and UPR outcomes in their work.

The Office's field presences, other UN entities, and national human rights institutions have been actively involved in supporting country visits, following up with governments on implementation of recommendations, and establishing and maintaining contacts with civil society and potential or actual victims of human rights violations. OHCHR field presences have worked in collaboration with States to support, for example, implementation of special procedures recommendations in normative and institutional judicial reforms in Maldives and Nepal, further to recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judiciary and the Working Group on arbitrary detention respectively. Field presences have focused also on advocacy and civil society empowerment in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Kyrgyzstan, reflecting recommendations of the Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders and on violence against women. Capacity development of media professionals was supported through a workshop on international human rights standards in Azerbaijan in March, taking into account recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression.

Information stemming from the work of special procedures has been critical to identify, assess and address gaps in the implementation of human rights

Special Procedures: Cooperation with other parts of the United Nations System

Special procedures collaborated with other UN bodies, including other parts of the Secretariat and UN agencies, funds and programmes, to ensure effective follow-up to their recommendations and mainstream human rights concerns into their work. For example:

- The Independent Expert on minority issues continued her close collaboration with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), sharing good practices in addressing the rights of minorities in development processes and including minority issues in UNDP programming.
- The Special Rapporteur on the right to food was involved in the

reform of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Food Security.

- The Independent Expert on water and sanitation collaborated with UNDP in developing a human rights-based approach in the field of water policy.
- OHCHR, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Executive Secretariat and the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons conducted a workshop on implementation of the Great Lakes Protocol on Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

Affairs (OCHA), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the Brookings-Bern Project. On the basis of recommendations from this event, the mandate-holder continues to work with States of the region in developing laws and policies on internal displacement.

- The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people continued to participate in the annual session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

at country level. In 2009, as in previous years, special procedures have enabled the Office to support greater compliance with human rights standards; the outcome of their work also informed the Office's strategic planning processes for the years ahead.

Activities

- ▶ Provided substantive and administrative support to special procedures mandate-holders for 73 fact-finding missions and for relevant follow-up with States, including subsequent drafting and submission of 160 reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly.
- ▶ Prepared almost 700 communications for mandate-holders, including urgent appeals and allegation letters, and supported follow-up on issues and cases submitted.
- ▶ Supported communication and outreach of mandate-holders by preparing and distributing information materials, drafting more than 200 public statements and arranging news conferences and interviews.
- ▶ Arranged an information session, briefing kits and guidance for the six new mandate-holders appointed in 2009, and supported the organization of an orientation session of the Coordination Committee for these mandate-holders.
- ▶ Supported increased coordination between mandate-holders, including joint missions, reports, communications and news releases, as well as with the Coordination Committee in its efforts to harmonize methodology and advocate on behalf of mandate-holders. In June, the Office supported the Special Rapporteurs on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and on contemporary forms of slavery, by holding a workshop to discuss the working methods of their three mandates and to explore possible synergies and modalities for cooperation.
- ▶ Organized consultations and seminars for thematic special procedures, including a regional consultation on mercenaries in Bangkok in October, and organized the contribution and participation of special procedures in the Forum on Minority Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Social Forum.
- ▶ Supported participation of special procedures in events organized by other partners; e.g., the Special Rapporteur on the right to food served as a keynote speaker at the World Summit on Food Security, in Rome in November.
- ▶ Ensured regular contact during country visits, regional consultations and Human Rights Council sessions, between mandate-holders and key stakeholders such as governments, national human rights institutions, OHCHR field presences, UN agencies, civil society, including academic institutions, and the private sector. Ensured that the views of these stakeholders would be considered in analysis of emerging human rights issues and

follow-up action aiming at implementation of special procedures recommendations.

- ▶ Organized a roundtable meeting at the General Assembly in October, on the role of special procedures in early warning. Special procedures mandate-holders also took part in a seminar on the prevention of genocide in Geneva in January, and made a joint statement on their role in contributing to prevention, including through ensuring effective communication between different parts of the United Nations. The question of their role in the aftermath of large-scale violence was also raised.
- ▶ Provided policy guidance on, and substantive support for, special procedures' contributions to major Human Rights Council mechanisms and processes, including the UPR, as well as the Durban Review process.
- ▶ Expanded public and internal information tools, including the special procedures website, to increase public awareness about specific human rights issues.

Results

- ▶ A new mandate on cultural rights became operational in late 2009, complementing the system of existing special procedures mandates, which now covers all sets of human rights.
- ▶ Six new mandate-holders were successfully integrated into the system of special procedures, and a smooth transition was achieved between

outgoing and new mandate-holders, with support from the Coordination Committee.

- ▶ After the initial transition phase, mandate-holders appointed in 2008 and 2009 have become increasingly active in implementing their mandates. This was reflected, for example, in an increase in official fact-finding missions to countries and territories, from 53 in 2008 to 73 in 2009.
- ▶ Three additional countries (Albania, Chile and Kazakhstan) extended a standing invitation to thematic special procedures, increasing the total number of such invitations to 66.
- ▶ Special procedures became more visible and active in crisis situations, and contributed to all special sessions of the Human Rights Council in 2009 while supporting the Council in addressing other critical issues. They reported jointly on the occupied Palestinian territory and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also followed up on the food crisis, at the request of the Council, and contributed to the Special Session on the financial and economic crisis.
- ▶ The successful outcome of the Durban Review Conference in April was supported through joint action and contributions by several special procedures. In preparing for the event, the Special Rapporteurs on religion, racism and freedom of expression contributed significantly to a seminar organized by OHCHR on Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Special Procedures, Women's Rights and Gender Equality

The integration of gender perspectives as well as work on women's human rights has been a priority for several mandate-holders. Initiatives in 2009 included:

- Publication in March of a critical review of 15 years of work (1994-2009) of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, examining causes and consequences of such violence. This was a joint initiative by the mandate-holder with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), aiming to take stock of achievements, conceptual shifts, lessons learned and challenges ahead.
- The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, the majority

of whom are women and girls, participated in a panel discussion on special procedures and women's rights, convened during the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

- The Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people continued the practice of holding dedicated meetings with minority women during their country visits, thereby better informing their country-specific and thematic recommendations.
- The Independent Expert on minority issues, in collaboration with Minority Rights Group International, held a panel

discussion on minority women and political participation during the second session of the Forum on Minority Issues, complementing broader discussions and giving dedicated attention to the challenges facing women.

- The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants addressed the question of violence against women migrant workers, as well as the necessity of considering the specific needs and concerns of the girl child in the context of migration, during country visits and in reports to the Council and the General Assembly.

- ▶ Special procedures continued to be at the forefront of developing and expanding international human rights standards. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food developed a set of core principles and measures to address the human rights challenge posed by large-scale land acquisitions and leases; the Working Group on mercenaries has been considering elements for a possible convention on the activities of private military and security companies; and the Working Group on enforced and involuntary disappearances adopted a General Comment on enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity.
- ▶ Several mandates raised public awareness of climate change and human rights. The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons has helped the Inter-Agency Standing Committee analyze the humanitarian implications of climate change, resulting in shared terminology on different affected populations and a common understanding of the normative frameworks for

their protection, as well as of legal and institutional gaps. The Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing focused during his country mission to Maldives on the impact of climate change on the right to housing. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food launched a study on climate change and the right to food, and the Independent Expert on the right to water and sanitation presented a position paper on climate change and the right to water. Nineteen mandate-holders issued a joint statement during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December, urging the international community to adopt a human rights-based approach in relation to climate change.

- ▶ Improved coordination and cooperation among mandates and mandate-holders, including through the Coordination Committee and ad hoc joint activities continued to produce encouraging results. For example, mandate-holders decided at their 16th Annual Meeting to prepare, as of 2010-2011, a joint communications report for all



A protester in the Philippines during an event to mark the International Day of the Disappeared, August 2009.

Special Procedures: Examples of Impact

Australia

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth issued a major report on 26 November recommending the enactment of new homelessness legislation that enshrines "the right of all Australians to adequate housing." The document, entitled "Housing the Homeless," contained 15 recommendations aimed at preventing and addressing homelessness in the country. Amongst factors that helped to inform the report were the 2006 visit and relevant recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as well as on the right to non-discrimination in this context.

Egypt

A 16 March decision by the Supreme Administrative Court ended a policy of non-issuance or renewal of mandatory official documents for about 2,000 Baha'i Egyptians unless they had converted to one of the three state-recognized religions. This discriminatory practice had caused severe difficulties for Egypt's Baha'i citizens, because basic activities require a national identity document or a birth certificate. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion had taken up this case in communications to the Government.

Mongolia

A 33-year-old man, sentenced to death by a district court on charges of murder, had his sentence commuted to imprisonment by the President in October. The Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Special Rapporteurs on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions and on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment had taken up his case in communications to the Government. In the meantime, Mongolia also announced it would formally institute a moratorium on use of the death penalty, replacing it with a 30-year prison sentence. Persons currently on death row will have their sentences commuted. The President stated that Mongolia would aim for total abolition and called on legislators to take steps to this end.

Panama

Following an urgent appeal from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, 19 Somalis, Eritreans and Ethiopians were released by Panamanian immigration authorities on 30 January. The National Office for the Protection of Refugees processed and admitted them to the refugee status determination procedure.

Serbia

Following his 2005 mission, the Representative of the

Secretary-General on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons had recommended that the Government improve local living conditions of Internally Displaced Persons, noting that integration and eventual return were not mutually exclusive. In the course of a follow-up visit in July 2009, he noted that the Government had launched various programmes to provide housing and livelihood opportunities, including on the basis of municipal action plans, to Internally Displaced Persons who are not in a position to return at present.

Sudan

A man arrested on 11 April by the National State Security and detained incommunicado was released without charge on 17 April following communications to the Government by the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression; on the independence of judges and lawyers; on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and on the situation of human rights in Sudan, as well as the Working Group on arbitrary detention. The man's arrest had been preceded by the closure of three organizations supporting victims of human rights violations, in particular, victims of torture and victims of the ongoing conflict in Darfur.

mandates who submit urgent appeals and allegation letters. A workshop organized by three mandate-holders working with similar groups of stakeholders led to enhanced synergies between the Special Rapporteurs on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and on contemporary forms of slavery.

- ▶ Collaboration with regional organizations was further developed, including cooperation of several mandate-holders with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; the Organization of American States; and the African Union. For example, the Representative on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons supported the development of the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, the first treaty specific to Internally Displaced Persons covering an entire continent.

- ▶ Close interaction with civil society was ensured through regular consultations and briefings in the context of country missions, seminars, academic



UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Vernor Muñoz Villalobos, visiting a rural school in Paraguay, April 2009.

events or outreach at national, regional and international levels. Several mandate-holders benefited from effective working relationships with specialized NGOs.

- ▶ Enhanced information and communications tools on special procedures became available through the translation of additional web pages for most mandates and the Coordination Committee, as well as through the use of new technology.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Ensuring cooperation of States with special procedures and safeguarding the independence of the mandate-holders required additional efforts in 2009. Many States cooperated with special procedures by responding substantively to their communications, constructively discussing their reports, facilitating the conduct of missions, and actively following up on recommendations and conclusions. Yet a need exists for continued support by Member States, as well as OHCHR, so that special procedures are able to exercise their mandates in full independence and with confidence that their expert, substantive human rights assessments will have the impact they deserve.
- ▶ Improvements in the protection of victims and witnesses are required. Incidents involving persons who had engaged with special procedures mandates in 2009 have focused attention on the need for States to ensure that all those in contact with international human rights mechanisms are free from reprisals. Mandate-holders and OHCHR likewise have taken measures to contribute to enhanced protection.
- ▶ The need to coordinate follow-up to recommendations of all major UN inter-governmental and expert human rights mechanisms should be addressed through closer collaboration amongst States, special procedures, treaty bodies, UN entities, national human rights institutions and NGOs. New opportunities exist for special procedures mandate-holders to contribute to country-focused implementation and follow-up in the context of the UPR.
- ▶ The need for OHCHR's substantive and administrative support for special procedures mandate-holders has continued to increase as the Council has established new thematic mandates or tasked existing mandates with additional reporting or activities, including in relation to crisis situations. Additional human and financial resources are required to ensure effective support.

Special Procedures Mandate-holders in 2009

Mandate	Established in	Mandate-holder
Country mandates		
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	2004	Mr. Akich Okola (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Rapporteur (until March 2009: Special Representative) on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	1993	Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi (<i>Nepal</i>), since May 2009; Mr. Yash Ghai (<i>Kenya</i>), until April 2009
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (<i>Thailand</i>)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Michel Forst (<i>France</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana (<i>Argentina</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. Richard Falk (<i>United States of America</i>)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Shamsul Bari (<i>Bangladesh</i>)
Independent Expert (until September 2009: Special Rapporteur) on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	2005/2009	Mr. Mohamed Chande Othman (<i>Tanzania</i>), since October 2009; Ms. Sima Samar (<i>Afghanistan</i>), until June 2009
Thematic mandates		
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Ms. Raquel Rolnik (<i>Brazil</i>)
Working Group on people of African descent	2002	Ms. Mirjana Najcevska (<i>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>), Acting Chairperson, Mr. Joe Frans (<i>Sweden</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, until July 2009, Ms. Monorama Biswas (<i>Bangladesh</i>), Mr. Ralston Milton Nettleford (<i>Jamaica</i>), Ms. Maya Sahli (<i>Algeria</i>), Mr. Linos-Alexandros Sicilianos (<i>Greece</i>), since September 2009
Working Group on arbitrary detention	1991	Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow (<i>Senegal</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali (<i>Pakistan</i>), Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Manuela Carmena Castrillo (<i>Spain</i>), until July 2009, Mr. Mads Andenas (<i>Norway</i>), since August 2009, Mr. Aslan Abashidze (<i>Russian Federation</i>), Mr. Roberto Garretón (<i>Chile</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Ms. Najat M'jid Maalla (<i>Morocco</i>)
Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights	2009	Ms. Farida Shaheed (<i>Pakistan</i>), since November 2009
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Vernor Muñoz Villalobos (<i>Costa Rica</i>)
Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	1980	Mr. Jeremy Sarkin (<i>South Africa</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, Mr. Santiago Corcuera Cabezut (<i>Mexico</i>), Mr. Osman El-Hajje (<i>Lebanon</i>), since August 2009, Mr. Darko Göttlicher (<i>Croatia</i>), Mr. Olivier de Frouville (<i>France</i>), Mr. Saied Rajaie Khorasani (<i>Iran</i>), until July 2009
Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Mr. Philip Alston (<i>Australia</i>)



Mandate	Established in	Mandate-holder
Independent Expert on foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. Cephias Lumina (<i>Zambia</i>)
Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	1998	Ms. María Magdalena Sepúlveda (<i>Chile</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Olivier De Schutter (<i>Belgium</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. Frank William La Rue Lewy (<i>Guatemala</i>)
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Ms. Asma Jahangir (<i>Pakistan</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Anand Grover (<i>India</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Margaret Sekaggya (<i>Uganda</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Ms. Gabriela Carina Knaul de Albuquerque e Silva (<i>Brazil</i>), since August 2009; Mr. Leandro Despouy (<i>Argentina</i>), until July 2009
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people	2001	Mr. James Anaya (<i>United States of America</i>)
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Mr. Walter Kälin (<i>Switzerland</i>)
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki (<i>Indonesia</i>)
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Ms. Shaista Shameem (<i>Fiji</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Najat Al-Hajjaji (<i>Libya</i>), Ms. Amada Benavides de Perez (<i>Colombia</i>), Mr. José Luis Gomez del Prado (<i>Spain</i>), Mr. Alexander Nikitin (<i>Russian Federation</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Jorge A. Bustamante (<i>Mexico</i>)
Independent Expert on minority issues	2005	Ms. Gay J. McDougall (<i>United States of America</i>)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Githu Muigai (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences	2007	Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (<i>Armenia</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Martin Scheinin (<i>Finland</i>)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Manfred Nowak (<i>Austria</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	1995	Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu (<i>Nigeria</i>)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially in women and children	2004	Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (<i>Nigeria</i>)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2005	Mr. John Ruggie (<i>United States of America</i>)
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Rashida Manjoo (<i>South Africa</i>), since August 2009; Ms. Yakin Ertürk (<i>Turkey</i>), until July 2009
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation	2008	Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (<i>Portugal</i>)

Support for International Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Context

The human rights treaty bodies are committees of independent experts, elected by States Parties, which monitor implementation of human rights treaties primarily through review of initial and periodic reports. They issue recommendations to States Parties, consider individual complaints, adopt general comments and conduct inquiries, as well as undertake visits to States Parties aimed at preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

In 2009 OHCHR supported the work of nine treaty bodies mandated to monitor implementation of eight out of the nine core human rights treaties and two substantive protocols. With the expected entry into force in 2010 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, OHCHR will support the work of a tenth treaty body. The nine treaty bodies supported in 2009 comprise:

- ▶ The Human Rights Committee (HRCCommittee).
- ▶ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).
- ▶ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).
- ▶ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- ▶ The Committee against Torture (CAT).
- ▶ The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT).
- ▶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- ▶ The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW).
- ▶ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which held its first two sessions in 2009.

In addition to servicing meetings of treaty bodies, OHCHR support to treaty bodies includes undertaking country analysis, formulating lists of issues, and assisting in the drafting of detailed, focused and concrete concluding observations and decisions. The Office also provides advice to States and civil society and conducts training on reporting and implementation of recommendations. Recommendations are used in other areas of the Office's work, including in supporting special procedures mandates and OHCHR field presences. The Office's support for treaty bodies is handled by staff in the Human Rights Treaties Division, which also has responsibility for the Secretary-General's

Study on Violence against Children, the Universal Human Rights Index, contributions of treaty bodies to the Universal Periodic Review, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture, and the OHCHR Documents Processing Unit (as of 1 January 2010, this Unit is part of Executive Direction and Management).

Activities

- ▶ Organized 20 sessions of treaty bodies in Geneva and New York, amounting to 64 weeks of meetings in 2009, with each session lasting one to four weeks. A total of 103 State reports were reviewed in plenary and in Working Groups, where relevant. It was necessary for CEDAW to hold one of its sessions in two chambers, and CERD extended one of its sessions by a week to address the backlog of reports awaiting review.
- ▶ Received 106 States Parties' reports.
- ▶ Supported the CRPD, which held its first two sessions in 2009, and began work on its rules of procedures and working methods.
- ▶ Continued to support finalization of treaty-specific reporting guidelines, including those adopted by the CRPD in 2009, to complement guidelines for the common core document.
- ▶ Examined 9,900 pieces of correspondence and registered more than 110 that qualified as new individual complaints for the attention of treaty bodies. The HRCCommittee, CAT, CERD and CEDAW examined and adopted final decisions on some 100 communications, issuing more than 30 requests for interim protection measures in cases where lack of such protection might lead to irreparable harm for petitioners. Followed up on more than 50 decisions in which violations of the ICCPR, CAT or CEDAW had been found.
- ▶ Prepared and assisted in three meetings of States Parties (CAT, CRPD and CMW).
- ▶ Prepared and assisted in six informal meetings with States Parties that were widely attended; provided the opportunity for States Parties and treaty bodies to discuss the most recent developments in the work of treaty bodies, as well as other matters of common interest. In particular, this included the efforts of treaty bodies to improve their working methods (CRPD, HRCCommittee, CAT, SPT, CRC, CMW).

- ▶ Supported the treaty bodies in development and implementation of working methods, such as the list of issues before reporting as well as follow-up procedures to concluding observations and views on petitions.
- ▶ Supported work leading to the adoption of new general comments by the CESCR, CERD and CRC.
- ▶ Facilitated country visits by the SPT to Cambodia, Honduras and Paraguay.
- ▶ Supported the open-ended Working Group of the Human Rights Council on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure.
- ▶ Promoted harmonization and standardization of the work of the treaty bodies, including organizing the ninth and tenth three-day inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies and the 21st two-day meeting of the Chairpersons.
- ▶ Revised and updated the DVD training tool on the work of the treaty bodies, "Bringing human rights home," which also will be made available in all UN official languages during 2010.
- ▶ Conducted training workshops on treaty body reporting and follow-up in Burundi, Djibouti, Maldives, Niger, Serbia and Seychelles, as well as regional workshops in Mali (in cooperation with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, for 13 Francophone West African countries) and in Thailand (for Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand). A regional judicial colloquium also was organized in Thailand (for judges from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand).
- ▶ Collaborated with other parts of the Office to integrate recommendations of the treaty bodies into OHCHR's research, monitoring and capacity development work at country level.
- ▶ Coordinated the Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention, a network of international organizations including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), OHCHR and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and regional and global

civil society organizations. This was aimed at raising awareness and advocating for ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

- ▶ Coordinated processing of all official documentation by OHCHR for use by inter-governmental and expert bodies, amounting to 70,000 pages (1,910 documents), through the Documents Processing Unit.
- ▶ Posted all documents of a regular or special session of the Human Rights Council on the OHCHR website. OHCHR also posts online "advance unedited versions" of documents – i.e., before they are issued as official documents in all languages – thus avoiding delays in accessing documents that may be submitted late.
- ▶ Continued to update the web-based Universal Human Rights Index (www.universalhumanrightsindex.org), a search engine providing easy access to recommendations and observations of treaty bodies and other mechanisms of the UN human rights system.

20th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child

With the CRC, and in cooperation with other partners, OHCHR helped to organize events celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. A total of 700 delegates, including high-level dignitaries, children and young people, represented more than 60 States and 130 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions. Participants deliberated on three themes, dignity, development and dialogue, in six workshops over two days (8-9 October). Recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 53rd session in January 2010 can be accessed at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/20th/RecommendationsCRC20.doc>. These should guide practitioners, NGOs, civil society and all interested parties in future work.



Commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, October 2009.

Results

- ▶ Encouraged and supported development of more harmonized and streamlined procedures and working methods of treaty bodies. In particular, OHCHR provided assistance to treaty bodies in development of treaty-specific guidelines (to date finalized by CESCR, CERD, CMW and CRPD), complementing the guidelines for the common core document; 17 common core documents have been received.
- ▶ Strengthened implementation of recommendations and decisions from treaty bodies through supporting these bodies to develop follow-up procedures and engage in follow-up activities. Four treaty bodies have developed specific follow-up procedures for their concluding observations; 25 countries, for example, were expected to provide the CAT with replies on follow-up in 2009; a total of ten replies were received. Bearing in mind that these follow-up procedures are not envisaged in the treaties and create additional work for States Parties, a response of 40 per cent is extraordinary.
- ▶ Encouraged sustained engagement with treaty bodies through participation in or organization of training workshops. Participants provide input to treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council, keeping the treaty implementation and reporting process on the agenda of the national human rights dialogue. At the same time, UN human rights mechanisms benefit from more detailed information from all stakeholders at national level, which in turn leads to more concrete, focused recommendations.
- ▶ Encouraged engagement of the judiciary with the treaty system through regional discussions for members of the judiciary at a judicial colloquium, where judges from States Parties within a given region came together to discuss use of human rights jurisprudence and treaty body recommendations in decision-making.
- ▶ Outreach efforts helped to increase the number of visitors to the Human Rights Index's website,

30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

OHCHR helped to commemorate the 30th anniversary of CEDAW, in the context of the 15-year review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, by organizing a series of events with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UN regional commissions at national and regional levels. Highlights of the programmes and events can be accessed at <http://www.unifem.org/cedaw30/>. These celebrations culminated in a global event on 3 December at United Nations Headquarters in New York, which the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chairperson of CEDAW attended. The event brought together speakers from around the world, who shared examples of how the Convention has been used to implement women's human rights and achieve gender equality in their countries, including through the application of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which also marked its 10th anniversary in 2009.

and indications exist that more people are consulting recommendations of the human rights mechanisms through this tool. In addition, the DVD training tool on the treaty bodies is used in training activities across the Office and has been recognized as a mainstreaming tool by UN agencies and civil society organizations.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Individual complaints submitted to OHCHR increased significantly between 1998 and 2009, with the number of complaints received and processed continuing to rise. A total of 426 complaints were pending under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as of 31 December, about the same number as in 2008. Some 88 cases were pending under CAT at the same date. This situation continues to require urgent attention; CAT in particular will need additional meeting time to address it.



Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in New York, Bangkok and Geneva, December 2009.

Study on Violence against Children

The Office continued to raise awareness of the outcome of the 2006 Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, working with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), NGOs and other partners. OHCHR promoted implementation of the study's recommendations through its work in many existing areas, including through mainstreaming them into the work of UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures. OHCHR encouraged these mechanisms to monitor and report on the situation of violence against children and on emerging trends in this area. OHCHR's advice and support also have been critical during the initial phase of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children. Since the appointment of Ms. Marta Santos Pais in May, the OHCHR focal point has provided substantive support facilitating her interaction with other UN human rights mechanisms and ensuring the coordination of meetings with stakeholders. This has included members of the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children, the NGO Working Group on Children and Violence, and other civil society partners.

- ▶ Challenges also persist in making the human rights treaty system more visible and accessible, as well as in providing effective relief to rights-holders. The Branch made an attempt in the second half of 2009 to review and adjust its structure so as to be more accessible and effective to internal and external partners alike. Dedicated resources were also set aside to improve outreach, harmonization and capacity development efforts in relation to treaty bodies.
- ▶ Treaty bodies continued to develop new procedures, particularly follow-up procedures, directed at enhancing promotion and protection of rights enshrined in the treaties at national level. CAT introduced a new optional reporting procedure in 2007 that consists of preparing and submitting to States Parties lists of issues before the submission of periodic reports. In 2009 CAT adopted 28 lists of issues (nine in 2008). While these procedures are welcome and ensure that the treaty body process is effective and more focused, they require significant support from OHCHR staff. As of 2010, OHCHR has dedicated additional personnel from extra-budgetary resources to address these developments, a move that nonetheless remains insufficient and should be funded from the regular budget. In addition, OHCHR continues to work with the Department of Conference Management at the UN Office at Geneva to try to strengthen

support in relation to the availability of documentation in UN official languages and other conference services, in turn allowing Committees to better perform their functions.

- ▶ Treaty bodies also are working toward a harmonized treaty body system. During 2009 two inter-Committee meetings of human rights treaty bodies were convened to prioritize areas for streamlining and harmonization, although the pace of implementation of these moves continues to be unpredictable. OHCHR is supporting the inter-Committee meetings through implementing relevant recommendations, including focusing on selected thematic issues such as follow-up and lists of issues before reporting. In addition, the High Commissioner in 2009 called on several occasions for all stakeholders to reflect on how to further streamline and strengthen the treaty body system to achieve better coordination and effectiveness.
- ▶ Achieving maximum harmonization of the treaty body system and streamlining treaty body working methods may further rationalize the use of resources. However, the issue of resources needs to be addressed in the context of the regular budget, especially taking into account the self-expending nature of the treaty body system, with the development of new instruments, increased ratifications and reporting, new follow-up procedures and increased input from other stakeholders.

Implementing Treaty Body Recommendations: The Case of Uganda and the CRC

As recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on 3 October 2008, the Government of Uganda on 16 January 2009 adopted an Action Plan regarding children associated with armed forces. Under the Plan, the Government committed itself to prevent and end the association of children within its armed forces and auxiliaries, including by allowing regular verification visits by an independent monitoring task force. The same concluding observations on the implementation by Uganda of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict also recommended that the State Party strengthen its efforts to provide human rights education. This recommendation served as an important tool in OHCHR's and partners' advocacy for implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in Uganda; it saw concrete progress in the adoption in April of a Concept Paper on human rights education in primary and post-primary educational institutions by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Treaty body	Treaty	Competence
Human Rights Committee	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two optional protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues) Considers individual and inter-State complaints
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues) Considers individual and inter-State complaints (not yet in force) Conducts inquiries on the basis of reliable information received indicating grave or systematic violation of the Covenant by a State Party (not yet in force)
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues) Considers individual and inter-State complaints
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues) Considers individual and inter-State complaints Conducts inquiries on the basis of reliable information received indicating grave or systematic violation of the Convention by a State Party
Committee against Torture (CAT)	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues) Considers individual and inter-State complaints Conducts inquiries on the basis of reliable information received indicating serious or systematic violation of the Convention by a State Party
Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports under the optional protocols submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues)
Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews reports submitted by States Parties and issues recommendations to States Parties (concluding observations and lists of issues) Considers individual and inter-State complaints (not yet in force)
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will review reports submitted by States Parties and issue recommendations to States Parties Will consider individual complaints Will conduct inquiries into reliable information received indicating grave or systematic violation of the Convention by a State Party
Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducts visits to places of deprivation of liberty and issues recommendations to States Parties Advises and assists States Parties, when necessary, in the establishment of national preventive mechanisms (NPMs) Maintains direct, and if necessary confidential, contact with NPMs Cooperates, for the prevention of torture in general, with the relevant United Nations organs and mechanisms, as well as with international, regional and national institutions or organizations

Thematic Human Rights Challenges and Human Rights Mainstreaming

OHCHR conducts research, develops training tools and shares substantive expertise with Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society and UN partners as well as with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms in relation to a wide range of thematic human rights issues. It also works closely with UN partners to strengthen their capacity to undertake substantive human rights work and integrate a human rights approach in planning and programming. Much of the Office's work in this area is carried out by or with the involvement of staff in its Research and Right to Development Division, which consists of two Branches, one focused on the rule of law, equality and anti-discrimination, the other on development and economic and social issues.

Approach

The Office's approach in this area has three main elements:

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

Thematic work is grounded in research and analysis using both in-house and external expertise. Research is carried out in numerous areas each year, from mapping exercises aimed at identifying emerging

human rights trends to legal analyses of legislation and institutional arrangements for addressing human rights problems. Good practices in implementation of human rights are documented. The results inform OHCHR's policy planning and programming at all levels of the organization.

Staff in the Division work closely with other divisions and field presences, sharing knowledge and supporting its application to a local context, undertaking needs assessments, and participating in development and implementation of country engagement strategies. They also work with staff supporting the Human Rights Council, including with regard to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and special procedures, as well as in the follow-up to recommendations of treaty bodies.

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

Rule of Law and Democracy

Strengthening rule of law mechanisms and democratic institutions represents a longstanding priority for OHCHR. Advice on law and policy is provided to strengthen national protection mechanisms, while tools are produced and training activities organized to enhance the capacity of State institutions. OHCHR works with Member States and other partners to identify areas where domestic legislation and practice fall short of established international human rights standards, in order to



OHCHR staff member visits a place of detention in Nepal.

strengthen rule of law mechanisms. It also addresses transitional justice mechanisms for conflict and post-conflict States, and provides legal advice on human rights issues to UN partners.

Activities

- ▶ Assisted with design and implementation of transitional justice processes, including by supporting the establishment of the Togo Truth and Reconciliation Commission; supporting national consultations on transitional justice in Burundi; and submitting analytical studies to the Human Rights Council on human rights and transitional justice and on the right to truth.
- ▶ Explored lessons learned and best practices for national human rights institutions' engagement on transitional justice at the Regional Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions in Rabat in November.
- ▶ Convened an expert workshop in May on transitional justice, lessons learned and future directions. At a regional conference on transitional justice, organized with the French and Swiss Departments of Foreign Affairs and held in Yaoundé in November, 80 practitioners from francophone Member States in Africa shared their experiences.
- ▶ Provided support to establishment and functioning of international commissions of inquiry investigating gross human rights violations in different parts of the world, including the parliamentary commission of inquiry in the Republic of Moldova related to violence in April.
- ▶ Organized expert consultations on witness protection with the participation of international ad hoc tribunals, special courts, civil society and other relevant agencies. Deployed experts on witness protection to assist Governments in strengthening their witness protection programmes, including in Argentina, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia and Uganda.
- ▶ Organized six expert meetings on international legal issues, including the legal framework for protection of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in complex emergencies; the protection of human rights in situations of armed conflict; the mutually reinforcing nature of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in conflict situations; the right to peace; human rights through administrative justice regimes; and indigenous justice systems in the Americas, Australia and New Zealand.
- ▶ Building on OHCHR's 2008 campaign "Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week," worked with the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that detention by UN personnel in peace operations conforms to human rights norms and standards.

- ▶ In collaboration with other UN agencies, contributed to a study on the legislative framework prohibiting torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in Armenia; provided inputs relating to a draft text of legal aid from a human rights perspective; and worked with experts to elaborate and pilot rule of law indicators in Haiti and Liberia.
- ▶ Published two transitional justice tools on amnesties and national consultations and prepared guidelines for national human rights institutions' engagement on transitional justice.
- ▶ In cooperation with the OHCHR regional office in Central America, organized in October the second regional seminar for 18 parliamentarians from Latin America aimed at strengthening their capacity to exercise oversight functions and play an informed role in national human rights protection systems.

- ▶ Contributed to the New York-based Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force by leading the Working Group on protecting human rights and countering terrorism. Helped to develop a series of Basic Technical Reference Guides to support efforts of Member States in strengthening the protection of human rights in the context of counterterrorism.

Results

- ▶ Strengthened the conduct of transitional justice processes in compliance with international standards, in particular, concerning the establishment of the truth and reconciliation commission in Togo and national consultations in Burundi. Also strengthened the work of national human rights institutions in Africa in the area of transitional justice by highlighting lessons learned and encouraging the sharing of best practices.
- ▶ As a result of an expert seminar, 20 judges, lawyers and academics from Russian Federation

OHCHR Tool on National Consultations in Transitional Justice

A new tool on national consultations builds on previous OHCHR transitional justice tools released in 2006 and 2008. Grounded in international human rights standards and inspired by best practices, these tools are designed to provide field missions, transitional administrations and civil society with the fundamental information required to effectively advise on the development

of transitional justice mechanisms. The United Nations continues to emphasize that a comprehensive process of national consultations is a crucial element in an effective, sustainable transitional justice strategy. The national consultations tool identifies the main applicable human rights instruments and discusses the focus and form of national consultations. To guide

practitioners, this publication further considers various issues important for the conduct of such consultations, including preparations, when and where to consult and for how long, who should conduct consultations and who should be consulted, protection-related and ethical considerations, and reporting and follow-up.



OHCHR staff providing support to national consultations on transitional justice in Burundi.

gained clearer insight into the means by which administrative law regimes promote and protect human rights across major global legal systems.

- ▶ Finalized and piloted a draft set of rule of law indicators for use by UN peace missions. Through collaborative work with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, ensured consistency of their policy directives with human rights norms.
- ▶ Increased knowledge and capacity of 30 judges, prosecutors and Government officials on the administration of justice in Madagascar and of 40 members of the national police and military in Bolivia, on the issue of conscientious objection to military service.
- ▶ Increased understanding by parliamentarians from Latin American countries, including Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Argentina, Costa Rica and Paraguay, on the human rights oversight role of Parliament.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Effective interventions with respect to rule of law require knowledge of a range of domestic legal systems and global legal traditions, including in the area of criminal law.
- ▶ Working to guarantee human rights in the context of detention (administrative, pre-trial or upon conviction) has underlined the indivisibility of rights and the need to focus on rights to food, health and education for the detainee as well as her/his family, in addition to specific rights on detention under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- ▶ A need exists to ensure that the transitional justice processes and mechanisms chosen to address past violations are in conformity with international legal standards and obligations.

Anti-discrimination

OHCHR carried out a substantial number of activities during 2009 in relation to the fight against racial discrimination. In addition to supporting the Durban Review Conference, it provided substantive and organizational support to mechanisms established in the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; the Inter-governmental Working Group on effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; and the group of Independent Eminent Experts. OHCHR contributed to the

strengthening of national protection systems against racism through development of relevant policy tools and capacity development initiatives and served as the secretariat for the Durban Review Conference in Geneva from 20-24 April.

Activities

- ▶ Prepared reports pertaining to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as on combating defamation of religions, as mandated by resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.
- ▶ Developed draft OHCHR guidelines on national legislation against racial discrimination and on national action plans against racism, to be released in 2010.
- ▶ Organized a high-level panel discussion to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 21 March.
- ▶ Supported the Durban Review Conference, including its preparatory meetings. Facilitated a programme of side events to the Conference with the participation of treaty bodies, special procedures, UN agencies and civil society organizations.
- ▶ Devised and began to implement an Office-wide action plan in follow-up to the Durban Review Conference.
- ▶ Provided support to the Inter-governmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Ad Hoc Committee on complementary standards.
- ▶ Strengthened inter-agency partnerships with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- ▶ Organized two sub-regional seminars on the elaboration of national action plans against racism and other good practices for francophone countries in Central and West Africa, with the support of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.
- ▶ Organized in Brussels an all-day series of panel discussions on various forms of discrimination, including racial and ethnic discrimination, aimed at strengthening EU-United Nations cooperation to end discrimination.
- ▶ Co-organized in Montevideo a seminar launching the Uruguayan National Action Plan against Racism and Discrimination.
- ▶ Together with UNESCO, initiated a project entitled International Coalition of Cities against Racism, for which expected outcomes will be jointly defined in 2010.

Durban Review Conference Side Event on People of African Descent

A side event during the Durban Review Conference allowed people of African descent, representatives of civil society and experts to take stock of the current human rights situation of people of African descent, assessing progress since the World Conference in Durban in 2001 and identifying the way forward. The panel was opened by the High Commissioner, who underlined that the current conditions of inequality, discrimination, oppression, poverty

and marginalization that affect people of African descent have their root causes in the legacy of slavery. These conditions permeate all aspects of Afro-descendants' lives and livelihoods and are reflected in their lack of adequate access to education, employment, land, health care, markets, credit and justice.

Participants' concerns during the general discussion included the high level of discrimination faced

by Afro-descendants compared to other minority groups; the need for greater networking between people of African descent in different parts of the world; denial of the existence of racial discrimination against this group; and the need to develop affirmative action policies to combat the historical disadvantages faced by people of African descent.

Results

- ▶ Increased capacity amongst governments, national human rights institutions and NGOs from francophone Central and West African countries following training seminars on the development of national plans of action and good practices against racism. This led to concrete initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- ▶ Successfully disseminated the principles contained in the Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference at senior UN policy forums, through OHCHR field presences and collaboration with regional organizations and UN partners.
- ▶ Collaboration with UNHCR resulted in a Note on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through a strategic approach, which will be used by all UNHCR field presences.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The additional workload created by the Durban Review Conference and its many preparatory events required a re-prioritization of some programmed activities. The fact that many

Member States were preoccupied with the Conference and its processes made it more difficult to engage States on technical cooperation activities, although a range of such activities were nevertheless implemented, including with respect to development of national action plans against racism and good practices.

Racial Equality in Brazil

The Second National Conference for the Promotion of Racial Equality in Brazil, held in June, was the first major national event in the wake of the Durban Review Conference. Organized by the Brazilian Minister for Racial Equality, the Conference signaled Brazil's commitment to the Durban Review Outcome Document. OHCHR's active participation in the Conference strongly highlighted the incompatibility between racism and democracy. As part of the Conference, an open dialogue was held between the Government and civil society, the outcome of which was a set of recommendations for the Government toward greater racial equality in this highly diverse nation.



Images of the Durban Review Conference, Geneva, April 2009.

Durban Review Conference

The Durban Review Conference took place from 20 to 24 April 2009 in Geneva. The Conference, organized in compliance with General Assembly resolution 61/149 of 19 December 2006, evaluated progress toward goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001.

OHCHR provided support to both the preparatory meetings and the Conference itself. As the Secretary of the Durban Review Conference, the High Commissioner for Human Rights played an active role in the review process, contributing a report of her own and working to encourage Member States participating in the event to find consensus.

A total of 152 States, one entity (occupied Palestinian territory), six UN programmes and funds, three

specialized agencies, 17 human rights bodies and mechanisms, seven inter-governmental organizations and other entities, as well as 40 national human rights institutions and 434 NGOs participated in the Conference. OHCHR facilitated a programme of 42 side events with the participation of treaty bodies, special procedures, UN agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations. These events included a segment featuring “voices” of 15 individuals from around the world who told their personal story of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia or related intolerance.

The Conference culminated with the adoption of a consensual Outcome Document. Speaking shortly after the Document’s adoption, High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay predicted it would “reinvigorate political commitment to

implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. It highlights the increased suffering, since 2001, of many different groups of victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and similar forms of intolerance“ Further, “it identifies, shares and disseminates some best practices in the fight against racism,” said the High Commissioner.

She pointed out that the Outcome Document “unequivocally reaffirms the positive role of freedom of expression in the fight against racism, while also deploring derogatory stereotyping and stigmatization of people based on their religion or belief. It launches a process that will examine how the prohibition of incitement to hatred, as reflected in Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has been implemented in various parts of the world.”

Indigenous Peoples and Minorities

The United Nations has opened new avenues for indigenous peoples and minorities to advance their rights, but in practice they continue to face severe discrimination and other violations of human rights. Through its thematic work, advice, awareness raising and capacity development, OHCHR seeks to have key human rights standards – notably the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Minorities Declaration – more consistently reflected in national laws, policies and practices, as well as in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

Activities

- ▶ Supported the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by organizing its second session and an expert workshop on the right of indigenous peoples to education, in Geneva on 6-7 May.
- ▶ Organized six training programmes (fellowships) for indigenous human rights advocates in English, French, Spanish and Russian, and for minorities in English and Arabic.
- ▶ Increased dialogue on minorities’ participation through a workshop organized with the Government of South Africa on good practices in minorities and policing. Held in Johannesburg in





High Commissioner embraces a Potiguara Indian after a press conference in Brazil, November 2009.

October, the workshop brought together senior police officials from the sub-region.

- ▶ Convened a global roundtable in Bangkok on 16-17 December to further integration of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the work of National Human Rights Institutions and specialized agencies. The meeting brought together representatives of national human rights institutions, indigenous peoples and the three UN mandate-holders devoted to indigenous issues.
- ▶ Contributed to the second session of the Forum on Minority Issues, including by organizing an expert discussion on how to enhance the use of the Minorities Declaration and a pre-session workshop for minority rights advocates.
- ▶ Facilitated regional and country-specific training and dialogue on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with OHCHR staff, UN Country Teams and indigenous representatives in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- ▶ Conducted the first in-depth dialogue with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, thereby contributing to inter-agency UN work on indigenous issues.
- ▶ Assisted in revising the first draft of guidelines on the rights of isolated indigenous peoples, at an 18-19 March meeting in Geneva that featured participation of the Governments concerned,

representatives of indigenous peoples, NGOs and experts. The resulting draft was presented at the second session of the Expert Mechanism.

- ▶ Supported implementation of a regional programme on Afro-descendants in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Afro-descendant organizations in the Andean region to defend their rights.
- ▶ Launched two major capacity development and networking partnership projects with NGOs dealing with indigenous peoples and minorities: the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (doCip) and the Minority Rights Group International (MRG).

Results

- ▶ The first thematic study of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, completed with substantial support from OHCHR, was well-received by both the Human Rights Council and representatives of indigenous peoples.
- ▶ The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has demonstrated its relevance and success through being increasingly invoked at national and international levels, including in general comments issued by treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ A total of 32 newly trained OHCHR indigenous and minority fellows (17 women and 15 men), from 23 countries, returned to their communities empowered with new skills to pursue human rights advocacy and training.
- ▶ The Minorities Declaration began to gain renewed attention in the UN context, with key experts on minorities seeking new ways to put it to practical use.
- ▶ Several OHCHR field presences, including the Regional Office in Panama, launched new activities related to the rights of indigenous peoples, often building on in-house training and support.
- ▶ Following the regional workshop in South Africa, the capacity of participating police officers to draw on good practices in relation to minority issues was enhanced.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Minorities Declaration requires awareness raising in all regions, as well as practical tools that help to operationalize these standards in the field.



Group of women during a demonstration in Nepal.

Women's Human Rights and Gender

Women's rights and gender came to the forefront of the international agenda in 2009. While the 30th anniversary of CEDAW was celebrated and the Beijing+15 review was in the pipeline to assess progress in eliminating discrimination against women worldwide, the global financial crisis significantly affected women's rights, and the Security Council adopted resolution 1888 on sexual violence in armed conflicts. OHCHR works to address a range of gender-related human rights issues and to ensure that gender and women's rights are placed at the core of the work of the Office as a whole and beyond.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with government and non-governmental stakeholders, organized and facilitated two plenary panel dialogues in the Human Rights Council on equality before the law and gender integration.
- ▶ Organized an expert group meeting with African women's human rights NGOs on ending violence against women, in Yaoundé in November. The meeting provided guidance on implementation of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women in Africa and feeds into the Beijing+15 process.
- ▶ Accelerated involvement in the UN initiative against sexual violence in conflict, including chairing the Resource Management Committee of the UN Action Multi-Donor Trust Fund.
- ▶ Together with the Eleanor Roosevelt Project and Vital Voices, jointly organized a women's summit with the objective of mentoring aspiring women's rights leaders, which included active participation of the Deputy High Commissioner and the US Secretary of State.
- ▶ The High Commissioner participated in a high-level State-organized side event to the Human Rights Council in June on the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity and presented video statements to the "Congrès mondial sur les droits de l'homme: l'orientation sexuelle et identité de genre," in Paris in May, and the "Copenhagen World Outgames Conference: Human Rights and Politics," in July.
- ▶ Revised and developed key methodology tools, including on investigation of gender-based violence and on integrating gender into the monitoring of human rights violations.
- ▶ Contributed to preliminary discussions of the working group elaborating a conceptual and practical framework for the Team of Experts to be established under Security Council resolution 1888. The working group is chaired by UNDP, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and OHCHR.
- ▶ Conducted an Office-wide gender evaluation, the results of which will be adopted in 2010, enabling implementation of a new gender strategy and policy, as well as more effective

integration of a gender perspective in programmes and policies.

- ▶ Based on previous activities and research on sexual violence, provided thematic advice to the Commission of Inquiry on the violence that took place in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, in September.

Results

- ▶ Analytical groundwork and advocacy by the Office, special procedures, governments and other counterparts on issues such as equality before the law and maternal mortality resulted in two important resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council. These will affect the Office's work in 2010.
- ▶ Thematic advice to the Commission of Inquiry that investigated the circumstances of September events in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, resulted in a report that thoroughly analyzed the sexual violence that occurred.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1820 on rape as a weapon of war, and subsequently its resolution 1888, has revealed a need for systematic sensitization and awareness raising of these issues amongst partner agencies. Two additional OHCHR posts will be established in 2010, one of which will be devoted to women, peace and security issues.
- ▶ A challenge for 2010 will be implementing recommendations from the Office-wide 2009 gender evaluation.

Human Rights Mainstreaming, the Millennium Development Goals and the Right to Development

Human rights, development and peace and security stand as the three core pillars of the United Nations system. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed the linkages amongst these pillars and resolved to further integrate human rights into the work of the United Nations, as well as into national policies and development activities. OHCHR has worked closely with other parts of the United Nations system and national partners to integrate human rights into the full range of development work, including in the areas of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS.



Participants in a "Delivering as One" workshop held in Geneva, November 2009.

Activities

Human rights mainstreaming

- ▶ Supported the establishment on 30 November of a dedicated senior-level mechanism on human rights mainstreaming under the UN Development Group (UNDG), to further institutionalize human rights mainstreaming (HRM) efforts. The new mechanism (UNDG-HRM) builds on progress achieved under the Action 2 inter-agency programme, which supported capacity development in more than 60 UN Country Teams during 2004-2008.
- ▶ Strengthened support to the UN Resident Coordinator System, through increased senior-level engagement and support to UN leadership at country level; the UNDG Advisory Group; and training workshops and induction programmes for Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators and agency country representatives. Since January 2009, human rights have become an integral part of the terms of reference of Resident Coordinators, following a policy decision by the Secretary-General to move toward increased accountability.
- ▶ Cooperated with the UN Staff College in training UN staff at country and regional levels on a human rights-based approach to development programming. This represents an integral part of UNDG's support to UN Country Teams preparing their UN Development Assistance Frameworks with national partners.
- ▶ At a workshop in Geneva, assisted in stocktaking of progress by the Delivering as One pilot UN Country Teams in integrating human rights into the United Nations system-wide coherence agenda at country level.

Human rights and poverty reduction

- ▶ The High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner actively highlighted the centrality of human rights in the global development agenda at various high-level international events in 2009, including the Hague Seminar on Human Rights and MDGs and the General Assembly Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development.
- ▶ Reviewed and mapped existing tools and frameworks on human rights and poverty reduction, and produced a draft training package that demonstrates the added value of the human rights framework in the national development planning and implementation process. During advisory missions to Haiti and Liberia, the draft training package was piloted with a wide range of national stakeholders.
- ▶ Supported the mandate of the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty and conducted the second round of consultations on the draft guiding principles on human rights and extreme poverty. This included a two-day seminar on the subject to gather further inputs.
- ▶ Contributed to United Nations system-wide responses to the global economic and financial crises through the Chief Executive Board, and supported the work of the Human Rights Council, several treaty bodies and special procedures in analyzing the impact of the crises on human rights relevant to various mandates.
- ▶ Successfully organized the 2009 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council, which brought together more than 100 representatives of diverse institutions and relevant stakeholders to discuss human rights and poverty, including in the context of economic and financial crises.

Right to development

- ▶ Provided substantive and technical support to the high-level task force on implementation of the right to development and the inter-governmental Working Group on the right to development.
- ▶ Organized two technical missions and commissioned three consultancy papers in support of mainstreaming the right to development into global partnerships.
- ▶ Organized an expert meeting and commissioned three reports and studies as a contribution to the elaboration of right to development criteria and sub-criteria.
- ▶ In partnership with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the NGO Centre of Concern, organized a side event during the General Assembly in October on the theme of

“Human Rights and Financing for Development: Toward Realizing the Right to Development.”

- ▶ In partnership with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, organized an event in November on “The World Intellectual Property Organization Development Agenda and the Right to Development: Toward Bridging the Gap.”
- ▶ In partnership with the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, organized an expert meeting on “Improved Interaction Between the UPR, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Right to Development,” in November in Arusha, Tanzania.
- ▶ Provided substantive and technical support to the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity.

A rights-based response to HIV/AIDS

- ▶ Continued advocacy on the centrality of human rights in the AIDS response, including at the Ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. At that event, the Deputy High Commissioner delivered a keynote speech on the urgent need to address human rights issues to overcome obstacles to an effective response to the epidemic.
- ▶ In collaboration with UNAIDS, organized a side event during the Durban Review Conference on HIV-related discrimination, focused on restrictions on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV.
- ▶ Provided expert advice to various stakeholders in Cape Verde, Ghana and Niger on integrating human rights norms and standards into HIV-specific legislation.



- ▶ Gave analytical briefings to the treaty bodies, special procedures mandate-holders and the Human Rights Council, including joint OHCHR/UNAIDS briefings, resulting in the adoption of HIV-specific recommendations by these human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Together with UNAIDS and the UN Staff College, developed a module on HIV and a human rights-based approach to programming that was piloted in Viet Nam. The module aims to guide UN Country Teams in integrating human rights standards into UN operational programmes in response to the HIV pandemic.
- ▶ Held regional workshops in Dakar, Senegal, and Lima, Peru, to support national human rights institutions in promoting rights-based national responses to HIV and in operationalizing the OHCHR/UNAIDS Handbook on HIV and human rights for national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Contributed to finalization of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on HIV in Humanitarian Situations, and published a joint UNAIDS/WHO/OHCHR Policy Brief on Disability and HIV.
- ▶ Developed and finalized the draft Commentary on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, and contributed to the Economic Community of West African States draft strategy on anti-trafficking.
- ▶ Organized a side event to the Human Rights Council on human rights and human trafficking in March, as well as a side event to the UN General Assembly in October. These provided forums for victims and survivors of trafficking to express their views on what constitutes effective anti-trafficking interventions and to share their experiences.
- ▶ Organized an interactive thematic dialogue of the General Assembly in May, which focused on the proposal for development of a Global Plan of Action on combating human trafficking.
- ▶ Participated in a needs assessment mission to Belarus (November-December) to assess possible avenues of cooperation between OHCHR and Belarus on human rights and human trafficking.

Discrimination against Persons Living with HIV

During the Durban Review Conference side event on HIV-related travel restrictions, Violetta Ross from the Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV spoke passionately about the discriminatory nature of HIV travel restrictions. "It is wrong and unfair to assume that I or any other person living with HIV will get into your borders with the specific aim to transmit HIV. I am a responsible person, and I am here to contribute to the fight against this epidemic, not to spread it – just like the majority of my colleagues living with HIV," she said. In addition, Maria Lourdes Marin from Action for Health Initiatives described how "Rahul" was arrested, chained and then deported when authorities in a foreign country discovered he was HIV-positive after undergoing a medical checkup to renew his work permit. The side event served as a reminder of the crosscutting nature of HIV-related discrimination, which has an effect well beyond the right to health.

Human trafficking

- ▶ Actively engaged in a number of initiatives to support combating human trafficking, including as coordinator of the Inter-governmental Organization Contact Group on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling and as a member of the Steering Committee of the UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking.
- ▶ Commitment was renewed system-wide to scaling up human rights mainstreaming into UN development work, reflected in the decision to establish a follow-up mechanism to Action 2 by principals of the UN Development Group. The follow-up mechanism (UNDG-HRM) will be chaired by OHCHR.

Human rights indicators

- ▶ At the request of governments and national human rights institutions, conducted workshops on human rights indicators in Nepal, Kenya and Ecuador with national stakeholders.
- ▶ Conducted an expert consultation on human rights indicators in Geneva to identify indicators on violence against women and on non-discrimination and equality, as well as to develop the outline of a practical guide to help disseminate and operationalize OHCHR's work on indicators.
- ▶ Delivered presentations on human rights indicators to the annual meeting of the Swiss Statistical Association in October, and to the Council of Europe in November.
- ▶ Conducted a training session for health professionals on indicators for promoting and monitoring the right to health, as part of the training programme organized by the Faculty of Medicine of Geneva in association with a number of organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), Médecins Sans Frontières and the Swiss School of Public Health.

Results

Haiti and Liberia: A Human Rights-based Approach to Monitoring the National Budget

OHCHR's work on national budget monitoring from a human rights perspective – in particular the draft training package on a human rights-based approach to budget monitoring and advocacy – proved relevant and very useful in Haiti and Liberia. National participants from Governments and civil society actively participated in workshops that provided not only an opportunity to share relevant experiences and knowledge, but also created a platform for mutual dialogue between experts. The active engagement of UN agencies also was critical in establishing an effective bridge between these national actors.

Follow-up has been particularly active in Haiti, where the OHCHR country presence joined with UN and national stakeholders to propose a follow-up project on piloting a public expenditure tracking survey from a human rights perspective, within selected national Ministries. This project encourages the participation of grassroots civil society organizations (CSOs) and poor communities in an otherwise technocratic exercise, usually conducted solely by government experts. A training workshop resulted in a shift amongst both development and human rights practitioners in Haiti toward including CSOs and poor communities in improving livelihoods for the poorest.



Participants at a training session in Haiti on the human rights-based approach to budget monitoring, November 2009. OHCHR would like to acknowledge the special contribution of Ms. Lisa Mbele-Mbong (centre, talking to participants), a staff member of the human rights section of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) who was tragically killed in the earthquake in Port-au-Prince in January 2010.

- ▶ Stocktaking reports from Delivering as One pilot countries indicated clear progress in integrating human rights into UN work at country level under strong national ownership, while recognizing that each pilot stands at a different stage of implementation.
- ▶ Positive feedback was received from national stakeholders on the usefulness of a draft training package on the human rights-based approach to budget monitoring and advocacy, piloted in Haiti and Liberia.
- ▶ Both the Accra Agenda for Action on aid effectiveness and the Doha Declaration on financing for development integrated human rights standards and principles, in part as a result of sustained advocacy and continued efforts by OHCHR in mainstreaming human rights, including the right to development.
- ▶ Increased attention was given to the human rights dimensions of the HIV pandemic as a priority issue amongst both human rights and HIV/AIDS communities. Activities by OHCHR have resulted in greater knowledge of how to integrate human rights into programmatic responses to HIV; broadening the scope to institutions that could potentially address HIV, including national human rights institutions; and contributing to a more favourable legal environment for effective AIDS programmes.
- ▶ Diverse and expanded activities of the Office to combat human trafficking increased awareness

and support for a human rights approach to anti-trafficking efforts, reflected in the request by the Human Rights Council for the Office to organize a seminar on human trafficking.

- ▶ OHCHR's programme on human rights indicators led to increased recognition at international and national levels of the usefulness of a conceptual and methodological framework on human rights indicators for promoting and monitoring the implementation of human rights. For example, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe stated that the use of structural, process and outcome indicators, as in the framework developed by OHCHR, was becoming more and more common.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Lessons learned from the Action 2 programme indicate a continuing need for more targeted support to UN Country Teams, particularly to Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators; enhanced cooperation at regional level to ensure more sustained support to UN Country Teams; and greater focus on knowledge management.
- ▶ Human rights advisers played a key role in providing the necessary support and advice at country level, at a time when demand for such support is increasing from Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.



Economic and Social Issues

OHCHR cooperates with the United Nations system and other partners in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights; human rights and disability; human rights and business; climate change; and migration.

Activities

Economic, social and cultural rights

- ▶ Advocated for signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, through the production of briefing notes and materials to assist OHCHR field presences.
- ▶ Supported the Secretariat of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by organizing a seminar on justiciability of these rights for members of the Committee, focused on whether the ability exists to provide adequate resolution for relevant disputes. Assisted in development of the Committee's General Comment No. 20 on non-discrimination in relation to economic, social and cultural rights and General Comment No. 21 on the right to participate in cultural life.
- ▶ Finalized several capacity development and information tools on economic, social and cultural rights, including the High Commissioner's report to the Economic and Social Council on implementation and monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights (E/2009/90), as well as a fact sheet on the right to adequate housing.
- ▶ Trained 24 OHCHR field staff on economic, social and cultural rights in Geneva at a week-long workshop, the first of its kind with economic, social and cultural rights focal points from all regions. Provided specific training to OHCHR field staff as well as from other UN agencies, government officials and delegates from NGOs in Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, Sudan and Tajikistan. Some of these workshops focused on specific economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right to housing or to health, while others focused on legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights or a comprehensive view of economic, social and cultural rights for field officers.
- ▶ Continued to strengthen OHCHR's institutional partnerships with the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other relevant UN partners working in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, including through joint activities and programmes such as the UN Housing Rights Programme (OHCHR – UN-Habitat) or a series of high-level lunch-time dialogues on health and human rights (OHCHR – WHO).
- ▶ Worked with staff supporting the special procedures in relation to mandate-holders

working on economic, social and cultural rights, in particular, on the right to health, the right to food, the right to housing, extreme poverty, the right to water, the newly created mandate on cultural rights, and violence against women.

Human rights and disability

- ▶ Undertook missions to Colombia and Thailand to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, which included training on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and meetings with key government and non-governmental stakeholders.
- ▶ Made presentations in several workshops and conferences on the CRPD, including the European Disability Forum expert meeting on national implementation and monitoring, in Brussels; the International Committee of the Red Cross meeting on victim assistance and the Convention, in Norway; a panel roundtable on disability law and policy, in Ireland; and the Disabled People International Europe Conference on Convention implementation, in Budapest.
- ▶ With the aim to increase understanding of the Convention amongst human rights mechanisms, undertook a study for the Human Rights Council that included open consultations on the Convention in Geneva, and supported an interactive debate during the tenth session on the rights of persons with disabilities.

- ▶ Developed information materials on the Convention, including a Monitoring Guide; two publications on the right to education and legal capacity within the Convention, focusing on legislative measures for implementation of such rights; and a Guidance Note for UN Country Teams on integrating the rights of persons with disabilities in country programming.

Human rights and business

- ▶ Supported the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations, including contributing to the Special Representative's regional consultation in New Delhi; a multi-stakeholder expert meeting on the role of national corporate law in enhancing respect for human rights in a corporate context; and support for the Special Representative's work on the impact of investment treaties on human rights.
- ▶ Convened a major international multi-stakeholder consultation mandated by the Human Rights Council to provide input to the work of the Special Representative, attended by more than 300 participants from business, civil society and Governments.
- ▶ Provided ongoing technical and policy advice on the human rights component of the UN Global Compact, including through participation in its

Cultural Rights of Persons with Disabilities

A concert by Mundo Alas, an orchestra of persons with disabilities, to commemorate Human Rights Day on 10 December represented an opportunity to promote human rights by raising awareness of the often-invisible – but highly important – contribution of persons with disabilities to all areas of life, including cultural life. Mundo Alas comprises musicians, singers, dancers and painters with different disabilities; their work was accompanied by León Gieco, one of Argentina's most famous rock singers.

The concert, attended by about 5,000 people, was organized by the United Nations system and the Municipality of Montevideo, under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Culture. It was held at the Verano Theatre in Montevideo. On the same day, the Department of Human Rights of the Government of Uruguay launched the Uruguayan National Plan of Action against Discrimination and Racism, as a follow-up to the Durban Review Conference.



Performance by Mundo Alas, a group of artists with disabilities, during an event in Uruguay to mark Human Rights Day, December 2009.

Human Rights Working Group and the Compact inter-agency group.

- ▶ Engaged with OHCHR field presences, UN Country Teams and national stakeholders in Colombia, Liberia and Cambodia on how to integrate business and human rights in activities and programmes.
- ▶ Contributed to the Durban Review Conference through organizing a side event on combating discrimination in the workplace, in collaboration with the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre.

Climate change and environment

- ▶ Raised awareness of the Human Rights Council's discussions and the findings in the OHCHR report on the relationship between climate change and human rights (A/HRC/10/61), through a range of public statements, information material and articles.
- ▶ Jointly with UNEP, organized a side event on human rights and climate change during the tenth session of the Human Rights Council and an expert seminar on human rights and the environment, in November.
- ▶ Contributed to deliberations on human rights, climate change and the environment within the broader United Nations system and participated in several meetings on this issue organized by external partners, including side events during international climate change meetings.

Migration

- ▶ Provided analysis and policy direction to the High Commissioner and OHCHR staff on migration-related work and advocacy.
- ▶ Facilitated and substantively supported a range of meetings on human rights and migration, including an April side event during the Durban Review Conference, organized jointly with UNHCR and the ILO; a panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on immigration detention, in September; and an expert seminar on migration and development, in October.
- ▶ Promoted a human rights approach to migration through public statements and development of public information material, including issuing joint statements and publications of the inter-agency Global Migration Group.

Results

- ▶ The opening for signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is a concrete result of years of support by OHCHR that led to the finalization of this instrument in September. Thirty-one States signed the Optional Protocol in its first four months.
- ▶ Legislation and policies on economic, social and cultural rights improved following missions and technical assistance in selected countries, including housing legislation in Kyrgyzstan;



Somali refugees near a refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya.

strengthening of the integration of a human rights-based approach in social policies and of legislation providing for judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights in Ecuador; and consideration of international human rights standards regarding eviction procedures in Serbia.

- ▶ The Human Rights Council has committed to an annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities in its regular session, which OHCHR supports with the organizations of panels and thematic studies.
- ▶ As co-chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on the CRPD, the Office has successfully promoted the integration of a human rights approach to disability issues within the United Nations system. Increased awareness and understanding of the CRPD also has been achieved through development of various studies and tools.
- ▶ OHCHR's contribution to the work of the Global Compact has led to a series of "good practice" notes being considered by the Human Rights Working Group, providing practical guidance to companies on issues such as multi-stakeholder panels, human rights advocacy and managing human rights in the supply chain.
- ▶ Reports and communications by other special procedures mandates have referred to the policy framework for business and human rights proposed by the Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects on human rights of the illicit trans-boundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes has used the Special Representative's framework to analyze responsibilities of companies in specific cases.
- ▶ OHCHR's support contributed to increased recognition and acceptance of the human rights implications of climate change and of the close inter-relationship between human rights and the environment. In particular, OHCHR prepared a report on the relationship between climate change and human rights, which was considered by the Human Rights Council at its tenth session in March; facilitated a panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on human rights and climate change on 17 September; and participated in various meetings on human rights and climate change in the context of international climate change negotiations, including side events during the UN Climate Change Talks in Bonn, in June, and the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15/CMP5), in December.



Voluntary workers distribute food to homeless people in France.

- ▶ Contributed to strengthening the protection of the human rights of migrants through joint advocacy of the inter-agency Global Migration Group, as well as through technical assistance and support by OHCHR to a number of States to improve their national laws and policies for the protection of migrants.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ While advances have been made in raising awareness and understanding of economic, social and cultural rights, these issues are still unevenly incorporated into the UN human rights system, particularly at field level.
- ▶ A need exists to invest in and identify opportunities for engaging with large international processes, for example, the Millennium Development Goal review summit in 2010, in order to make a substantive and political difference on disabilities and human rights.
- ▶ The issue of business and human rights remains largely marginalized in the UN human rights system, including at field level. This means that important opportunities to provide leadership and guidance in this area to States and the business sector are missed.

Methodology, Education and Training

OHCHR develops and distributes an array of guidance tools and resources, provides best practices for conducting human rights work by OHCHR and other actors, and designs and delivers methodological training around the world. The focus of much of this work is on strengthening national protection systems; human rights monitoring and investigations; human rights education and training; human rights in peace operations and in humanitarian action; and knowledge management. The Office also improves understanding of human rights issues through its publications programme and library references services.

Activities

Human rights assessment and planning

- ▶ Developed and delivered a human rights orientation programme for 134 members of the diplomatic community in Geneva, New York and Addis Ababa, in cooperation with the UN Institute for Training and Research.
- ▶ Assisted in development of National Human Rights Action Plans in Morocco, Tanzania, Nigeria and the Pacific, through the development and dissemination of guidance materials; knowledge sharing through seminars; an updated action plan; electronic resource page; and systematic telephone and e-mail follow-up.
- ▶ Participated in the Protection Cluster Task Force on Learning as well as in other inter-agency groups and activities related to learning and training. In this regard, OHCHR contributed to development of several guidance and training materials, including a Handbook on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and guidance materials on international humanitarian norms and principles and UNHCR policy on human rights. It also contributed expert resource persons for training and learning activities.

Human rights monitoring and investigations

- ▶ Conducted ten training courses on human rights monitoring in English and French, including a training of trainers and a pilot training on human rights investigations, for 262 beneficiaries (170 OHCHR national and international staff, 69 members of national human rights institutions and civil society, and 23 students).
- ▶ Four post-mission reviews were held following fact-finding and monitoring missions supported or implemented by OHCHR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Gabon and the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza), in order

to identify good practices and record lessons learned.

- ▶ Provided support and advice on human rights fact-finding and investigations methodology to international investigation missions to the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza) and Guinea.
- ▶ Developed guidance materials to be published as an OHCHR Manual on Human Rights Investigations; developed additional guidance on human rights monitoring and fact-finding as well as the integration of gender into human rights investigations.

Human rights education and training

- ▶ Provided methodological support on design and delivery of human rights training for a variety of audiences, including OHCHR field presences, human rights components of peacekeeping operations, UN entities, and international and national government and non-governmental actors.
- ▶ Through the OHCHR website, shared national initiatives on the integration of human rights education into school systems undertaken under the World Programme for Human Rights Education, a global initiative coordinated by OHCHR.
- ▶ Facilitated joint UN action to support national human rights education initiatives by convening and supporting the UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System, comprising 12 UN entities.
- ▶ Conducted two training courses for 30 UN staff and indigenous and minorities fellows on designing, managing and delivering human rights training.
- ▶ By the end of the sixth phase of the Assisting Communities Together project in December, delivered small grants to 100 organizations from 30 countries to implement grassroots human rights education activities.

Human rights in peace operations

- ▶ Integrated human rights into security sector reform guidance notes, which are being developed within the framework of the UN security sector reform inter-agency task force, as well as into a one-day sensitization briefing on security sector reform and the UN emerging approach.
- ▶ Provided human rights input into policies and guidance for UN peace operations, including policy on justice components; guidelines on the methodology for review of justice and corrections components; interim standard operating procedures on detention in UN peace operations; guidelines on UN police support to the provision



Children at a school in Monrovia, Liberia.

of electoral security; Department of Peacekeeping Operations Concept Note on protection of civilians; and study on vetting of peacekeepers.

- ▶ Contributed to development of the Standard Generic Training Modules for civilian, police and military personnel in UN peace operations, including core pre-deployment modules on human rights protection and applicable international law in such operations.
- ▶ Revised and updated the training programme for senior leaders of peace missions and provided advice and personnel to deliver training.

General methodological support and knowledge management

- ▶ Conducted a needs assessment on knowledge management to understand achievements, obstacles and needs that OHCHR has in creating, organizing and sharing knowledge.
- ▶ Finalized and released an induction CD-ROM on OHCHR for newly recruited staff.

Reference tools and publications

- ▶ Use of OHCHR's library reference services and research assistance doubled in 2009, with answers provided to 1,055 reference questions from staff and other clientele. The online library catalogue received 7,833 visits during the year.
- ▶ Distributed more than 170,000 copies of OHCHR publications to users in 100 countries.

- ▶ OHCHR issued nine new human rights publications and 33 publications in translation, some jointly with other organizations.

Results

- ▶ The new online Human Rights Education and Training Database contains information on more than 1,100 human rights education institutions and 350 human rights programmes, and allows for sharing of information.
- ▶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights set a new Guinness World Record as the world's most translated document, with translations into 370 languages. Some of the most recent translations were developed from grants provided by OHCHR's Assisting Communities Together project.
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR training, a pool of 20 trainers in field offices are now available to provide instruction on human rights monitoring, based on materials available in English, French and Spanish.
- ▶ Capacity of human rights officers in the field was strengthened through professionalization of human rights monitoring methodology, a result of both training and guidance development.
- ▶ Efforts to ensure more timely production of major OHCHR publications in Russian and to promote them amongst potential readers, particularly in Russian Federation and Central Asia, resulted in increased demand.

- ▶ The new UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, in Doha, Qatar, was provided with 16,500 publications for its official opening by the High Commissioner.
- ▶ Human rights standards and perspectives developed by OHCHR were incorporated into policy, guidance and training materials issued for use by peacekeeping personnel.
- ▶ A workshop on humanitarian action represented the first structured effort to reflect and strategize on OHCHR engagement in humanitarian action and triggered interest, commitment and several requests of support, particularly from the field.
- ▶ Close involvement by OHCHR in the drafting process has resulted in the finalization by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Interim Standard Operating Procedures on Detention in UN Peace Operations, the first document of its kind.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Publication of the Compendium of Good Practices in Schools is a good example of inter-agency collaboration and has led to calls for similar initiatives.
- ▶ Closer involvement in the planning stages of Commissions of Inquiry has strengthened the methodology of such investigations, with improved outcomes.



OHCHR staff facilitating a training course on human rights investigations held in Berlin, November 2009.

- ▶ Only partial understanding exists within the United Nations system of the role and responsibilities of OHCHR and human rights components in implementation of protection of civilian mandates by peace operations. Greater effort is required to improve cooperation between the uniformed components (police and military) and human rights components of peace operations.

Outreach

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has a unique role as the chief advocate for human rights in the United Nations system and a voice for victims around the world. She performs this role through dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders, and through public statements, speeches and other outreach activities.

As in previous years, five organizational units within Executive Direction and Management (EDM) coordinated and facilitated support to the High Commissioner in her engagement with Member States, the media, civil society and partners in the United Nations system: the Executive Office, the Donor and External Relations Section, the Communications Section, the Civil Society Section, and the New York Office.

Leadership

In 2009 the High Commissioner's vision and leadership before, during and after the Durban Review Conference in April, as well as secretariat support provided by the Office, were appreciated as instrumental in a successful process to strengthen the momentum in the fight against racial discrimination. On 10 December, Human Rights Day, the High Commissioner also launched the year-long celebration of human rights in a campaign to "Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination."

In the High Commissioner's continued advocacy for better integration of human rights in all areas of UN activities, she won the endorsement of the



High Commissioner visits a day care centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 2009.



Deputy High Commissioner Kyung-wha Kang addresses the UN Security Council during a debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, November 2009.

UN Development Group to establish a standing mechanism to further human rights mainstreaming in operational activities. The General Assembly also approved the High Commissioner's request to upgrade leadership of the New York Office to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, so as to ensure greater engagement with all New York counterparts, including other UN Secretariat departments. The visibility and impact of the High Commissioner's lead role were maintained through a continuous stream of public statements, speeches and opinion articles.

Activities

In 2009 the High Commissioner and her Deputy:

- ▶ Undertook, between them, 13 bilateral visits to Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Nepal, Qatar, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
- ▶ Addressed the Human Rights Council at each of its sessions, including a one-day interactive dialogue on 5 March, and gave 100 speeches to various audiences, including Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the African Union Summit, the European Parliament, a large number of universities, and many national human rights institutions. She also addressed the Third

Committee of the General Assembly and engaged in an interactive dialogue with Member States.

- ▶ Authored nine opinion articles for publication in print and electronic media on topics including the Durban Review Conference, migrants at sea, indigenous peoples and the rights of women.
- ▶ Engaged in dialogue with Member States on particular human rights concerns relating to both general issues and individual cases.

Results

- ▶ Notwithstanding the political challenges faced before and during the Durban Review Conference, the High Commissioner's leadership was critical in its success and contributed to the adoption by consensus of the Outcome Document.
- ▶ The High Commissioner's engagement with government authorities facilitated the resolution of a number of individual cases and contributed to changing human rights policies at national level.
- ▶ The Office was successful in forging the agreement of partners in the UN Development Group to establish a follow-up mechanism to Action 2, marking a pivotal success.
- ▶ The General Assembly's endorsement of the upgrading of the New York Office representation

to the level of Assistant Secretary-General, following concerted advocacy by the High Commissioner, showed that Member States increasingly accept the importance of integrating human rights and OHCHR input into the work of New York-based UN entities.

- ▶ Speeches, newspaper opinion pieces and press releases by the High Commissioner were key to enhancing awareness about human rights norms and principles and about OHCHR's activities worldwide.
- ▶ OHCHR's increasing presence in different countries and regions (with new presences established in 2009 in the Persian Gulf, South America and Western Europe) indicates the willingness of states to work in partnership with OHCHR at national level.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The Internet and new media technologies have expanded freedom of expression and speech, but they also pose a growing challenge for the Office in the dissemination of accurate information and knowledge about its activities and the UN human rights programme. This challenge was particularly keenly felt in the lead-up to the Durban Review Conference.
- ▶ Activities organized to mark Human Rights Day in December 2009 received less media attention than similar events organized a year earlier, when the Office was celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A new media strategy is called for in order to attract more attention from the general public, especially amongst youth.
- ▶ Implementation within existing resources of many new mandates given by legislative bodies hampers appropriate response and servicing as well as implementation of existing priorities.
- ▶ Conference servicing, particularly documentation, remains a challenge for legislative and other bodies for which OHCHR ensures secretariat support, including treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council. By moving the Documents Processing Unit from the Human Rights Treaties Division to Executive Direction and Management, effective 1 January 2010, the Office hopes to strengthen cooperation with the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management.

Donor and External Relations

The Donor and External Relations Section is responsible for mobilizing sufficient extra-budgetary resources from Member States and the wider donor community to enable the Office to implement its programme of work. To this end, the Section works to raise understanding of OHCHR's work around the world and to generate support for the objectives, priorities and implementation strategies laid out in the biennial Strategic Management Plan.

Activities

- ▶ Organized 23 briefing sessions for Member States on a variety of human rights-related topics, including two all-day sessions in Geneva and New York to present and discuss the Office's proposed thematic priorities for the 2010-2011 biennium.
- ▶ Liaised with representatives of current and potential donors, providing information on various aspects of OHCHR's work, organizing formal consultations with delegations from donor countries, soliciting contributions and negotiating funding arrangements.
- ▶ Provided a stream of written reporting to donors on implementation of activities and use of funds, as well as prepared the Office's yearly report on its work, the *2008 Report on Activities and Results*.
- ▶ Undertook missions to Brussels, Paris, Canberra, Kathmandu, London, Madrid, Vienna, Washington, D.C., and Wellington, with the aim of strengthening donor relations and increasing support for OHCHR's work.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR received US\$118.1 million in new contributions in 2009, down 1.5 per cent compared with 2008. This exceeds both the published budget (\$112 million) and actual expenditures (\$95.1 million).
- ▶ Contributions from Member States were stable at US\$107 million, compared with US\$106.7 million in 2008. This result was achieved despite the effects of a spike in the value of the U.S. dollar in the first part of 2009, which reduced the dollar value of many contributions.
- ▶ The proportion of unearmarked funding edged up from 54 per cent of the total, in 2008, to 56 per cent in 2009. The amount of unearmarked funding rose from US\$64.6 million to US\$66.1 million.
- ▶ 69 Member States contributed in 2009, 14 fewer than in 2008. Almost all countries of the Western

European and Others Group contributed, along with half of Eastern European States, a third of Asian States, just over a quarter of Latin American and Caribbean States and less than 10 per cent of African States.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Although, as expected, the global economic downturn created serious fundraising challenges for OHCHR in 2009, the Office emerged relatively well, with overall contributions down less than 2 per cent and funding from Member States actually slightly higher than in 2008. Initial fears that the economic crisis would trigger a collapse in donor support proved unfounded, or at least premature. While fewer Member States contributed than in 2008 and a handful cut their support in response to the crisis, these losses were offset by increases from a few states. This result reflects the strength of donor commitment to the human rights programme.
- ▶ Of greater significance in 2009 was volatility in exchange rates, which wiped an estimated US\$11 million off the value of contributions from OHCHR's top 20 donors alone. Measured not in dollars but in donors' own currencies, overall donor support actually rose by more than 5 per cent. Had the value of the dollar remained at 2008 levels, 2009 contributions would have been worth nearly US\$130 million, i.e., US\$10 million above the level of 2008.
- ▶ The drop in the number of Member States contributing partly reflected the absence in 2009 of a special anniversary appeal similar to the 2008 appeal linked to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That appeal succeeded in attracting a number of first-time donors whose support for now appears to have been one-off. It proved especially difficult in the dramatically more difficult economic context of 2009 to persuade these new and many other irregular donors to renew their support.
- ▶ While the Office has fared better than feared this year, there remains a real prospect that 2010 will see a more generalized impact of the recent economic downturn on levels of donor support, as governments enact austerity measures to rein in public borrowing and cuts in aid budgets filter down to the level of decisions on voluntary contributions.

For more information on funding, please refer to pages 188-199.

New York Office

At UN headquarters in New York, 2009 saw continuing efforts by OHCHR to advance the effective integration of the norms, standards, methodologies, policies and mechanisms of the UN human rights system. Particular attention was given to New York-based inter-governmental organs, inter-departmental bodies, policy development processes, operational oversight activities and public information initiatives.

Activities

- ▶ Advocated for a firm normative basis in human rights for UN democracy and electoral work, through chairing the UN Democracy Fund's Programme Consultative Group, serving as a core member of the UN Executive Committee on Peace and Security Working Group on Democracy, and participating in the Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism for Electoral Assistance.
- ▶ Pressed for explicit integration of human rights norms into the Organization's counterterrorism



Doves are released as part of the ceremony at UN Headquarters in observance of International Day of Peace.

work, through chairing the Human Rights Working Group of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

- ▶ As chair of the United Nations system-wide Action 2 Task Force and a facilitator in establishing the UN Development Group Human Rights Mechanism (UNDG-HRM), helped shepherd the Action 2 programme to a successful conclusion. Contributed to putting into place successor arrangements, with the objective of ensuring continued progress in the mainstreaming of human rights into UN development work.
- ▶ Served as an active member of the Working Group on the Integrated Mission Planning Process and several Integrated Mission Task Forces for UN peace missions around the globe; also served as a member of inter-departmental mechanisms on mediation; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform; and women, peace and security, all in support of Security Council resolutions 1888, 1820 and 1325.
- ▶ Participated in the New York-based UN Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, leading the group's work on transitional justice. Contributed to development of its Joint Strategic Rule of Law Plan and co-managed, with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Rule of Law Indicators project.
- ▶ Contributed human rights materials and ensured a human rights perspective was included in many events focusing on a broad range of economic and social issues in New York, including the Conference on the financial crisis, the second session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the High-Level Task Force on the food crisis, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- ▶ Organized panels and briefings on a variety of human rights-related topics, including racism; persons with disabilities; human rights and aging; the right to development and financing for development; the responsibility to protect; transitional justice; the Human Rights Council; the new Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; counterterrorism; and women's rights.
- ▶ Conducted a special series of briefings and outreach activities to New York-based Member States, the media and civil society organizations in connection with the Durban Review Conference in April.
- ▶ Provided substantive and technical support for consideration of human rights issues by New York-based inter-governmental bodies, including the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Results

- ▶ The Action 2 programme was successfully concluded and agreement reached on establishment of a successor arrangement, the UNDG-HRM.
- ▶ System-wide guidance on democracy assistance was adopted, with an explicit basis in international human rights norms.
- ▶ An OHCHR Guidance Note on Transitional Justice received system-wide endorsement.
- ▶ New Integrated UN Standards on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration were adopted with human rights fully integrated.
- ▶ Human rights-sensitive guidelines on strategic assessment and planning for integrated missions were completed and adopted.
- ▶ With OHCHR assistance, the Secretary-General's report on Security Council resolutions 1820 and 1325 (women, peace and security) was completed, as were plans for a team of experts to be established under resolution 1888 (sexual violence). OHCHR was appointed to the Standing Committee that will have oversight for the team's work.
- ▶ The General Assembly in December approved a new post for an Assistant Secretary-General to head the New York Office from 2010.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The New York Office, facing ever-increasing demands from inter-governmental bodies, Member States, NGOs, United Nations system partners and the public, has plotted a results-based course for 2010-2011. Sustained and direct engagement by OHCHR continues to be required to mainstream human rights in the peace and security, development and other work areas of the Organization in New York.
- ▶ Human rights-related themes (genocide, rule of law, democracy, responsibility to protect) are increasingly fragmented in New York, creating ever-expanding needs for OHCHR presence, coordination and participation.
- ▶ Human rights-relevant policy-level discussions in New York have suffered from the lack of a political-level OHCHR official at headquarters. The appointment of a new Assistant Secretary-General for human rights in the New York Office is expected to go a long way toward remedying the situation.

Communications

Context

The Office's public information efforts are coordinated and supported by a dedicated Communications Section, based in Geneva. In 2009, the section worked to heighten visibility of issues such as discrimination, indigenous peoples, migration, gender, the 20th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, amongst others.

Disseminating information on the Durban Review Conference was a high priority during the first half of the year. In collaboration with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), OHCHR managed and developed a large-scale public information operation to support the Conference. In the second half of 2009, public information efforts were geared toward developing materials and products for Human Rights Day, where the theme was non-discrimination. Non-discrimination also will be the special focus of the Office's communications strategy for 2010; the objective will be to combat discrimination in all its forms by raising awareness and promoting attitudinal change among target audiences worldwide.

Activities

- ▶ Created, for the Durban Review Conference, a website in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information web team in New York. The site featured extensive information about the Conference, including documents, feature stories, press releases, statements, information notes, newsletters, posters, logos and videos, in the six official UN languages. Each language website included more than 115 web pages and 180 documents. Print material also was made available. A conference opening video was produced based on victims of discrimination.
- ▶ Developed a Human Rights Day 2009 section on OHCHR's main website. It included a visual identity and a tagline, as well as information notes and feature stories about discrimination, in English, French and Spanish. Materials also were printed and disseminated around the globe. Furthermore, four videos were produced to support the anti-discrimination theme of Human Rights Day; these were distributed to broadcasters and the media and on the Internet.

- ▶ Supported the High Commissioner in recording 11 video speeches on various themes throughout the year.
- ▶ Produced a general leaflet on the work of the Office and distributed this electronically and in print. Published 160 web feature articles, with photographs, on www.ohchr.org, telling the stories of human experiences worldwide and the work of expert groups in Geneva and New York.
- ▶ Delivered and coordinated 87 briefings to visiting groups from around the world on human rights and the work of the Office. These represented around 1,800 students, educators, public servants and civil society. Also coordinated the human rights module of the annual Graduate Study Programme organized by the UN Information Service in Geneva for postgraduate students.

Results

- ▶ Visibility in print and electronic media rose by 15 per cent over the previous year (30 per cent over two years), with 6,446 articles referring to the High Commissioner or her Office in 2009, up from 5,624 in 2008 and 4,524 in 2007.
- ▶ Opinion articles by the High Commissioner appeared in at least 114 publications in 33 countries.
- ▶ Press conferences, media interviews and briefings by the High Commissioner totalled around 35.

A Focus on Non-discrimination

The focus of Human Rights Day 2009 was non-discrimination, encapsulated in the slogan "Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination." OHCHR field presences, as well as partners across the globe and the UN family, observed Human Rights Day in a variety of ways: public debates, awareness campaigns, seminars, film festivals, art exhibitions, concerts and drama performances. The High Commissioner celebrated Human Rights Day for the first time outside headquarters in Pretoria, South Africa. Events in Geneva and New York also occurred.

The special communications focus to combat discrimination will continue throughout 2010 and will help fight all forms of discrimination by raising awareness, promoting attitudinal change amongst target audiences worldwide, and encouraging activism. OHCHR has the responsibility, the perspective and the global reach to promote such change; however, success of this long-term endeavour will depend on action and support from partners.

Web Presence Upgrade

During 2009, OHCHR accelerated preparations for the Office's web upgrade. The Communications Section, in consultation with the Information Management and Technology Section, completed an assessment of the website and identified opportunities for improvement.

The assessment took into consideration (1) how well the website supports the Office's mission and Strategic Management Plan priorities; (2) recommendations by the recent UN Joint Inspection Unit's report "Review of Management of the UN Internet Websites;" and (3) a survey of website users.

Challenges reflect the Office's need to develop an appropriate central web strategy, formal governance, and dedicated web resources. In 2010-2011 these will be addressed by:

- establishing a website strategy linked to OHCHR's mission and priorities;
- implementing an Office-wide web governance mechanism;
- increasing funding for staffing and training allocated to website management;
- developing a programme for measuring ongoing web performance.

Seed funding for the upgrade of the website has been provided by the European Commission.

- ▶ The number of unique visits to the OHCHR website were similar to previous years, with a total of 2.7 million. This method of measuring website traffic counts each time a website visitor accesses the website as a unique visit, even if they may have viewed multiple pages within the site during the course of their visit.
- ▶ More than 90 activities on Human Rights Day were reported organized by the Office's field presences and the United Nations family.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Public information operations of the magnitude of support entailed for the Durban Review Conference require appropriate allocation of resources and advance planning. By following this strategy OHCHR was able to manage such a large-scale operation successfully, with the assistance of the UN Department of Public Information, thereby achieving the outreach goals set four months ahead of the Conference.
- ▶ Interaction on public information between field presences and headquarters was strengthened. This was achieved through enabling more

frequent contacts with regional and country offices; assigning of headquarters focal points dedicated to geographical regions; and increasing the field's public information capacity and field visits.

Civil Society Liaison

Context

OHCHR reaches out to civil society actors worldwide, with the global objective to help them secure more effective human rights protection and promotion. It develops various guides, policies and information tools to assist civil society in accessing the UN human rights system.

Activities

- ▶ Published OHCHR's user-friendly guide "Working with the UN Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society," in print and online versions in five of the six official UN languages. The version in the sixth UN language will be available in 2010. The Handbook also was translated into Nepali by OHCHR's field office in Nepal. A dissemination strategy to make the publication available to a maximum number of beneficiaries was designed and implemented.
- ▶ Led an Office-wide initiative to support engagement by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the Durban Review Conference in April. A communications strategy was designed to maximize information sharing in the weeks and months before the Conference, including a series of dedicated NGO e-bulletins, web-based



Launch of the OHCHR Handbook for Civil Society, Nepal, June 2009.

updates and regular interactive briefings. A special NGO email address was established to address queries. During the Conference, an NGO Liaison Office was available, and daily briefings were conducted. Financial support was provided to some 60 NGOs from all regions to facilitate their travel to Geneva, in accordance with agreed internal criteria and processes.

- ▶ Piloted tailored Internet-related events management applications to simplify, streamline and automate processes for NGOs during Human Rights Council meetings. Explored the use of online social networking applications to improve timely dissemination of updates and developments related to the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies and special procedures.
- ▶ Established an NGO Liaison Office to offer practical support and advice to NGOs attending Human Rights Council and related mechanisms' sessions, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and provided regular guidance and updates through extensive email outreach.
- ▶ Contributed to NGO capacity development initiatives throughout the year by focusing on civil society engagement with the UPR, in cooperation with OHCHR-related field presences.
- ▶ Further developed the OHCHR civil society database, which provides the basis for outreach to NGOs around the world.

Results

- ▶ Contributed to strengthening NGO capacities to use human rights mechanisms and mandates, through distribution of more than 10,000 print copies of the Civil Society Handbook, the most widely requested OHCHR publication in 2009.
- ▶ Some 256 updates and guidance notes were sent out to OHCHR's extensive outreach list of NGOs in 2009, compared with 140 communications in 2008.
- ▶ 36 interactive briefings for NGOs were organized in 2009, reinforcing and strengthening dialogue with civil society actors.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ As a follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, NGOs were invited to share their views on the quality and timeliness of information they received regarding NGO participation in the Conference. They were also asked to provide proposals that would enable them to make more effective use of UN human rights mandates and mechanisms. NGOs' recommendations included a request for more guides to be produced in user-friendly formats, including for individuals with visual or print difficulties. These recommendations will be taken into consideration in the Civil Society Section's new communications strategy for 2010-2011.

Programme Planning, Management and Support

Converting programmatic plans into concrete results on the ground requires inputs from across the Office and outside. Critical back-office support is provided by two Headquarters-based organizational units—the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service and Programme Support and Management Services.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

Context

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service works closely with all parts of the Office to ensure that the High Commissioner's strategic vision is translated into concrete priorities and operational plans and procedures. Likewise, it ensures that implementation and results are properly monitored and evaluated, and lessons learned. The Service is responsible for ongoing analysis of trends affecting the OHCHR organizational environment that would influence its strategic planning and help to identify substantive or internal gaps in OHCHR's policies. Responsibilities also include assisting in development of new policy positions. In 2009, priorities included increasing the capacity of staff to use results-based management; developing and supporting staff in the use of internal planning tools; operationalizing identified global priorities into thematic strategies; and continuing development of a performance monitoring system.

Activities

- ▶ Organized and delivered results-based programming training for 80 OHCHR field and headquarters staff in four regions (Europe and Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America).
- ▶ Prepared the Strategic Management Plan for 2010-2011 and led drafting of the Strategic Framework for 2012-2013.
- ▶ Conceptualized and elaborated planning tools used by all headquarters divisions and field presences to identify results and related strategies for 2010-2011 at national, regional and global levels.

- ▶ In collaboration with a consultancy firm, continued to work toward establishment of a fully functioning performance monitoring system, including by revising and refining Office-wide expected accomplishments and related indicators; establishing indicator protocols and testing them in three countries; and prototyping an IT support system.
- ▶ Using results of self- and mandated evaluations, developed a set of Global Management Outputs for the 2010-2011 biennium relating to strategic direction, internal and external communication, decision making, effectiveness in partnership and support to human rights mechanisms and field presences, staff skills development, and resource mobilization.
- ▶ Guided the 2009 internal review of OHCHR's work, e.g., by updating guidelines (mid-year review and annual reports) and preparing reports on trends, events and key achievements for the Senior Management Team yearly review.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance for an evaluation of OHCHR performance in gender mainstreaming, concluded in December, and for the General Assembly-mandated evaluation on the efficiency of implementation of OHCHR's mandate.
- ▶ Supported the functioning of a mechanism for development of policy and established a policy focal point network.

Results

- ▶ Increased use of the Senior Management Team as a forum for policy discussion and for ensuring greater Office coherence.
- ▶ Increased understanding amongst staff of the purpose and logic of the planning, monitoring and evaluation cycle, which translated into improved planning capacity.
- ▶ Led operationalization of a number of elements of OHCHR's vision, including identification of national, regional and global thematic priorities and elaboration of corresponding strategies.
- ▶ Developed monitoring frameworks for both expected accomplishments and management outputs. The latter were developed to complement the substantive results framework in the area of management and support.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Limited results were achieved when attempting to set up in-house processes to identify and analyze trends and current/future challenges due to changes in the external environment. This also affected the planning capacity of the Office.
- ▶ The short planning cycle adopted by OHCHR means that resources must be devoted every second year to planning and monitoring. It also does not ensure follow-up on longer-term results and contributes to planning fatigue.
- ▶ Lack of a standard methodology and in-house capacity for drawing significant lessons affects future planning and policy development. Office of Internal Oversight Services and gender mainstreaming evaluations conducted in 2009 pointed to the need for OHCHR to improve its knowledge management.



Staff training activity on "Protection of Witnesses, Victims and Sources of Information", August 2009.

Managing for Results at OHCHR

In 2009, a coherent framework of results has been developed to allow the Office to work consistently and strategically toward common, explicitly stated goals for the next biennium. In turn, this definition of clear results will allow for evidence-based monitoring linked to OHCHR's 11 expected accomplishments and six thematic strategies at both national and global levels.

More work has been dedicated to attuning performance indicators both to the changing results framework of the Office as well as to the specific aspects of human rights performance monitoring. This required developing qualitative as well as quantitative measurements that would not unduly stretch financial and human resources in an organization of OHCHR's size.

Each chosen indicator is now supported by a corresponding protocol providing OHCHR staff clear guidelines on monitoring and reporting. At the same time, work has started to create a web-based database accessible by both field and headquarters that will allow OHCHR to collect and analyze information for reporting purposes.

OHCHR is committed to make its performance monitoring system fully functional in the next biennium.

Programme Support and Management Services

As part of the UN Secretariat, OHCHR benefits from the common administrative services provided by the UN Office in Geneva. Within OHCHR, administrative functions are provided by Programme Support and Management Services, with staff distributed among four sections handling finance and budget, human resources management, information technology (IT) and general services (travel, logistics, procurement and recordkeeping), as well as a Staff Development Unit.

Activities

- ▶ Under delegation of authority from the UN Controller, exercised responsibility for managing all extra-budgetary resources, including issuing allotments, monitoring use of funds, and reconciling charges under agreements with other agencies in the field.
- ▶ Implemented revised methodologies for regular and extra-budgetary planning and budgeting, reducing time and steps in producing cost plans and increasing their accuracy and reliability.
- ▶ Handled 151 recruitment cases for new and existing posts, in addition to temporary assignments and replacements.
- ▶ Processed more than 3,000 travel authorizations and related travel claims for both UN and non-UN staff as well as for about 300 mandate-holders attending sessions in Geneva and undertaking missions to the field. Similarly, processed the travel arrangements for

OHCHR-funded participants to the Durban Review Conference as well as for participants in the many workshops and meetings arranged by OHCHR during the year.

- ▶ In collaboration with external building management companies, initiated a process to improve the Geneva headquarters buildings in terms of environmental impact and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Conducted a global learning needs assessment within OHCHR, the results of which will translate into a two-year strategic learning plan and policy in support of implementation of the 2010-2011 Strategic Management Plan.
- ▶ A total of 49 staff development and training activities were organized and/or facilitated worldwide in 2009, involving more than 800 participants, of which 130 were from the field.
- ▶ Provided more training opportunities for OHCHR field presences, including supervisory skills training for Colombia staff; career support training in Uganda; and annual field administrative staff consultations in Geneva. Also provided briefings and individual coaching on the Performance Appraisal System and e-learning by telephone. Conducted twice during 2009 the OHCHR Orientation Programme for new staff and field staff working on substantive human rights issues.
- ▶ Undertook missions to field presences to assist field staff with general administration, human resources, finance and budget, logistics and procurement, and IT issues. Assisted with administrative, logistical and IT aspects of setting up new offices in Brussels, Doha and Mauritania.
- ▶ Instituted new procedures for low-value procurement after receipt of a new delegation of authority for procurement below US\$2,500, expediting routine acquisitions.
- ▶ Researched and procured specialized IT equipment for blind persons to support the first meeting of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Braille embossers, Braille keyboards and software allowing electronic documents to be read aloud).
- ▶ Developed and/or updated key online tools, including the Grants Management System and a new version of the Human Rights Cases Management Database.

Results

- ▶ Total number of OHCHR staff based in Geneva increased by 30 during 2009, from 473 to 503. The total number of staff in the field offices, including New York, decreased by 47 during 2009, from 517 to 470.

- ▶ Continued improvement in the geographic diversity of OHCHR staff, with the implementation of internal measures to ensure full consideration of the broadest possible pool of candidates.
- ▶ Achieved efficiencies through use of the delegation of authority from the UN Controller, which allowed better planning of resource requirements and tailored allocation of resources to ensure that funds are available for activities when needed.
- ▶ Improved quality of administration in field presences, through greater administrative support from headquarters and training provided to local administrative staff on internal policies and procedures as well as broader UN regulations and rules.
- ▶ More thorough briefings and provision of information to special procedures mandate-holders has resulted in better understanding of needs and constraints and has reduced problems related to travel and other support issues.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The stringent review process associated with the approval of the 2010-2011 UN Regular Budget ensured that the Office fully justified all additional resources requested. Many lessons were learned relating to the approval process that should ensure economies of scale that can be applied to preparation of the next Regular Budget submission for 2012-2013.
- ▶ Better information leads to better implementation and better compliance with procedures. Early briefings and explanations can greatly facilitate interaction with both clients and stakeholders.
- ▶ The lack of robust access to the inventory management systems in field presences necessitated extensive manual processing of data. The centralized online inventory system should address this issue, although a review of local systems and processes may lead to further improvements in the management of field assets.
- ▶ Concerted engagement with the field presences is critical in making learning opportunities accessible to an even greater number of staff in those locations, thereby enhancing their competencies and skills and to deepen a culture of learning.
- ▶ Visiting field offices and engaging directly with the offices and the local service provider, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), pays dividends in efficiency and effectiveness and will be continued.

OHCHR in the Field: Introduction

OHCHR's Approach to Fieldwork

Supporting the work of human rights field presences and leading OHCHR's dialogue with countries on human rights issues are the main functions of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD), working in cooperation with other parts of the Office, UN partners, government actors, regional organizations, civil society, and national human rights institutions.

Based on dialogue with national counterparts, the Office's activities at country level (through headquarters or field presences) aim at preventing and reducing human rights violations. This occurs mainly through strengthening national protection systems; ensuring that government authorities are aware of their human rights obligations; and designing effective remedies to overcome obstacles to the realization of human rights.

Through its programmes in the field, OHCHR likewise seeks to ensure that national authorities and civil society actors have the capacity to address human rights concerns and are better informed about international human rights standards and how to translate these into laws, regulations and policies, ensuring that rights-holders are better protected and empowered. In particular, OHCHR supports efforts to establish or strengthen justice and accountability mechanisms at national level, including better monitoring and investigation and redress of violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In 2009, an agreement was signed with the Government of Mauritania to set up an OHCHR country office in Mauritania, and preparations for its establishment have begun. New regional offices were established for Europe (Brussels) and South America (upgrading of the former liaison office in Santiago de Chile). The UN Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region was opened in Doha. Human rights advisers were deployed to UN Country Teams in

Albania and the Great Lakes. Following a Security Council decision, the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, including its human rights office, was terminated; and the human rights adviser in Kyrgyzstan was discontinued. At the end of 2009, OHCHR was running or supporting 55 field presences, compared with 52 at the end of 2008.

Types of Field Presence

OHCHR field presences fall into two categories: stand-alone presences (comprising OHCHR country/stand-alone offices and OHCHR regional offices/centres) and collaborative arrangements (comprising human rights components of peace missions, with dual reporting lines to the head of the mission and to the High Commissioner, and human rights advisers placed in the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator). The decision to establish an OHCHR country or regional office is made in consultation with the Government concerned. It also takes into account the human rights situation, security considerations, the presence and role of other international actors on the ground, as well as available human and financial resources, administrative arrangements, and the scope of the activities to be undertaken.

Country/Stand-Alone Offices

OHCHR country offices are established on the basis of a standard agreement between OHCHR and the host government. The mandate of a country office includes human rights observation, protection, technical cooperation activities and public reporting. Activities of a country office are developed in consultation with the concerned government, based on an assessment of human rights concerns and the capacity of national and international actors involved in human rights work, as well as on the most effective means available to OHCHR for addressing gaps. Country and stand-alone offices are mostly funded by voluntary contributions.



Refugees in eastern Chad collecting water in a riverbed.

At the end of 2009, OHCHR had eight country offices, in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Togo and Uganda, as well as two stand-alone offices, in Kosovo (Serbia) and the occupied Palestinian territory. In September, OHCHR signed an agreement with the Government of Mauritania to establish a country office.

Regional Offices/Centres

OHCHR regional offices are established on the basis of a standard agreement between OHCHR and the host country, following consultations with countries of the region. Regional offices and centres focus on cross-cutting regional human rights concerns and also support, at national level, follow-up to treaty bodies and special procedures as well as matters relating to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). They work closely with regional and sub-regional inter-governmental organizations. They also complement the expertise of human rights country presences by providing support on institutional and thematic issues. Regional offices and centres are funded both by regular budget and extra-budgetary contributions.

At the end of 2009, OHCHR had 12 regional offices/centres, in East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), Central Africa (Yaoundé), South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City), and South America (upgrading of the Latin America former liaison office in Santiago de Chile), and South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha). The establishment of an Office for North Africa is under consideration.

Human rights components of United Nations peace missions

OHCHR supports human rights components of peace missions through expert advice, technical assistance and functional support. Human rights components have dual reporting lines, to the head of the peace mission and to the High Commissioner. Based on Security Council resolutions establishing the peace missions, the work of human rights components includes monitoring, documenting, investigating and reporting on the human rights situation; ensuring that peace processes promote justice and equity; preventing and redressing violations of human rights; building human rights capacities and institutions; and mainstreaming human rights into all UN programmes and activities. Most human rights officers in peace missions are employed and their salary costs covered by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Department of Political Affairs, rather than OHCHR. Through its extra-budgetary resources, OHCHR contributes to the funding of human rights technical cooperation activities of some missions. OHCHR also participates in inter-departmental technical assessment missions for the design and establishment of peace operations.

At the end of 2009, there were 16 UN peacekeeping, special political and peace-building support missions that incorporated human rights promotion and protection into their mandated work, with dedicated human rights staff, in Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Central Asia (Turkmenistan), Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Timor-Leste.

The number of human rights officers deployed in each mission in 2009 varied significantly, with the smallest component in the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (one human rights officer) and the largest in the peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (more than 110 personnel deployed). It should be noted that in the sections below profiling the work of each human rights component, staffing numbers are provided based on a count of all relevant staff as of 31 December, regardless of whether their contract was with OHCHR, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Department of Political Affairs. Elsewhere in the report, where figures are provided for OHCHR staff globally, only staff with OHCHR contracts are included.

Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams

Human rights advisers are deployed upon request by UN Resident Coordinators. They assist the Resident Coordinator, heads of UN agencies, and members of UN Country Teams in integrating human rights into their programme strategies and implementation. Human rights advisers typically advise the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team on strategies to build and strengthen national human rights capacities; advise and provide training to independent national human rights institutions; advise duty-bearers on how best to promote UN normative values; build networks with, and provide practical support to, civil society actors at large; and provide operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity development activities, including activities conducted previously under the Action 2 global programme. Human rights advisers are in general funded by OHCHR extra-budgetary contributions, but in some cases cost-sharing agreements have been reached with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), or they have been funded under the Action 2 programme.

As of the end of 2009, OHCHR had 17 human rights advisers in Albania, Ecuador, Great Lakes (Bujumbura), Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia), Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and West Africa (Dakar). The human rights advisers in Kyrgyzstan and Indonesia discontinued their work in 2009 and early 2010 respectively. Advisers are expected to be deployed to Honduras, Madagascar, Paraguay and Tajikistan during 2010.

Headquarters Support to Field Operations

In 2009, 109 staff worked at headquarters in the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division. The Division has developed a new structure, with three Branches to allow a more thorough coverage of geographic regions: the Europe, Central Asia and the Americas Branch; the Asia-Pacific and Middle East Branch; and the Africa Branch. The Peace Mission Support and Rapid Response Section, the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, and the FOTCD-Universal Periodic Review Unit reinforce headquarters' support to the field and other UN partners on the ground. Internal coordination for country-based initiatives, including with the treaty bodies, special procedures, the Human Rights Council, the UPR and thematic areas, has been further strengthened.

Cooperation with Humanitarian Agencies

At global level, OHCHR integrates human rights considerations and a human rights-based approach into the strategies and policies of humanitarian activities through its engagement in a number of inter-agency mechanisms. These include the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and its sub-working groups, such as that on Preparedness and Contingency Planning, the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, the Global Protection Cluster Working Group, the Humanitarian Coordinators Group, and the Protection Capacity (ProCap) Steering Committee. At field level, as a member of Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters, OHCHR is increasingly involved in humanitarian preparedness and response activities in both complex crises and natural disasters, including in preparing and implementing Common Humanitarian Action Plans and the Consolidated Appeals Processes (CAP). OHCHR's participation in the CAP has benefited from more coordinated support from headquarters and streamlining with the budgetary planning process. In addition, OHCHR currently plays a lead role in the work of Protection Clusters in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Fiji, Haiti, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, occupied Palestinian territories, Timor-Leste and Uganda. To further enhance and promote such collaborative efforts, OHCHR in 2009 organized inter-agency and internal roundtable discussions and workshops on its role in humanitarian action. A number of follow-up steps are planned for 2010, including regional consultations to reinforce Office capacity to respond to humanitarian crises.

OHCHR in the Field: Africa



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

*Planned for the biennium 2010-2011

The past year has seen steps by some States to curb political activities and freedom of expression and association in the run-up to elections, which are scheduled in many States in sub-Saharan Africa in 2010. Imposition of restrictive laws, arbitrary arrest, and intimidation and attacks against journalists increased tensions. Economic conditions across the continent were slow to rebound from the global economic crisis, and the effects of climate change were felt by many, in particular the poorest and most marginalized. Food insecurity increased in a number of countries, often exacerbated by population displacement due to armed conflict. These and other factors, combined with significant shortcomings in good governance and rule of law institutions, led to social unrest, including mass demonstrations and riots that were often met with heavy-handed responses by state security forces. Armed conflict in several countries continued, marked by widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence.

On the positive side, the African Union took a strong, principled stand *vis-à-vis* several unconstitutional regime changes and, along with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), called for a commission of inquiry to hold to account perpetrators of a massacre in Guinea on 28 September. In West Africa, a regional network of national human rights institutions was formally created in October, dedicated to strengthening their work and independence. The African Union also adopted a regional Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), in Kampala in October, taking a global lead in advancing the legal framework of protection for IDPs.

In 2009 OHCHR had two country offices in Africa, in Togo and Uganda, and four regional offices/centres, in Addis Ababa (East Africa), Dakar (West Africa), Pretoria (Southern Africa), and Yaoundé (Central Africa). The Office supported the human rights

components of 11 UN peace missions, in Burundi (BINUB), Central African Republic (BONUCA), Chad (MINURCAT), Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS), Liberia (UNMIL), Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), Somalia (UNPOS) and the Sudan (UNMIS and UNAMID, Darfur). In addition, the Office supported human rights advisers deployed to UN Country Teams in Guinea, Kenya, Niger and Rwanda, as well as to the Great Lakes Region in Bujumbura and to West Africa (UNOWA, Dakar). A section of 16 professional and four administrative staff covers the continent from headquarters, monitoring areas of concern and providing substantive and administrative support to field presences. The Office also continued to support the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia and the Special Rapporteur/Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan.

OHCHR in Africa: Examples of Impact in 2009

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Uganda**, medium-term development plans such as the National Development Plan and the Peace Recovery and Development Plan incorporated human rights perspectives following advice from the Office. OHCHR technical advice also informed revisions to the Children's Act and to the draft Mental Health Bill.
- ▶ In **Tanzania**, the Government and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance agreed on a "road map" to develop a Plan of Action on human rights in 2010, following a consultative workshop organized by the East Africa Regional Office.
- ▶ In **Djibouti**, clear internal guidelines for the inter-Ministerial committee coordinating reporting to treaty bodies were adopted.
- ▶ In **Central African Republic**, penal and criminal procedure codes in line with international human rights standards were adopted by Parliament, with OHCHR support.
- ▶ In **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the Government launched a National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence, developed with OHCHR support.
- ▶ In **Darfur**, OHCHR provided advice in the drafting of key legislation, including the Criminal Procedure Act, the Election Act and the National Human Rights Commission Act.
- ▶ In **Rwanda**, a proposal that would have criminalized homosexuality was withdrawn.
- ▶ In **Sudan**, OHCHR technical advice informed draft legislation on violence against women.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In **Cameroon**, training on human rights, gender and rule of law was integrated into the curriculum of the training institute for the judicial police.
- ▶ In the **Great Lakes** region, OHCHR supported the setting up of a Regional Centre for Good Governance, Democracy and Human Rights, which will provide human rights training to a number of government and civil society actors in the region.
- ▶ In **Rwanda**, student human rights clubs were launched by OHCHR in universities and higher institutions of learning.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ In **West Africa**, OHCHR assisted in drafting and passing of a statute governing the recently established network of West African National Human Rights Institutions.
- ▶ In **Guinea-Bissau**, the National Human Rights Institution was established by Ministerial decree building on technical advice and advocacy efforts from the Human Rights Section of UNOGBIS.
- ▶ In **Central African Republic**, OHCHR helped institutionalize the *Plateforme des ONGs nationales des droits de l'homme*, by supporting the organization of monthly trainings and disseminating human rights documents. This has strengthened the capacities of civil society organizations in human rights monitoring and defence.
- ▶ In **Chad**, an umbrella group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Cercle des ONGs, was established with support from OHCHR. This group facilitates information sharing and consultation on human rights issues among participating NGOs.



Promoting ratification of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ **Djibouti** acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Parliament adopted a law on accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- ▶ **Cameroon** signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, as well as the Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

Strengthening interaction with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms:

- ▶ In **Ethiopia**, overdue reports to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee against Torture and the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the national UPR report were submitted.

Supporting the establishment or functioning of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms:

- ▶ In **Togo**, the Council of Ministers created the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and the Office provided substantial, financial, administrative and logistical support for its establishment.
- ▶ In **Kenya**, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission was established with technical assistance of the human rights adviser.
- ▶ In **Darfur**, as a follow-up to a training workshop for civil society organizations facilitated by OHCHR, participants set up a network to coordinate advocacy, awareness raising and training on transitional justice in South Darfur.

Promoting access to justice and basic services of marginalized groups:

- ▶ In **Togo**, with support from OHCHR, the Togolese Bar Association launched a project aimed at helping the poorest with access to justice by providing them with free legal counselling.
- ▶ In **Cameroon**, following a sub-regional workshop organized by OHCHR, the representatives of four indigenous peoples' organizations discussed a joint strategy to advocate with the Government on a draft law on the rights of marginalized peoples, which had been undertaken without consulting the concerned groups.

Country Offices

Togo

Year established	2006
Staff as of 31 December 2009	7
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,410,057

Context

The Government's commitment to respect human rights principles, and its decision to review and document past human rights violations by creating the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), continued to hold out the prospect of progress. Nonetheless, efforts were constrained by opposition from some political leaders of the ruling party. Institutional and constitutional reforms envisaged by the 2006 Global Political Agreement stalled in view of the uncompromising stance taken by signatories to the Agreement. In spite of some worrying political developments toward the end of the year, the Government promised to guarantee peaceful, transparent presidential elections in 2010. While a justice reform process is under way, impunity for crimes committed during the 2005 elections remains a concern. Public expectations are

high concerning the role of the TJRC in examining human rights abuses carried out during Togo's recent history (1958-2005), attributing responsibility, and providing comfort, reparation and compensation to victims.

OHCHR's role

The OHCHR country office in Togo works to support and strengthen the capacity of State actors, including the national Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations, to promote and implement international human rights principles and comply with obligations. Particular attention is given to recommendations by treaty bodies and special procedures. During 2009, the Office gave priority support to establishment of the TJRC. The Office also extended technical assistance to the Government to fulfil its reporting duties as a State Party to various international human rights treaties. It supported appropriation of the ongoing ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) by relevant state institutions and civil society organizations to ensure their familiarization with the Protocol. The Office further supported the Government, the National Commission of Human Rights and civil society organizations in preparations for the 2010 presidential elections.



Students at Yelivo village's primary school in Togo.

Activities

- ▶ Provided substantial, financial, administrative and logistical support to establishment of the TJRC and provided training to Commission members.
- ▶ Co-organized, jointly with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the International Committee of the Red Cross, a training workshop on human rights, humanitarian law and democratic governance for 50 police trainers tasked to prepare 6,000 members of a special police force set up to ensure security during the 2010 presidential elections.
- ▶ Carried out visits to prisons and detention centres, monitored public marches, political gatherings and demonstrations, and observed trials. Received and dealt with an average of ten to 12 individual complaints per month. Took follow-up action to address human rights concerns in the case of the 28 persons, including a half-brother of the President, detained without trial under suspicion of preparing a coup attempt. Created a preliminary network of 12 human rights monitors, to be expanded during the electoral process.
- ▶ Organized a national seminar for high-ranking Government officials and civil society representatives on the ratification of the OPCAT and assisted activities of a follow-up committee created to advance ratification and launch discussions on a national prevention mechanism.
- ▶ Provided training and technical assistance to the inter-Ministerial committee in charge of state reporting for reports due under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Trained 30 members of a platform of civil society organizations on parallel reporting on economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Supported the Togolese Bar Association which provided free legal counselling for the poorest and free legal assistance to 50 detainees, which resulted in the release of several of them.
- ▶ Funded and provided technical support to various projects of local NGOs to promote and defend women's rights.
- ▶ Initiated several projects intended to support peaceful presidential elections, including training and supporting the coordination of 960 young volunteers in 16 central locations of Togo. These volunteers will monitor the human rights situation during the electoral process. Supported election sensitization initiatives proposed by various NGOs and the Human Rights Ministry. Invited individuals and organizations suspected of potential involvement in violent actions for direct exchanges.
- ▶ Trained 32 UN programme staff in Togo on the Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework programming process and a human rights-based approach to development programming.

- ▶ Supported, jointly with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the third edition of the film festival on human rights organized by the Association Internationale pour les Droits Fondamentaux de l'Homme.

Results

- ▶ The TJRC was formally established and information disseminated on its mandate, objectives, tasks and procedures. Following advocacy on the part of OHCHR, several donors pledged funding, and 45 civil society and media organizations set up a platform to raise awareness on the mandate of the Commission and inform the public on progress of its work.
- ▶ A committee, set up to promote and prepare ratification of OPCAT, mobilized decision-makers in Government as well as other state institutions and civil society and sparked discussion of steps needed to comply with the Protocol. In particular, this includes creation of a national prevention mechanism.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The initiative to set up a committee in order to promote ratification of OPCAT and prepare subsequent implementation, with the involvement of high-ranking Government officials and NGO representatives, has proven effective in stimulating national reflection and discussion with regard to the Protocol.

Togo: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	691,569
Consultants	-	125,414
Official travel	-	41,765
Contractual services	-	33,264
General operating expenses	-	82,509
Supplies & materials	-	52,224
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	221,093
Subtotal	-	1,247,838
Programme support costs	-	162,219
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,410,057

Uganda

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2009	36
Expenditures in 2009	\$3,222,992

Context

After more than 20 years of conflict in the north of the country, and several attempts to conclude a peace process, Uganda saw continued improvement in the human rights and security situations in 2009. As a result, the Government and international actors began to move from a focus on humanitarian assistance toward development assistance and cooperation. Nonetheless, poor basic services, especially sanitation, health and infrastructure in areas to which Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were returning, have hindered resettlement. Enrolment, retention and completion rates in both primary and secondary education also have been significantly lower because of the conflict. Monitoring of police and court dockets showed a large number of youth charged with crimes such as theft and sexual assaults. Disparities in development between the north/Karamoja and the rest of the country have led to important gaps in fulfilment of economic and social rights. A number of civilian deaths and injuries by the Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) in retaliation for cattle raids have been documented. Protected enclosures in northern Karamoja, while deemed necessary by the army for the protection of the people from raids by armed elements, have generated concern over forced movement/lack of freedom of movement, risks to civilian security, and harmful environmental and health effects. Emerging national challenges include upcoming elections and protection of associated rights, as well as ongoing arbitrary detention in the context of Government responses to security threats.

OHCHR's role

The Office's programme of work takes into account improvements in overall security, the transition from international humanitarian relief to Government-led recovery efforts in northern Uganda, and the need to increase national institutional capacity and ownership of human rights promotion and protection. The Office's current plans also take into account the approach of a series of elections, including presidential elections set for 2011, and the need to secure the necessary conditions for freedom of association and expression as political competition intensifies. In this context, OHCHR's focus includes capacity development of state institutions, the national human rights institution, NGOs



Ugandan police officers attend a training session on human rights conducted by OHCHR.

and UN partners; human rights monitoring and reporting; support for national legislative and policy reforms; and support for transitional justice. In addition to its headquarters in Kampala, the country office comprised six sub-regional/district offices in 2009, in Gulu, Pader, Kitgum (Acholiland), Lira (Lango), Soroti (Teso) and Moroto (Karamoja), and a liaison office in Kotido (Karamoja).

Activities

- ▶ Monitored UPDF-led disarmament operations in Karamoja, to inform advocacy with Government officials to improve the human rights situation in the region.
- ▶ Monitored the return of IDPs in Northern Uganda and their access to justice and economic, social and cultural rights, to intensify the dialogue with local and national authorities to improve conditions.
- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Ministry of Education and Sports that resulted in adoption in April of a Concept Paper on national implementation of human rights education in primary and secondary schools.
- ▶ Advocated for protection of child rights and integration of Security Council resolution 1612 into broader child protection programming strategies. Led inter-agency discussions to develop a regional monitoring and reporting strategy for conflict-related human rights concerns in neighbouring countries affected by the conflict in northern Uganda.
- ▶ Researched cross-border conflicts in the Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja sub-regions. Provided inputs for development of a research brief on cross-regional, cross-ethnic reconciliation practices in the north and north-eastern sub-regions.
- ▶ In collaboration with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Gender, supported a consultancy to review Uganda's National Development Plan, which among other issues analyzed human rights factors in the causes of Uganda's development problems and advised on the quality of human rights interventions proposed in various sectors.
- ▶ Trained about 200 members of local councils in human rights protection and national, international and regional human rights mechanisms. Also conducted 15 training sessions for district officials and technical heads participating in various coordination bodies to advocate for a human rights-based approach in policies and programming in northern and eastern districts.
- ▶ Trained 40 NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) on the work of treaty bodies and special procedure mechanisms and the role of civil society in associated reporting. This included components on African Human Rights Commission mechanisms for NGOs/CBOs.
- ▶ Provided technical advice in Kampala and Teso on domestication of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which resulted in revision of the draft Mental Health Bill.
- ▶ Implemented a pilot capacity-building project at district level in Kitgum focused on economic, social and cultural rights, including how to distinguish "rights" from social services, the concept of "standard of delivery," and a human rights-based approach to delivery.
- ▶ Co-organized major two-day workshop with Government, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and UNICEF, attended by Ministries involved in treaty reporting, UHRC commissioners and NGOs, on good practices in treaty reporting. Launched publication on Uganda's engagement with international human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ In response to a draft bill exacerbating criminal sanctions against homosexuality, OHCHR worked with the UHRC to develop a strategy for

strengthening the capacity of organizations representing people negatively affected by current and proposed laws to advocate for their rights and make effective use of the human rights framework to claim equal protection and non-discrimination. The High Commissioner also issued a statement voicing criticism of the discriminatory impact of the proposed legislation.

- ▶ Provided technical advice to the justice, law and order sector of the Government to have two victim-centred policy questions included within deliberations for a comprehensive policy on transitional justice. These included victim witness protection and participation, and reparations to victims and survivors of the conflict.

Results

- ▶ Direct intervention with authorities in Lango sub-region resulted in deployment of a resident judge in February, followed by subsequent deployment of Grade II Magistrates Court in Dokolo district. In addition, commissioning of a High Court Circuit in Lango sub-region contributed significantly to the decline in the number of remand cases.
- ▶ The Government committed to establishing a permanent mechanism for treaty reporting.
- ▶ OHCHR advocacy resulted in implementation of the Government's human rights-based IDP policy in northern Uganda, through establishment of district-level human rights protection committees.
- ▶ In the area of legal and policy advice at both national and local level, OHCHR's advice and technical assistance in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, human rights and HIV/AIDS, disabilities and health, and the rule of law and transitional justice were taken into account by partners.
- ▶ OHCHR's direct intervention with authorities in the cases of 60 victims of human rights violations led to improvements in the lives of individuals concerned and established patterns and trends of violations subsequently used in advocacy for respect of human rights standards in military operations.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ A prolonged period without an extended mandate for OHCHR Uganda had consequences both for implementation of activities and staffing. Thematic reports to be finalized and issued jointly with UHRC were put on hold, and strategies with UHRC and other state institutions could not be developed further. Direction of the office had to be assumed by staff deployed on a temporary basis.

Uganda: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,866,857
Consultants	-	20,425
Official travel	-	103,055
Contractual services	-	57,071
General operating expenses	-	330,241
Supplies & materials	-	179,443
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	295,113
Subtotal	-	2,852,205
Programme support costs	-	370,787
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,222,992

Regional Offices and Centres

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

Year established	2001
Staff as of 31 December 2009	8
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,590,886

The Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy works with governments, national human rights institutions, civil society, UN Country Teams, regional organizations and development cooperation partners to develop a culture of human rights and democracy in Central Africa. In addition to the host



OHCHR staff reaching the Baka pygmy community in east Cameroon.



OHCHR staff monitor presidential elections in Gabon, August 2009.

country, Cameroon, the Centre covers 11 countries of the sub-region and focuses on capacity building, advocacy, sensitization and dissemination of human rights documentation, especially in countries without national human rights field presences. It organizes workshops, conferences and public information activities for stakeholders on a variety of human rights topics and aims to address key protection gaps by empowering and building national protection actors and systems. The Centre also runs a sub-regional human rights and democracy fellowship programme for graduate students and representatives from civil society organizations.

Activities

- ▶ Carried out 15 training sessions for more than 500 representatives of judicial police in Cameroon and armed/security forces from the Central African sub-region and advised on the integration of training on human rights, gender and rule of law into the curriculum of the training institute for the judicial police in Cameroon.
- ▶ Supported national human rights institutions through advocacy, technical assistance and joint activities, such as development of human rights training manuals for primary and secondary schools with the Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights.
- ▶ Advocated for gender equality and respect for women's rights, including through training and participation in UN Country Team inter-agency gender working groups.
- ▶ Continued the fight against torture through follow-up, sensitization and advocacy on implementation of recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on torture.
- ▶ Organized a sub-regional seminar on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in Cameroon from 29 September to 1 October, with the support of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, for

30 participants from Central African governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations.

- ▶ Assisted the Government and other national stakeholders in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Republic of Congo in preparing for their UPR consideration, together with UN Country Teams.
- ▶ Established a sub-regional platform to share experiences and disseminate tools to facilitate establishment of transitional justice mechanisms in conflict-affected countries. Pursued efforts to expand awareness about transitional justice mechanisms through a second regional conference held in Cameroon, in partnership with the Governments of France and Switzerland, for 80 participants in November.
- ▶ Held a sub-regional workshop on the rights of indigenous people in Cameroon in commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Populations.
- ▶ Organized the first sub-regional conference on democracy, in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) from 28-30 October, for ten Central African countries.
- ▶ Prepared and participated in the OHCHR mission to monitor the human rights situation during presidential elections in Gabon.

Results

- ▶ National human rights commissions of Republic of Congo and Cameroon took steps to improve their compliance with the Paris Principles following support received from the Centre.
- ▶ Contributed to Cameroon's ratification of the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, and to signature of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.
- ▶ Several countries, in particular Equatorial Guinea and Republic of Congo, increased their engagement with human rights mechanisms,

including through the UPR process, largely as a result of the Centre's cooperation with UN Country Teams in the sub-region.

- ▶ Following to the sub-regional workshop on the rights of indigenous people, the representatives of four indigenous peoples' organizations advocated with the Government on a draft law on the rights of marginalized peoples.
- ▶ The outcome of the sub-regional democracy conference provides an important basis for development of a democracy "road map" for Central Africa.
- ▶ The monitoring mission to Gabon clearly demonstrated the added value that human rights can bring to electoral processes.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Cooperation with regional organizations provided a useful platform for addressing crosscutting sub-regional issues with Member States, including transitional justice and the rule of law. In addition, strategic partnerships with committed partners and donors were essential to make an impact and contribute to sustainability and follow-up of activities at country level. Particularly useful was the identification of a member of UN Country Teams in countries where the Office is absent at national level as the focal point on human rights.
- ▶ The sub-regional conference on democracy revitalized the Centre's democracy mandate and activities, including cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa: Expenditures in 2009

	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	699,042	(1,130)
Consultants	-	5,219
Official travel	37,380	67,869
Contractual services	8,000	57,216
General operating expenses	122,205	44,716
Supplies & materials	52,057	15,315
Seminars, grants & contributions	68,882	344,707
Subtotal	987,566	533,912
Programme support costs	-	69,408
GRAND TOTAL	987,566	603,320

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2009	12
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,045,970

Activities of the regional office focused on the host country, Ethiopia, as well as on Tanzania and Djibouti, all of which lack an OHCHR field presence. The office also worked with the African Union to strengthen its capacity to promote and protect human rights, and with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to reinforce its capacity to mainstream human rights and pursue the right to development. Other objectives included to strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams in the region to mainstream human rights and the capacity of national actors to promote and protect human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Developed a roadmap for a human rights strategy for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union, for consideration at an expert meeting. Held another expert meeting on improved interaction between the UPR and the African Peer Review Mechanism, with increased consideration of the right to development.
- ▶ Organized a regional meeting on cooperation between UN and African human rights mechanisms for 100 participants and a briefing on the UPR for 30 participants from English-speaking African countries.
- ▶ Co-chaired, with the African Union and UNECA, four strategically relevant committees for coordination of a human rights dialogue amongst the African Union, the United Nations and donors.
- ▶ Worked with UN Country Teams in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Djibouti to mainstream human rights in relevant working groups, provide advice on specific human rights questions and coordinate responses to relevant issues.
- ▶ Organized a training course on human rights monitoring in Djibouti for 40 participants from the national human rights institution and civil society organizations. Held a workshop on treaty body reporting for members of the coordinating committee in charge of preparing reports to UN treaty bodies and civil society representatives.
- ▶ Advocated for creation of a coordination mechanism for the submission of reports and follow-up on treaty body recommendations in Tanzania, and organized a validation workshop on the Government's report with regard to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights. Organized a training course on human rights monitoring for 70 participants from the Tanzanian national human rights institution and held a consultative workshop to elaborate a national plan of action on human rights.

- ▶ Provided technical assistance to the national human rights institution in Ethiopia by jointly implementing a treaty body and UPR reporting project. This included three training workshops for about 100 participants from the Government and civil society organizations on state and parallel reporting.
- ▶ Organized translation into three local languages and publication of international human rights conventions ratified by Ethiopia.
- ▶ Supported development of a human rights resource centre, a human rights database and a website for the Ethiopian national human rights institution.
- ▶ Ensured development of training manuals and organization of a training of trainers workshop, as well as ten regional training courses on human rights and law enforcement, targeting 500 mid-level police officers across Ethiopia.

Results

- ▶ Concrete recommendations to be implemented by stakeholders were adopted as a result of the regional consultation on enhanced cooperation between UN and African regional human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ The UNECA Committee on Governance and Popular Participation adopted a recommendation to pay increased attention to human rights and to strengthen cooperation with OHCHR.
- ▶ Increased awareness of the rights-based approach and gender-related activities within the African Union and UNECA was accelerated by joint work on violence against women and trafficking in persons, and by co-organizing the 30-year commemoration of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ The Government of Tanzania and the national human rights institution agreed on a “road map” for development of a Plan of Action on human rights, while capacity was increased for the national human rights institution to carry out human rights monitoring.
- ▶ The UN Country Team in Tanzania took swift and appropriate action on potential human rights violations and also has identified to what extent human rights are mainstreamed in relevant UN programmes.
- ▶ The Government of Tanzania submitted four overdue periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights following a validation workshop organized by OHCHR and the Government.

- ▶ The Government of Djibouti adopted clear internal guidelines for the inter-Ministerial committee coordinating reporting to UN treaty bodies, in line with OHCHR recommendations. In addition, the national human rights institution in Djibouti adopted a three-year strategic plan developed with technical assistance from OHCHR. Also, Djibouti acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Parliament adopted a law on accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- ▶ The Government of Ethiopia submitted its overdue reports to the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee against Torture and the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as its national UPR report. A coalition of civil society organizations made a joint stakeholders’ UPR review submission and submitted a parallel report to the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Challenges persist with regard to mainstreaming of human rights within UN Country Teams, particularly in countries where OHCHR does not have a presence.
- ▶ The new law on civil society organizations in Ethiopia imposed restrictive registration requirements on several of OHCHR’s partners.
- ▶ Treaty body reporting activities in Ethiopia benefited from a more balanced, joint UN/Government approach that brought together a broad range of national actors. Involvement of external actors ensured increased transparency.

Regional Office for East Africa: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	719,557
Consultants	-	20
Official travel	-	71,087
Contractual services	-	45,600
General operating expenses	-	23,080
Supplies & materials	-	13,029
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	53,264
Subtotal	-	925,637
Programme support costs	-	120,333
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,045,970



High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay and representatives of the South African Government at a public event in Pretoria to mark Human Rights Day 2009. The event featured a performance by South African singer and UN Goodwill Ambassador Yvonne Chaka-Chaka.

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2009	3
Expenditures in 2009	\$614,730

The regional office provides human rights advice, assistance and support to Governments and civil society in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The office also engages with regional and sub-regional organizations and works closely with UN Country Teams to integrate a human rights-based approach into all development programming.

Activities

- ▶ Organized a regional conference in South Africa on policing and minorities, for high-ranking police officials from various countries.
- ▶ Supported visits of the High Commissioner to South Africa for the celebration, for the first time in Africa, of International Human Rights Day.
- ▶ Facilitated visits of the following special procedures mandate-holders: Special Rapporteur on indigenous people, to Botswana; Independent Expert on human rights and extreme poverty, to South Africa and Zambia; and Special Rapporteur on torture, for a mission to Zimbabwe, subsequently postponed.
- ▶ Provided training and information aiming to establish national human rights commissions in Lesotho and Comoros. Worked with the Democratic Governance Group of the Bureau for Development Policy and the South African Human Rights Commission to co-organize a validation session for national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Participated in workshops on reporting to treaty bodies and the UPR for Government

representatives in Comoros and Seychelles; on how to integrate a human rights-based approach into programming for UN Country Teams, in Botswana, Comoros, Swaziland and Zambia; on transitional justice, in Namibia; on Internally Displaced Persons and refugees, in Malawi; and on human rights and transnational corporations, as well as human rights and counterterrorism, in South Africa.

- ▶ Facilitated participation of representatives from Comoros in the UPR. Supported submission of a report by the Government of Madagascar to the UPR session in 2010.
- ▶ Participated in the work of the protection working group, the gender group and the communications group of the UN Country Team in South Africa, as well as in the work of the Regional Directors Team for Southern and Eastern Africa.
- ▶ Following the rise of violence in Madagascar, the regional office deployed two missions to the country to assess the human rights situation and to strengthen human rights awareness with state agents and civil society. It also worked closely with the UN Country Team, providing advice on transitional justice, freedom of expression, and human rights concerns in the peace negotiations led by the Southern African Development Community.
- ▶ Worked closely with the UN Country Team and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe on human rights capacity development and protection issues. Conducted several visits to Harare to consult with local actors after establishment of the coalition Government of national unity.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR deployments to Madagascar resulted in interest from the UN Country Team in benefiting from the advice of a Human Rights Adviser.
- ▶ Judges, lawyers and journalists in Madagascar obtained increased knowledge of international human rights standards and mechanisms.

- ▶ Following technical assistance from OHCHR, human rights issues were integrated in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks in Comoros, Swaziland, Botswana and Zambia.
- ▶ The Government of Seychelles requested OHCHR support with a view to submitting a number of long-overdue treaty body reports.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The relatively sudden and unforeseen political crisis in Madagascar put additional pressure on the regional office's limited resources during the first half of the year. To overcome this, and to effectively implement its programme of work, the regional office relied frequently on national and inter-governmental partners to promote and protect human rights. Strong ties were developed with national human rights commissions, Government counterparts and UN Country Teams.

Regional Office for Southern Africa: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	396,591
Consultants	-	1,768
Official travel	-	63,218
Contractual services	-	5,844
General operating expenses	-	28,916
Supplies & materials	-	11,616
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	36,056
Subtotal	-	544,009
Programme support costs	-	70,721
GRAND TOTAL	-	614,730

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	7
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,061,424

The regional office provides technical assistance and advice to Governments, national human rights institutions, UN Country Teams and civil society organizations in the host country, Senegal, as well as in countries of the region where OHCHR does not have a field presence (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape

Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Mali and Nigeria). In 2009, the regional office strengthened its collaboration with the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) by developing a joint framework for human rights monitoring during elections and by providing joint support to establishment and the work programme of the secretariat of the sub-regional network of national human rights institutions.

Activities

- ▶ Organized a seminar on the UPR for Government representatives, national human rights institutions and civil society in the seven countries scheduled for review in 2009-2010.
- ▶ Worked with a Senegalese non-governmental organization (NGO) to convene a symposium on how to harmonize Senegal's Family Code with the country's international human rights obligations.
- ▶ Contributed to organization of an ECOWAS Ministerial meeting on climate change, together with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the UN Office for West Africa, and advocated for adoption of a human rights-based approach to protection challenges caused by climate change.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, organized two training courses, one on State Party reporting to the treaty bodies, and the other on the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers. These were attended by Government representatives, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.
- ▶ Participated in a working session of the recently created network of West African national human rights institutions. Provided inputs to its draft rules of procedure and workplan for 2010-2012.
- ▶ Contributed substantively to a major international seminar on migration, held in Dakar in early November.
- ▶ Established a partnership with the human rights institute of a major Senegalese university and organized training sessions on the UPR and on prohibition and elimination of discrimination.
- ▶ Supported establishment, by the Senegalese Government's human rights policy coordinating structure, of a human rights documentation and research centre. Provided a wide range of relevant human rights documentation.
- ▶ Supported the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on the

sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Working Group on arbitrary detention during visits to Senegal.

Results

- ▶ A report on how to bring Senegal's Family Code into line with its international obligations will be submitted to Senegalese legislators for further action and review in 2010.
- ▶ The declaration on human rights and climate change made by ECOWAS Ministers served as a sub-regional platform for discussions at the global climate change summit in Copenhagen. OHCHR played a key role in encouraging ECOWAS Member States to pay greater attention to the human rights-related aspects of climate change in the region.
- ▶ Increased capacity and knowledge of national human rights institutions throughout West Africa with regard to treaty body reporting, UPR and how to integrate human rights education into the curricula of public schools.
- ▶ Contributed to shaping and ensuring region-wide approval of the statute governing the network of West African national human rights institutions.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Although the regional office provides inputs only in areas where it has a competitive advantage, its limited capacity and resources have made it essential to establish strong partnerships with other UN agencies to ensure impact on the ground. These partnerships will be further strengthened in 2010.

Regional Office for West Africa: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	616,149	47,803
Consultants	682	7,575
Official travel	(9,132)	(93)
Contractual services	800	18,184
General operating expenses	34,000	1,183
Supplies & materials	39,027	12,743
Seminars, grants & contributions	13,120	237,152
Subtotal	694,646	324,547
Programme support costs	39	42,192
GRAND TOTAL	694,685	366,739

Support for UN Peace Missions

United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi

Year established	1995 (since 2006 as part of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi)
Staff as of 31 December 2009	81

OHCHR's former country office in Burundi, established in 1995, merged with the United Nations Integrated Office (BINUB) in that country in 2006. The human rights component, known as the Human Rights and Justice Division, monitors human rights conditions, provides technical advice and support to the Government, state institutions and civil society, and works to raise awareness of human rights amongst the general public as well as specific target groups. Its work is guided by recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies, the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Burundi, and the recommendations of the UN Security Council on Burundi. Priorities in 2009 included strengthening the rule of law and access to justice, working with law enforcement agencies to increase respect for human rights standards, transitional justice, consultations on establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and support for establishment of a national human rights institution.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation in all 17 provinces, in close collaboration with local partners, and produced a number of reports and analyses.
- ▶ Facilitated national consultations on transitional justice, working within the framework of the Tripartite Steering Committee (Government, civil society and the United Nations); organized 22 workshops on transitional justice for 1,859 participants and prepared and disseminated related learning materials in Kirundi.
- ▶ Trained 40 penitentiary personnel on basic human rights standards; 395 judges and prosecutors and 296 clerks and registrars on court and prosecutor's office management; seven nurses and 11 social workers on mental health and psychosocial assistance, as part of a project aimed at improving access to mental health treatment for detainees; and 22 national trainers, including nine women, on strategies to address sexual violence. Also trained, either directly or through a partner non-governmental organization



(NGO), 109 Judicial Police officers, 21 magistrates and 61 social workers on juvenile justice.

- ▶ Organized three regional workshops on combating impunity in relation to sexual violence. Participants included magistrates, provincial police commissioners, local civil servants, members of the Centres pour le Développement Familial, directors of hospitals, and media and civil society representatives.
- ▶ Provided regular training to national security forces on human rights topics pertaining to their work, including integrating officers coming from the rebel movement.
- ▶ Conducted 48 weekly outreach/education sessions on various human rights and justice topics for journalists, trade unionists and civil society, reaching about 3,380 participants, including more than 1,100 women. Conducted ten workshops with human rights networks in civil society, drawing participation from members of specific vulnerable groups, including members of the albino and Batwa communities.
- ▶ Provided technical support to Government efforts to fulfil its reporting obligations to the treaty bodies and under the UPR process.
- ▶ Supported efforts to establish the National Human Rights Commission in conformity with the Paris Principles, by raising awareness about these principles and consistently advocating for a strengthened law establishing the Commission.
- ▶ Helped the Ministry of Human Rights and Gender organize a national consultation on human rights education, thereby gathering previously dispersed experiences in this area. Assisted the Ministry to develop a national strategy for systematization of human rights education in formal and informal education alike.
- ▶ Significantly expanded an integrated United Nations system-wide strategy to combat sexual and gender-based violence within the context of the 2010-2014 UN Development Assistance Framework, soon to be signed with the Government.

Results

- ▶ National consultations in Burundi on transitional justice mechanisms were successfully held without major incident.
- ▶ Regular human rights reports and forums for learning, dialogue and information exchange provided a reliable source of information that has increased awareness, amongst the public as well as in selected offices and state agencies, of human rights norms and standards.
- ▶ Consistent follow-up of specific cases of human rights violations with relevant authorities at national level, including weekly meetings with Government officials, has, in a number of cases, led to their resolution.
- ▶ The training of judges, prosecutors, clerks and registrars has visibly improved court administration. However, continuing attention must be given to building strong accountability mechanisms and establishing judicial independence.
- ▶ OHCHR workshops with local human rights networks have led members of civil society to engage Parliament and Government officials on several human rights issues.
- ▶ Training of national security forces and police helped broaden awareness amongst key members of state agencies of human rights law, norms and standards, while including a practical element of managing complaint procedures and follow-up mechanisms for reported violations.
- ▶ Preparation of reports due under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has advanced significantly, with a validation workshop involving civil society actors held for the report required by the Convention against Torture.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In a situation where many Government decisions are taken using discretionary authority, a need exists to build effective legal and institutional frameworks capable of ensuring proper protection of human rights. Although activities previously centred on the provision of training and material aid, a more strategic approach will complement this with support for establishment of rules, procedures and accountability mechanisms within public institutions and will ensure that institutions entrusted with an independent role are bestowed with guarantees of meaningful independence.
- ▶ Low levels of public awareness of human rights in Burundi are the result of a weak education system and lack of priority for human rights education; reform of the education sector and school curricula will be essential to ensure a human rights culture can take root.
- ▶ Agreement between the Government and the United Nations still needs to be reached on several issues arising from establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, particularly the relationships between the public prosecutor and

the eventual Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as well as between this Commission and the future Special Tribunal.

Upholding Due Process

On 3 November 2008, police searched the Bujumbura offices of a then-unregistered political party, the Movement for Solidarity and Democracy (MSD), and removed a number of documents. Alexis Sinduhije, head of the movement, was arrested on charges of threatening national security, holding unauthorized meetings and slandering the Head of State, and was detained shortly thereafter. Monitoring these developments, the Division observed numerous irregularities in arrest procedures, including the fact that charges brought against Sinduhije changed a week after his incarceration. OHCHR consistently advocated for his right to due process. Sinduhije was acquitted in March 2009 of all charges on grounds of insufficient proof and was released. Subsequently, a judge involved in drafting of the acquittal was allegedly abducted and continued to receive death threats after he was freed.



Children eating a meal at Saint Kizito Institute in Burundi.

United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2009	19

The Human Rights Section of the United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Central African Republic (BONUCA) focused in 2009 on monitoring detention facilities, investigating reported human rights violations, and human rights training and capacity development activities, including technical advice to civil society and Government. The Section co-leads the humanitarian protection cluster and leads the sub-cluster on training. In addition to a main office in Bangui, the Section had regional offices in Bambari, Bossangoa and Bouar.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored numerous trials at the Tribunal de Grande Instance, and observed more than 20 cases before the Permanent Military Tribunal.
- ▶ Continued to build national capacity by training local and regional authorities and civil society organizations on their role *vis-à-vis* the promotion and protection of human rights. Conducted some 90 sensitization and training sessions for schools and universities, Government agencies, members of defence and security forces, NGOs and civil society actors. Also trained, on human rights and humanitarian law, more than 20 trainers from the Protection Cluster (UN partners such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), other units within BONUCA, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as key partner NGOs); four contingents of the regional peacekeeping force (the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in Central African Republic, MICOPAX), comprising about 300 military personnel; more than 30 officials of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization; and officials from 30 local governments.
- ▶ Verified and provided assistance in 183 cases of sexual violence against women (76) and children (107). Most perpetrators were armed actors such as rebel groups and armed bandits.
- ▶ Worked to raise public awareness of women's rights in the context of the annual 16-day campaign on violence against women, run in partnership with civil society and community leaders.
- ▶ Provided legal advice with respect to the law on the High Council of the Judiciary; the law on the High Court of Justice; the law on Labour Regulation; the Electoral Code, the Penal Code;

the Criminal Procedure Code; and the law on the Military Justice Code. Also provided legal advice in relation to the ratification of ILO Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples.

Results

- ▶ Creation of a group of women leaders, known as G23, is helping to prepare women to participate in public affairs and access political office, particularly in the context of upcoming elections.
- ▶ With the support of the Section, an inter-ministerial decree requiring regular human rights training for all members of the defence and security forces was passed.
- ▶ Adoption in 2009 of several laws with a direct impact on human rights, such as the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. Several provisions of the new laws contain improvements aligning the administration of justice in Central African Republic with human rights principles and standards.
- ▶ ILO Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples was ratified by the National Assembly in December.
- ▶ The *"Plateforme des ONGs nationales des droits de l'homme"*, a human rights NGOs and civil society coalition, was institutionalized with the support of OHCHR including through the organization of regular monthly trainings and the dissemination of human rights documents. This coalition has strengthened the capacities of the local civil society in human rights monitoring.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Security sector reform remains a structural problem in Central African Republic, and accountability in the security and defence forces has been a difficult issue. The Section continued its efforts in this area by promoting a human rights culture within the armed forces, notably through training and sensitization campaigns.
- ▶ Addressing sexual and gender-based violence remains challenging in several regards. These include the social stigma associated with rape cases, as well as prevailing cultural and traditional practices that hinder victims from speaking about and reporting cases. Fear of reprisals from perpetrators and their families, especially in small villages, and an inability and unwillingness of national authorities to hold perpetrators accountable, also adversely affect responses. These challenges have hampered efforts to address the problem and contributed to a cycle of impunity with respect to sexual and gender-based violence cases.

- ▶ Access to justice in regions without effective administration of justice institutions remains a major challenge. Certain communities resort frequently to violent and extra-legal means to settle disputes. These cases highlight the need to work closely with law enforcement officials, judicial authorities, community leaders and community members to bring customary and non-formal dispute resolution mechanisms into line with human rights and due process standards.

United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	31

The human rights component of the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) contributes to the monitoring, promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to sexual and gender-based violence; supports efforts to end recruitment and use of children by armed groups and forces; recommends to authorities relevant actions designed to curb impunity; and carries out human rights training and other activities intended to strengthen capacities of Government and civil society. In 2009, the Human Rights Section expanded its coverage of the east with the opening of a local office in Guereda, adding to four offices in Abéché, Goz Beida, Farchana and Iriba and a liaison office in N'Djamena.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical assistance to the Chadian Ministry of Human Rights and Promotion of Liberties in relation to organization of a National Human Rights Forum and development of a National Plan for Human Rights Protection and Promotion.
- ▶ Systematically reported on the human rights situation in eastern Chad through daily, weekly and monthly reports; contributions to the Secretary-General's reports on the situation in Chad; global horizontal notes and reports on children and armed conflict; and other ad hoc reports.
- ▶ Participated in the UN Country Team Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict in Chad, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612. Also participated in verification missions on recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, in collaboration with the Government, diplomatic missions and UN agencies.
- ▶ Organized activities to disseminate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other key human rights instruments to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities, traditional and community leaders, and administrative and local authorities.
- ▶ Conducted some 200 visits to IDP campsites, refugee camps and villages in eastern Chad to monitor the general human rights situation and investigate cases of human rights violations/abuses. Completed more than 90 investigations focusing on the protection of women and children.
- ▶ Conducted more than 250 visits to penitentiary and detention facilities in the east of Chad to monitor conditions of detention, treatment of detainees, and compliance with fair trial rights.
- ▶ Facilitated two visits in 2009 to eastern Chad by the Minister of Human Rights and Promotion of Liberties, to bring the Government's attention to the human rights situation.
- ▶ Provided technical support to regional delegates of the Ministry of Human Rights.



Residents of a refugee camp in Chad.

- ▶ Conducted more than 55 capacity-building sessions and human rights workshops for civil society organizations, law enforcement officials, Government and traditional authorities, and 40 on-site capacity building sessions for the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*, or DIS (a UN Police-trained force composed of Chadian police and gendarmerie tasked to maintain law and order in refugee camps and IDP sites, and assist in securing humanitarian activities in eastern Chad). Established a small human rights library for DIS agents posted to Farchana, where officers can access reference materials on human rights.
- ▶ In collaboration with UN Police and UNICEF, published a comprehensive version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and disseminated it to the DIS.

Results

- ▶ The first regional human rights forum, held with the support of the Human Rights Section in Abéché in October, encompassed more than 60 local authorities, civil society delegates, religious leaders, traditional authorities, women's organizations and youths. Participants diagnosed human rights challenges in the northern and eastern regions of Chad, agreed on ways to address these challenges, and prepared recommendations to be considered by the National Human Rights Forum.
- ▶ Monitoring of human rights violations and abuses was stepped up in refugee camps, IDP sites and surrounding villages, resulting in more than 390 cases of violations and abuses being documented. Chadian authorities demonstrated a higher level of responsiveness to advocacy, especially in relation to cases of arbitrary arrest, detention, and sexual and gender-based violence.
- ▶ The establishment, with OHCHR support, of three human rights clubs in Abéché and Iriba enabled students of Chadian secondary schools to discuss human rights concerns and organize promotional activities. This resulted in increased awareness of human rights issues and the international human rights system amongst young people.
- ▶ An umbrella group of NGOs, *Cercle des ONGs*, was established in Abéché with OHCHR support and facilitated better networking, information sharing and consultation on human rights issues amongst participating NGOs in eastern Chad.
- ▶ As a result of MINURCAT's human rights engagement with relevant authorities, the Government has initiated verification and sensitization exercises to address child recruitment at various military sites in Chad.

Challenges and Lesson Learned

- ▶ Insecurity and logistical constraints continue to hamper regular monitoring of IDP sites and refugee camps in eastern Chad. Field offices depend on escorts to conduct missions outside of base, and opening of offices in Koukou and Bahai has been postponed to 2010 because of logistical delays within the mission.
- ▶ Forced and early marriages, female genital mutilation and, to an extent, rape, are difficult to combat as a result of deep-rooted traditions and cultural norms discriminating against women.
- ▶ The 2010 elections represent an important opportunity for the Chadian public to exercise civil and political rights. However, the elections also could trigger human rights abuses, underscoring the need for a country-wide OHCHR presence in the lead-up to elections, to monitor, report on and prevent such abuses.

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2009	53

Working through the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), OHCHR monitors and helps investigate human rights violations, with a special focus on violence against children and women. It also provides advice and capacity development to Government, State institutions and civil society, keeping the Security Council Sanctions Committee on Côte d'Ivoire regularly informed of developments and advising and supporting the UN Country Team. The Human Rights Division operates from its headquarters in Abidjan and nine local field offices.

Activities

- ▶ Investigated hundreds of allegations of human rights violations, including rape, female genital mutilation and trafficking for child labour or for prostitution.
- ▶ Supported the Ministry of National Education to strengthen human rights education, including monthly meetings with members of the *Comité national d'éducation aux droits de l'homme*. Training and resource materials made available to Ministry officials on development of syllabuses for the teaching of human rights in primary and secondary schools.

- ▶ Helped to establish 50 human rights clubs in schools and colleges and provided training and other assistance to 200 existing clubs.
- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to develop a Technical Cooperation Programme that provides the basis for promoting and protecting human rights during 2009-2013.
- ▶ Organized 21 human rights workshops and refresher courses for 1,124 military, law enforcement and judicial personnel (340 women and 784 men). Particular emphasis was given to rights of women and children, as well as human rights in relation to elections.
- ▶ Organized 30 seminars, conferences and workshops on human rights, women's and children's rights, and human rights and elections, attended by 3,950 local officials and representatives of non-governmental (NGO) and civil society organizations (1,535 women and 2,415 men), in 18 regions.
- ▶ Ran a three-month campaign, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and civil society organizations, to celebrate International Human Rights Day. This culminated in a national ceremony in Bondoukou and regional celebrations in nine locations. Events were attended by some 7,000 students, NGO representatives, traditional and religious leaders, State officials, diplomats and members of the public.
- ▶ To sensitize the public on human rights issues, distributed 4,250 pamphlets and leaflets on the theme of non-discrimination. Organized six human rights briefing sessions for the media and diplomatic community, and produced and broadcast two short television documentaries on human rights.
- ▶ Provided advice and assistance to members of the UN Country Team and the Government in relation to preparation of the UN Development Assistance Framework 2009-2013 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2009-2013.
- ▶ Supported implementation by local partners of five quick-impact projects in rural areas, including construction of a primary school in Tomba (north-western Côte d'Ivoire) and support for income-generating activities for rural women in Boli (central Côte d'Ivoire).

Results

- ▶ Human rights education will be taught beginning in 2011 in all private and public schools and colleges in Côte d'Ivoire, based on a syllabus developed with OHCHR assistance in 2009.
- ▶ A culture of human rights is taking root throughout the country, especially in rural areas, with widespread establishment of human rights

clubs in schools and human rights cells in villages. The wide variety of outreach strategies and methods employed, drawing on daily experiences and aspirations of target groups, has heightened public awareness of human rights. In particular, a Human Rights Park in Bondoukou represents a great attraction for local residents.

- ▶ With adoption of the Government's Programme of Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights 2009-2013, a firm foundation has been laid for sustainable promotion and protection of human rights and for the UN peace mission's exit strategy in this field.
- ▶ Emphasis on women and children in advocacy, awareness raising and capacity development has fostered a greater focus on sexual and gender-based violence and the need to strengthen protection of children's rights.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Political instability and repeated postponement of presidential elections perpetuate a climate of tension, conflict and uncertainty about the future, which undermines enjoyment of human rights and their centrality to the Government's programmes and activities.
- ▶ Impunity for criminal misconduct and grave violations of human rights remains a major challenge, since most perpetrators go unpunished. This cultivates an attitude of defiance toward human rights advocates, defenders and enforcers.
- ▶ Public enthusiasm for human rights grows, as does the willingness of Ivorian people to participate actively in efforts to protect and promote human rights, when strategies are adapted to the local conditions and culture.

United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (OHCHR-MONUC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Year established	1996 (as a stand-alone office) and 2008 (integration with the Human Rights Division of DPKO)
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Staff as of 31 December 2009	129
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The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (OHCHR-MONUC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNJHRO) comprises the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission (MONUC) and OHCHR. UNJHRO has a broad mandate that includes both protection work, including human rights monitoring, investigations and reporting, and

technical cooperation activities intended to help Government and other stakeholders contribute to improve the human rights situation. The Office has established five priority areas of work: summary and arbitrary executions; torture/deaths in detention; arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions; violation of economic rights/illegal mining; and combating impunity for sexual violence.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored, investigated and documented human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law throughout the country and followed up individual cases with relevant authorities.
- ▶ Published four public reports, on human rights violations committed in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé in Orientale province, as well as Goma and Kanyabayonga and Kiwanja, North Kivu, and on appeals proceedings against the presumed perpetrators of journalist Serge Maheshe's assassination. In March the High Commissioner reported to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the country.
- ▶ Participated in the MONUC Rapid Response and Early Warning Cell, Joint Protection Teams and Joint Investigation Teams, with a focus on the east of the country.
- ▶ Held human rights training workshops for a wide range of actors, including security forces, National and Provincial Assemblies, civilian and military justice institutions, and civil society. Trained,

amongst others, civilian and military judges in Mbuji Mayi on combating impunity; prison staff of the Central Prison in Kinshasa on applicable human rights norms in detention centres; and prison staff in Kinshasa on safeguards against torture and death in detention.

- ▶ Organized a workshop to review the law creating the National Human Rights Commission, attended by four senators, six Members of Parliament and representatives of 12 NGOs.
- ▶ Provided technical support to the Ministry of Human Rights and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights, comprising the Ministries of Gender, Public Service, Labour, Justice and Human Rights.
- ▶ Supported the Inter-Ministerial Committee to draft State Party reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture, and the UPR. Provided training on UPR and supported consultations on the UPR report and the National Plan on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
- ▶ As the lead in the "combating impunity" component of the United Nations' Sexual Violence Comprehensive Strategy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Office coordinated activities against sexual violence at national, regional and provincial levels. Through its projects on sexual violence, legal assistance was provided to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence. NGOs were trained and supported to this end.
- ▶ Facilitated the visits of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial executions.
- ▶ A Mapping Team composed of 33 staff members was deployed throughout the country with the objective of conducting a mapping exercise of the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between March 1993 and June 2003, assessing capacities within the national justice system and formulating a series of options aimed at assisting the Government and civil society in identifying appropriate transitional justice mechanisms to deal with the legacy of these violations. The mapping report is expected to be launched in 2010.



A camp for internally displaced persons in Kibati, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Results

- ▶ Within the framework of various projects aimed at combating impunity for sexual violence, the Office contributed to an increase in access to justice by victims of sexual violence and to strengthening of the capacity of judicial actors and civil society organizations in protecting such victims.



Women sit together outside their dormitory at the Heal Africa Transit Center for women victims of sexual violence, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- ▶ Through advocacy by various stakeholders, including OHCHR and UNJHRO, the latest UN Security Council resolutions have increasingly adopted human rights provisions. These include the Council's reiteration that United Nations support to the Congolese military should entail: the military's compliance with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law; joint United Nations-Government planning to ensure civilian protection during such operations; and specific response mechanisms in the event of suspected violations.
- ▶ The United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo adopted a Protection of Civilians Policy; UNJHRO actively participated in drafting of this policy.
- ▶ In November, the Government took a step forward by launching its National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence, to which UNJHRO contributed. This will be implemented with the support of the United Nations system.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Fighting impunity remains the biggest challenge in ensuring human rights protection in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In spite of the President's "zero tolerance" policy for human rights violators within Congolese security forces, no high-ranking officers have yet been prosecuted or sentenced for grave human rights violations. In this regard, publication of the mapping exercise report, presenting the most serious violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between March 1993 and June 2003,

will be a powerful and constructive tool; if used appropriately, it should contribute to the fight against impunity and serve to re-energize discussions on transitional justice.

- ▶ The pace of adoption of human rights-related legislation remains slow. As a case in point, the law to establish the National Human Rights Commission, adopted by the Senate and submitted to the National Assembly in June 2008, has still not been dealt with by the latter.
- ▶ Following Security Council resolution 1856, which mandated MONUC to "ensure the protection of civilians" and to "coordinate operations with [armed forces] integrated brigades ... and support operations led by and jointly planned with these brigades," there remains a need to integrate human rights into support to armed forces operations and to ensure compliance with the "do no harm" principle.

United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

Year established	1999
Staff as of 31 December 2009	2

OHCHR has supported the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office (UNOGBIS) since 1999. This support, together with the number of human rights officers deployed in the country, increased with the transformation into an integrated mission (UNIOGBIS) on 1 January 2010.

Activities

- ▶ Organized a series of trainings in Bissau and Gabu for 45 law enforcement officers, as well as three workshops with women's groups and relevant authorities, to assist in preparation of the State Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ Undertook visits to six detention centres to monitor conditions and respect for legal guarantees, and followed up with advocacy activities.
- ▶ Advised local authorities on integration of a human rights perspective in the security sector reform process, and on the fight against drug and human trafficking.
- ▶ Worked with the UN Country Team to integrate human rights into all activities, and specifically, to assist authorities with establishment of a national human rights institution.

Results

- ▶ Building on technical advice to Government and civil society and on advocacy efforts, the National Human Rights Institution was formally established in 2009 by ministerial decree. Further assistance will be required to ensure that it becomes operationally effective and operates in compliance with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ Following advice and assistance by the Human Rights Section, Guinea-Bissau was able to submit, in August, its first report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Efforts to strengthen the capacity of state institutions, including the new National Human Rights Institution, have been significant, as has State commitment in this area. However, in order to surmount knowledge and capacity gaps, greater human and financial investments from the international community are needed. Greater emphasis will be given in 2010 to capacity development activities, with the establishment of UNIOGBIS and a strengthened human rights presence with a more robust mandate.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2009	39

The Human Rights and Protection Section of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) monitors the human rights situation and issues public reports, engages in awareness raising amongst the public, and works to establish and strengthen national institutions. In 2009, the Section worked to ensure that UN and Government programmes and budgets reflected the human rights-based approach to programming, while increasing its focus on building national skills and knowledge to ensure creation and maintenance of a sustainable human rights capacity. Priority areas were development of a National Human Rights Action Plan; economic, social and cultural rights; rights of persons with disabilities; legislative training; and the security sector.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical support, including advice and training, to Government and civil society to officially establish a National Human Rights Action Plan Steering Committee, with sub-committees mandated to draft Liberia's Action

Plan; design and conduct data collection; raise public awareness; and prepare the UPR.

- ▶ Advised the Ministry of Labour on development of a labour force survey, incorporating a human rights-based approach; and supported national authorities to incorporate human rights elements, including on persons with disabilities, throughout the national Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire.
- ▶ Provided training on a human rights-based approach to budgeting for 45 national and UN partners.
- ▶ Organized a workshop on business and human rights for stakeholders of public and private sectors, with follow-up technical support that included five three-hour sessions on integration of business and human rights standards/practices for staff of the National Investment Commission and support to Liberia Corporate Responsibility Forum.
- ▶ Provided technical support to national civil society organizations to organize three regional stakeholder consultations on the rights of persons with disabilities, involving more than 100 participants representing all 15 counties.
- ▶ Provided technical advice and implemented various awareness raising and capacity development projects in all of Liberia's 15 counties. Field officers continued to provide support for increasingly self-sustaining human rights clubs; at least two such clubs exist in every county.
- ▶ Co-facilitated, with the non-governmental organization (NGO) Journalists for Human Rights, six capacity-building workshops for journalists in rural areas, on reporting and human rights awareness among marginalized communities. Participated in a four-day workshop organized by the Press Union of Liberia Media, on the role of the media in increasing respect for human rights.
- ▶ Mentored four national human rights advocacy NGOs in monitoring, advocacy, reporting, and project design, implementation and assessment skills.
- ▶ Provided training for human rights instructors of the Liberian National Police and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. This included a two-day training assessment workshop and enhancement of human rights and law enforcement training at the Police Academy. Conducted a five-day human rights training of trainers workshop for personnel of armed forces.
- ▶ Provided technical support on the human rights aspects of the UN Joint Programme on Sexual and Gender-based Violence, and through field monitoring provided reports from all 15 counties to ensure ongoing assessment of continued protection gaps and the programme's impact.

Results

- ▶ National structure in place to produce and implement the proposed National Human Rights Action Plan, national human rights data collection mechanisms and indicators, public participation and awareness raising initiatives, as well as reports to the UPR and treaty bodies.
- ▶ Institutionalization of human rights training for law enforcement officials was accelerated, with follow-up training and implementation planning sessions for trained police and immigration human rights trainers; initial human rights training delivered for armed forces.
- ▶ National Government and private partners took the lead in developing business and human rights initiatives and the Corporate Responsibility Forum.
- ▶ With the support of the Human Rights and Protection Section, civil society organizations across the country increasingly took the lead to design and deliver Human Rights Day activities to mark the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- ▶ The impending downsizing of UNMIL reflects recent gains made in building peace in Liberia and tackling a range of deep-rooted problems. However, as the UN presence is drawn down, there remains a critical need to strengthen the human rights capacity of Liberia's own institutions. In this context, delays in establishing a national human rights institution are cause for serious concern. Over the coming year, the Human Rights and Protection Section will devote significant attention to supporting the creation of such an institution and ensuring its compliance with the Paris Principles.

United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Sierra Leone

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2009	13

OHCHR has been involved in Sierra Leone since 1998 as part of successive UN missions, including the current United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL). The Human Rights and Rule of Law Section of the current mission sustains a dialogue with Government and non-state actors in relation to human rights issues and works to integrate human rights work into the programmes of individual UN agencies. Priorities in 2009 included advocacy and advice to the Government in relation



A woman and her child at a government hospital in Makeni, Sierra Leone.

to policy and legislative reforms, strengthening capacity of the Human Rights Commission, and support for the work of local human rights groups.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored human rights in collaboration with civil society and the Human Rights Commission, with special attention to health, education, child labour, sexual and gender-based violence, prison and detention facilities, local courts, and rights of women and children. The Section also engaged relevant authorities at different levels to address issues identified through monitoring activities.
- ▶ Monitored trials in local courts nationwide in collaboration with Government authorities, including local court supervisors. A report based on information gathered is to be completed during the first quarter of 2010.
- ▶ Provided training on human rights monitoring and reporting and gender to 190 representatives of civil society, through workshops in Freetown and in Kambia, Koinadugu, Kailahun and Bonthe Pujehun districts.
- ▶ Trained 150 prison officers on minimum standards of detention and a human rights approach to prison management, through workshops in Freetown, Tonkolili, Makeni and Matru Jong.
- ▶ Facilitated the human rights component of a comprehensive training programme by UN Police in all four regions of Makeni, Bo, Kenema and Freetown.
- ▶ Together with UNDP, organized a training workshop for 30 Members of Parliament on human rights, gender and access to justice.
- ▶ Provided computers, a stipend for office staff and other forms of logistical support to the treaty reporting secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also provided advice and other forms of

technical assistance to the Ministry in the context of preparation of the Common Core Document to be submitted to treaty bodies.

- ▶ Advised and assisted the Human Rights Commission in relation to preparation of a three-year strategic plan and coordinated donors' meetings to mobilize resources needed for implementation.
- ▶ Conducted sensitization programmes in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations on thematic human rights issues, including 30 hour-long radio programmes and sensitization programmes in schools, prisons, and communities.
- ▶ Collaborated with other UN agencies and national partners to prepare a national gender strategic plan and a national action plan to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820.

Results

- ▶ The Human Rights Commission adopted a three-year strategic plan and accompanying project document. The Commission also published its second annual Human Rights Status Report in 2009.
- ▶ The Government launched a reparations programme and established the Fund for War Victims. Registration of beneficiaries was completed, and the most vulnerable victims of war started receiving support. A total of 29,733 people were registered as victims nationwide.
- ▶ The Joint Vision of the UN Family in Sierra Leone considered human rights as a crosscutting issue and provided guidance that all agencies should adopt a rights-based approach. It also included human rights as one of the 21 programmes of the United Nations in Sierra Leone for 2009-2012.
- ▶ The Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, during a training programme, agreed on a plan of action for the protection and promotion of human rights.
- ▶ As a result of massive sensitization programmes on children's and women's rights, traditional leaders in five chiefdoms in Bombali district agreed to stop the initiation of girls younger than 18 into the Bondo society.
- ▶ A national gender strategic plan was developed to promote the rights of women, and a draft action plan was completed to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ A low level of implementation of laws to promote and protect the rights of children and women remains a challenge. For example, domestic violence is rampant, but very few cases are prosecuted under the Domestic Violence Act.

- ▶ A weak justice system, coupled with limited access to justice, has promoted a culture of impunity. Very few examples of action against perpetrators are found.
- ▶ Forced initiation into secret societies, female genital mutilation of minor girls, increased cases of rape perpetrated mostly against children, and early and forced marriages continue to be serious challenges.
- ▶ The Human Rights Commission is faced with funding constraints that hinder successful implementation of most of its activities. A need exists to strengthen the capacity of the Commission's regional offices for increased presence at grassroots level.
- ▶ No progress was made on the report submitted by the Constitutional Review Commission in 2008 on amendments of various provisions of the Constitution. Some discriminatory constitutional provisions remain.

Strengthening Accountability in the Police Service

A chiefdom police officer who assaulted a 50-year-old woman in Makeni, Bombali district, in August was brought to book by the Sierra Leone Police, following intervention of a UN human rights officer in collaboration with the Bombali Human Rights Committee. It was reported to the human rights field office that a female police officer of the Bombali Sebora Chiefdom Police Force, attached to Local Court No. 3 in Makeni, went to arrest the woman, Kadiatu Kargbo. In the process, the police officer and a male civilian manhandled the woman, leaving her half-naked and with a broken tooth.

Initially the provincial secretary and the local court chairman supported the action of the police officer and publicly criticized human rights activists for intervening. The provincial secretary called the Bombali Human Rights Committee to a meeting on the issue and intimidated the chairman. Despite these challenges, the human rights officer facilitated medical examination and treatment for the victim and engaged the police to investigate the matter. The human rights officer also took the matter up with the District Security Committee in Makeni, persuading the police to move more quickly to set up an investigation. The police subsequently completed their investigation and submitted a file to the State Counsel for advice. Later, the police officer apologized to the victim and compensated her; disciplinary action also was instituted by her office for gross unprofessional conduct.



Somali children attend school in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

United Nations Political Office in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	4

Priorities of the Human Rights Section include integrating human rights into the Djibouti peace process; focusing on strengthening the capacity of the Transitional Federal Government and other authorities; contributing to the creation of human rights-compliant security forces; addressing impunity; strengthening monitoring and reporting; and increasing awareness of human rights. The mandate of the United Nations Political Office in Somalia to monitor, report on and provide technical cooperation with respect to human rights is derived from decisions of both the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

Activities

- ▶ Organized field missions to Somaliland and Puntland to develop dialogue with authorities and civil society and to gather information. Undertook several visits to Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, home to a large number of Somali refugees.
- ▶ Participated in planning consultations in the region to ensure integration of human rights into the Djibouti peace process.
- ▶ Worked with the Transitional Federal Government and other authorities to develop a framework for technical cooperation on human rights.
- ▶ Organized two workshops on addressing impunity for civil society, Transitional Federal Government and Members of Parliament representatives; assessed the feasibility of a documentation phase as a preliminary step toward documenting past abuses.
- ▶ Contributed to the Constitution drafting process, through participation in coordination mechanisms.

- ▶ Provided both administrative and substantive support to missions by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, and to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons.
- ▶ Printed and disseminated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Somali.

Results

- ▶ An embryonic focus on human rights by the Transitional Federal Government, which took office in March, is reflected in part by appointment of a ministerial-level Government focal point on human rights and her participation in the Human Rights Council in October. This represented the first time a Minister has headed a Somali delegation for more than 20 years.
- ▶ Dialogue strengthened with the Government and with a larger cross-section of Somali civil society, helping to inform future programming and provide a basis for future work.

Challenges

- ▶ Restrictions on access to Somalia seriously constrained development of human rights work in the country, including monitoring. Local partners are unable to conduct in-depth monitoring because of the danger of reprisals; verification is extremely difficult. This is particularly the case in the south-central part of the country, where the security and humanitarian situation deteriorated considerably during 2009. Weak institutional capacity also requires sustained responses, which are hampered by security and logistical constraints. Nevertheless, considerable scope exists to develop the work further, with concrete activities, adequate human resources and timelines that take into account the constraints.

United Nations Mission in Sudan

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2009	62

OHCHR is represented in Sudan by the human rights sections of two peacekeeping missions: the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In 2005, Security Council resolution 1590 mandated the Human Rights Section of UNMIS to assist in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended more than 20 years of conflict between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in the south. The Human Rights Section of UNMIS conducts human rights monitoring and issues reports, including, in 2009, an investigation into attacks on civilians by the Lord's Resistance Army in Southern Sudan. The Section contributes to statements and other advocacy efforts by the High Commissioner and special procedures mechanisms, supports visits by special procedures mandate-holders, and implements a range of capacity development activities directed toward Government officials, parliamentarians, students, civil society and other key partners.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation across the country by conducting 1,794 monitoring missions, launching investigations into alleged serious violations of human rights, issuing about 150 regular reports and, where appropriate, advocating for redress and compliance with human rights standards. Areas of focus included arbitrary arrest and detention; intimidation of opposition party supporters and human rights defenders; forced evictions and demolition of housing to make way for infrastructure projects; allegations of violence and sexual assaults by members of state security forces and other armed groups; and the functioning of the justice process, including court trials and standards of detention.
- ▶ Prepared and released a public report on attacks against civilians by the Lord's Resistance Army in Southern Sudan, based on the findings of UNMIS monitoring activities. The report documented atrocities by the Lord's Resistance Army in Southern Sudan and included concrete recommendations to the Government of Southern Sudan and key actors on measures to strengthen protection and accountability mechanisms.



Internally displaced persons arriving at Zamzam refugee camp in Darfur, Sudan.

- ▶ With a view to raising public awareness of human rights, distributed 28,750 educational and promotional materials, including human rights publications, posters and T-shirts, amongst partners; aired radio shows on addressing human rights concerns in the Transitional Areas and Southern Sudan. Organized events to commemorate the International Human Rights Day, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Conducted lectures on basic human rights topics for students.
- ▶ Conducted 57 workshops and other training events across the country, focused on key areas of concern such as administration of justice, violence against women, civil and political rights, and the role of a national human rights institution. These events were held in conjunction with Government authorities, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, students, security forces, judicial figures and other key partners.
- ▶ Provided technical and logistical support to the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission and, in Northern Sudan, conducted six workshops for representatives of civil society organizations on international standards for national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Results

- ▶ The publication of monthly human rights bulletins helped raised awareness on human rights cases and situations of concern, in addition to highlighting positive developments and capacity development activities held across the country. The bulletins were widely disseminated among Government counterparts and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Support provided to the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission contributed to expansion of the Commission's mandate and helped facilitate its work in seven states in Southern Sudan. In Northern Sudan, awareness raising workshops on international standards for national human rights institutions increased civil society groups' interest and participation in the selection and appointment process for commissioners.
- ▶ Secured the release of several persons illegally detained throughout the country, through advocacy with members of the judiciary and prosecutors as well as with support of special procedures mandate holders.
- ▶ Advocacy, advice and awareness raising activities helped shape the content of several human rights-related draft laws, including the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission Act.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Denial of access to prisons in Northern Sudan and limited access to Sudan People's Liberation Army detention facilities in Southern Sudan hindered effective monitoring and advocacy on recurring human rights concerns such as arbitrary arrest and detention, prolonged incommunicado detention, and ill-treatment and torture in detention.
- ▶ In spite of the establishment of the Human Rights Forum, which provides a venue for open and constructive dialogue with the Government of National Unity (GoNU), engagement with GoNU on several core human rights concerns remains a challenge. This includes death sentences by courts that do not conform to international fair trial standards, and subsequent executions.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	85

Security Council resolution 1769 established the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operations in Darfur (UNAMID) on 1 January 2008. UNAMID is mandated to contribute to efforts to protect and promote human rights in Darfur, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and the protection of civilians, and to assist in implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and any subsequent agreements. OHCHR continued to support the human rights component of UNAMID, which is tasked with carrying out human rights monitoring, investigations, reporting, advocacy, protection, capacity and institution building activities. The section supports visits to Darfur by special procedures mandate-holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan, in May. The section's 85 staff are based in North Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur and Khartoum.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted 245 field missions to monitor the human rights situation in Darfur and released 37 consolidated weekly human reports. Areas of focus included unlawful killings, attacks on civilians, violence against women, torture and other inhuman treatment, arbitrary arrests and detention, harassment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and violations pertaining to enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ In January, released findings of an investigation into a law enforcement operation in August 2008 at Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur, in which 33

civilians were killed and at least 108 civilians injured.

- ▶ Submitted contributions to eight reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on Darfur; to the Secretary-General's report on progress made in implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women's rights, and to the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict as per Security Council resolution 1612.
- ▶ Conducted capacity development activities for Government institutions, including workshops on strategic planning, project design and reporting, for the Darfur State Committees to Combat Violence against Women; training programmes on human rights, gender-based violence and rape counselling, for police investigators in North and South Darfur; and human rights and prison management standards, for 66 Government prison staff in North Darfur.
- ▶ Conducted training and awareness raising workshops to strengthen capacity of civil society organizations, including one training workshop on legal aid, for lawyers in South and North Darfur; three training workshops on transitional justice, for staff of the National Compensation Commission and the Peace Centre in North Darfur; one training workshop on transitional justice, for civil society organizations in Nyala, South Darfur; and four workshops on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a special focus on rights related to elections, for civil society organizations in the three Darfur states.
- ▶ Conducted awareness raising programmes and public events to commemorate Human Rights Day, and the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, including distribution of

educational and promotional materials, human rights publications, posters and T-shirts.

- ▶ Participated in an expert-level workshop organized by the Joint Chief Mediator for Darfur, which discussed the design and content of civil society participation in the Darfur peace process.

Results

- ▶ Advocacy and other interventions informed the drafting of key legislation, including the Criminal Procedure Act, the Election Act and the National Human Rights Commission Act.
- ▶ The Darfur State Committees to Combat Violence against Women benefited from technical assistance provided by the Human Rights Section, including assistance in drafting and implementing workplans.
- ▶ The participation of human rights officers from UNAMID in the Doha Expert Level Workshop on Darfur contributed to launching of a parallel consultative track in the Darfur mediation process, which saw the inclusion and active involvement of Darfuri civil society in peace negotiations.
- ▶ In April, the Section, in conjunction with the Government's Advisory Council on Human Rights, launched the Human Rights Forum in West Darfur. The Forum provides a venue for open, constructive discussions of human rights issues and trends in Darfur. The West Darfur Forum unanimously adopted the establishment of human rights sub-groups in the three Darfur states to strengthen local participation in the Forum. The sub-groups also are expected to facilitate direct engagement between local actors and national authorities and institutions to effectively address human rights concerns and recommend corrective action.
- ▶ As a follow-up to the workshops on transitional justice facilitated by OHCHR, participants set up a network to coordinate advocacy, awareness raising and training activities on transitional justice in South Darfur.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The continued volatile and unstable security environment in Darfur limited movements of human rights monitors and their ability to routinely monitor and investigate human rights incidents. UN security phase IV was in effect throughout most of Darfur, with the exception of the major towns, where the security phase was lowered to III. Most remote communities remain inaccessible by road, while air travel was restricted by the unavailability of aircraft.
- ▶ Deployment of human rights staff to military outposts envisaged under the UNAMID mandate



Workshop on sexual and gender based violence in Abu Shouk IDP camp, Sudan, organized by UNAMID's Human Rights Section.



Water distribution in Tora, Northern Darfur.

has not begun because of the unavailability of accommodation and communication equipment.

- ▶ Fallout from the decision of the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for the Sudanese President had an impact on human rights monitoring and reporting. The Section was unable to conduct planned consultations with IDPs on transitional justice and was forced to suspend other planned workshops following the announcement in March. The Government's decision to expel 13 international NGOs from the country and to terminate the operations of three national NGOs created a huge protection gap. IDPs, human rights defenders, UN national staff and humanitarian workers suspected to have links with armed groups or perceived as supporters of the Court's decision were targeted and arrested.
- ▶ Cooperation with Sudan's Advisory Council for Human Rights, the main Government partner, has been challenging. Implementation of donor-funded projects was delayed by the Council's refusal to approve certain activities.
- ▶ Implementation of capacity development project activities suffered a series of delays caused by Sudanese authorities' restrictions on travel and work of consultants and OHCHR staff.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Offices and Country Teams

Great Lakes Region (Bujumbura, Burundi)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

In conjunction with UN Country Teams in the region, OHCHR's regional human rights adviser supports the Secretariat of the International Conference to develop its cooperation and technical assistance programme, designed to enable Member States to implement commitments under the Nairobi Pact. The adviser also

supports establishment of key entities to strengthen the human rights monitoring and response capacity of the International Conference, such as the Regional Centre for Governance, Democracy, Human Rights and Civic Education, and the Regional Observatory for Human Rights. Member States implement their commitments under the Nairobi Pact through a designated national coordination mechanism, which the regional human rights adviser and UN Country Teams work to strengthen.

Activities

- ▶ Enabled cooperation between national coordination mechanisms and UN Country Teams, including by organizing meetings between these mechanisms and Country Teams on implementing International Conference protocols and projects on sexual violence, the rights of returning populations, civic education, and food security, in Burundi; and by working on national legislation and policies for the combating of sexual violence and on the rights of IDPs, in Central African Republic, in collaboration with the Human Rights Section of the UN mission there.
- ▶ Promoted mainstreaming of human rights into strategic planning of the International Conference during its retreat in April. Trained national coordinators from 11 countries and International Conference staff on a rights-based approach at a planning workshop in Bangui in October.
- ▶ Prepared, together with the Secretariat of the International Conference, the launch of the Regional Centre for Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights during the Presidential Summit in Lusaka in August.
- ▶ Together with UNHCR, carried out an extensive study to identify stateless persons in Burundi. Results were discussed at a regional workshop in Nairobi in September. The study has helped to further raise awareness of the need to provide the Batwa community with national identification documents, thereby ensuring their enjoyment of civic and political rights and access to public services.
- ▶ Provided specific training on human rights, the security sector and the role of Parliaments to 40 parliamentarians of the Great Lakes region at the invitation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in Nairobi in December. The regional human rights adviser also provided training in June to the election monitoring team of the International Conference in Republic of Congo, on the human rights aspects of election monitoring and collaborated in elaborating a concept paper for future elections.

- ▶ Prepared a proposal for donors to fund implementation of the human rights dimension of the Nairobi Pact, which was presented at the donors' roundtable of the International Conference in November. The roundtable was attended by all major donors of the region.
- ▶ Promoted cooperation of the International Conference with UN agencies working on sexual violence in the region, through the UN inter-agency regional gender-based violence task force in Nairobi. This relationship enabled the International Conference to gain support from UN agencies for implementation of its programmes in this area.
- ▶ Together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs, OCHA, UNHCR and the International Conference, organized a regional workshop in Nairobi in June on domestication and implementation of the regional protocol on the rights of IDPs. Delegations of the 11 Member States of the International Conference participated.

Results

- ▶ Following advocacy efforts and technical cooperation from OHCHR, the Regional Centre for Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights in the Great Lakes Region, which includes the Regional Observatory for Human Rights, was launched during the Presidential Summit of the International Conference in August in Lusaka. This is the first project of the International Conference to be funded by Member States themselves, which encouraged other partners to support its work.
- ▶ Following the workshop organized on domestication and implementation of the regional protocol on the rights of IDPs, the Great Lakes Region is the first in the world to make guidelines on IDP rights legally binding through the Nairobi Pact.
- ▶ Information provided by the regional human rights adviser and UNHCR on the human rights and humanitarian situation in countries of the region has been successfully used to help address the expulsion of foreigners in Tanzania and Burundi. This has occurred in conjunction with the International Conference and the OHCHR office in Burundi.
- ▶ The International Conference's human rights network, comprising government experts, NGOs, national human rights institutions and UN agencies, was reconstituted following work by the regional human rights adviser.
- ▶ The International Conference was linked to the UN Gender-Based Violence Task Force in Nairobi. Through the task force's mapping of activities by UN agencies in the fight against sexual violence in the region, the International

Conference was able to identify gaps in the response and to assess the UN contribution.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Collaboration within OHCHR and the respective field presences in the region has been successful in some areas and remains a challenge in others. It was important to establish close working relations with OHCHR monitoring teams in the region (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic), which allowed the regional human rights adviser to do early warning work and contribute to policy discussions. Similarly, good working relations were established with the team of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of IDPs. Support for domestication of regional protocols in International Conference Member States on sexual violence, and on the exploitation of natural resources and economic, social and cultural rights, requires further coordination with relevant OHCHR units.

Guinea

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

Consistent with OHCHR's mandate, the human rights adviser in Guinea advises the UN Country Team and the Resident Coordinator on human rights issues and possible responses. In addition, in 2009 sensitization and training sessions were organized for authorities, human rights defenders, women's associations, lawyers, security forces and other stakeholders. The human rights adviser also sensitized authorities and the public on establishment of an independent national human rights commission and the importance of justice and combating impunity.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted ten workshops on reporting, documenting and investigating human rights violations, on establishing a national independent human rights commission, on the UPR, and on the human rights-based approach, for a total of 500 participants. These included members of human rights NGOs, teachers, lawyers, personnel of Ministries and local administrations, journalists, UN staff, security forces, women's associations and youth groups. Workshops were held in Conakry as well as in seven governorates.
- ▶ Set up human rights committees in each of the eight governorates of Guinea.

- ▶ Contributed to the organization of five discussions on human rights, broadcast on community radio stations mainly in rural areas. In these programmes, potential perpetrators of human rights violations were put together with possible victims and investigators. The objective was to encourage dialogue, communication and common understanding of human rights issues by these groups.
- ▶ Contributed to the setting up of seven human rights libraries in governorates outside Conakry and provided human rights documentations to the UN library in Guinea, to give Guineans and UN personnel alike the opportunity to access appropriate information on human rights norms and mechanisms.
- ▶ Promoted participation of 300 representatives of human rights NGOs and justice institutions to training courses, conferences and other activities related to human rights in the sub-region. Participation was mainly in activities organized by the OHCHR regional office in Dakar.

Results

- ▶ Seminars on investigating, documenting and reporting human rights violations assisted human rights NGOs to take prompt action when the September events occurred.
- ▶ A specific provision and draft legislation on establishment of an independent human rights commission were supported and proposed for discussion in view of the revision of the Constitution.
- ▶ Seven human rights libraries/documentation centres were set up across the country following guidance from the human rights adviser. In addition, human rights publications were made available in four UNDP *Centres d'information de proximité* (Kindia, Labe, Nzerekore and Conakry) and in the municipal libraries of Nzerekore, Kissidougou, Labe, Faranah, Boke and Mamou.
- ▶ Human rights committees set up in all eight governorates, with support of the human rights adviser, helped in disseminating human rights information in communities through regular meetings, radio programmes and seminars.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Protecting and promoting human rights in a context of a military regime is a particular challenge. In such a context, OHCHR's presence requires strengthening, as does that of civil society organizations, to increase human rights protection and awareness.



Somali Kenyans in the settlement of Dela in northern Kenya.

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

A human rights adviser was deployed in 2008 in response to a request by the UN Country Team to strengthen its capacity to analyze the human rights situation. The main areas of focus in 2009 have been strengthening of UN capacity in human rights; providing substantive and technical support through the Resident Coordinator to the Government, the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights and civil society on accountability and the fight against impunity; and facilitating cooperation with human rights mechanisms in line with the country's international obligations.

Activities

- ▶ Provided strategic advice to the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team on transitional justice issues, including regular written advisories and briefings on implications of sensitive Government action and other developments with regard to summary executions, the work of the International Criminal Court, establishment of local special tribunals, effective functioning of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, and witness protection.
- ▶ Supported the mission in February of the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
- ▶ Organized nine workshops for 340 participants in six regions in Kenya on the human rights-based approach as well as on transitional justice. Particular emphasis was given to protection of human rights defenders, witnesses and victims.

These workshops were organized in partnership with other UN agencies, local and international civil society organizations, the media, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and Government entities.

- ▶ Organized two dialogues on human rights and transitional justice, bringing together 56 representatives of NGOs as well as the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. Also organized two briefings, with the participation of 50 journalists and editors, on the International Criminal Court and the proposed Special Tribunal respectively.
- ▶ Conducted four briefings and workshops for the Ministry of Justice, National Commission for Human Rights and the International Organization for Migration's community peace workers, on issues including follow-up to treaty body recommendations; linkages amongst human rights, peace and reconciliation; the human rights based approach; and the UPR process.
- ▶ Organized eight monthly UN human rights working group meetings, one human rights-based approach training, one training on human rights indicators, and one retreat to prepare UPR input. Representatives of an average of eight agencies participated in each activity.
- ▶ Provided technical support and strategic advice to the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, and supported the work of a media consultant who developed a policy and implemented initial sensitization and outreach activities.
- ▶ Produced eight monthly reports and two special analyses of the human rights situation in the country and recommendations for UN preventive action, shared with the Resident Coordinator and OHCHR offices in Geneva and New York.

Results

- ▶ The Government has shown increased willingness to follow up on treaty body and special procedures' recommendations. Specifically, recommendations of the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as aspects of the report of the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, were discussed with relevant state organs and civil society.
- ▶ Human rights concerns were fully integrated into the strategic action plan of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), realigned with the Government's Vision 2030. The UN human rights network was converted into a sub-working group for UNDAF implementation.
- ▶ Monthly joint reviews of the human rights situation by the UN Country Team led to

development of joint strategies and activities supported by the human rights adviser, such as the joint UN submission for the upcoming UPR.

- ▶ Participation of NGOs and UN agencies in transitional justice debates was accelerated, especially with regard to International Criminal Court-related developments as well as the preparatory phase of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.
- ▶ Support to the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in development of a transitional justice gender strategy contributed to the appointment of four women commissioners as well as the development of a gender policy by the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Kenya suffers from four crises: political, economic, refugee and humanitarian. The human rights impact of each occurring simultaneously, in particular since the 2007-8 political violence, is difficult to respond to effectively.
- ▶ Politicization of individual criminal responsibility, entrenched widespread impunity and lack of confidence in the national justice framework were major obstacles to accountability for past and present violations of human rights. Efforts should continue to assist the Government in bringing alleged perpetrators to justice, fostering the rule of law and combating corruption within the judicial and security sectors.
- ▶ High expectations and strong desire by NGOs and donors for the human rights adviser to speak out on key issues transformed into frustration when the mandate was explained to them. Cooperation with the National Commission for Human Rights and NGOs to bridge the gap in this regard was enhanced, but direct impact on victims was minimal.

Niger

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

OHCHR, in collaboration with the UN Country Team, supported implementation of the Action 2 Project in Niger, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. Throughout 2009, the human rights adviser contributed to enforcement of the National Human Rights Workplan for Niger. The workplan focuses on: (i) reinforcement of the capacities of the UN Country Team on human rights and the human rights-based approach to programming; (ii) reinforcement of national

capacities on human rights; (iii) celebration of the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and (iv) support to drafting of initial and periodic reports by the Government to various treaty bodies.

Activities

- ▶ Organized seven workshops on human rights norms and the human rights-based approach to programming for 281 participants, including civil and customary magistrates, primary and secondary school teachers, members of the National Commission on Human and Fundamental Rights, and members of the *Association nigérienne de défense des droits de l'homme*.
- ▶ To mark the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organized five training courses on non-discrimination principles for 469 persons, including members of the National Commission on Human and Fundamental Rights, Ministerial officers, members of civil society, security forces, magistrates, and traditional leaders.
- ▶ Facilitated one workshop for 36 members of the UN Country Team on human rights and the human rights-based approach to programming.
- ▶ Organized, with the support of OHCHR's Human Rights Treaties Division, one training for 34 staff members of Ministries on drafting initial and periodic reports to treaty bodies.

Results

- ▶ Following the training of Government officers on drafting initial and periodic reports to treaty bodies, Niger submitted its Second Periodic Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which was examined in May.
- ▶ Non-discrimination principles are now known by Government officials and civil society members, following the series of workshops organized with regard to celebration of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The large number of activities to be implemented by the human rights adviser was a challenge overcome by close collaboration with the UN Country Team's thematic group on gender and human rights, as well as with national consultants.

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

The human rights adviser's priority has been to strengthen the UN Country Team's programmatic and technical capacity in human rights, and to advise and assist in joint programming. A strategy for mainstreaming a rights-based approach in Government institutions has been devised within the framework of the MDGs, the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and the decentralization process. This mainstreaming support is intended to target policymakers, national and local leaders, and civil servants. The human rights adviser focused on two areas of national capacity: the integration of human rights and human rights principles into the EDPRS and UNDAF; and technical assistance to the Government to comply with its reporting and follow-up commitments to treaty bodies. The latter is strengthened by development of clear national rules and procedures, as well as support to the inter-Ministerial committee of national focal points.

Activities

- ▶ Organized a national consultative workshop that brought together 105 participants from civil society organizations, policy- and lawmakers to build a shared understanding of the link between HIV and human rights. Supported the Forum for Activists against the HIV/AIDS Scourge to carry out a two-day consultative meeting on HIV and human rights with 35 members from civil society organizations.
- ▶ Launched student human rights clubs in the School of Finance and Banking in Kigali. Training was provided to these clubs on mechanisms for protection and promotion of human rights and the role of human rights in fostering development. More than 40 students attended.
- ▶ Distributed publications on human rights and international treaties, and on the administration of justice and human rights, for judges, prosecutors and lawyers of the country's Institute of Legal Practice and Development in Nyanza.
- ▶ Organized two trainings for 40 police officers, on human rights adherence, protection and promotion.
- ▶ Carried out a survey on enjoyment of human rights by the historically marginalized Batwa group.
- ▶ Conducted an advocacy effort with other UN agencies that contributed to withdrawal of

proposed amendments to the Penal Code that would have aggravated the scope and penalties for homosexuality. Participated in and contributed to deliberative processes that led to Rwanda's gender-based violence bill passing into law.

- ▶ Strengthened the National Human Rights Commission's capacity through supporting translation of human rights learning tools for its staff.
- ▶ Organized and coordinated three pre-validation and validation workshops for the ten members of the inter-Ministerial Government Treaty Reporting Task Force, to address overdue reports.

Results

- ▶ Addressed overdue reporting to human rights treaty bodies. Following support to the Treaty Reporting Task Force, Rwanda submitted State Party reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Reference to and use of international human rights treaties improved, and interaction between the Government and treaty body committees increased.
- ▶ Some areas of national legislation were improved to comply with international human rights

standards, in particular on gender-based violence, with approval of a bill incorporating recommendations of the human rights adviser.

- ▶ Support for mainstreaming of a human rights-based approach in Government planning helped build a critical mass of actors with capacity to advocate for human rights-centred policymaking and planning. As a result, a reproductive health bill drafted by Parliament highlighted the clear link between HIV and human rights, and a controversial provision criminalizing homosexuality in the draft Penal Code was deleted.
- ▶ Knowledge of international and regional human rights standards by police officers was improved, giving them increased capacity to apply these standards in their work.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Areas of reluctance were found in acceptance of integration of human rights into national planning and programming. Even with the One UN programme under way in Rwanda, a tendency prevails for agencies to give priority to their own activities and primary mandates.
- ▶ Time constraints arising from the busy calendar of the Government affected implementation of planned activities. For instance, two major training workshops planned for Members of Parliament could not occur.

Children playing in a refugee camp.



OHCHR in the Field: The Americas



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivia Colombia Guatemala Mexico
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin America (Panama City, Panama, and Santiago de Chile, Chile)
Human rights component in UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haiti
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador Honduras* Nicaragua Paraguay*

* Planned for the biennium 2010-2011

Virtually every country in the continent began 2009 with a democratically elected government in place – although the democratic rule was subsequently broken in June as a result of the *coup d'état* in Honduras. The region continues to suffer from gross social inequality, with a wide gap between rich and poor and discrimination against indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women and migrants. Violence, especially drug-related, continued to be pervasive in much of the continent in 2009. The worsening crisis in public security continued, eroding democratic gains and political stability, as criminal activity permeated local and national politics, the justice

system, and government and business sectors. Violence against women and children continued to be a matter of serious concern in most of the region, as were abuses by law enforcement agents.

The year saw notable advances in transitional justice. In Guatemala, a landmark Supreme Court decision on the crime of disappearances opened the way for the first two convictions for disappearances from the early 1980s, including the first conviction of military officers for human rights violations in the context of the civil war. New constitutions in Bolivia and Ecuador and new laws and court decisions in other countries offered opportunities to redress centuries-long discrimination against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Presidential elections took place in eight countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama and Uruguay).

OHCHR reopened its regional office for South America in Santiago de Chile in late 2009, and laid the groundwork for establishment of two new

presences in 2010 (human rights advisers in Honduras and Paraguay). The Office received numerous requests for advice and cooperation on issues such as witness protection and transitional justice, indigenous rights and human rights-based approach to government planning. New forms of cooperation were established with different partners. Particularly significant was the cooperation between OHCHR, UN Country Teams and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people, who visited Panama and Peru immediately following confrontations between indigenous people and the Governments over the exploitation of indigenous land. An innovative partnership was established between OHCHR headquarters, the regional office for Central America and the UN Country Team in Honduras following the coup in that country in June; the deployment of an OHCHR human rights officer was essential to the UN Country Team response with regard to promoting and protecting human rights in the coup's aftermath. OHCHR also continued to support the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti.

OHCHR in the Americas: Examples of Impact in 2009

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Colombia**, a law to facilitate the tracing and identification of victims of enforced disappearance, incorporating OHCHR and civil society comments, was adopted. The Government took first steps toward a reform of intelligence services and the Ministry of Defence introduced further specific measures to prevent extrajudicial executions.
- ▶ In **Ecuador**, OHCHR technical advice to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights supported implementation of judicial reforms and development of a forthcoming law on indigenous and ordinary justice systems.
- ▶ In **Guatemala**, the Office's submission of an *amicus curiae* brief in 2008 contributed to a Supreme Court decision on enforced disappearances, opening the way for the first convictions in 2009 of military personnel for disappearances in the context of the 1980s conflict.
- ▶ In **El Salvador**, OHCHR advice helped inform draft legislation on violence against women.
- ▶ In **Mexico**, OHCHR supported elaboration of the first local human rights plan for Mexico City.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In **Colombia**, OHCHR advice helped shape the National Plan on Human Rights Education, launched in November.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ In **Mexico**, the Office's methodology for identification and elaboration of human rights indicators was adopted by the National Human Rights Commission, the Supreme Tribunal of Justice of Mexico City, and the Ministry of Interior.

Promoting ratification of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ **Bolivia** ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- ▶ **Colombia** ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ **Ecuador** ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Strengthening interaction with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms:

- ▶ In **Colombia**, the Office collaborated with the Government in the development of its own UPR follow-up mechanism.

Supporting UN partners to address human rights challenges:

- ▶ In **Honduras**, the rapid deployment of a human rights officer shortly after the *coup d'état* helped the UN Country Team to address the human rights challenges arising from the coup.

Country Offices

Bolivia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	11
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,583,662

Context

The 2006 election of Evo Morales, the country's first President of indigenous origin, brought significant political, social and institutional changes to Bolivia. The most significant was the adoption of a new Constitution, approved in January 2009, which incorporates all rights enshrined in international human rights instruments and strongly protects indigenous rights. Opposition to the President's reforms had been intense and sometimes violent in 2008; while there was no recurrence of violent protests in 2009, political divisions remained raw. President Morales was re-elected for a five-year term in December. Implementation of the Constitution in conformity with international law constitutes the main challenge ahead. In addition, Bolivia still suffers from high levels of discrimination, poverty, social exclusion and lack of access to certain economic, social and cultural rights, affecting primarily indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, as well as women and children in rural areas.

OHCHR's role

The mandate of OHCHR's office in Bolivia includes both promotion and protection of human rights. The office focuses particularly on monitoring the administration of justice, on providing a wide range of technical assistance, advisory and support activities to Government and civil society, and on facilitating dialogue between stakeholders. In 2009, priorities included promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, providing technical advice on legal pluralism and indigenous justice; and the rights of Afro-descendants, and addressing contemporary forms of slavery in the Chaco region.

Activities

- ▶ Published and disseminated the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, through ten presentations in six departments, addressed to some 500 representatives of the Government, indigenous communities and civil society organizations.

- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Ministry of Justice on drafting of Bolivia's report to the Durban Review Conference and published a selection of UN texts on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance.
- ▶ Helped set up four seminars and two workshops organized by the Ministry of Justice on legal pluralism, and by the Vice-Ministry of Decolonization on anti-discrimination legislation and racism. Total attendance was about 600 participants.
- ▶ Co-organized with the Ministry of Autonomies an international seminar on indigenous autonomy and its human rights implications, facilitated by international experts and attended by around 300 Government and indigenous organizations representatives.
- ▶ Started implementation of a project for capacity building and empowerment of Afro-Bolivian organizations and communities.
- ▶ Carried out 32 monitoring missions, including during the referendum of January and the elections in December.
- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Government, the Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry of Justice and civil society organizations on the UPR and on the drafting of their respective reports, through organizing and participating in ten workshops.
- ▶ Participated as an observer in the National Human Rights Council's meetings on the National Human Rights Action Plan and, together with the Vice-Ministry of Justice and Fundamental Rights, organized a national workshop on implementing the Plan, attended by 110 participants.
- ▶ Published and disseminated 500 copies of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, and around 10,000 copies of the final observations of three UN treaty bodies.
- ▶ Together with the Ombudsman's Office and human rights organizations, organized a one-day seminar on mechanisms and tools for mainstreaming human rights in implementation of the new Constitution.

Results

- ▶ The Government took into account the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, including drafting a law on legal pluralism and publishing decrees against racial discrimination. Indigenous peoples' organizations have been increasingly using the Special Rapporteur's report as an advocacy tool.



OHCHR staff interviewing members of Afro-descendant communities in Bolivia.

- ▶ Debate on public policies to overcome racism and discrimination increased, as well as the need to have a legal instrument typifying racism and discrimination as a crime.
- ▶ OHCHR's activities, including the international seminar on indigenous autonomy co-organized by the country office, contributed to a better understanding and implementation of key reform proposals relating to indigenous populations, including provisions of Bolivia's new Constitution.
- ▶ Technical advice and training on the UPR process contributed to a relatively high level of engagement in the process by national stakeholders.
- ▶ With support from OHCHR, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol were ratified in November.

Bolivia: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	939,02
Consultants	-	87,332
Official travel	-	88,118
Contractual services	-	42,781
General operating expenses	-	94,399
Supplies & materials	-	79,498
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	70,321
Subtotal	-	1,401,470
Programme support costs	-	182,192
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,583,662

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Approval of the new Constitution represented a major step forward. However, the main challenge continues to be development of complementary legislation in accordance with international human rights standards as well as implementation. Technical assistance from OHCHR in this regard will be important.
- ▶ The Office needed to adapt to a new political context after the adoption of the new Constitution, which provided further opportunities to advance human rights work at all levels. This was particularly the case with regard to promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and the fight against discrimination.

Empowering Indigenous Communities

OHCHR has helped ensure that demands of indigenous peoples in the highland regions of Bolivia are taken into account in public policymaking. In one example, the public presentation of the recommendations of the report of the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people contributed to strengthening indigenous peoples' organizations in their demands to the Government and other duty-bearers to put an end to damage caused by mining. Following intense negotiations and mobilization, the Lake Poopo area was declared an environmental emergency, which allowed indigenous organizations access to technical assistance and facilitated implementation of projects to minimize the effects of the mining industry.

Colombia

Year established	1997
Staff as of 31 December 2009	69
Expenditures in 2009	\$7,433,695

Context

Colombia faced serious challenges resulting from widespread violence generated by the intertwined effects of a decades-old internal armed conflict, the expansion of drug trafficking and growing of illegal crops, and the emergence of organized violence spawned from former right-wing paramilitary groups demobilized in recent years. Government efforts, based in part on OHCHR's advice, support and follow-up, have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of complaints of grave human rights violations, namely, extra-judicial executions attributed mainly to the army. Furthermore, the Supreme Court's crucial investigation and prosecution of members of Congress and public officials for alleged links with paramilitary organizations continued to shed light on the pervasiveness of these ties. Sustained efforts are required to further confront persistent socioeconomic structural issues, violence related large-scale internal displacement, and deeply rooted institutional weaknesses.

OHCHR's role

OHCHR covers the country from four major cities (Bogota, Medellin, Cali and Bucaramanga) and an additional temporary presence in Arauca, the latter the result of a cooperation agreement with UNHCR. The Office monitored and reported on the major events and situations that weighed heavily on the human rights situation; provided early warning, advice and technical assistance to local, regional and national authorities; and actively accompanied civil society organizations to support and further prevent the weakening of their role and presence in the field.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted 264 monitoring missions, totaling 788 days in the field; received 1,387 complaints and followed up on 1,279. Upon the direct request of the President, the Office supported and monitored investigations into the August massacre against the Awá indigenous people.
- ▶ Met with the President to raise concerns on evidence about widespread and systematic illegal intelligence operations targeting human rights

defenders, political opposition leaders, journalists and high-level officials.

- ▶ Held ten high-level meetings with the Ministry of National Defence and the High Military Command to scrutinize in depth a number of alleged extra-judicial execution cases occurring after the measures adopted in 2008 by the President aimed at preventing, investigating and imposing sanctions for this phenomenon.
- ▶ After an invitation by the Congress, provided advice during the discussion process of bills on victims' rights and to respect, locate and identify victims of enforced disappearance.
- ▶ Contributed to the work of three treaty bodies reviewing the country in this period: (i) the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW); (ii) the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and (iii) the Committee against Torture (CAT). Also provided inputs and comments to the mechanism developed by the Government to follow up on recommendations of the UPR.
- ▶ Provided support before, during and after visits to the country of four Special Rapporteurs: (i) on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions; (ii) on the human rights situation and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples; (iii) on the situation of human rights defenders; and (iv) on the independence of judges and lawyers.
- ▶ At the request of the Attorney General's Office, brought to Colombia a former prosecutor of an international tribunal to deliver a seminar for national prosecutors on judicial investigation of sexual violence occurring in armed conflict. The seminar produced recommendations aimed at developing an appropriate investigative policy on this crime.
- ▶ Based on its monitoring activities, provided inputs to the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on children and armed conflict and his subsequent first report on children and armed conflict in Colombia. Together with four other UN agencies (UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNHCR), established a working group on Security Council resolution 1820, aimed at strengthening interventions on sexual violence against women in the context of armed conflict.
- ▶ Supported different visits by OHCHR's senior staff, including the Deputy High Commissioner's visit to Colombia, during which she met with the Vice President, high-level public officials, civil society organizations and the international community. She also travelled to Putumayo to observe firsthand the local challenges to human rights and participated in the Second Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,



OHCHR vehicle crossing a river in the Santander department, north-eastern Colombia.

Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention).

Results

- ▶ Following advice from the Office, additional exceptional measures to curb extra-judicial executions and reinforce a zero-tolerance policy for human rights violations by the Ministry of Defence resulted in a decrease in such violations, and 11 more military were purged from the ranks in January. The new Minister renewed in September his willingness to continue benefiting from OHCHR cooperation and endorsed a two-year project allowing the Office to independently monitor implementation of the army's command and control procedures.
- ▶ The Government took initial steps to reform intelligence operations, including accepting resignations by intelligence officials, conducting internal investigations and separating judicial police functions from intelligence activities.
- ▶ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified, with OHCHR support through activities with State authorities and NGOs.
- ▶ Colombia adopted a law to respect, locate and identify victims of enforced disappearance, incorporating comments by OHCHR and civil society.
- ▶ Following the Office's longstanding advice and support, the Government launched the National Plan on Human Rights Education in November.
- ▶ The Office's role as observer throughout the many round tables between the Government and civil society organizations at the local and national level helped to maintain minimum levels of dialogue in the vulnerable relation between human rights organizations and the Government.
- ▶ Specific cases of human rights violations and breaches to international humanitarian law have been addressed by local and national authorities

with the support of the Office, which continues to raise awareness and advocate for the protection of human rights, based on its monitoring in-situ.

- ▶ As a result of the Office's development of a comprehensive database to follow up international human rights mechanisms', as well as its own, recommendations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can easily and systematically keep track of international recommendations and requests for action.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Rigorous and speedy monitoring of alleged extra-judicial executions and other grave human rights violations will be required for the Ministry of Defence's policies on ensuring greater operational control over military units to have long-lasting effect and sustainability. OHCHR is committed to strengthen its follow-up activities down to the battalion level within the most conflict-prone areas.
- ▶ A thorough programmatic review and analysis of all OHCHR activities led to a new concept of operations, focused on specific achievements and results. Important adjustments of the operational and organizational framework will be gradually implemented during the first half of 2010, without affecting primary monitoring and reporting functions.
- ▶ Following positive results of the cooperation agreement with UNHCR, expansion of the Office's field monitoring capacities was approved, and two additional permanent presences will be established embedded within the sister agency's premises in Villavicencio and Pasto.

Colombia: Expenditures in 2009

	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	5,586,981
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	186,700
Contractual services	-	84,741
General operating expenses	-	314,675
Supplies & materials	-	424,065
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	-
Subtotal	-	6,597,162
Programme support costs	-	836,533
GRAND TOTAL	-	7,433,695

Guatemala

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2009	25
Expenditures in 2009	\$3,470,680

Context

Guatemalan political stability and governability was affected by persistent levels of violence, impunity, public insecurity and growing social unrest. Furthermore, in 2009 Guatemala suffered the impact of the global financial crisis, with important consequences such as weaker collection of taxes and a lower income from international remittances. The country also suffered the consequences of the food crisis and climate change, which affected an estimated 2.5 million people. Furthermore, more than 50 per cent of the population lives in poverty and 15.2 per cent lives in extreme poverty.

OHCHR's role

In 2009 the work of the Office in Guatemala focused on four thematic priorities: rule of law and justice, security, non-discrimination, and economic, social and cultural rights and poverty. The Office worked with Government institutions to build their capacity to implement human rights legislation and public policies, and to uphold their international obligations. It also cooperated with civil society organizations and strengthened spaces of dialogue amongst social actors.

Activities

- ▶ Collaborated in the drafting of the law for establishment of a national prevention mechanism, to promote implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
 - ▶ Conducted more than 40 training sessions and workshops for judges, prosecutors, police forces and civil society organizations on international human rights standards, including independence of the judiciary, enforced disappearance, access to justice, prevention of torture, and discrimination and violence against women.
 - ▶ Provided technical assistance to the Public Prosecutor's Office in drafting of a policy for investigation of serious human rights violations and a regulation for its Human Rights Office.
 - ▶ In the context of the project to contribute to the eradication of racism and ethnic and gender discrimination, particularly against indigenous women, supported the design and launching on 19 March of the second phase of the National Campaign for Coexistence in Cultural Diversity, entitled "Indigenous women have rights; we demand that they be met."
 - ▶ Implemented a technical training programme for strategic human rights litigation for indigenous peoples' rights, in which 33 students, eight university professors and representatives of 12 indigenous organizations participated.
 - ▶ Facilitated training sessions for COPREDEH, the Human Rights Procurator's Office and the UNDP National Human Development Report team on human rights indicators, with the participation of
- ▶ Provided technical assistance to Congress to reform the Law to Prevent, Eradicate and Punish Domestic Violence, the Elections and Political Parties Law, the Migration Law and the Labour Code. Also provided legal advice on the Bills on Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking of Persons and the Law on Commissions for the Nomination of High Judicial Officials.
 - ▶ Assisted the Presidential Commission for Human Rights (COPREDEH) and NGOs in preparation of reports and alternative reports to treaty bodies, particularly to the Committee on Migrant Workers, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee.
 - ▶ Assisted the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Procurator's Office in the production of the public version of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, also distributed in audio and Braille formats.



70 people. A conference on this subject was also organized for the Council for the Attention of People with Disabilities.

- ▶ Disseminated, together with the Social Studies and Research Association (ASIES), recommendations contained in the OHCHR-ASIES study “Access to justice for indigenous peoples from a human rights-based approach: Perspectives from indigenous law and from the official justice system,” particularly to representatives of the judiciary. In addition, held discussions on indicators with indigenous authorities of Quiché and with civil society organizations, aimed at monitoring institutional measures.

Results

- ▶ The Law against Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking of Persons and the Law on Nominating Commissions, both incorporating OHCHR recommendations, were approved in 2009.
- ▶ The office’s submission of an *amicus curiae* brief in 2008 contributed to a landmark Supreme Court decision on enforced disappearance, which opened the way for the first convictions in 2009 of military personnel and their auxiliaries for disappearances in the context of the internal conflict in the 1980s.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In a context where levels of violence and insecurity continued to rise, a major challenge for OHCHR continues to be the promotion of the incorporation of a human rights perspective into public security policies.

Guatemala: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,059,252
Consultants	-	208,314
Official travel	-	94,902
Contractual services	-	197,834
General operating expenses	-	287,294
Supplies & materials	-	54,781
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	169,021
Subtotal	-	3,071,398
Programme support costs	-	399,282
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,470,680



Leaders from different ethnic groups exchange views on how to combat discrimination in Guatemala during the commemoration of Human Rights Day, December 2009.

Mexico

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2009	17
Expenditures in 2009	\$2,088,071

Context

Violence and public insecurity continued to grow in 2009, especially in the north of the country. Despite deployment of the military, the number of murders related to drug trafficking did not decrease, while the number of complaints regarding human rights violations committed by the military substantially increased. Journalists and human rights defenders were subjected to attacks and obstructions to their work, often without having access to proper protection mechanisms. The financial and food crises negatively affected the country's economy, and Mexico registered an increase in its poverty rate between 2006 and 2009; poverty now affects 34.8 per cent of its population. Social and economic inequalities, compounded by discrimination, disproportionately affected women, indigenous peoples, migrants and people with disabilities, while their access to justice remained limited.

OHCHR's role

OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance to the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the federal Government on implementation of international human rights standards. To extend the impact of its work at local level, OHCHR promoted the elaboration of local human rights assessments as a necessary step toward human rights public policy initiatives. As a result of its new monitoring mandate, OHCHR sought to enhance the field approach to its work, and to strengthen its networks with human rights organizations at field level; it monitored and reported on particular situations affecting the human rights of particular groups, especially human rights defenders. The Office also provided technical assistance to national and local institutions on issues such as human rights action plans, indicators and legislation, and promoted the use of international human rights mechanisms by rights-holders.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted six preparatory workshops for civil society organizations and local human rights commissions to support preparation of documents for the UPR. Also participated in the mechanism to follow up implementation of UPR recommendations.

- ▶ Participated in follow-up and evaluation of implementation of the 2008-2012 National Human Rights Programme and provided technical advice for elaboration and implementation of the Mexico City's Human Rights Plan, in particular with regard to mainstreaming human rights and a gender perspective in Mexico City's public budget.
- ▶ Received 197 complaints from 26 local states affecting 85 men, 16 women and 42 group victims. OHCHR sent 32 communications to Mexican authorities to point out its concerns; in 81 per cent of cases, the Office received an answer from the authorities regarding measures taken.
- ▶ Monitored several cases related to indigenous people's rights, particularly regarding the right to land and to natural resources. Most of these cases are related to large-scale development projects, such as mining and urban developments.
- ▶ Published two landmark studies on "Femicide" and "Reparations with a Gender Perspective," in the framework of the project on women's rights.
- ▶ Submitted information to the Human Rights Committee in relation to Mexico's fifth Periodic Report. Also worked with civil society organizations to encourage them to submit information to the Committee.
- ▶ Supported five unofficial visits of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, where he took part in forums on freedom of expression, and met with key actors.
- ▶ Carried out, together with Mexico's Federal Institute of the Judiciary, a training of trainers project for 43 students from different states in the country, to create a network for the training of federal and local judges in international human rights law with a gender and multicultural perspective.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR methodology for identifying and elaborating human rights indicators has been adopted by the National Institute for Statistics and Geography and the National Human Rights Commission, which are working on indicators on the right to health, education, and freedom of expression and opinion. In addition, Mexico City's Supreme Tribunal of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior have adopted the methodology for the elaboration of indicators on the right to fair trial, and for evaluating implementation of the National Human Rights Programme, respectively.

- ▶ The Lower Chamber approved an amendment to the Constitution in relation to human rights issues, taking into consideration a proposal prepared by academics and civil society organizations with the support of OHCHR.
- ▶ As a result of advice by OHCHR to individuals and human rights organizations concerning the use of international human rights mechanisms, 46 individual communications were sent to a number of special procedures mandate-holders concerning human rights violations.
- ▶ As a result of technical assistance by the Office, the Supreme Court of Justice issued decisions that had a significant impact on human rights, such as on the constitutionality of a legal reform to decriminalize abortion, recognition of indigenous normative systems, and use of excessive force.
- ▶ The Office's first thematic report on human rights defenders, which was well-received by the Government and civil society organizations, has become an effective tool to engage with federal and state authorities, as well as human rights institutions, in the strengthening of protection mechanisms. The main objective of the report was to offer visibility and recognize the legitimacy of the work of human rights defenders as well as to identify their strengths and challenges.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In a context where levels of violence and insecurity continued to rise, a major challenge for OHCHR continues to be the promotion of the incorporation of a human rights perspective into public security policies. OHCHR advocated for protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and journalists as a concrete strategy to overcome this challenge.
- ▶ The Office has worked for the promotion, respect and protection of women's rights in the country by strengthening capacities among civil society organizations, human rights commissions and academic institutions, at federal and state levels. However, issues related to sexual and reproductive rights, discrimination, access to justice, and violence against women are considerable challenges yet to be overcome.
- ▶ Expansion of OHCHR's mandate to include a monitoring role allowed closer relationships with civil society organisations, especially in the countryside, and has provided a solid platform of dialogue with duty-bearers and rights-holders alike on addressing the human rights challenges.

Mexico: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,369,473
Consultants	-	108,703
Official travel	-	68,443
Contractual services	-	51,335
General operating expenses	-	137,830
Supplies & materials	-	58,566
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	53,500
Subtotal	-	1,847,850
Programme support costs	-	240,221
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,088,071

Regional Offices

Regional Offices in Latin America (Panama City, Panama, and Santiago de Chile, Chile)

Year established	August 2007, Panama City September 2009, Santiago de Chile
Staff as of 31 December 2009	7, Panama City 3, Santiago de Chile
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,492,900

Changes in OHCHR's Regional Presence in Latin America

In 2009 OHCHR reorganized its regional presences in Latin America. From January to September, the regional office in Panama functioned as a regional office for Latin America, with a liaison office in Santiago de Chile, Chile, and covered 14 countries. In September, a regional office for South America was re-established in Santiago de Chile. Since then, the regional office in Panama has focused its work on Central America.

The regional office worked on four priority themes in 2009: impunity; discrimination against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants; poverty and inequality; and insecurity and violence. The Office worked with countries to strengthen the capacity of governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to promote and protect

human rights. It also provided support in emergency situations, in partnership with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people, as well as with Resident Coordinators. Finally, it provided support to UN Country Teams and the UN Regional Directors' Team in incorporating a human rights-based approach to programming and promoted joint actions by UN agencies, both at national and regional levels, aimed at increasing awareness and action on human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Led the organization of two regional seminars on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. One was held in Nicaragua, with the participation of representatives of 11 governments, seven national human rights institutions, 36 indigenous organizations and seven UN Country Team staff, while the second was in Trinidad and Tobago, with the participation of representatives of seven governments, 24 indigenous organizations and academics.
- ▶ Co-organized, together with nine UN regional offices, a two-day workshop on indigenous peoples' rights for national human rights institution representatives from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico.
- ▶ In cooperation with the Ibero-American Ombudsman Federation, organized a seminar on economic, social and cultural rights attended by 20 national human rights institution representatives. The seminar took place in Colombia in February.
- ▶ Led the establishment of a regional consultative group on indigenous issues, which gathers representatives of indigenous communities and eight UN regional offices. The group met for the first time in Panama in November.
- ▶ Facilitated, together with the World Food Programme, a technical consultation in February on the right to food, with special focus on children under two years of age. The consultation, which obtained the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, brought together ten experts and 85 participants representing UN agencies, international cooperation agencies and NGOs.
- ▶ In coordination with the Association of Universities of the Group of Montevideo, organized a training of trainers in June for 30 university professors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, with a view to promoting the incorporation of human rights into the curricula of their universities.
- ▶ Organized a regional seminar on the Role of Parliamentarians in the Protection of Human Rights



Relatives of murdered women march to demand justice, Panama City, November 2009.

- ▶ for the Latin America Region, which took place in Panama in October with the participation of 17 parliamentarians and advisers from 13 countries.
- ▶ Facilitated two missions to Panama and Peru of the Special Rapporteur on the rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, immediately following confrontations between indigenous people and authorities.
- ▶ Organized a regional seminar in February in Panama on the UPR, for 34 representatives of governments, national institutions and UN Country Teams of Uruguay, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama.
- ▶ Provided assistance and advice on addressing human rights issues to the UN Country Team in Honduras following the coup and supervised the work of the human rights officer in emergency deployment there.

Results

- ▶ The Office's leading role on indigenous peoples' rights and the seminars organized on this issue were highly appreciated by indigenous organizations and governments, contributing to enhancement of their knowledge of international standards. The work of the Office also helped strengthen the Central America and Caribbean network of indigenous peoples and promoted better interaction between UN agencies and indigenous peoples, through establishment of an institutional mechanism of consultation.
- ▶ OHCHR's intervention in the area of migration, including its participation in an inter-agency Working Group, contributed to placing human rights concerns at the heart of consideration by other agencies and partners.

- ▶ The Inter-American Human Rights Commission's report on citizen security and human rights incorporated UN human rights standards and jurisprudence at the recommendation of the Office. The report is to be launched in early 2010.
- ▶ With the assistance of OHCHR, indigenous women leaders of Panama decided to prepare, for the first time, shadow reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which will examine Panama's Periodic Reports in early 2010.
- ▶ Seminars on the UPR provided guidance to States and civil society organizations for preparation of their corresponding reports to the mechanism.
- ▶ Resulting from a mission to Honduras, the Resident Coordinator and OHCHR agreed to appoint a human rights adviser to the UN Country Team. In addition, advice and support by OHCHR to the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team allowed them to address human rights issues effectively.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ While the role of the regional office in advocating and promoting human rights has been understood and welcomed by UN regional and national partners, OHCHR's regional presence is comparatively very small in relation to other UN agencies. Because of this, the Office tries to maximize its impact by partnering with UN regional agencies and other actors and by focusing on those areas where it can add value.

Regional Office for Latin America: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	842,076	151,360
Consultants	5,001	-
Official travel	9,380	71,132
Contractual services	-	27,150
General operating expenses	59,423	66,916
Supplies & materials	6,300	95,370
Seminars, grants & contributions	42,500	55,523
Subtotal	964,680	467,451
Programme support costs	-	60,769
GRAND TOTAL	964,680	528,220

Support to UN Peace Missions

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2009	47

Through the MINUSTAH Human Rights Section, OHCHR played an important role in addressing impunity, providing legal aid, and empowering civil society organizations to participate in development and monitoring of public policies as a means of ensuring the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights. From the main office in Port-au-Prince and field offices in seven departmental capitals (Cap-Haïtien, Fort-Liberté, Gonaïves, Hinche, Jacmel, Jérémie, Les Cayes), the Human Rights Section monitored and reported on major events and situations that affected human rights. The Section also advised and provided technical assistance to local, regional and national authorities.

Activities

- ▶ In cooperation with the Brazilian Government, delivered training on the UPR for Government authorities and civil society actors in April.
- ▶ Organized, in June and July, a tour of five pilot communes to present the public policy monitoring programme's objectives to a large gathering of civil society groups. Started these five pilot projects in September, in which core groups of 17 to 25 civil society organizations participated in a training series on human rights and public policy.
- ▶ With the support of the Brazilian Government, delivered training on human rights-based budget advocacy for 40 representatives from the Haitian Government and local civil society organizations.
- ▶ Provided technical, substantial and administrative support to the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, including during the three missions undertaken in 2009; and to the visit in June of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery.
- ▶ Provided inputs to the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on Haiti, presented in September.
- ▶ Carried out monitoring activities in all of the country's departments.

Results

- ▶ Through its legal aid programme, the Human Rights Section strengthened its relationship with local bar associations and helped reduce the number of detainees in prolonged pre-trial detention, by providing them with legal representation.
- ▶ As a result of activities within the framework of the public policy monitoring programme, civil society actors in pilot regions began to raise awareness on the relationship between human rights and public policy.
- ▶ Increased civil society organizations' participation in departmental and communal *Tables de Concertation*, dialogue platforms for Governmental authorities and civil society actors.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Given the pressing and complex nature of Haiti's many human rights challenges, long-term progress requires empowering local actors, in particular local NGOs, and increasing local ownership of human rights activities and involvement in public policymaking.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Ecuador

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	4

A small team headed by an OHCHR human rights adviser works to promote Government compliance with its human rights obligations, enhance the participation of civil society organizations in decision-making that affects human rights, and ensure the adoption of a human rights-based approach to programming by the UN Country Team. Key priorities and activities included providing technical advice for drafting of several laws required by the new Constitution and for reform of the judiciary; integrating a human rights-based approach into Ecuador's long-term development strategy as well as the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process; and increasing awareness of international human rights standards and obligations amongst national actors, including the National Assembly, national human rights institutions, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and UN agencies. In 2009 the United Nations and the Government signed the UNDAF 2010-2014.

Children carrying plastics and metals for recycling taken from the garbage dump of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



Activities

- ▶ Worked to establish a baseline on indigenous justice in Chimborazo, Esmeraldas and Sucumbíos provinces as an input toward development of a law on cooperation between indigenous and ordinary justice systems.
- ▶ Developed training modules on indigenous justice addressed to police, military, national institutions and justice officials. Three pilot workshops on indigenous peoples' rights were conducted for 50 provincial-level military staff from five provinces and 20 provincial-level ombudsman agents from ten provinces.
- ▶ In coordination with UNDP and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, assisted the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in implementing reforms provided by the organic code of the judiciary. A reform project, a roadmap and baseline indicators on quantitative and qualitative judicial production were developed.
- ▶ Promoted the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights within the National Assembly, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the judiciary, law faculties and civil society



Indigenous woman voting in Ecuador's general elections, April 2009.

organizations, by providing advice on human rights and public policies and human rights indicators.

- ▶ Provided training courses on a human rights-based approach to staff of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and on the right to health to staff of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ▶ Contributed to strengthening of the national human rights institution by facilitating training on human rights international standards and a human rights-based approach, as well as by fostering collaboration between the national institution and UN agencies.
- ▶ In coordination with the Ministries of Justice and Human Rights and Foreign Affairs, coordinated and supported visits to Ecuador of the Independent Expert on foreign debt, the Working Group on Afro-Descendants, and the Special Rapporteurs on indigenous people and on freedom of expression.
- ▶ Promoted human rights through dissemination of non-discrimination messages in three music festivals, sponsoring of one human rights film festival, and production, jointly with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, of four publications on gender (together with UNIFEM); economic, social and cultural rights; indigenous justice; and collective rights.

Results

- ▶ Increased awareness of the collective rights of indigenous peoples within the military and the national human rights institution, and of the importance of including such themes in these institutions' curricula.
- ▶ Significant information on indigenous justice gathered from communities in three provinces and analyzed by OHCHR served as an input toward development of the draft law on coordination and cooperation between indigenous justice systems and the ordinary system.
- ▶ The judicial reform project has a structured road map, and the main steps toward transforming the justice system have been identified.
- ▶ As a result of support from OHCHR, the Ministry of Defence has established a human rights unit to mainstream human rights into its functions.
- ▶ Increased technical and financial cooperation from UN agencies is available to the national human rights institution, resulting from coordination activities of the human rights adviser.
- ▶ The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was ratified in October, as a result of the human rights adviser's support.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Responding effectively to the many requests from the Government and other actors to provide technical advice, including on implementation of the human rights-based approach, was a key challenge for the human rights adviser. In this respect, developing strong partnerships with other UN agencies has proved crucial for successfully implementing planned activities.
- ▶ Ensuring effective participation from different stakeholders, especially indigenous peoples, in decision-making processes related to human rights issues remained a challenge.

Nicaragua

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	3

The human rights adviser worked during the year toward promoting greater compliance with human rights obligations by the State, encouraging dialogue between the Government and civil society, and cooperating with the UN Country Team to incorporate a human rights-based approach in programming. The main priority was to support preparation of the contributions of the UN Country Team, the State and other stakeholders to the UPR.

Activities

- ▶ Organized 12 workshops, attended by 600 participants from civil society organizations, academia, indigenous communities, and national and regional governmental institutions, on the international human rights protection system and treaty bodies' concluding observations. These were held both in the capital and on the Caribbean coast.
- ▶ Provided technical advice and training to the Government, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and the UN Country Team on the UPR process. Four training sessions and six workshops, attended by 200 participants, were conducted by the human rights adviser.
- ▶ Provided advice and training to the Government and NGOs on the preparation of periodic reports to the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Civil and Political Rights, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Committee against Torture.
- ▶ Organized, jointly with Government authorities, three seminars designed to advance the adoption of international human rights norms and

implementation of recommendations from treaty bodies.

- ▶ Provided technical advice to three national universities for strengthening their human rights training and research capacities. Activities were focused on both human rights concepts and teaching methodologies, with special emphasis on indigenous peoples' rights.
- ▶ Implemented a communications plan, including by producing and publishing materials focused on human rights norms and treaty bodies' observations. Amongst materials produced were the book *Human Rights in Nicaragua: Observations and Recommendations from UN Treaties Bodies 2007-2009*, the book *The Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants: International Instruments*, and two interactive CDs titled "Human Rights in Nicaragua: Compilation of Reports."
- ▶ Coordinated the inter-agency thematic group on human rights and implemented activities aimed at improving the application of a human rights-based approach to programming by the UN Country Team. Also facilitated four training courses addressed to UN staff on the UPR, the human rights-based approach, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the right to food.
- ▶ Coordinated establishment of the UN Consultative Committee for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.
- ▶ Participated in a humanitarian mission to the Honduras-Nicaragua border to assess the situation of Hondurans who had fled the country following the June coup.
- ▶ Supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in September and coordinated the follow-up to his recommendations.

Results

- ▶ A law on food security was adopted in accordance with Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommendations and with the support of the human rights adviser. A common workplan for the United Nations with the National Assembly was elaborated, giving priority to treaty body recommendations.
- ▶ Knowledge and capacities of key state and civil society actors working with human rights was strengthened as a result of technical advice and training by OHCHR, especially on observations and recommendations from the treaty bodies. Knowledge of and debate on human rights issues was also enhanced because of activities implemented and materials prepared and distributed.

- ▶ The capacity of the Special Ombudsman for indigenous peoples in the central, Pacific and northern regions of the country was strengthened through technical advice and support to activities.
- ▶ Inclusion of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the UNDP programme for the Caribbean coast resulted from mainstreaming activities implemented by the human rights adviser.
- ▶ The creation of the UN Consultative Committee for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants and the UN Consultative Committee for the Rights of Women increased dialogue between vulnerable groups and UN agencies.
- ▶ The capacity of the United Nations system to provide technical assistance to national counterparts, particularly in the framework of UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) implementation, was strengthened through OHCHR leadership and coordination of the inter-agency group on human rights and governance.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The practice of submitting reports on progress regarding compliance with the human rights commitments has been reinitiated by the Government. Consequently, in 2008 and 2009 several treaty bodies made observations and recommendations to the State. An immediate challenge in this area has been to develop appropriate strategies for effective implementation and incorporation into public policies and national plans.
- ▶ The elaboration, for the first time, of a joint report for the UPR by the UN Country Team, with the participation of civil society and the State, showed that UN mechanisms can be used by agencies to prepare useful assessments of the human rights situation. In addition, this process has highlighted the importance of having a human rights perspective when agencies develop their own programmes.



OHCHR in the Field: Asia and the Pacific



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

*** Closed in January 2010

Stretching from Afghanistan and Iran in the west to the Pacific Islands in the east, Asia and the Pacific make up a diverse, dynamic region that is home to two-thirds of the world's population. Serious human rights challenges were presented in 2009, as in several countries conflict intensified, elections were disputed and transitions became uncertain. The impact of the global economic crisis continued to be felt, with increased pressure on employment and migration. Economic development was offset by deeply entrenched gender inequalities and other forms of discrimination, as well as, in some cases, by tightened restrictions on social activism. Progress also was seen, however, with a number of States

ratifying additional human rights treaties and developing national action plans; and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations establishing the first regional human rights body.

In 2009, OHCHR had country offices in Cambodia and Nepal and regional offices in Bangkok, covering Southeast Asia, and Suva, covering the Pacific. OHCHR also supported UN peace missions in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste and human rights advisers to UN Country Teams in Indonesia (until 31 January 2010), Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka. A section of nine professional and four administrative staff covers the region from headquarters and provides substantive and administrative support to

field presences. The Office continued to support the work of special procedures mandate-holders on Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar, as well as the Secretary-General's reporting to the General Assembly on Iran. OHCHR also conducted several regional activities, including a judicial colloquium on discrimination issues for South and West Asia, in Maldives in November, and a regional consultation of specialized women's commissions from seven countries, in Indonesia in December. Technical assistance and training was also provided in countries without OHCHR field presence, including Bangladesh, Maldives and Mongolia. The High Commissioner traveled to Nepal and India in March.

OHCHR in Asia and the Pacific: Examples of Impact in 2009

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Nepal**, OHCHR contributed extensively to elaboration of the new Constitution and transitional justice laws.
- ▶ In **Timor-Leste**, a new Penal Code came into force, which included concerns raised by OHCHR during the consultation period regarding domestic violence as a public crime and the decriminalization of defamation.
- ▶ In **Cambodia**, a number of OHCHR's recommendations relating to prison reform, including on food distribution to detainees and the role of the prisoners' committee, were accepted and implemented by authorities.
- ▶ In **Papua New Guinea**, the Government launched the National Disability Policy based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, following advocacy and support from OHCHR.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ At **regional level**, OHCHR and UNFPA supported the Indonesian national women's commission in convening the first regional meeting of specialized women's commissions in Asia-Pacific.
- ▶ Also **regionally**, OHCHR was closely engaged in development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the first regional mechanism of its kind in Asia-Pacific.
- ▶ In **Nepal**, the Office provided assistance to the National Human Rights Commission to strengthen its management, monitoring and reporting capacities.

Promoting ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ In **Southeast Asia**, OHCHR partnered with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in promoting harmonization of national legislation with the Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in ten countries in the region.
- ▶ In the **Pacific**, the Regional Office published a discussion paper promoting ratification of international human rights treaties by countries in the region.

Strengthening interaction with United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms:

- ▶ The new Special Rapporteur on **Cambodia** re-established dialogue with the Government there and the Special Rapporteur on the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** continued to engage neighbouring countries and other stakeholders but was denied cooperation by the DPRK Government.
- ▶ At the **regional level**, as a result of the engagement with the UPR process, more countries in the region have increased cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms as demonstrated by new invitations extended to special procedures mandate-holders as well as by increased ratification of human rights treaties.
- ▶ In **Afghanistan**, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted its report to the UPR with the support of OHCHR and elaborated through a consultative drafting process involving civil society and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Assisting treaty body reporting and follow-up:

- ▶ Assistance to the Government of **Cambodia** resulted in the submission of 11 out of 15 overdue reports to treaty bodies.



Support to establishment or functioning of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms:

- ▶ In *Timor-Leste*, OHCHR efforts contributed to the conviction of police officers before national courts in connection with their involvement in human rights violations.
- ▶ In *Nepal*, OHCHR supported the Truth and Reconciliation Commission consultation process, including by assisting in the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms.

Strengthening access to justice and basic services of marginalized groups:

- ▶ In *Nepal*, the High Commissioner publicly advocated for measures to end caste-based discrimination and called for capacity development for caste institutions and groups.

Country Offices

Cambodia

Year established	1993
Staff as of 31 December 2009	28
Expenditures in 2009	\$ 1,989,915

Context

Cambodia has enjoyed several years of rapid economic growth and a significant reduction of political violence, especially with regard to violations of the rights to life, security and personal integrity. Positive developments have taken place to improve gender equality in the education system and the administration. HIV/AIDS prevalence was reduced and access to treatment improved; important developments also were registered in the systematic titling of land ownership in rural areas, in freedom of religion and association, and in the adoption of key legislation (Penal Code, Law on Peaceful Assembly). However, growing Government intolerance toward public criticism of its policies and practices was observed with regard to opposition parties', local media and civil society demands for effective and fair law enforcement, justice and public accountability.

Increases in the prices of food and fuel and the effect of the global financial crisis have set back economic progress, and further affected the most vulnerable. Unregulated development growth and progress in poverty reduction, at least in the cities, has led to the re-emergence of a new urban middle class. However, it also has led to arbitrary dispossession of the lands of poor rural and urban communities, often without adequate compensation, by powerful economic and political interests, involving land grabbing and speculation and selective law enforcement and judicial recourse. It



Judges and court officers of the UN-backed tribunal established to try former leaders of the Khmer Rouge, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

will be an important challenge for Cambodia, particularly if it is to attain its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing poverty by half by 2015, to protect the poor and vulnerable against development practices that tend to place the rich and powerful above the law.

OHCHR's role

OHCHR works with the Government, judicial and legislative bodies, civil society and other national and international actors to support the consolidation of peace and stability in Cambodia after three decades of war, violence and arbitrary use of power. In pursuit of the promotion of the rule of law, guided by international human rights standards, the Office organizes its work around four thematic programmes: 1) land and housing rights and indigenous populations; 2) protection of the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms and civil society; 3) continued development of a

protective normative and institutional framework for the administration of justice; and 4) improvement of treatment of prisoners and conditions in Cambodia's prisons.

Activities

- ▶ Supported development of a legal and institutional framework that protects and promotes human rights, consistent with the international human rights standards enshrined in Cambodia's Constitution. Provided public institutions with legal assistance to draft new laws, including the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations, the Penal Code, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Law on Expropriation, and other legislation.
- ▶ Monitored implementation of policies, laws and practices by State institutions, to provide them with advice about their conformity with international human rights standards accepted by Cambodia, and cooperated to assist in their implementation.
- ▶ Provided advice and training to the Government and civil society actors on various issues, including the right to land, business and human rights, freedom of association and assembly, documenting and reporting of human rights issues, and reporting under treaties ratified by Cambodia. Promoted an environment of mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation between Government and civil society.
- ▶ Supported prison reform, including through regular prison visits, confidential interviews with prisoners and staff, recommendations to the authorities regarding improvement of conditions of detention and treatment of detainees, and development of professional training materials for prison staff.
- ▶ Cooperated closely with individual UN agencies, the UN Country Team and other development partners to promote human and sustainable development practices and foster international cooperation to promote and protect human rights.
- ▶ Provided support and advice to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Cambodia in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions.
- ▶ Supported and advised the Sub-committee on the Prevention of Torture on its first visit to Cambodia in December and worked with the Ministry of Interior toward establishment of a national preventive mechanism against torture.

- ▶ Produced public information materials on human rights, including TV programmes, both in English and Khmer, and improved its website, which was recognized as a model for other UN agencies in Cambodia. Collaborated with a weekly national TV programme on legal assistance.
- ▶ In partnership with UNICEF and UNESCO, the Office explored with the Ministry of Education avenues for long-term, joint cooperation to further develop and implement human rights education at primary and secondary school levels. It also supported several human rights education projects, including an interactive radio series on the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and a campaign on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Results

- ▶ Four of the Office's principal recommendations relating to prison reform were accepted and are currently implemented by the authorities: 1) doubling the daily food allocation per detainee, 2) reviewing the role of the prisoners' committee, which had led to abuses, including ill-treatment; 3) reduction of corruption for basic services such as family visits and daily outings; and 4) adoption by prison administration of minimum standards of construction.
- ▶ The Office's intervention in 36 land disputes in rural areas through investigation of cases and mediation amongst villagers, companies and authorities, contributed to the release of 61 farmers. The Office successfully initiated engagement with a corporate-driven land concession case, which led to the company's agreement to conduct an environment and social impact assessment.
- ▶ Assistance to the Government and civil society to better engage with the Human Rights Council, the special procedures and the UPR, and the treaty bodies resulted in the Government submitting 11 out of 15 overdue reports to the respective treaty bodies, while three of the remaining four pending reports are already being drafted. The Government also prepared its report to the UPR in consultation with civil society.
- ▶ Advocacy in cooperation with the UN Country Team and development partners to promote a moratorium on land evictions and adoption of national guidelines to regulate evictions led to pilot cooperation between the Country Team and Phnom Penh municipality to alleviate the effects of eviction and resettlement involving people living with HIV/AIDS.



Cambodian school children ride to school in the village of Balang, Kampong Thom province, Cambodia.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Successful protection work depends on dialogue built on trust and confidence, which are best fostered through balanced, multifaceted, long-term, practical engagement.
- ▶ The strengthening of the justice system, which is still vulnerable to financial and political influence, remains a priority, to improve equal access to justice and offer recourse against abuse.

Cambodia: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,277,029	312,432
Consultants	19,732	(18,580)
Official travel	11,854	10,522
Contractual services	(2,600)	58,308
General operating expenses	132,053	(147,662)
Supplies & materials	75,694	46,052
Seminars, grants & contributions	12,957	148,836
Subtotal	1,526,719	409,908
Programme support costs	-	53,288
GRAND TOTAL	1,526,719	463,196

Nepal

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2009	111
Expenditures in 2009	\$7,996,017

Context

Political developments in 2009 drew attention to the fragile state of Nepal's peace process. Following the withdrawal from the Government of the largest leading party, the Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, the peace process became stalled from May almost until the end of the year. This prevented the addressing of pressing human rights challenges. Impunity and general lack of accountability, weak public security, widespread inequality and discrimination, and poverty exacerbated by the recent global economic crisis created major hurdles for the enjoyment of human rights. Continued violent acts of criminal and armed groups remained a serious concern. Nevertheless, some progress was noted, through measures to improve social inclusion, in particular with regard to representation of marginalized groups in the Constituent Assembly and steps to eradicate the practices of "untouchability" and bonded labour. A new Act on domestic violence came into effect in May, and the Government has begun implementing an action plan to eliminate gender-based violence as well as taken positive steps in preparation for a transitional justice process.

OHCHR's role

The mandate of OHCHR is set out in the 2005 Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It was renewed in 2007 for two years, in May 2009 for a transitory period of three months (due to the change in Government), and in July 2009 for another nine months, until June 2010.

Activities

- ▶ Undertook regular field visits to monitor and assess the human rights situation and responded to requests from Government and local officials to deploy human rights monitors to a number of districts during times of local crisis. For example, sent monitoring teams to Ramechhap district in May and June, Kalikot district in June, and Bhojpur district in October. Also, continued to monitor political protests and rallies throughout the country, engaging with security forces and protest organizers to ensure that both sides are aware about their respective rights and responsibilities during demonstrations.
- ▶ Supported and provided assistance to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), other national institutions and civil society. OHCHR and the NHRC agreed on guidelines for cooperation and signed the terms of a new phase of a capacity development project in partnership with UNDP. The two-year project aims at strengthening NHRC capacity in management, monitoring, investigation and reporting, as well as monitoring of international treaty obligations.
- ▶ Intensified its support to civil society and the Government in development of transitional justice mechanisms, including by supporting the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission consultation process, led by the Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction. A “peace through justice” project launched by OHCHR in July, initially for 12 months, has the objective to assist the establishment and effective functioning of transitional justice mechanisms.

- ▶ Accelerated a training programme on economic, social and cultural rights indicators at regional and central levels, through five workshops for NGOs and Government officials. Also published a brochure on frequently asked questions on economic, social and cultural rights in the Nepali language and an information booklet on First Information Reports.
- ▶ Supported a joint report by 25 marginalized groups to the Durban Review Conference and facilitated a follow-up strategy and meetings, including with the Prime Minister. In December, worked alongside a professional theatre troupe on a 20-day circuit of the far western region to raise awareness on issues related to discrimination. Performances attracted an audience of around 10,000 to 15,000 spectators.
- ▶ Intervened in cases relating to detention, abduction and torture, particularly as human rights concerns relating to the security situation in the Terai increased in the post-conflict context, and continued to follow up on cases of alleged extra-judicial killings by police.
- ▶ Deepened democratic processes such as those related to the drafting of the new Constitution, by advocating for participatory and consultative processes as well as incorporation of provisions protecting human rights into the new constitutional draft and other relevant legislation. Also assisted civil society's advocacy efforts on these issues.
- ▶ With the Office of the Prime Minister, engaged in key joint activities in response to increasing reports of violence against women. Following a joint field mission in July to the five most affected districts in the eastern region, the Prime Minister announced a yearlong campaign to combat violence against women.
- ▶ Intensified efforts to strengthen the capacity of civil society to monitor, investigate and report on human rights violations by carrying out numerous trainings, including in the most remote areas of the country. More than 3,900 persons benefited from the trainings in 2009. Delivered or facilitated more than 100 capacity building activities for Government officials, human rights defenders, lawyers, youth and student leaders, representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations or marginalized communities, journalists and academics.



OHCHR staff conducting a training session on indigenous people's rights in Chitwan, Nepal.



People of the Gatlang village in Northwest Nepal.

Results

- ▶ Dialogue on human rights obligations and other specific concerns was stimulated at regional level by bringing together civil society, local authorities and security forces.
- ▶ OHCHR's interventions, along with those of the National Human Rights Commission and other human rights defenders in relation to protests, detention and abductions, torture and cases of extra-judicial killings, were recognized publicly as having a considerable stabilizing effect.
- ▶ A critical impact of the Office has been to help enlarge the space for human rights issues to be addressed, through enabling improved security for human rights defenders to carry out their work, for victims to come forward to report violations and abuse, and for public dialogue on human rights issues to continue.
- ▶ The Office contributed significantly to the UN Country Team's preparatory work for the discharge of disqualified Maoist combatants, in its capacity as co-chair of the task force on Security Council resolution 1612 on children affected by armed conflict. In leadership of Inter-Agency Standing Committee protection cluster, it strengthened a human rights-based approach in emergency response.
- ▶ Added to advocacy by members of the community representing people with disabilities, resulting in the Government ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in December.

OHCHR has worked actively and consistently to support organizations of disabled persons, and to mark the International Day for the Rights of Disabled Persons organized four high-profile public events in December.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Little progress has been made on criminal accountability in emblematic cases of human rights violations. Most of the Supreme Court's decisions on human rights issues and recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission remain unimplemented. OHCHR increased its advocacy in relation to impunity issues and supplemented this with concrete support under the "peace through justice" project to relevant Government actors, particularly the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction.
- ▶ The monitoring of violent incidents and other tensions in the aftermath of the Maoist withdrawal from Government in May has been considered as key to preventing or mitigating violence. OHCHR's wide network with authorities, civil society and the public has consolidated its position as an independent, impartial organization that is able to effectively help to prevent potential violence, especially in remote areas, through a large sub-national presence and highly mobile teams.
- ▶ Although the new Government has taken some steps toward ending discriminatory practices,

social exclusion and discrimination remain deeply rooted in Nepal. Only long-term activities and projects in these areas are likely to achieve measurable impact.

- ▶ Efforts to strengthen key national institutions with specific mandates to promote and protect human rights have been hampered by considerable challenges, primarily lack of resources, insufficient legal basis, lack of cooperation from Government and, at times, direct political interference.

Nepal: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	5,791,412
Consultants	-	32,863
Official travel	-	274,648
Contractual services	-	109,265
General operating expenses	-	306,403
Supplies & materials	-	218,947
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	342,583
Subtotal	-	7,076,121
Programme support costs	-	919,896
GRAND TOTAL	-	7,996,017

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Southeast Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2009	8
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,098,535

OHCHR's regional office for Southeast Asia covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition to providing support to other OHCHR field presences in Southeast Asia, the regional office acts as an expert resource in the region, and plays a catalytic and convening role with respect to human rights issues and bringing human rights standards and mechanisms into discussions on political, social, economic and development issues. Building strategic partnerships has been key to the regional office's work, including with national authorities, regional

organizations, notably the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), human rights institutions, civil society and other UN agencies and programmes. Priorities in 2009 included strengthening the human rights capacity of the United Nations system and ensuring effective participation of relevant stakeholders in the UPR process, as well as increasing awareness amongst regional policymakers of the value of a regional human rights mechanism compatible with international standards.

Activities

- ▶ Worked with the UN Development Group (UNDG) in Asia and the Pacific to advise and train UN Country Teams in the region on integrating human rights into their planning documents, projects and programmes.
- ▶ Organized, together with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), an expert group meeting in Bangkok on harmonization of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The 28 participants included persons with disabilities and members of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The meeting produced a set of recommendations to promote legislative harmonization at the national level.
- ▶ Strengthened partnerships with UNESCAP and other UN agencies on a range of thematic issues such as social policies, disabilities, HIV/AIDS, indigenous peoples, migration and gender.
- ▶ Organized an expert group meeting with the ten-member High Level Panel responsible for drafting the terms of reference of the ASEAN human rights body. The meeting, in Geneva in April, brought together High Level Panel members, their support staff and staff from the ASEAN Secretariat. Experts from Africa, the Americas and Europe as well as from the United Nations shared their knowledge and experience regarding the development of regional human rights mechanisms. Also established, with the South East Asia Cooperation in Human Development (SEARCH) Project, a regional coordination mechanism for activities related to establishment and development of an ASEAN human rights system.
- ▶ A similar expert dialogue with civil society and national human rights institutions brought together 40 participants in May in Jakarta. Organized in collaboration with the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights and the SEARCH Project, it focused not only on experts' sharing of

experiences and lessons learned, but also on the role played by civil society organizations and national human rights institutions from the different regions in helping to develop credible and effective regional human rights systems.

- ▶ Organized a regional consultation in Bangkok in November on the UPR for six countries coming up for review in 2010 and 2011. A total of 33 participants represented Governments and other stakeholders. Also provided support on the UPR at national level for national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including at a stakeholders consultation in Lao PDR in November and a non-governmental organization (NGO) meeting in December in Thailand.
- ▶ With UNDP, co-organized two regional dialogues in Bangkok on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Mechanisms on the Promotion and Protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, with the participation of UN partners and representatives of Government and civil society, including indigenous peoples.
- ▶ Delivered a keynote speech at a Judicial Colloquium for the Judiciary in October in Malaysia, which was attended by 336 participants, including high-ranking judges of the Federal Court.
- ▶ Conducted human rights training courses in Indonesia for more than 200 junior, mid-career and senior diplomats in May and in September.
- ▶ Provided support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, including his second visit to the country in February. Initiated discussions on human rights with the authorities through missions to the country in April and December and organized a joint planning workshop with the UN Country Team in December.
- ▶ With UNHCR, conducted a training workshop on the adjudication of claims for international protection under the CAT and international refugee law in September.

Results

- ▶ UN Country Teams in the region were better equipped to integrate human rights into their programming, especially in relation to the elaboration of their Common Country Assessment (CCA) and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Increased knowledge of international human rights standards and mechanisms was also reflected in planning for upcoming UN-sponsored events, which

increasingly included reference to relevant human rights issues, instruments and institutions.

- ▶ A set of recommendations was developed and agreed by ten UN Country Teams and regional UN agencies on how to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UNDG Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.
- ▶ Increased awareness amongst the drafters of the terms of reference for the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights, other senior government officials, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, of the common elements of regional human rights mechanisms in Africa, the Americas and Europe and the development of these mechanisms.
- ▶ As a result of the UPR exercise, more countries in the region have increased cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms as demonstrated by new invitations extended to the special procedures mandate-holders as well as ratifications of human rights treaties.
- ▶ For the first time the authorities in Myanmar have been engaged with OHCHR in discussing cooperation on human rights issues.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The sensitivity that still prevails in discussion of human rights issues in the region represents a constant challenge. Further efforts are needed to promote the positive value of engagement with international human rights machinery, including OHCHR.

Regional Office for Southeast Asia: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	807,498
Consultants	-	15,150
Official travel	-	48,388
Contractual services	-	10,645
General operating expenses	-	56,047
Supplies & materials	-	18,140
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	16,287
Subtotal	-	972,155
Programme support costs	-	126,380
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,098,535

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2009	6
Expenditures in 2009	\$841,240

The regional office, located in Suva, Fiji, covers the 16 Pacific Island Forum countries of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. In 2009, priorities included promotion of torture prevention standards; protection as a part of humanitarian responses to natural disasters; improved compliance with international human rights standards through the UPR and treaty implementation support; and establishment of national human rights institutions.

Activities

- ▶ Published an assessment of laws of countries of the Pacific Islands Forum region on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of detainees.
- ▶ Organized a high-level meeting, in Papua New Guinea, on torture prevention with the Special Rapporteur on torture, representatives of government, state institutions and civil society.
- ▶ Co-led the protection cluster, with UNHCR, under the Pacific Humanitarian Team and led the protection cluster in response to the tsunami in Samoa. Followed up with the first phase of a post-disaster displacement and protection monitoring project in Samoa.
- ▶ Organized workshops on the UPR for civil society and Government in Kiribati and for civil society in Fiji.
- ▶ Published a discussion paper promoting ratification of international human rights treaties in the Pacific and assisted the UNDP Pacific Centre in preparing a draft treaty implementation handbook. This was followed by a validation workshop with representatives of Government and civil society from five countries.
- ▶ Carried out a workshop in Marshall Islands for the committees that oversee implementation of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child on reporting and treaty implementation. Organized a Pacific regional workshop, jointly with the Asia Pacific Forum, with government and civil society representatives on establishment of national human rights institutions. This was followed by a scoping mission on establishment of such an

institution in Nauru, jointly with the Asia Pacific Forum and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

- ▶ Supported country visits to Australia of the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people and the Special Rapporteur on health.
- ▶ Organized two civil society workshops, in Fiji and Vanuatu, on monitoring and documenting human rights violations.

Results

- ▶ Interaction with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms by governments and civil society was strengthened, with increased engagement through the UPR and increased capacity and planning for treaty implementation.
- ▶ Human rights was mainstreamed into the UN and national disaster response systems in a number of ways, including through chairing a UN Development Assistance Framework group on human rights, mainstreaming protection into disaster response, and ensuring that the early recovery framework for Samoa post-tsunami included Inter-Agency Standing Committee principles on displacement and durable solutions.
- ▶ A region-wide protection cluster for emergency response and preparedness was established and a national-level protection cluster rolled out in Samoa in response to the tsunami. OHCHR was a co-lead for the former, lead for the latter.
- ▶ The Regional Office's work on torture in Papua New Guinea, carried out jointly with the human rights adviser, led to an official invitation to the Special Rapporteur to carry out a fact-finding visit to the country. Overall, the regional office successfully increased its levels of cooperation and programmatic integration with the work of the human rights adviser, resulting in stronger coordination and support.
- ▶ Interest increased in establishing national human rights institutions in the region, with work in Papua New Guinea to draft legislation and proposals prepared in two other countries.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Community and government acceptance of serious levels of violence in many communities in the Pacific have led to impunity for human rights violations, such as torture and violence against women. Such issues have a low profile and are not readily identified as violations that need to be addressed through the use of accountability mechanisms. The regional office will work strategically on this over the long term.

- ▶ The UPR process has proven a valuable tool in the Pacific to ensure that smaller States that had no significant engagement with the UN human rights system increase their levels of commitment and have their human rights situations considered at the international level.

Regional Office for the Pacific: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	614,557
Consultants	-	4,941
Official travel	-	42,878
Contractual services	-	(463)
General operating expenses	-	44,178
Supplies & materials	-	1,228
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	37,142
Subtotal	-	744,461
Programme support costs	-	96,779
GRAND TOTAL	-	841,240

Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2009	38

OHCHR is integrated within the Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Human Rights Unit supports efforts to advance the human rights of Afghans, with a particular focus on the protection of civilians, violence against women (rape and violence against women in public life), transitional justice and the fight against impunity, freedom of expression, elections, the human rights dimension of poverty, and building the capacity of the Government and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC).

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation of women, in particular, cases of rape and violence against women in public life and published a report,

“Silence is Violence – Stop the Abuse of Women in Afghanistan.” The public launch of the report in July received considerable media attention and was followed by advocacy and capacity development activities at provincial level.

- ▶ In collaboration with the Afghan human rights commission, carried out political rights monitoring of the 2009 Presidential and Provincial Council elections, resulting in the public release of three reports with recommendations regarding the establishment of a conducive environment for free and fair elections.
- ▶ Issued periodic public reports and statements on civilian casualties. Undertook advocacy and awareness raising, both unilaterally and through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Protection Cluster, with Afghan and pro-Government forces to reduce the impact of the conflict on civilians.
- ▶ Provided legal analysis to Afghan stakeholders, particularly civil society and members of Parliament, to support their efforts to raise publicly concerns on provisions of Shi’a Personal Status Law, which legalizes discriminatory practices. Raised additional concerns on the Bill on the Elimination of Violence against Women, with respect to the criminalization of rape in line with international law.
- ▶ Organized a multi-stakeholder consultation to mobilize support for freedom of expression, which led to adoption of the Kabul Declaration on Freedom of Expression in Afghanistan, in March. Followed up on emblematic individual cases of journalists and civil society actors at risk.
- ▶ Supported Physicians for Human Rights in training of police officers on securing evidence related to mass graves sites in Kabul and Bamyán. Strengthened, through workshops, civil society’s and media’s advocacy capacity on transitional justice issues.
- ▶ Provided support to the country visit in April of the Working Group on mercenaries, focused on the activities of private security companies.
- ▶ Provided support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with respect to its submission to the UPR, through a consultative drafting process involving civil society and the Afghan human rights commission. Actively participated in Steering Committees on assistance provided by the United Nations to the Government with respect to submission of state reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ Issued a two-volume report on arbitrary detention, as a result of joint monitoring with the Afghan human rights commission of places of detention since 2006. This was followed by a high-level technical meeting with Afghan law



Daily life in the rural town of Balkh, Afghanistan.

enforcement and detention institutions to draft Standard Operating Procedures on information sharing on individual detention cases.

- ▶ Organized meetings with Afghan justice institutions, particularly judges, to share observations regarding the application of fair trial guarantees and to discuss practical suggestions for improving respect for these guarantees.

Results

- ▶ Concerns raised in public and through quiet diplomacy on the *Sbi'a* Personal Status Law and the Bill on the Elimination of Violence against Women enhanced awareness and understanding amongst civil society, Government and Parliament members on the human rights norms to address violence against women in line with international law.
- ▶ The three public reports on the Presidential and Provincial Council elections and an internal lessons-learned paper are being used to strengthen establishment of an environment conducive to free and fair elections, particularly for the 2010 Parliamentary elections.
- ▶ As a result of strengthened advocacy and public reporting on civilian casualties, new tactical directives were issued that helped reduce the number and proportion of casualties attributed to pro-Government forces.
- ▶ Awareness was raised amongst local stakeholders regarding the need to protect evidence related to past human rights violations, particularly mass graves.
- ▶ Reflecting enhanced advocacy capacity on the part of civil society, the Transitional Justice Working Group issued public statements in

relation to the 2009 elections and to international conferences on Afghanistan.

- ▶ As a result of efforts of the Human Rights Unit, the Afghan human rights commission was better equipped to prepare its fourth annual report on economic and social rights and a shadow report to the Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights.
- ▶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted State reports to the UPR process and to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, ensuring the involvement and awareness of various relevant Ministries, the Afghan human rights commission and civil society.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The nature and impact of the armed conflict hindered efforts to undertake awareness raising and capacity development activities and posed numerous challenges to ongoing monitoring of civilian casualties. The inherent limitations of the United Nations in engaging with anti-Government elements and the diverse nature of the insurgency in Afghanistan constrained OHCHR/UNAMA's ability to influence insurgent behaviour with regard to respecting civilians. Especially with respect to monitoring activities, local networks and cooperation with the Afghan human rights commission need to be further developed.
- ▶ The lack of political will, on the part of the Government and the international community, to address impunity is exemplified by the absence of progress in implementation of the National Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice. This will need to be addressed as a matter of priority and be part of the stabilization and reconciliation agendas.

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

Year established	The Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section was established in 2006 as an integrated component of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor. OHCHR has had a presence in Timor-Leste since 2001.
Staff as of 31 December 2009	39

The Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section is an integrated component of UNMIT. Its broad-based mandate encompasses monitoring and reporting, capacity building, security sector reform and transitional justice. An OHCHR technical cooperation programme is delivered through the Section to provide technical advice and training for Government officials and NGOs, strengthen national institutions, and promote transitional justice.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored key human rights issues, including violations by members of the security forces, protection of vulnerable groups and access to justice, through four regional sub-offices. A thematic team on women's rights monitored access to justice for women and raised individual cases. Published a public periodic report covering 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, focusing on past and present accountability.
- ▶ Deepened support for the *Provedoria de Direitos Humanos e Justiça* (PDHJ/Ombudsperson), including through mentoring of the Monitoring and Advocacy Department by two staff members placed in the Provedor's office. A joint OHCHR/UNDP capacity building project in support of the PDHJ finished at the end of 2009 and was succeeded by a new project.
- ▶ Organized human rights training sessions for NGOs, including in the districts, on issues such as draft laws, accountability, women's rights, basic human rights standards and the use of a human rights violations database.
- ▶ Continued to support the work of an OHCHR-funded prosecutor on cases of individuals suspected of involvement in human rights violations and crimes during the 2006 crisis. Facilitated an OHCHR-funded consultant to draft legislation on reparations for violations occurred between 1974 and 1999.
- ▶ Advised authorities on draft legislation, including on the Penal Code, the Witness and Witness Protection Law, national security laws and the

Domestic Violence Law, to improve its compliance with international human rights standards.

- ▶ Provided a one-week training course to 14 future judges, prosecutors and public defenders on the protection of human rights in the judicial process. Also trained parliamentarians in international criminal law and 68 school inspectors in monitoring of human rights in schools.
- ▶ Provided human rights training for 46 Timorese police officers and 516 police officers from UNMIT, as well as 18 Military Police and Secretary of State for Defence staff. Participated in joint Government-United Nations teams to assess institutional readiness of Timorese police to resume responsibilities from UN Police. Provided human rights-related information on more than 100 police officers going through the vetting process.



Young Timorese girl.



A farmer harvests rice in Timor-Leste.

- ▶ Provided micro-grants to five NGOs of up to US\$ 1,000 each, to carry out human rights promotion activities in the districts. Six NGOs continued to receive support for human rights activities as grantees for the Assisting Communities Together project, jointly implemented by OHCHR and UNDP.
- ▶ Met with key Government organizations, NGOs and UN agencies and conducted a workshop for 22 participants from NGOs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Infrastructure. Provided financial and technical support to the Timor-Leste Housing Network.
- ▶ Monitored the right to food in seven districts and produced a briefing, shared with UN agencies, NGOs and the High Level Task Force on the global food crisis. Facilitated seven workshops on monitoring economic, social and cultural rights and the human rights-based approach.
- ▶ Ongoing support for the PDHJ/Ombudsman contributed to the opening of three district offices in Ainaro, Baucau and Bobonaro districts.
- ▶ Following continuous lobbying on transitional justice reports, the reports were debated in Parliament and a resolution passed in December, which provides for drafting of relevant legislation within three months.
- ▶ With the assistance of the OHCHR-funded prosecutor to handle Commission of Inquiry cases, one decision was handed down and four cases were on trial at the end of the year.
- ▶ Coverage in national media of the release of UNMIT's human rights report helped raise awareness about accountability and impunity issues. The Section also contributed to raising national and international debate in relation to the arrest of a man indicted for crimes against humanity in 1999 and his subsequent release to the Indonesian authorities.
- ▶ After a new Penal Code came into force in June, concerns raised by the Section and others during the consultation period, including the need to define domestic violence as a public crime and to decriminalize defamation, were incorporated in the final law.
- ▶ The lack of school feeding programmes in some schools in Bobonaro district was successfully addressed after WFP and the Section jointly raised this issue with local authorities.

Results

- ▶ Although accountability mechanisms remained weak overall, UNMIT's efforts contributed to at least five police officers being convicted in national courts in connection with their involvement in human rights violations. Section input to the vetting process further contributed to dismissal of seven police officers because of criminal offences.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ NGOs have limited presence in the districts, and as a result have limited ability to respond to monitoring and promotional activities outside Dili. This underscores the need for UNMIT to maintain a presence and programmes outside the capital and to continue to support NGOs operating there.
- ▶ Human rights capacity building programmes should preferably be long-term, with the Section providing different types of support, including training, follow-up mentoring, evaluation and adjustment of programmes, with target groups involved in all stages of the process.
- ▶ The continuing weakness of judicial and disciplinary processes against police officers accused of committing human rights violations remains a key challenge. This is exacerbated by lack of awareness of communities of human rights standards and procedures for filing complaints.
- ▶ The ambivalent attitude of some Timorese leaders toward justice, and statements indicating possible amnesties for serious crimes, including crimes against humanity and war crimes, is of concern. Presidential pardons and commutations of sentences granted could undermine future investigations and trials of cases highlighted by the Commission of Inquiry.
- ▶ While the Section and others provided comments on key draft laws, these comments were not always incorporated by authorities in the final version of the laws. For example, the definition of “witness” in the Witness Protection Law does not explicitly include victims or other justice collaborators who may be at risk.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Indonesia

Year established	2007
Year discontinued	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

A human rights adviser was deployed to Jakarta from August 2007 to January 2010 to support the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in relation to human rights issues, with a particular focus on assisting agencies and programmes to integrate a human rights-based approach into their programming in Indonesia. Since October 2008, the human rights adviser has been supported by a national UN Volunteer (UNV). At the request of the

Government, the human rights adviser position was terminated as of 31 January 2010. OHCHR regrets this decision but will seek to engage with the Government in alternative ways to strengthen cooperation in the field of human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Coordinated the design of a joint programme of support for Indonesia’s national human rights institutions, in partnership with Komnas HAM, Komnas Perempuan, KPAI and participating UN agencies (ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM).
- ▶ Supported, with UNFPA, the first regional women’s human rights consultation in Asia-Pacific under the auspices of Komnas Perempuan, bringing together seven women’s commissions from across the region. Target audience included women’s commissions, national human rights institutions, UN agencies and civil society representatives.
- ▶ Supported the UN Country Team in promoting rights-based approaches to HIV/AIDS response.
- ▶ Provided technical input to development of the next Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework, as well as to the humanitarian protection cluster in the wake of the October Padang earthquake.
- ▶ Provided or supported training in various aspects of human rights for Government and civil society representatives.
- ▶ Supported UNDP’s work on transitional justice in Aceh, providing material and training.

Results

- ▶ A joint programme of action to support Indonesia’s three national human rights institutions (broad-based; violence against women; child protection) was designed to strengthen their capacities, both as individual institutions and as part of an overarching system of human rights protection.
- ▶ A human rights-based approach was developed in the humanitarian response during the October Padang earthquake.
- ▶ Participants in the regional consultation on women’s human rights gained a common understanding on institutional frameworks and best-practice collaborations at national, regional and international levels.
- ▶ Training sessions of multiple stakeholders, including Government, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, helped strengthen national capacity in understanding and engaging with the international human rights machinery.

Papua New Guinea

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

OHCHR has maintained a human rights adviser in the UN Country Team in Papua New Guinea since January 2008 to strengthen the capacity of the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team in developing strategies to support strengthening of the national human rights protection systems. The adviser's priorities include assisting the Country Team in integrating human rights principles into UN programming; strengthening engagement of the Government, the Country Team, and civil society with international human rights mechanisms; and providing technical support to establishment of a national human rights institution.

Activities

- ▶ Provided support to the Government's Technical Working Committee for establishment of a National Human Rights Commission according to the Paris Principles. Provided technical assistance to two Legal Working Group workshops to prepare amendments to the Constitution and a draft organic law for establishment of a National Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Organized a high-level meeting on prevention of torture and ill-treatment, which resulted in adoption by the participants of the Lamana Communiqué agreeing that ratification of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol will add value to national laws, accountability mechanisms and practices already in place.
- ▶ Worked closely with the UN inter-agency Gender Task Force, advocating for the protection of women's rights in all programmes. Raised awareness during 20 days of human rights activism organized by civil society and the Department for Community Development on the need to take more action to prevent and combat impunity for acts of violence against women, as well as provided general support and advocacy during the human rights activism events.
- ▶ Supported the Government to encourage the ratification of core human rights treaties and optional protocols.
- ▶ Assisted in preparation of the UN Country Team report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ Advocated for the rights of persons with disabilities and raised awareness on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Children wearing shirts with human rights messages during the commemoration of Human Rights Day in Papua New Guinea, December 2009.

Results

- ▶ Significant progress was made in developing the legal and policy framework for establishment of a National Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Adoption at the high-level meeting of the Lamana Communiqué paves the way for ratification of the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ The Papua New Guinea National Disability Policy, an inclusive policy based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, was launched in 2009 following extensive advocacy.
- ▶ Civil society gained improved capacity and knowledge on human rights and working with the UN human rights system.
- ▶ Successful events during the 20 days of human rights activism received wide media coverage; this included the Resident Coordinator's keynote speech on behalf of the United Nations system, advocating for promotion and protection of human rights for all in Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ The Government officially invited the Special Rapporteur on torture to visit the country.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Coordination and collaboration was increased with the OHCHR regional office for the Pacific, which helped both to increase the effectiveness of the presence in Papua New Guinea and to inform activities of the regional office.

Sri Lanka

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

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

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical and legal advice and recommendations to the UN Country Team on human rights challenges throughout the humanitarian crisis.
- ▶ Provided technical support to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights on development of a National Human Rights Action Plan, one of the key commitments made by the Government during the May 2008 UPR.

- ▶ Facilitated a training of trainers for the Sri Lankan Police, at the request of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights. A total of 35 trainers were identified and trained.
- ▶ Worked closely with the Human Rights Commission, providing technical advice on a variety of operational and human rights issues as well as supporting, together with UNDP, a capacity building assessment of a number of the Commission's regional offices.
- ▶ Worked closely with members of the inter-agency Internally Displaced Persons Protection Working Group, advising on legal issues and human rights challenges related to displacement.
- ▶ Provided ongoing support to the 1612 Task Force and their reports to the Security Council Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict.

Results

- ▶ The Government finalized the first draft of a National Human Rights Action Plan, with advice on comparative experience from other countries by OHCHR.



OHCHR in the Field: Europe and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Stand-alone office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo
Regional Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic) Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights components in UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgia (UN Observer Mission in Georgia)** UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (Turkmenistan)
Human rights advisers to UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albania Kyrgyz Republic** Republic of Moldova Russian Federation Serbia South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia) Tajikistan* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

* Planned for the biennium 2010-2011

** Closed in 2009

The Europe and Central Asia region spans a vast area comprising 54 States at different stages of economic and political development, with different human rights challenges and various models of regional, economic and security cooperation and affiliation. Half of these

States now form part of the European Union, while others seek to join. The region also includes a number of territories whose status remains to be determined by the international community. In 2009 OHCHR continued to prioritize the addressing of impunity for violations of a broad range of human rights in the region and to work with States to effectively address torture, violence against women and violations of social and economic rights, including housing rights. In addition, OHCHR sought to strengthen democratic institutions, including judiciaries, legislatures and national human rights institutions.

Amid the financial and economic crisis, increased attention was needed to protect the human rights of migrants and to draw attention to discriminatory practices and xenophobic attitudes. Rising unemployment in States with high migrant populations, combined with the continued influx of large numbers of new migrants, contributed to exacerbate social tensions. This has become especially acute in light of increasingly stringent policies on immigration and access to work and benefits, as well as counter-terrorism measures that may be perceived as unfairly targeting particular groups.

In 2009 OHCHR added a regional office in Brussels (covering Europe) to that in Bishkek (covering Central Asia). It also continued to work through a stand-alone office in Kosovo, and through human rights advisers to the UN Country Teams in Albania (under a “Delivering as One” United Nations pilot), the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, the South

Caucasus (from Tbilisi), and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A team of 12 staff members covered Europe and Central Asia from headquarters, following areas of concern and providing substantive support to the High Commissioner and the UN human rights machinery, as well as substantive and administrative support to field presences.

OHCHR in Europe and Central Asia: Examples of Impact in 2009

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Georgia**, the Government incorporated most of OHCHR’s advice in relation to criminal justice reform.
- ▶ In **Albania**, OHCHR contributed, together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and civil society organizations, to drafting of anti-discrimination legislation submitted to the Parliament for approval.
- ▶ In **Kazakhstan**, a law on domestic violence was adopted following advocacy by civil society and support from OHCHR.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In **Kyrgyzstan**, with OHCHR support, the UN Country Team used UN Day to promote the International Year of Human Rights Learning.
- ▶ In the **Russian Federation**, a master’s programme in human rights was agreed upon with three Moscow universities and launched in a pilot phase.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ In **Serbia**, the Ombudsman and Deputy for Minorities were able to take action on development-driven evictions in accordance with international standards.
- ▶ The International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions recommended ‘B’-status for the Centre for Human Rights of the **Republic of Moldova**.
- ▶ In **Kosovo**, OHCHR monitored and supported the recruitment of the first local Ombudsperson, ensuring a transparent selection process and appointment of a credible candidate.
- ▶ In the **Russian Federation**, a National Working Group on Juvenile Justice was created as a result of joint efforts, including those of OHCHR, to promote international standards in the administration of justice regarding children.

Promoting ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ In **Albania**, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed, with strong commitment to work with the UN Country Team on ratification by early 2010.
- ▶ In **Georgia**, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed.
- ▶ In **Azerbaijan**, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture was ratified and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was signed.
- ▶ **Kyrgyzstan** and **Kazakhstan** both ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ **Turkmenistan** ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Strengthening interaction with United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms:

- ▶ **Serbia** established the first inter-Ministerial working group, including representatives of non-governmental organizations, to work on drafting State Reports to treaty bodies.
- ▶ **Azerbaijan** overcame a backlog in treaty body reporting.

Support to establishment or functioning of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms:

- ▶ In the **Republic of Moldova**, a Commission of Inquiry was established by Parliament to investigate events of April 2009, following harmonized approaches from the United Nations, European Union and Council of Europe.

Strengthening access to justice and basic services of marginalized groups:

- ▶ For the first time, a protection order was issued by a court in the **Republic of Moldova** for a victim of domestic violence.

Stand-alone Office

Kosovo

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2009	6
Expenditures in 2009	\$698,385

Context

The political and legal situation in Kosovo remained difficult and complex following the declaration of independence by Kosovo's institutions in 2008. The only major change was completion of the deployment of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), which took over most of the remaining tasks of policing and justice from the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in the early months of the year. This slightly simplified the situation of international organizations, although overlapping mandates remained an issue. The primary human rights concerns in Kosovo were the situation of minorities, including the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and the right of return and other rights of internally displaced persons; likewise, impunity for past violations and discrimination, particularly in relation to economic, social and cultural rights, required urgent action.

OHCHR's role

The original OHCHR Office was opened in 1998 and expanded in 2008. At the end of 2009 the Office set up a satellite presence in the town of Mitrovica to work with other UN agencies in three municipalities in this area. The main functions of the Office are monitoring and protecting human rights, providing technical assistance to Kosovo's institutions and civil society, and supporting the United Nations and other international presences with advice on human rights issues.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation, providing information and advice to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to help facilitate their visits during the year. Provided expert advice and support to two missions of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ Provided coordination support amongst international organizations to facilitate the sharing of information on human rights concerns and ideas for corrective action.
- ▶ Worked with and advised the senior human rights adviser in UNMIK on ongoing or emerging human rights concerns. Also supported UNMIK



A Roma boy in the outskirts of Mitrovica, Kosovo.

and the Human Rights Advisory Panel to strengthen operation of the Panel.

- ▶ Supported discussions on the creation of mechanisms to prevent torture.
- ▶ Supported projects under the OHCHR-UNDP Assisting Communities Together (ACT) programme promoting discussion of human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in schools and youth groups.
- ▶ Translated and disseminated materials in local languages, including OHCHR publications on transitional justice.
- ▶ Provided materials on criteria for the recruitment of the Ombudsperson (based on the Paris Principles) to assembly members involved in the appointment, and explained the criteria to other local and international stakeholders.
- ▶ Monitored meetings and interviews for the Ombudsperson, and mobilized other international actors and local civil society actors to do likewise.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR monitoring of and support to the process of recruiting the Kosovo Ombudsperson contributed to the appointment of a credible candidate as the first local Ombudsperson in June, following a transparent process.
- ▶ The Office helped to facilitate more effective exchange of information amongst international human rights actors, through regular meetings to identify concerns and actions.
- ▶ Awareness of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the right to freedom from discrimination and transitional justice concepts, were raised through various actions, including: a wide range of activities in schools and universities, through grants given under the ACT Project and events organized to mark the 2009 Human Rights Day; a televised debate on the participation of women in Kosovo's public and political life broadcast in prime time on 10 December on Kosovo Public Television (RTK); and the distribution of translated materials into local languages to various institutions and individuals.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The uncertain and contested status of the territory remained a problem for the United Nations and other international organizations working in Kosovo. Uncertainties of the political situation frequently overshadowed human rights concerns.

Kosovo: Expenditures in 2009

	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	517,322
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	2,498
Contractual services	-	19,308
General operating expenses	-	44,151
Supplies & materials	-	26,834
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	7,927
Subtotal	-	618,040
Programme support costs	-	80,345
GRAND TOTAL	-	698,385

Regional Offices

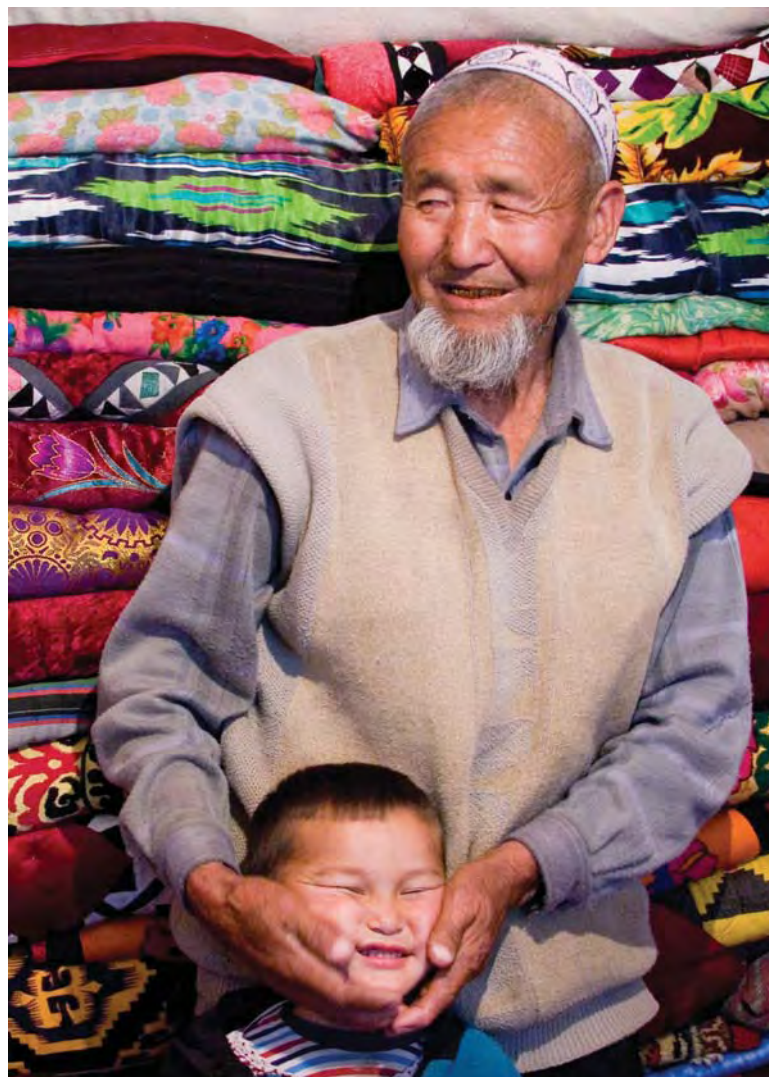
Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	7
Expenditures in 2009	\$1,035,693

In June 2008, OHCHR signed an agreement with Kyrgyzstan to establish a regional office in Bishkek for the Central Asian region, which offers its services to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The regional office works with countries in the region to strengthen the capacity of governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to increase compliance with human rights standards and improve protection against violations, in particular for those at risk of torture and domestic violence and those unable to access legal services. It also raises awareness of, and responsiveness to, the integration of human rights into policies and practices affecting economic and social rights, particularly in the sphere of housing and health. Promotion of the ratification of human rights instruments and improved cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms represents a further objective. The Office also provides support to UN Country Teams in integrating a human rights-based approach into planning and implementation of individual agencies' programmes.

Activities

- ▶ Supported Ombudsman institutions in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, in the former through advisory and financial assistance to the Joint UN Technical Assistance Programme in development of the institution, and in the latter through provision of technical expertise that assisted the newly established Ombudsman with policy, structural and operational issues.
- ▶ Conducted and engaged in seminars, consultations, roundtables and public hearings with national stakeholders on independent monitoring of closed institutions and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.
- ▶ Funded drafting of a law on a national preventive mechanism to ensure independent monitoring of detention facilities in Kyrgyzstan.
- ▶ Organized a regional workshop on the right to adequate housing, as well as tailor-made training seminars in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Grants were allocated to four NGOs in these countries for work to be implemented in 2010.
- ▶ Supported visits to the region of special procedures mandate-holders, including the Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, both to Kazakhstan; and the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, both to Kyrgyzstan.
- ▶ Presented findings of the 2008 visit to Tajikistan of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in a roundtable of 90 Government and civil society participants, to promote the passage of domestic violence legislation in the country.
- ▶ Organized a regional workshop in Bishkek for representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Armenia, Mongolia and Belarus on procedures and modalities of preparing the State Report and other aspects of the UPR process, with technical expertise by representatives from Russian Federation and Germany. Facilitated consultations for members of the Kyrgyz inter-agency UPR Working Group with civil society representatives and provided expert guidance to Government representatives on preparation of its State Report.
- ▶ Established and led a protection sector in Kyrgyzstan in the event of a natural disaster; and held a two-day workshop on protection issues in



A man and his grandson in the Chui province, north Kyrgyzstan.

- such disasters with 50 participants (Government and non-governmental).
- ▶ Monitored court hearings in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan where it was determined there were concerns or allegations of arbitrary detention of an individual, questionable due process, or allegations of torture and/or ill-treatment while in police custody.
- ▶ Organized a seminar for 40 judicial and other Government participants in Tajikistan on human rights in the fight against terrorism.
- ▶ A European Commission-funded three-year UNDP/OHCHR project was launched with the aim of “Strengthening the national capacity for Turkmenistan to promote and protect human rights”, with the regional office acting in advisory capacity to the project team.

Results

- ▶ Substantial consultations in Kyrgyzstan led to an improved draft law on independent public monitoring of places of detention, with a broader understanding of implications when adopted by Parliament. In Kazakhstan, a law on domestic

violence was adopted following several years of advocacy by civil society and support from OHCHR.

- ▶ Strengthened capacities of Ombudsman Institutions in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, including definition of the internal structure of the former and initiation in the latter of a mechanism to receive individual complaints.
- ▶ By providing assistance to the visit to Kyrgyzstan of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, facilitated accelerated consultations with the Government, Parliament and civil society regarding the situation of violence against women in the country.
- ▶ Through bilateral consultations and public awareness events, the regional office promoted ratification of human rights treaties within the region: Kazakhstan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), made declarations under the Convention's Article 21 and under Article 14 of the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and ratified the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), accepting the complaints procedures under the respective instruments. Kazakhstan also signed the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. Kyrgyzstan ratified OPCAT, and Turkmenistan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ By visibly focusing on cases of concern, the regional office drew the attention of national authorities and the international community to these cases and enabled the compilation of substantive reports as a solid basis for advocacy work on individual cases as well as systemic patterns of violations.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The content of replies from governments to the communications of special procedures, and informal consultations with civil society representatives, indicate further assistance is required for more effective use to be made of UN human rights mechanisms. Mechanisms to enable governments to implement the decisions of treaty bodies also require development.
- ▶ Human rights defenders, including in Kyrgyzstan, require more assistance in establishing constructive dialogue with authorities on human rights concerns, as well as in strengthening advocacy strategies and developing a regional network.

- ▶ Further cooperation with international organizations throughout the region can establish synergies in key areas of the regional office's work, including prevention of torture, national preventive mechanism (NPM) establishment and promotion, and support to human rights defenders.
- ▶ Strengthened cooperation with other development agencies and diplomatic community in the region is necessary to ensure a human rights-based approach is incorporated into partners' planning, programming and policymaking.

Regional Office for Central Asia: Expenditures in 2009

	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	329,378	117,046
Consultants	14,625	9,945
Official travel	1,154	17,105
Contractual services	6,400	14,447
General operating expenses	34,348	11,288
Supplies & materials	13,000	586
Seminars, grants & contributions	29,540	366,971
Subtotal	428,445	537,388
Programme support costs	-	69,860
GRAND TOTAL	428,445	607,248



People of Tajikistan's Rudaki district.

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1
Expenditures in 2009	\$375,711

The regional office seeks to address human rights challenges in Europe by integrating UN human rights standards and principles into European Union (EU)-wide internal policies, legislation and implementation measures. It also strives to ensure that these standards and principles are integrated in the EU's external policies and activities, including technical assistance projects, peacekeeping and peace-building operations, development and mediation efforts, and trade initiatives. To these ends, the Office is providing policy advocacy and advisory services and working with governments, parliaments, judicial and national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and UN offices in Brussels. Key regional partners are Brussels-based EU institutions (the Council, Commission and Parliament); the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna; the Council of Europe; and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Activities

- ▶ Organized a UPR seminar bringing together coordinators of national reports from 15 States and civil society organizations. This enabled the States and participants to become better acquainted with the UPR process and facilitated the sharing of best practices on how to organize preparation of national reports.
- ▶ Co-organized, with the European Commission, a seminar on discrimination (based on gender, disability, race) for European institutions, Member States and NGOs, enabling the sharing

of best practices and new developments related to these three areas of discrimination amongst 100 participants.

- ▶ Contributed to human rights seminars organized by others, including on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Millennium Development Goals; the right to water; and on human rights situations outside Europe.
- ▶ Contributed to organization of a special human rights competition and related award as part of an international documentary film festival.

Results

- ▶ Seminars on the UPR and discrimination led to increased understanding amongst participating States, institutions and civil society organizations of the UPR process, its challenges and opportunities, as well as of new challenges in discrimination and best practices on how to tackle them.

Regional Office for Europe: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	122,679
Consultants	-	7,575
Official travel	-	83,689
Contractual services	-	17,958
General operating expenses	-	13,036
Supplies & materials	-	70,911
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	16,640
Subtotal	-	332,488
Programme support costs	-	43,223
GRAND TOTAL	-	375,711



Afghan migrants sheltering in the woods near Dunkerque, northern France.



Roma camp in Italy.

Support to UN Peace Missions

United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

Year established	1996
Year discontinued	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2009	0

The UN Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG), was established on 10 December 1996 following Security Council resolution 1077 of 22 October 1996. Its mandate was to monitor and report on the human rights situation in Abkhazia; to promote respect for human rights and contribute to a safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); and to establish direct contacts with relevant stakeholders and duty bearers so as to improve the human rights situation. In June 2009, following the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and lack of agreement among members of the Security Council regarding its extension, the mission, including HROAG, was closed, leaving Abkhazia without an international human rights presence.

Activities

- ▶ Undertook monitoring and protection activities on the right to non-discrimination, security of the person, freedom of movement and property rights.
- ▶ Provided technical support and advice to civil society on human rights principles and accessing the UN human rights system.
- ▶ Pressed for the inclusion of human rights perspectives into political, humanitarian and security considerations.

Results

- ▶ With its modest resources, HROAG raised the profile of human rights throughout Abkhazia and effectively monitored and protected human rights of people on the ground, intervening not only on general issues but also in individual cases where appropriate.
- ▶ HROAG contributed to the understanding of human rights issues amongst relevant local stakeholders, civil society, international organizations and the donor community, and contributed to the strengthening and networking of civil society. Such impact was confirmed by many different actors in the region who regretted the closure of the presence and consequent loss of protection mechanisms.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ OHCHR continues from headquarters to advocate for appropriate consideration of human rights issues in the context of political discussions related to security and humanitarian arrangements in the South Caucasus (see below, Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams, South Caucasus). Nevertheless, it is difficult without a presence on the ground to sustain the level of awareness of human rights, secure protection and give support to relevant local stakeholders, in particular civil society.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia)

Year established	2006
Staff as of 31 December 2009	7

The senior human rights adviser based in Georgia provides advice to the UN Country Teams, as well as to the governments, national human rights institutions and NGOs, in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Two national human rights officers and two administrative staff in the UN Country Teams in Georgia and Azerbaijan support the senior human rights adviser. Two international human rights officers are planned to be deployed to further enhance the regional scope of the field presence, especially its outreach in Armenia, as well as to bridge some of the monitoring and reporting gaps

left after the discontinuation of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and its human rights component.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical assistance and advice to the Government of Georgia on criminal justice reform. Advised on amendments to the Law on Advocates, the Law on the Public Defender, the Criminal Procedural Code and the Law on Imprisonment, as well as amendments regarding access to education by persons with disabilities (the latter aimed at harmonizing national legislation with requirements of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed by Georgia and in preparation for its ratification).
- ▶ Conducted training in Georgia for 44 local community representatives from conflict-affected villages on the human rights protection system and social assistance mechanisms, legal aspects of domestic violence, access to public information and participation in decision making at local level; for 18 legal professionals and staff from the Office of the Public Defender on international human rights standards; and for 15 judges of first instance and appeals courts and 15 staff responsible for preparing case materials for judges of the Constitutional Court, on the application of international human rights standards by domestic courts. Also organized capacity development of 90 penitentiary staff and social workers on international and regional human rights standards for penitentiary institutions; for 75 members of the Georgian Bar Association on UN complaint procedures; and for 18 journalists on human rights standards related to marginalized and discriminated groups, in particular persons with disabilities, street children and women.
- ▶ Conducted training in Azerbaijan for seven Members of Parliament and 25 parliamentarians' assistants on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), UN human rights complaint procedures and the UPR. Also organized trainings for 32 judges, prosecutors, lawyers and Government staff on human rights and migration; for 23 defence lawyers, NGOs and staff from the office of the Ombudsman on UN complaint procedures; and for 35 media professionals on human rights of marginalized groups and those suffering discrimination.
- ▶ Contributed to the development of new UN Development Assistance Frameworks in

Azerbaijan and Georgia and Common Country Assessment in Azerbaijan.

- ▶ Collaborated with partners to prepare assessments regarding the human rights impact of conflict in Georgia; access to mental health services for IDPs and refugees in Azerbaijan; and the right to work and the right to enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work in Armenia.
- ▶ Translated, printed and distributed a number of human rights publications into the Georgian and Azeri languages, and organized public events on UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures in Azerbaijan. Participated in three broadcasts on the Azeri public TV channel regarding international human rights obligations, the UN human rights protection system and UPR follow-up.
- ▶ Organized a number of activities in Georgia to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including children's drawing and essay contests, a theatre performance for children with disabilities, teacher training and distribution of a 2010 calendar.

Results

- ▶ Georgia signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, following efforts by OHCHR's field presence to mobilize support in collaboration with national partners. Activities such as a roundtable discussion on disability issues, organized by the Office of the Public Defender in cooperation with OHCHR and UNDP and involving the Government, Members of Parliament, NGOs and international organizations, contributed to this achievement.
- ▶ Following advocacy and other initiatives by OHCHR, Azerbaijan ratified OPCAT and signed the Optional Protocol to ICESCR, and the Ombudsman's office was designated as a national preventive mechanism. Also in 2009, the Georgian Parliament assigned the functions of the national preventive mechanism under OPCAT to the Office of the Public Defender and the Interagency Council against Torture. With OHCHR participation, it also drafted national preventive mechanism-related amendments to the Law on the Public Defender.
- ▶ Azerbaijan succeeded in overcoming the backlog in its reporting to the treaty bodies, with the Committee on Migrant Workers, the Human Rights Council, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture considering its

periodic reports in 2009. Two more periodic reports, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, were submitted and are scheduled for consideration in 2010 and 2012. This achievement followed, among other things, OHCHR's technical assistance and advice on periodic reporting.

- ▶ The Government of Georgia took into account most of OHCHR's advice in the criminal justice reform process, producing a strategy and action plans that are largely compliant with Georgia's international obligations and international standards. Specific pieces of legislation, including the Law on Advocates, the Law on the Public Defender, the Criminal Procedural Code and the Law on Imprisonment, were amended and improved as a result, amongst other things, of assistance and advice by human rights adviser and his team.
- ▶ In Azerbaijan and Georgia, a human rights-based approach has been increasingly integrated into UN assessment, policy programming and development planning documents and activities.
- ▶ During the presentation of UPR documents translated into Azeri, government representatives announced plans to create a working group on implementation of UPR recommendations.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Strong potential exists for better linkages between the UPR and preparation of a UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Azerbaijan's UPR attracted significant domestic public interest and coincided with drafting of the Common Country Assessment and prioritization and design of the UNDAF. With the UPR as the focus of public attention, OHCHR was able to include important human rights considerations in both documents.
- ▶ OHCHR's field presence in the South Caucasus faced a significant challenge, in the protracted conflicts with regard to Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Dating back to the aftermath of the Soviet Union's breakup, these conflicts remained unresolved and caused considerable personal security threats and rule of law deficits. With limited or no access for adequate assistance and protection, OHCHR's ability to contribute to improving the human rights situation in these areas remains a particular issue to be addressed.

Albania

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

In May 2009, a human rights adviser was deployed to Albania to assist in building national capacities on human rights and in mainstreaming human rights in the UN Country Team. Albania has been one of eight "Delivering as One" UN pilot countries since late 2007.

Activities

- ▶ Contributed, together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and civil society organizations, to drafting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation later adopted by Parliament.
- ▶ Facilitated the UPR process through coordinating UN Country Team input into the report; undertaking awareness raising within the UN Country Team, European Commission, OSCE, Ombudsman, European Member States and civil society; participating with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ombudsman in a regional meeting on UPR organized by the OHCHR Brussels Office. Publicly screened the webcast of the UPR for representatives of Government, civil society, international organizations and the Ombudsman.
- ▶ Supported the national campaign for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol through leading a training of trainers on the Convention for civil society, facilitating a media sensitization training session, and actively participating in the national conference promoting ratification of the Convention, as well as a WHO conference on mental health.
- ▶ Assisted the UN Country Team working group on gender equality in submitting information to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in preparation for consideration of Albania's third report under the relevant Convention.
- ▶ Celebrated relevant international days, including the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and International Human Rights Day through numerous awareness raising events.

Results

- ▶ A high-quality, comprehensive anti-discrimination draft law was submitted to Parliament, conforming to relevant UN and European norms.
- ▶ Engagement in the follow-up to the UPR review of national actors (primarily Government and non-governmental organizations) increased, as indicated by more than 30 people, including a Deputy Minister, attending a webcast on the UPR.
- ▶ Signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with strong Government engagement to work with the UN Country Team toward future ratification.
- ▶ Credible and useful information provided to, and welcomed by, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ Framework for “A UN Initiative on Social Inclusion in Albania” reflected relevant human rights norms and treaties.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The benefits of human rights mainstreaming are maximized when partner organizations have a strong corporate commitment to promoting UN values and norms.

Kyrgyz Republic

Year established	2007
Year discontinued	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2009	0

The human rights adviser was recruited jointly by the UN Country Team and OHCHR in March 2007. After a mid-term evaluation mission in 2008, it was decided to extend the project for a second year, until 23 March 2009.

Activities

- ▶ Organized workshops on rights-based approaches to HIV/AIDS policy and the human rights of people living with HIV.
- ▶ Gave lectures at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Academy in Bishkek for 23 post-graduate students from the five Central Asian countries on “Election Systems and Political Party Systems.”
- ▶ Conducted a training workshop for the UN Democratic Governance Team on applying a human rights-based approach.



View from the city of Kruja towards Tirana, Albania.

Results

- ▶ The human rights adviser, together with the Ombudsman institution, UNDP, UNIFEM, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNHCR, elaborated a Joint UN Technical Assistance Programme for the Ombudsman institution.
- ▶ The UN Country Team is familiar with the concepts of human rights and the human rights-based approach.
- ▶ UN agencies have broadened the scope of vulnerable groups with which they are working, e.g., persons with disabilities, homeless persons, elderly persons and ethnic minorities.

Republic of Moldova

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

The human rights adviser, deployed to the UN Country Team in July 2008, worked proactively to engage Government and civil society through close collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator and UN agencies, as well as with other relevant actors.

Activities

- ▶ Assisted the strengthening of institutional capacity of the Moldovan Centre for Human Rights, including via regular legal advice, involvement in programmatic training and roundtable work and assistance with an application for accreditation as a national human rights institution.
- ▶ Assisted the national preventive mechanism against torture in gaining access to places of detention during the April unrest.
- ▶ Supported the Special Rapporteur on torture during a September follow-up training visit to assist the national preventive mechanism on Torture, as well as supported law- and policymakers in strengthening the mechanism.
- ▶ Encouraged the UN Country Team to provide input into the Human Rights Committee review of the Republic of Moldova in October and assisted the Committee during the review. Further mobilized the Country Team, civil society, inter-governmental agencies and other relevant actors to provide inputs to consultations held on the country's draft National Human Rights Action Plan and on a draft anti-discrimination bill.
- ▶ Facilitated reporting to Committee against Torture in the framework of the country's review in November, including inputs by the Moldovan Centre for Human Rights.

- ▶ Provided human rights inputs into multiple World Health Organization (WHO) missions concerning tuberculosis treatment and reproductive health issues, and assisted follow-up.
- ▶ Drew attention to assaults on freedom of religion and assembly, threats to media organs and journalists, violence against women, and arbitrary detention and extra-judicial killings, via engagement of relevant special procedures on cases of concern.
- ▶ Organized six training workshops, attended by 152 beneficiaries, on international law in the field of women's rights and the use of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; human rights-based approaches to development; the rights of persons with disabilities; and international legal requirements in the field of racial discrimination.

Results

- ▶ Establishment by the Parliament of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate causes and consequences of the events of April was a result of joint work by a number of actors, including the human rights adviser and the Europe and Central Asia Section in Geneva. Close work with the office of the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner ensured that United Nations and European institutions harmonized approaches toward justice and accountability with respect to abuses.
- ▶ In September, for the first time in the Republic of Moldova, a court issued a protection order for a victim of domestic violence. The act was a result of, amongst other initiatives, training and awareness raising efforts by the United Nations, including OHCHR, together with partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- ▶ The Committee against Torture provided detailed guidance to the Government on improvements needed in the country's national preventive mechanism against torture. This is the result of close work by a number of entities, including the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Sub-committee for the Prevention of Torture, and civil society, facilitated and assisted by the human rights adviser.
- ▶ The Committee against Torture also gave the Government a one-year deadline to report back on efforts to bring the Republic of Moldova's regime for the treatment of tuberculosis into compliance with international human rights law. The action is the result of work by the human rights adviser, together with various WHO and IOM partners, to highlight problematic aspects of policies adopted by the Government in August.

- ▶ Several interventions by the human rights adviser, together with the Children's Rights Ombudsperson, have secured positive outcomes. In one action, the human rights adviser and doctors on a WHO mission identified a family arbitrarily excluded from treatment for tuberculosis. In another, a child victim of serious sexual exploitation in Russian Federation was returned to the Republic of Moldova and is now in protective State care.
- ▶ The Sub-committee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions recommended that the Moldovan Centre for Human Rights be accredited with 'B'-status. The recommendation, which includes a range of suggestions for improvement, follows engagement by the human rights adviser to assist the Centre in applying for national human rights institution status.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ New "win-win" strategies are needed to overcome barriers to human rights protection in key areas, including religious freedom and non-discrimination.
- ▶ Because the Republic of Moldova has long been a closed society, further work is needed to raise awareness and understanding of human rights norms.
- ▶ Further work is needed to strengthen the human rights component of development assistance.

Russian Federation

Year established	2008 (formal establishment/arrival of human rights adviser). Preparatory presence of a national staff since 2006; adoption of cooperation framework in August 2007.
Staff as of 31 December 2009	5

The 2007 OHCHR Framework for Cooperation with Russian Federation is unique in both form and content as a legal basis for OHCHR's activities. It focuses on three main areas: rule of law; equality and tolerance; and education and dissemination of information on human rights. In addition, the human rights adviser promoted a human rights-based approach to programming amongst UN agencies in the country. OHCHR has established close working relations with Government Ministries, the offices of the Commissioners for Human Rights at federal and regional level, the Public Chamber, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

Activities

- ▶ Organized, in collaboration with OHCHR headquarters and the Russian Federation Supreme Court's Academy of Justice, an international expert seminar on the role of administrative justice for the protection of human rights. The event brought together 33 participants, including Russian judges and legal experts, as well as specialists from several European countries, South Africa and Colombia.
- ▶ Established and launched a pilot human rights master's programme at three Moscow universities, with the People's Friendship University of Russia in the lead and with active collaboration of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization in Venice (Italy). Prepared the first comprehensive bibliography of Russian human rights literature.
- ▶ Presented OHCHR and other human rights publications at the International Book Fair in Moscow for the first time in a separate stand, in collaboration with the Centre for Civic Education and Human Rights in Perm (Central Russia).
- ▶ Facilitated training in Moscow and Geneva on UN and national human rights systems for eight representatives of indigenous communities from Russian Federation, under the auspices of OHCHR's Russian-speaking Fellowship Programme. This was achieved in collaboration with the People's Friendship University of Russia, UN agencies and indigenous NGOs.
- ▶ Organized a roundtable to promote tolerance and counter racial/ethnic discrimination, together with the Public Chamber, on the International Day against Racial Discrimination.
- ▶ Conducted two briefing sessions on the outcome of the Russian Federation's UPR, for around 40 civil society representatives in Moscow and Saint Petersburg.
- ▶ Translated into Russian and published/disseminated the OHCHR Handbook for Civil Society.

Results

- ▶ Increased awareness amongst national and local stakeholders on human rights issues, especially through dissemination of publications, briefings and training sessions on human rights standards and mechanisms under the human rights master's programme.
- ▶ Strengthened indigenous communities' ability to realize and claim their individual and collective rights following training for representatives of indigenous peoples.

- ▶ Enhanced knowledge of senior court officials and legal experts on the role of administrative justice, which resulted from, amongst other factors, the international expert seminar on administrative justice organized by the Office.
- ▶ A National Working Group on Juvenile Justice was created as a result of joint efforts, including those of OHCHR, to promote international standards in the administration of justice regarding children.
- ▶ Through a series of briefings, OHCHR was able to enhance partnership with civil society activists and academia for proactive follow-up on recommendations by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council/UPR. Also further strengthened the focus of the UN Country Team on the use of the human rights-based approach.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The main challenge is managing expectations and competing demands, given that a small field presence with limited financial and human resources is working toward achieving strategic goals in a vast country. While the main focus has, of necessity, been on implementing the jointly agreed programme of work set out in the Framework for Cooperation, OHCHR also needs sufficient flexibility to accommodate important internal and external ad hoc requests, creating and using new openings for cooperation, and facilitating activities not specifically set out in the Framework.
- ▶ The outcome of the UPR creates important new opportunities for engagement with national stakeholders and civil society for enhanced human rights work.

Serbia

Year established	Office in 1996 and human rights adviser in 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	2

OHCHR has supported the human rights adviser to the UN Country Team in Serbia since November 2007, after it closed its Office the same year. The adviser works with UN and national partners to improve interaction with the UN human rights system, increase compliance with international human rights standards, and incorporate human rights into UN programming.

Activities

- ▶ Participated in development of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), ensuring that a human rights-based approach was applied and attention given to special procedures and treaty body recommendations.
- ▶ Advised the UN Country Team and individual agencies in specific as well as joint programme development.
- ▶ Supported the work of the UN Country Team thematic groups for Roma and gender issues.
- ▶ Worked with human rights NGOs on promotion of human rights priorities and strategies to address these. Supported and encouraged regional NGO transitional justice initiatives aimed at improving the situation of human rights defenders and anti-discrimination initiatives.
- ▶ Worked with the Office of the Ombudsman and with NGOs on the national preventive mechanism for torture, and with the former on

the International Criminal Court accreditation process.

- ▶ Assisted the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights in reviewing implementation of treaty bodies and special procedures recommendations, with results serving for potential development of a National Human Rights Action Plan. Also assisted the Ministry in identifying priority human rights issues in the country and the ways to address these.
- ▶ Organized missions of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and a representative of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.
- ▶ Accompanied the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for internally displaced persons (IDPs) at relevant Government meetings during the Special Representative's follow-up mission to Serbia.

Results

- ▶ Human rights-sensitive Common Country Assessment and draft UNDAF developed in accordance with human rights-based approach.
- ▶ Better awareness of State officials on UN standards related to “development-based eviction.” Methodological tools developed for UN Country Team monitoring of sites where evicted Roma citizens were relocated by city authorities and follow-up visits to relocation sites conducted.
- ▶ Human rights-sensitive UN initiative on HIV prevention implemented, with participation and commitment of the main religious communities.
- ▶ As a result of public consultations on treaty body reporting, civil society was for the first time included in the process of drafting of State Reports to treaty bodies.
- ▶ Commitment and support of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights to address issues of concern for human rights defenders, e.g., initiative defined to change criminal code to better protect these individuals and institutions.
- ▶ With OHCHR support, participation of the Ombudsman's Office in drafting the Prevention of Torture European Commission Concept Note, and active engagement of the Ombudsman's Office on issues related to “development-based eviction.” Commitment of the Ombudsman to pursue International Criminal Court accreditation, expected in 2010.
- ▶ Recommendations of high-level conferences on treaty body reporting and implementation of treaty bodies under individual complaints procedures have influenced policies of line Ministries in these areas, resulting in adoption of new treaty body reporting and follow-up procedures.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Broad mobilization of a wide range of actors can help dissolve political deadlocks. In the case of a deadlock over relocation of the Gazela informal settlement in Belgrade, the simultaneous engagement of a number of actors helped city authorities to create the political resolve needed to meet basic human rights obligations toward the affected population. Actors involved included UN agencies, Human Rights Council special procedures, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1

The human rights adviser works with UN and national partners to improve interaction with the UN human rights system, increase compliance with international human rights standards, and incorporate human rights into UN programming. In 2009 the human rights adviser worked on anti-discrimination legislation, the country's UPR process, rights of persons with disabilities, and strengthening of national human rights institutions for the prevention of torture.

Activities

- ▶ Contributed to the drafting of a new anti-discrimination law and provided comments on amendments to the Law on the Ombudsman and Law on Free Legal Aid.
- ▶ Organized three stakeholders meetings, a national conference and a workshop, for more than 100 participants, to assist the Government in identifying steps required for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implications on national policies and budget.
- ▶ Contributed to a consultative process, led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and civil society, to put in place the Ombudsman's national preventive mechanism function under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ Organized public events and disseminated information on UPR recommendations, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.
- ▶ Supported a country visit by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

- ▶ Assisted the national non-governmental organization (NGO) coalition in its preparation of alternative reports, due to be considered in 2010, of the country's Periodic Report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Initial Reports under the two optional protocols.
- ▶ Produced a video on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in cooperation with the UN Country Team human rights theme group and a group of students of video arts and gender studies. The video was released on the occasion of International Human Rights Day.

Results

- ▶ The Government committed to provide for an independent anti-discrimination commission as a monitoring and implementation body in the draft anti-discrimination law.
- ▶ Pursuant to sustained OHCHR advocacy, the Government committed to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010 and set up an inclusive ratification and implementation working group that consults representatives of organizations working on disability issues.
- ▶ UPR recommendations became widely known as a result of public presentations on the UPR outcome and other dissemination efforts. This process also helped clarify follow-up priorities and areas where further capacity development is needed.
- ▶ The visit of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, supported by the human rights adviser, helped clarify relevant international human rights law provisions, which contributed to the diffusion of tensions amongst different communities over religious instruction in public schools and the building of religious objects on public land.

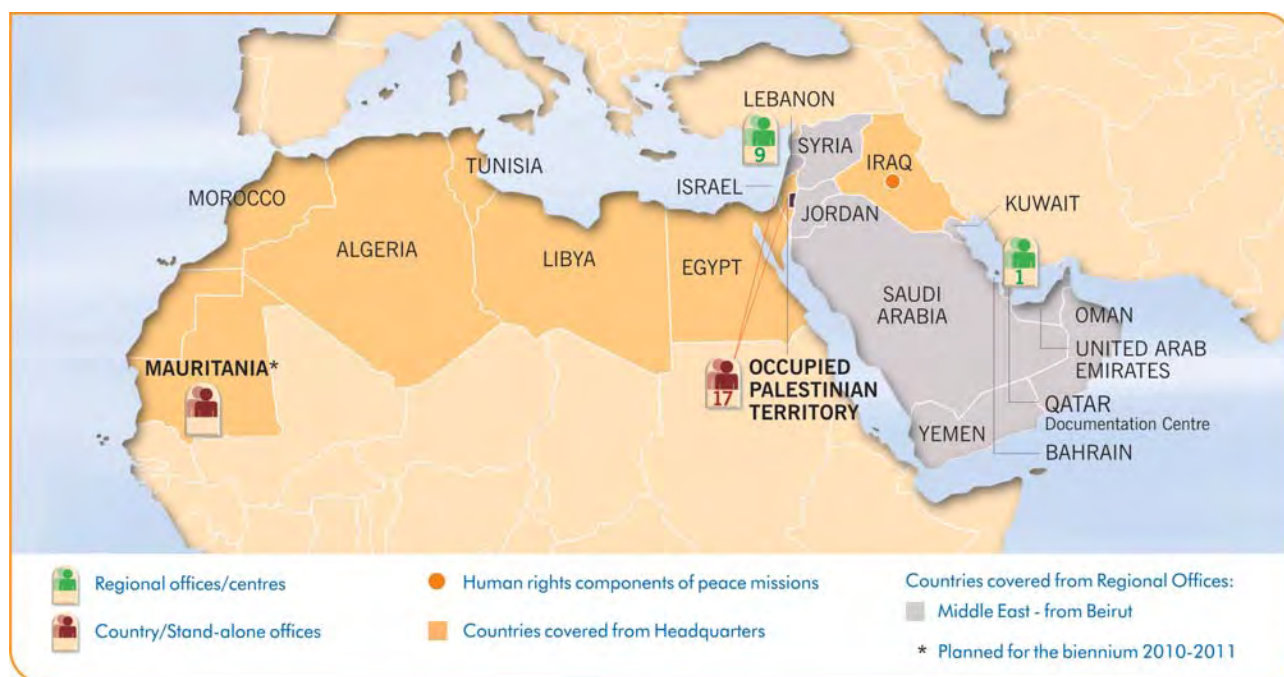
Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The local and presidential elections held in March slowed down some activities because leading officials were occupied with campaigning. This was balanced, however, with intensification of work in the post-election period.
- ▶ The lack of, or inconsistent application of, provisions to ensure transparency and participation in legislative and policymaking processes made it difficult for the human rights adviser to make strategic, timely contributions to these processes. The adviser was able to counteract some of these constraints by participating in deliberations of parliamentary working groups, making written submissions, and inviting key decision makers to public events organized by the UN Country Team.



Kyrgyz family harvesting crops in northern Kyrgyzstan.

OHCHR in the Field: the Middle East and North Africa



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

* Planned for the 2010-2011 biennium

Despite some improvement in human rights in the Middle East and North Africa region, many issues remain to be addressed more systematically. Fragile rule of law institutions and inadequate legal human rights protection mechanisms continued to trigger civil and political rights violations in many countries. This particularly occurred in terms of arbitrary detention and ill-treatment and torture of detainees, but also in relation to violations of freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Discrimination and violence against women persisted, although slight improvements were noted in some areas. The situation of migrant workers, especially domestic workers, remained difficult, and the rights of refugees, children and stateless persons continued to be of concern.

The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and Yemen was characterized by general instability and intermittent large-scale armed engagement that resulted in civilian casualties, displacement and infrastructure destruction, as well as the deepening of humanitarian needs. A large number of civilians were killed and displaced during the December 2008-January 2009 military operation in Gaza. In Yemen, an estimated 200,000 people were reported displaced by renewed clashes in the northern province of Sa'da. Continuous violence and political instability in Iraq presented immense challenges for the Iraqi Government and international and domestic organizations working on human rights, with movements and outreach severely limited. The previously publicized intention by the Government to institute a moratorium on the death penalty was abandoned, and more than 120 death-row inmates were executed during the year.

Some positive developments also were noted: President Mahmoud Abbas declared the Palestinian Authority's adherence to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Kuwaitis elected four women to Parliament for the first time. Lebanon continued to stabilize, and the new Government renewed commitments to progress on human rights issues.

New national human rights institutions were established in Bahrain and Oman, and positive engagement with the Human Rights Council was recorded in the context of the UPR. In Iraq, a Committee of Experts responsible for the selection of Commissioners for the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights was established.

OHCHR has a stand-alone office in oPt, a regional office for the Middle East in Beirut, Lebanon, and the Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha, Qatar, the latter as of May 2009. To celebrate the inauguration, the Centre hosted a training course on international human rights mechanisms, including

the UPR, for countries in the South West Asia and Arab region. OHCHR also supported the work of the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and in September 2009 an agreement was signed with the Government of Mauritania to establish a country office in Nouakchott. Discussions are ongoing regarding the establishment of a regional office for North Africa. A section of ten professional and three administrative staff covered the region from headquarters, monitoring areas of concern, preparing briefing materials and providing substantive and administrative support to field presences and the human rights component in Iraq.

OHCHR in the Middle East and North Africa: Examples of Impact in 2009

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Bahrain**, with support from OHCHR, a law was enacted to establish a national human rights institution.
- ▶ In **Lebanon**, OHCHR assisted the committee responsible for drafting a bill to establish a national preventive mechanism in the context of implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.
- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, OHCHR provided inputs to a drafting committee tasked with revising the penal code in order to sanction crimes committed in the name of "honour."
- ▶ In **Lebanon**, a unified contract for migrant domestic workers was adopted by Ministerial decision with the support of the regional office and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ OHCHR assistance and training helped government representatives from **Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar** and **Syria** in their preparation for the UPR.
- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, Palestinian lawyers received training on how to defend human rights, while a group of 25 Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip became qualified trainers on human rights standards.
- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, OHCHR provided expert technical advice to UNRWA on development of a human rights education curriculum and conducted a training of trainers' course for teachers identified by UNRWA.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, the Independent Commission for Human Rights was accorded 'A'-status by the International Coordinating Committee.
- ▶ New national human rights institutions were established in **Bahrain** and **Oman**, with OHCHR support.

Promoting ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, a decree was signed by President Mahmoud Abbas accepting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Strengthening interaction with United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms:

- ▶ In **Bahrain**, OHCHR supported the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the preparation for the second review cycle of the UPR.

Assisting treaty body reporting and follow-up:

- ▶ OHCHR organized a study tour for new members of the Arab Commission on Human Rights, acquainting them with UN human rights bodies' working methods, rules of procedure and reporting cycle.



Mainstreaming human rights into United Nations system policies and programmes:

- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, OHCHR assisted with the integration of human rights concerns into plans and strategies adopted by the Humanitarian Country Team, including the Common Humanitarian Action Plan and the Needs Analysis Framework; at the same time, the number of human rights projects in the Consolidated Appeal increased.
- ▶ OHCHR's contribution to develop the new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for **Lebanon** (2010-2014) resulted in the inclusion of human rights as one of the five outcomes of the framework, with a special focus on human rights education.

Increasing accountability:

- ▶ In **Bahrain**, an official steering committee was created consisting of relevant Government and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure implementation of pledges during the UPR and to prepare for the next UPR in 2012.
- ▶ With the assistance provided by OHCHR's regional office in **Lebanon**, a regional plan of action was adopted by the human rights department of the League of Arab States.

Stand-alone Office

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Year established	Gaza: 1996; Ramallah: 2000
Staff as of 31 December 2009	17
Expenditures in 2009	\$2,603,905

Context

The Israeli blockade of Gaza is now in its third year, severely impeding enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, most urgently the right to food, movement, water, work, sustainable livelihoods and adequate health care. More than a year after the armed conflict in Gaza, much reconstruction remains at a standstill because of the blockade. Territorial fragmentation of the West Bank continued, and links between East Jerusalem and the West Bank were increasingly obstructed. Human rights developments in East Jerusalem were of particular concern, with many Palestinians forcibly evicted from their homes, which were either demolished or taken over by Israeli settlers. Settler violence against Palestinians persisted. Parties to the Israel-Palestinian conflict engaged in serious violations, such as extra-judicial executions, arbitrary detentions, torture and ill-treatment. The continued stalemate in intra-Palestinian reconciliation efforts negatively affected the human rights situation, with responsible authorities throughout Palestine committing violations. Accountability for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law is the exception. Instead, impunity is the norm, thereby perpetuating the conflict and continued lack of respect for the dignity of all persons.

OHCHR's role

OHCHR is the only UN organization that focuses exclusively on improving the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. Working in partnership with many Palestinian and Israeli human rights NGOs, OHCHR is engaged in monitoring, protection and advocacy work, technical assistance, capacity development and reporting. The Office has adopted a monitoring framework, identified strategic priority areas and collected information on violations by all parties. OHCHR chairs the inter-agency Protection Cluster Working Group and promotes integration of human rights into the work of the UN Country Team. It also co-chairs the inter-agency mechanism for implementing human rights activities agreed in the UN Medium-Term Response Plan. OHCHR further continues to provide substantive and technical support to the Palestinian national human rights institution.

Activities

- ▶ Established a system for monitoring, documenting and reporting human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory. Documented cases of human rights violations by all duty-bearers, which strengthened the ability of the Office to contribute to reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.
- ▶ Chaired the Protection Cluster Working Group, which brings together UN agencies, Palestinian, Israeli and international NGOs, and other international humanitarian and human rights actors.
- ▶ Development of a new, one-year strategy for the Working Group sets out a coordinated approach to protection activities in the occupied Palestinian territory.

- ▶ Participated in the revision of legislation currently applicable in the territory, with a view toward sanctioning crimes committed in the name of “honour.”
- ▶ Convened a human rights film festival in Jerusalem and several locations in the West Bank on International Human Rights Day. OHCHR also distributed public information materials with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights text in Arabic, Hebrew and English. Inaugurated “human rights corners” in public libraries in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- ▶ Conducted promotional and capacity development activities together with the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the Palestinian national human rights institution and other local human rights organizations. These included a training course for Palestinian lawyers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a training of trainers course on human rights standards for 25 journalists in Gaza, and a seminar on economic, social and cultural rights for human rights activists in Gaza.
- ▶ Organized the first conference in Gaza on the death penalty, in partnership with the NGO Palestinian Commission on Human Rights.
- ▶ Conducted an in-depth training course on human rights standards for Palestinian civil court judges, in collaboration with the Jordanian Judicial Council. A full day of this course was dedicated to violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of “honour.”
- ▶ In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education, organized workshops for teachers in the West Bank. The Office also provided support to UNRWA in Gaza to develop a human rights education curriculum, which includes a training for trainers component.



OHCHR human rights summer camps for Palestinian children.

- ▶ As part of an advocacy campaign to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, organized a training course, workshops and children’s activities in Gaza.

Results

- ▶ Establishment of a working group on human rights, governance and rule of law amongst UN agencies has resulted in the inclusion of human rights as a priority issue in the UN Medium-Term Response Plan.
- ▶ Partnerships with human rights defenders and human rights organizations have empowered them in their work. Notably, the Palestinian national human rights institution was upgraded to level ‘A’-status by the International Coordinating Council of national human rights institutions.

Highlighting the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

OHCHR organized a week-long awareness raising campaign throughout the Gaza Strip on the human rights of persons with disabilities. Many Gazans suffer from disabilities, either physical or mental, and often experience social stigma. OHCHR conducted several activities in partnership with local civil society organizations, including: a series of workshops designed to help residents understand international and local standards relating to rights of persons with disabilities; practical advice and support to those with special needs; and entertainment not readily accessible to children with disabilities. A large group of children with disabilities also participated in an event in front of the OHCHR building, widely covered by local and international news media.



- ▶ Human rights education at primary and secondary levels has been advanced, following cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education.
- ▶ Human rights concerns were integrated into plans and strategies adopted by the Humanitarian Country Team, including the Common Humanitarian Action Plan and the Needs Analysis Framework, with the assistance of OHCHR.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The lack of progress in moving toward peace continues to be a fundamental challenge to improving respect for human rights.
- ▶ Absence of reconciliation between various Palestinian political groups poses a further challenge to human rights work, in particular in Gaza.

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,685,925
Consultants	-	25,740
Official travel	-	50,098
Contractual services	-	66,419
General operating expenses	-	140,680
Supplies & materials	-	162,608
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	172,871
Subtotal	-	2,304,341
Programme support costs	-	299,564
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,603,905

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2009	9
Expenditures in 2009	\$950,469

The regional office for the Middle East, in Beirut, covers Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Technical cooperation with governments and civil society in the region

increased in 2009, but continued to be affected by political dynamics that presented a number of human rights challenges.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with UNHCR, worked on organizing a regional expert seminar on the human rights of stateless persons; OHCHR commissioned a review of relevant legislation in six countries, while UNHCR reviewed the situation of stateless persons in the region. The seminar will be held in 2010.
- ▶ Worked to enhance the use of human rights mechanisms by civil society actors, commissioning a study on engagement of NGOs from 22 Arab countries.
- ▶ Organized a panel discussion on discrimination on International Human Rights Day, broadcast on Aljazeera television. The discussion brought together victims of discrimination to share their experiences, including women, persons with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS, refugees, stateless persons, and migrant domestic workers.
- ▶ Organized regional UPR seminars for Government and civil society representatives from Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. The regional office also provided technical assistance and resource persons for four workshops for NGOs in Lebanon; a training session organized by UNDP Bahrain in preparation for the second review cycle; and a UPR workshop for media representatives.
- ▶ Organized a study tour in October for newly elected members of the Arab Commission on Human Rights, acquainting Commission members with the UN human rights bodies' working methods, rules of procedure and reporting cycle.
- ▶ Re-engaged with the secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) to activate the memorandum of intent signed with OHCHR. Presented a workplan and provided technical advice for drafting of a regional plan of action to strengthen human rights culture. The plan was initially adopted by the Permanent Arab Committee on Human Rights and is to be confirmed at the Arab Summit in March 2010.
- ▶ Engaged with Lebanon, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in awareness raising, training and advice on legislation on several issues, including the rights of migrant domestic workers, UN human rights mechanisms, freedom of expression, and media awareness of human rights issues.
- ▶ Supported establishment of a national human rights institution in Bahrain, through the provision of technical advice and comments on

the draft law. Participated in the fifth meeting of the Arab network of national human rights institutions in Amman, Jordan.

- ▶ Assisted in forming and advising a steering committee under the Lebanese Ministry of Justice to develop a draft law establishing a national preventive mechanism. This is required under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which Lebanon ratified in 2008. The draft is expected to go before Parliament in 2010.
 - ▶ Continued to cooperate with Lebanon's Parliamentary Human Rights Committee and UNDP in development of a national plan of action for human rights for Lebanon, providing support and technical advice on human rights standards. The regional office also contributed to a workshop on a proposed action plan for human rights in Jordan.
- ▶ One hundred and thirty civil society representatives from seven countries, representing 37 NGOs and including 20 Bahraini media representatives and 40 Lebanese judges and lawyers, were trained on UN human rights mechanisms, migrant domestic workers, freedom of expression and media awareness of human rights.
 - ▶ Through its contribution to develop the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2010-2014 for Lebanon, OHCHR was instrumental in having one of the five outcomes dedicated to human rights, with a special focus on a UN integrated human rights education campaign. Establishment of working groups – and particularly the Human Rights Working Group – as part of the UN integrated agenda in Lebanon brought a new focus by integrating human rights concerns into the work of the UN Country Team.
 - ▶ A unified contract for migrant domestic workers was adopted in Lebanon by a ministerial decision. The contract provides essential protection standards allowing domestic workers to claim their rights before domestic courts until a new labour law is adopted. In the meantime, the draft law on the protection of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon was finalized with technical advice from OHCHR and ILO.

Results

- ▶ Twenty six Government officials from Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar and Syria benefited from UPR training and in Bahrain, an official steering committee was created by the Government to ensure implementation of recommendations from the UPR and to begin preparations for their second review cycle.



Lebanese farmer checking his sunflower plants in the village of Kfar Kila, southern Lebanon.

Challenges and lessons learned

- Staff capacity and working conditions in Beirut noticeably improved in 2009, enabling the Office to weigh in on regional developments and to facilitate proactive involvement with other countries in the region. New potential areas of engagement, including the UPR, gender issues and economic, social and cultural rights within the region, will be followed up in 2010.

Regional Office for Middle East: Expenditures in 2009		
	Regular budget expenditures in US\$	Extra-budgetary expenditures in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	720,574
Consultants	-	20,200
Official travel	-	50,677
Contractual services	-	3,600
General operating expenses	-	36,631
Supplies & materials	-	9,719
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	(278)
Subtotal	-	841,123
Programme support costs	-	109,346
GRAND TOTAL	-	950,469

Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2009	1
Expenditures in 2009	\$101,514

The Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region, covering 25 countries, was established in May 2009 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/153 of 2005. The Centre will be a repository of written and recorded materials pertaining to human rights and will assist with dissemination of educational materials and establishment of a human rights culture in the region. It is expected to organize regular training courses, seminars and conferences and will offer a combination of electronic/online facilities and services along with the traditional core library services offered by most United Nations system libraries.



High Commissioner and His Excellency Ahmad Bin Abdullah Bin Z. Al-Mahmoud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, open the Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre in Qatar, May 2009.

Activities

- Organized its first training course on the UN human rights mechanisms, including the UPR, for state officials and members of civil society. The objective was to raise awareness of these mechanisms and to facilitate information sharing amongst representatives of States, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders.

Support to UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2009	23

Human rights officers deployed as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) monitor and investigate human rights violations by all parties to the conflict in Iraq; they also undertake capacity development activities with Iraqi institutions and civil society. Although the general level of violence decreased markedly in 2009, large-scale attacks targeting civilians and Government forces continued to occur, particularly in Baghdad and Kirkuk. As of the end of 2009, 23 personnel were attached to the UNAMI Human Rights Office, based in Baghdad, Erbil, Kirkuk and Basra, Iraq, and in Amman, Jordan.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with UNODC and UNOPS, held a specialized workshop in Baghdad for selected members of the Council of Representatives, covering the global legal framework against terrorism and in favour of internationally recognized human rights standards.
- ▶ In collaboration with UNOPS, held a national conference on strategies to promote women's rights in Iraq, with participation of high-level Iraqi officials, regional experts and civil society organizations.
- ▶ Commissioned two research studies on public perceptions of violence in the name of "honour" in Kurdistan and on the situation of women belonging to minority groups in Iraq.
- ▶ In cooperation with UNOPS and the International Commission for Missing Persons, trained personnel of the Ministry of Human Rights in techniques for excavation and exhumation of human remains and provided necessary equipment to carry out such work.
- ▶ In collaboration with UNOPS, actively supported the Government and a network of civil society organizations to prepare timely submissions for the UPR by organizing study tours and providing specialized training and technical advice.
- ▶ Trained members of 40 human rights civil society organizations in monitoring, reporting and drafting techniques.
- ▶ Produced a manual on international humanitarian law for the Ministry of Defence.

Results

- ▶ Two biannual public human rights reports by the Human Rights Office covered a wide spectrum of human rights issues, providing one of the few sources of reliable documentation on the human rights situation in the country.
- ▶ A Committee of Experts was established to design and implement selection procedures for the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq, involving partnership amongst the Human Rights Office, OHCHR, the Iraqi Council of Representatives, civil society and other stakeholders.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The security situation continued to impede the work of UNAMI's human rights officers, severely limiting their movement within Iraq and their ability to access information or engage in advocacy and effective human rights promotion. Human rights officers thus continued to operate from four in-country offices (Baghdad, Erbil, Kirkuk, Basra), with infrequent visits to other parts of the country. Dependency on UNAMI's limited resources in the four offices made it challenging for the Human Rights Office to bring in the necessary experts, liaise with counterparts more regularly and conduct training inside Iraq. An increasing number of training courses are, however, taking place in Erbil; more needs to be done to create the same capacity in Baghdad.



Rapid Response and Support for Peace Missions

Context

A recurrent challenge for OHCHR is to ensure its capacity to take action on emerging human rights situations that warrant prompt operational responses. These can vary from the inception of new peace missions or the opening of new field presences to crises that prompt UN legislative bodies to establish fact-finding or inquiry missions or that demand a complex humanitarian response. Inevitably, the success of such endeavours depends to a very large extent on the timeliness and quality of initial deployment and on the cohesion and coordination of actors on the ground.

In addition to maintaining an internal preparedness capacity, OHCHR works in partnership with other UN departments, agencies and programmes. The first efforts at integration of human rights in peace missions date from the 1990s. As the United Nations evolves toward a “One UN” approach to country situations, OHCHR is further strengthening partnerships in the peace and security area, with a focus in 2009 on special political missions, and is forging new alliances in the area of humanitarian preparedness and response.

Activities

- ▶ Supported the Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1 (January-October), as well as the International Commission of Inquiry on Guinea, established by the Secretary-General (November-December).
- ▶ Following the June coup in Honduras and at the request of the UN Resident Coordinator, deployed a human rights officer who provided assessments to OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator as well as advice on action to the UN Country Team. To comply with Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/12/14, OHCHR in October deployed a three-member mission to Honduras to prepare a report on the human rights situation covering the period June-November.
- ▶ Deployed two staff to strengthen management of the OHCHR Office in Gaza/West Bank in the aftermath of the December 2008-January 2009 conflict in Gaza and to comply with Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1. This occurred pending the arrival of the appointed Head of Office and of additional long-term staff whose recruitment was initiated in fulfilment of the same Human Rights Council resolution.
- ▶ As the political crisis deepened in Madagascar, and with the support of the UN Country Team, deployed a two-member team in August-October to strengthen national human rights protection and promotion capacities. The mission also identified capacity building needs for both civil society actors and the justice sector as well as the pressing need for the re-establishment of an independent and effective Madagascar Human Rights Commission. Based on the mission’s recommendations, OHCHR hopes to establish an ongoing presence in Madagascar.
- ▶ Following consultations with the Government of Gabon, deployed a team of four human rights officers in August-September to monitor the human rights situation during the presidential electoral period. The elections did not suffer major disruptions. Government officials demonstrated a high degree of cooperation with OHCHR and transparency in providing information.
- ▶ Fielded rapid response missions or mobilized surge capacity in support of OHCHR field presences and the UN Country Team in Iraq (November).
- ▶ Maintained an internal rapid response roster activated on seven occasions, with a total of 40 staff deployed, and managed the contingency fund, which supported missions in Gabon, Madagascar and Honduras.
- ▶ With the Department of Political Affairs, jointly assessed the integration of human rights in special political missions, which entailed joint missions to Dakar (UNOWA), Nairobi (UNPOS) and Baghdad (UNAMI), as well as a desk review of UNOGBIS (Guinea Bissau).
- ▶ Reviewed the joint OHCHR/Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Political



Roadside demonstration in Nepal monitored by OHCHR staff.

Affairs Policy Directive on public reporting by human rights components of UN peace operations, issued in July 2008.

- ▶ Facilitated the selection process of three Heads of Human Rights Components in peace missions, and the identification of candidates to cover 53 posts in seven missions. In addition, it completed the evaluation of 204 candidates for the roster of professional human rights officers and of 120 UN Volunteers. Assisted the Department of Field Support in relocation of professionals from missions that downsized or closed, and initiated preparatory work for new automated assessment tools for applicants to the human rights roster in peace missions. A benchmark study to analyze the staffing structure and composition of optimal human rights components in peace missions was completed.
- ▶ Supported the integration of human rights in the work of UN peace missions, including through the definition of policy and guidance. Notably, provided input to drafting of headquarters and field-level guidelines on the Integrated Mission Planning Process, including on the Integrated Strategic Framework.
- ▶ Supported and guided colleagues in headquarters and field presences engaged in humanitarian emergencies, including through support missions to OHCHR West Africa regional office, to the Office in the occupied Palestinian territory and to the Central Asia regional office.

Results

- ▶ Recommendations of the report of the Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (A/HRC/12/48) were endorsed at a Special Session in October of the Human Rights Council, which called for their implementation (A/HRC/RES/S-12/1). In November, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report on implementation of certain recommendations in the report (resolution 64/10). The Secretary-General has transmitted the report to the Security Council.
- ▶ Upon receipt of the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on Guinea, the Secretary-General forwarded it to the Government of Guinea, Africa Union and Economic Commission of West African States. In December, it also was transmitted to the Security Council. The report also featured in the Report of the Secretary-General on the UN Office for West Africa (S/2009/682) in which the Secretary-General endorsed its recommendations.
- ▶ The internal review of the joint OHCHR/Department of Political Affairs/Department of Peacekeeping Operations Policy Directive on public reporting on human rights by peace missions permitted identification of substantive and procedural issues pertaining to the directive's implementation, as well as possible solutions. These will be submitted for discussion to both Departments in 2010.

- ▶ Increased knowledge and awareness on OHCHR's role in humanitarian action resulted in enhanced engagement by its field presences in 2009, when OHCHR played a lead or co-lead role in the Protection Clusters/Sectors in Afghanistan, Fiji (regional), Haiti, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, the occupied Palestinian territory, Samoa, and Timor-Leste.
- ▶ The online version of the generic human rights case management database is ready for rollout to the field, and work has begun on development of an offline version for use in areas with poor Internet connectivity.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Although OHCHR was able to respond to all missions requested, the reliance of various organs of the United Nations (Human Rights Council, Secretary-General) on the fact-finding and investigative services of OHCHR nearly saturated its rapid response capacity in 2009. If this trend continues, OHCHR may be unable to absorb additional responsibilities in this area without a parallel increase in human, operational and financial resources.
- ▶ Following lessons learned from previous deployments, the appointment of full-time information/media and political officers for complex missions is now included in mission plans from inception. In 2009, these specialists were able to relieve other staff of tasks for which they are not explicitly trained. This calls for the future inclusion of media/public information specialists as well as political officers in internal and external OHCHR rosters.
- ▶ In the context of peace missions, the use of policy frameworks and New York-based planning processes to promote effective integration of

human rights within missions and UN Country Teams at field level represents a continuing challenge. Support to implementation of the Integrated Mission Planning Process, including development of country Integrated Strategic Frameworks, is key in this regard and can serve as a tool to enhance the protection of human rights. Efforts to bridge the gap between the peace and security, development and humanitarian agendas, and to promote human rights norms and standards within UN programming, also can be furthered if OHCHR maximizes its unique position within missions, UN Country Teams and Humanitarian Country Teams.

- ▶ OHCHR remains relatively unknown as a "humanitarian actor" and is often misunderstood in terms of the added value it brings to the overall response. This, in turn, affects the level of support and funding the Office receives for its engagement in this field. Increased attention to better define OHCHR's role and added value, as well as to promote the complementarity of human rights and humanitarian action, is intrinsic to more effective engagement.

Financing Rapid Response Activities

With the aim of creating a readily available funding pool for rapid response activities, OHCHR established a Contingency Fund in 2006. The Fund operates on a "revolving" basis - that is, it may be used at short notice to pay for deployment of personnel and other expenses associated with rapid response activities, and then replenished as and when donors willing to cover the cost are identified. As of 31 December 2009, the fund stood at US\$1,101,128.

Supporting National Human Rights Institutions and Regional Mechanisms

Context

Independent and effective national human rights institutions are keystones of strong national human rights systems, playing an important role in domestic implementation of international human rights norms and standards. OHCHR works in close collaboration with these national institutions and regional networks of such institutions, as well as with governments and NGOs, in establishing and strengthening national institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

In February 2009, OHCHR expanded its focus to include support for regional human rights mechanisms as well. Since then, the Office has been adopting effective working methods for Office-wide engagement and cooperation; for developing expertise on key regional concepts and capacity development issues; and for provision of expertise and assistance to regions initiating such arrangements. Greater partnerships within the United Nations system and with relevant external partners are being established. As a result of an October Human Rights Council resolution on regional human rights arrangements (A/HRC/RES/12/15), OHCHR will hold regular international workshops for all stakeholders to facilitate sharing of information and concrete proposals on regional human rights mechanisms, thereby strengthening cooperation and identifying strategies to overcome challenges. The Office held three preparatory regional consultations in November and December 2009, in preparation for the international workshop of May 2010.

At country level, OHCHR engagement continues to be directed at strengthening protection systems through national human rights institutions. Particular focus is given to raising awareness about the fact that an effective national institution is a critical benchmark of success for OHCHR's work in any country. This has been underscored by the Secretary-General's report to the 64th session of the

General Assembly, in which he encourages national institutions to play an active role in the international human rights system, especially in the Human Rights Council and its UPR, the special procedures and human rights treaty bodies. A General Assembly resolution (A/RES/63/172), adopted in March, acknowledges the role of national institutions in the strengthening of the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights in all sectors.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical cooperation and capacity development, amongst other initiatives, to establishment and strengthening of national institutions in: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Belize, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe. This was largely provided through OHCHR headquarters and field presences, other UN agencies and regional networks of national institutions.
- ▶ Acted as the secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as its Sub-committee on Accreditation. This included support to the Coordinating Committee's XXII Annual Meeting in March, the Bureau Meeting in November, and the two sessions of the Subcommittee on Accreditation in March and November. Likewise, it included advice to national institutions of Cape

Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Sudan (Southern Sudan) and Tunisia on submission of their accreditation applications to the Coordinating Committee.

- ▶ Supported national institutions in interacting with the Human Rights Council, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures, by facilitating their participation in these procedures, processing documentation and supporting the representative of the International Coordinating Committee in Geneva. The Office also supported participation of national institutions in the Durban Review Conference, including by providing financial assistance to 'A'-status institutions; representatives of 39 national institutions from all regions participated in the Conference.
- ▶ Assisted the strengthening of national institutions' involvement in the UPR mechanism by providing training for staff from national institutions of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Nicaragua, Peru, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. These training sessions were organized in cooperation with UNDP, the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas, and Rights and Democracy. OHCHR encouraged national institutions to submit information for the UPR stakeholders' report; in 2009, 11 national institutions did so.
- ▶ At regional and sub-regional levels, provided financial and technical support to the Eighth General Assembly of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, held in Madrid on 29 October. Co-organized the seventh Regional Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions, held in Rabat on 3-5 November, and engaged in developing a sub-regional network of national institutions in West Africa. Co-organized a workshop on the establishment of national human rights mechanisms in the Pacific, held in Samoa on 27-29 April. Co-sponsored the 14th annual meeting of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, held in Amman on 3-6 August. Also co-organized the fifth Conference of national institutions in the Arab region, held in Amman on 8-9 March.
- ▶ Held three preparatory consultations on enhancing cooperation between regional and international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights for Africa, the Americas and Europe, in November and December.

- ▶ Hosted fellows from two 'A'-status national institutions, El Salvador and Togo, under a fellowship programme that enables the gaining of knowledge and experience in the UN human rights system. For its part, OHCHR has gained substantive expertise as well as strengthened contacts with staff of national institutions.

Results

- ▶ Laws on establishment of national institutions in Chile and Mali were adopted in late 2009, following OHCHR assistance in implementing UPR recommendations. Further assistance in this regard also was given to Belize. An OHCHR review of relevant draft or existing laws is leading to the appointment of commissioners in Liberia and Sudan. Laws also were reviewed in Bahrain and Burundi.
- ▶ Through active support to five regional conferences of national institutions in Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, West Africa and the Arab Region, the Office strengthened the capacity of national institutions in the areas of peace and justice; human rights defenders; economic, social and cultural rights; the impact of corruption on the realization of human rights; migration; and elections and human rights.
- ▶ An average of 20 national institutions participated in each session of the Human Rights Council, presenting statements, submitting written documentation, participating in debates and interacting with special procedures mandate-holders.
- ▶ A further tool for the institutions themselves is a Guidance Note on national institutions and transitional justice, developed in consultation with national institutions. It describes challenges and opportunities, highlights applicable international standards and makes recommendations on dealing with transitional justice issues.
- ▶ The International Coordinating Committee's Sub-committee on Accreditation reviewed 17 national institutions, out of which nine were granted 'A'-status, which entitles them to speak at the Human Rights Council sessions and sessions of human rights treaty bodies, as well as to submit documentation with an official UN document symbol for the Council sessions. Six received 'B'-status and one 'C'-status. The consideration of one institution was deferred to 2010. (One national institution was downgraded from A to B status, while three were upgraded to A).

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ An analysis of responses to a survey on national institutions further identified challenges and weaknesses, including lack of adequate funding and a need for technical assistance on organizational and resource management; knowledge of the international human rights system; relationship with public bodies and civil society; and effective follow-up by governments to recommendations. The survey also provided an interesting diagnosis of gaps and areas of assistance for action by OHCHR, UNDP, donors and regional coordinating bodies.
- ▶ A greater understanding of national institutions by UN Country Team staff is vital to ensure a system-wide UN approach that leads to coordinated responses to strengthen national human rights systems.
- ▶ Strengthened cooperation amongst national institutions, judiciary, parliaments, civil society and the United Nations system is critical to ensure national ownership and long-term sustainability of the promotion and protection of human rights at country level.
- ▶ Tailor-made capacity development is essential to promote greater compliance of national institutions with the Paris Principles and General Observations of the Sub-committee on Accreditation.
- ▶ General Observations of the Sub-committee on Accreditation highlight the importance of national institutions engaging with the international human rights system, in particular, the Human Rights Council, special procedures and treaty bodies, by providing information and following up on recommendations by these mechanisms and bodies.



Humanitarian Funds



Humanitarian Funds

OHCHR acts as the secretariat to three humanitarian trust funds: the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. Each was established by a resolution of the General Assembly with the purpose of making funds available to support individuals, organizations and activities to advance specific human rights issues. Each is governed by a Board of Trustees that distributes the funds through grants, in accordance with the fund's mandate. In 2009, 38 Member States and a handful of private donors made contributions to these three funds totalling US\$12 million, a slight decrease of 5.5 per cent from 2008.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established in 1981, helps to ease the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The Fund gives grants to organizations that offer psychological, medical and social assistance as well as legal aid and financial support. It also finances training programmes, seminars and conferences, allowing health professionals, social workers and lawyers to exchange experiences and develop new strategies to address the needs of torture victims. The Fund's five-person Board of Trustees advises the Secretary-General on the use of funds; it meets twice yearly to determine priorities, review workings of the Fund and make decisions on grants. In 2009, the Fund received about US\$10.9 million in voluntary contributions from 31 donors (including 30 Member States).

Activities

- ▶ Examined and evaluated more than 225 grant applications seeking more than US\$15 million in support.
- ▶ Awarded grants to 195 projects, amounting to about US\$10.6 million for activities directly assisting victims of torture and their families, as well as for training and seminars for professionals assisting victims.
- ▶ Pre-screened new applications to verify the background, mission and track record of

applicant organizations. Evaluated the admissibility of projects, including by requesting recommendations from OHCHR colleagues and representatives of UN partners based in the field, along with undertaking visits to new applicants.

- ▶ Monitored funded projects, including through field visits to assess implementation in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Cambodia, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, India, People's Republic of China, Peru, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Results

- ▶ Grants awarded by the Board in 2009 directly assisted victims of torture in more than 65 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Following a recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, more than 50 per cent of grants went to projects in Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.
- ▶ The transition from a paper-based to an electronic grant system was completed for both the application and reporting processes.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ An extremely limited number of applications is received every year from certain regions, including Central Asia and Portuguese-speaking Africa. The Board has identified the need to attract applications from these regions and steps are being taken to this end, including accepting communications in Russian.

Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established in 1991 to provide financial assistance to grassroots non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery. This includes serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking of women and children, child labour and forced



Demonstration in Kenya to mark the UN International Day against Torture, June 2009.

marriage. The Fund provides direct, concrete assistance to victims, including legal and psychological support, housing, food and medical care. It also supports vocational and education programmes for victims and helps them recover financial autonomy through income-generating activities. The Fund is administered by OHCHR on behalf of the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. In 2009 the Fund received US\$886,482 in voluntary contributions from 13 donors (including 12 Member States).

Activities

- ▶ Evaluated 274 applications for grants from 77 countries seeking about US\$4 million in support.
 - ▶ Approved 63 project grants totalling US\$723,000 for projects providing assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery.
 - ▶ The Board introduced a new funding cycle, adopted new policies and guidelines, and implemented a new framework for monitoring of projects as well as a pre-screening policy for new applicants.
 - ▶ Liaised with OHCHR field presences and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to ensure effective project implementation and monitoring.
- ▶ Developed new methodological and promotional tools recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), such as a new website, evaluation forms and a directory of NGOs working on contemporary forms of slavery.

Results

- ▶ The number of grant applications doubled in 2009 as compared to 2007, and the projects supported were spread more widely around the world than before. Grants awarded directly assisted victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 45 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.
- ▶ Coordination was improved between the Fund and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children; and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Implementation of the OIOS recommendations contributed to enhanced visibility, effectiveness and impact of the Fund and reinforced the role of the Board of Trustees.
- ▶ The significant increase in the number of grant applications over the past year created additional challenges regarding processing and implementation.
- ▶ Because of the increasingly large gap between grant requests and funds available, only a small proportion of applications can be accepted and many valuable initiatives go unfunded.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The Fund for Indigenous Populations was established in 1985 with the purpose of providing indigenous peoples the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities at the international level and to contribute to development of international standards and national legislation for the protection of their rights. The fund is administered by OHCHR on behalf of the Secretary-General on the advice of the five-member Board of Trustees. The Board meets annually to determine priorities, review the work of the Fund, and approve grants in the form of travel subsidies for representatives of indigenous peoples around the world. In 2009 the Fund received US\$257,769 in voluntary contributions from 12 donors (including 11 Member States).

Activities

- ▶ Examined 686 applications from 60 countries, amounting to about US\$2.7 million in support.
- ▶ Awarded 111 travel grants, amounting to US\$415,000, to allow representatives of indigenous peoples and organizations to attend the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the second session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ▶ Developed additional evaluation procedures and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that participation of grantees benefited their communities and contributed to operationalizing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at national level.

Results

- ▶ As a result of efforts to increase the geographic diversity of applicants, a greater number of applications were received from underrepresented regions.
- ▶ A network of beneficiaries of the Fund was established to share best practices and build upon each others' experiences.
- ▶ Following their participation in the session of the Permanent Forum and Expert Mechanism, indigenous peoples launched new projects with NGOs, opened dialogue with their respective governments and national institutions, and followed up on recommendations by special procedures mandate-holders and treaty bodies.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Consideration is being given to an expansion of the mandate of the Voluntary Fund to enable indigenous peoples to attend sessions of treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council.



Datu Cosme Lambayon, an indigenous representative of the Matigsalug Manobo tribe in Philippines, participated in the second session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, August 2009.

Examples of Support by the Humanitarian Funds

Torture

- In South Africa, a project provided social, psychological and mental health assistance to women and child refugees from Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Preference is given to newly arrived asylum seekers. Beneficiaries receive food and temporary shelter as well as assistance in finding jobs and vocational training. A child care centre is made available for children up to age 7, thereby allowing mothers time to pursue work opportunities.
- A project in the United Kingdom specialized in providing judicial review, mainly at national level, of death sentences in Commonwealth countries of Africa and the Caribbean. Benefiting from a network of local partners whom they train, the small organization implementing the project has managed to change the jurisprudence regarding death penalty in a number of countries. In particular, it has focused on cases of prolonged detention on death row, a practice considered by international jurisprudence to be tantamount to torture under certain circumstances.
- An association of families of disappeared in the Indian Himalayas was supported through psychological assistance to its members as well as documentation

of cases of torture and disappearance. The project brings together parents of victims of enforced disappearance in a forum for mutual support, documentation of events and legal counselling.

Slavery

- As a follow-up to the visit to Haiti of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, four project grants were provided to grassroots Haitian NGOs to combat child labour and provide assistance and support to child domestic workers and their families.
- Emergency shelters were supported in Azerbaijan, Iran, Spain, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, United States of America, Mexico and Lebanon providing accommodation, medical care, food, psychological assistance, counselling and protection to victims of bonded labour, forced marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation. Rehabilitation programmes and centres were established in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal for children working in the construction sector.
- Two projects in the Amazon region provided legal assistance and support to victims of forced labour and escaped slaves from ranches and farms.

- In Pakistan, food, psychiatric support, medical care, equipment and educational materials, skills training, rehabilitation and reintegration services were provided to 187 children who had been trafficked to the Gulf States to be used as camel jockeys and were subsequently repatriated to Pakistan. Many of these children were subject to electric shocks, beatings and other ill-treatment.

Indigenous populations

- Mr. Datu Cosme Lambayon, an indigenous representative of the Matigsalug Manobo tribe in Philippines, was able to participate in the second session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in August in Geneva. He took full advantage of this unique opportunity, meeting with a range of indigenous and government representatives and raising issues related to the right to education in his community. He also played a central role in the OHCHR celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, leading the event as its master of ceremonies. Datu has now returned to the Philippines, where he is putting his newly enhanced human rights skills and networks into practice by pursuing human rights training and other activities for the benefit of his community.



859,165
10,076
1,552,536

534,006
15,870
882,017

460,606

27,882,383

1,467,808 1,767,395 1,295,199 1,107,994

9,938,516

51,929 695,190 5,013

17,943,867

14,333.4 6,788.2 7,654.5 6,898.9
14,553.4 6,788.6 7,654.3 6,898.8

7,672.8 3,594.8 3,242.7 4,155.9
1,533.8 407.3 725.8 829.7

1,087.8 755.2 896.0 4,021.8
1,238.0 1,709.7 394.2 840.4

2,821.2 722.5 1,226.2 1,946.1
2,492.9 873.9 492.9 2,000.0

5,806.0 4,153.6 4,124.5 5,683.5
1,312.3 722.3 724.0 788.0

652.1 245.4 329.3 324.8
1,037.9 496.7 284.0 747.9

1,011.2 293.3 401.8 809.8
4,469.7 1,877.4 2,018.9 2,803.8

874.3 196.3 187.1 220.7
590.9 332.5 194.8 319.6

1,394.1 (185.6) 722.8 854.3
21,485.9 8,296.5 6,588.2 12,823.7

7,558.7 2,879.7 2,979.4 4,643.9
1,640.4 109.0 235.9 874.5

513.5 376.9 287.6 428.6
282.0 4,296.2 5.0 250.0

6,788.6	7,654.5	6,898.9	
6,788.6	7,654.5	6,898.9	
3,594.6	3,242.7	4,155.9	
407.3	725.8	829.7	
755.2	896.0	4,021.8	
1,709.7	394.2	840.4	
722.5	1,226.2	1,946.1	
873.9	492.9	2,000.0	
4,153.6	4,124.5	5,683.5	
722.3	724.0	788.0	
652.1	245.4	324.8	
1,037.9	496.7	747.9	
1,011.2	293.3	809.8	
4,469.7	1,877.4	2,803.8	
874.3	196.3	220.7	
590.9	332.5	319.6	
1,394.1	(185.6)	854.3	
21,485.9	8,296.5	12,823.7	
7,558.7	2,879.7	4,643.9	
1,640.4	109.0	874.5	
513.5	376.9	428.6	
282.0	4,296.2	250.0	

Financial Statements

for year ending 31 December 2009



Statement of income and expenditure in 2009

Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

This statement indicates total funds available for activities in 2009, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during 2009 and total balance as at 31 December 2009

	Extrabudgetary	Regular Budget	Total
SUMMARY *			
Opening balance ¹	107,370,024	(748,163)	106,621,861
Adjustment ²	(606,097)	-	(606,097)
Income from contributions / Allotments ³	118,109,378	66,153,700	184,263,078
Other income available ⁴	5,856,425	-	5,856,425
Total funds available ⁵	230,729,730	65,405,537	296,135,267
Expenditure ⁶	95,103,608	63,713,680	158,817,288
Closing balance ⁷	135,626,122	1,691,857	137,317,979

Notes:

- 1) The amount corresponds to the closing balance reported for the activity in the 2008 Report on Activities and Results.
- 2) Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure, savings, transfers and refunds.
- 3) For extrabudgetary, includes all contributions received at UNOG for 2009. For Regular Budget, corresponds to the amount allotted to OHCHR for 2009.
- 4) Includes interest and miscellaneous income.
- 5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4).
- 6) Includes disbursements and unliquidated obligations as at 31 December 2009.
- 7) The extrabudgetary amount corresponds to all funds held by UNOG as at 31 December 2009 including operating cash reserves of US\$ 12.7 million and reserves for allocations of US\$ 0.4 million which were not available for activities in 2009.

* All figures are subject to audit.

Statement of extrabudgetary income and expenditure in 2009

Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights by trust fund

This statement indicates total funds available for activities in 2009, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during 2009 and total balance as at 31 December 2009

	VF for victims of torture	VTF on contemporary forms of slavery	VF for indigenous populations	VF for participation in the universal periodic review	VF for financial and technical assistance for the universal periodic review implementation	TF for action to combat racism and racial discrimination	VF for advisory services and technical assistance in human rights (VFTC)	TF for human rights education in Cambodia	TF for support activities of OHCHR	Total OHCHR trust funds
SUMMARY *										
Opening balance ¹	17,943,867	1,415,879	1,071,205	1,291,180	0	940,096	12,108,096	1,729,022	70,870,679	107,370,024
Adjustment ²	0	0	(19,084)	(300,000)	300,000	0	0	0	(587,013)	(606,097)
Income from contributions ³	10,900,323	886,482	257,769	518,410	235,326	519,435	20,434,056	150,000	84,207,577	118,109,378
Other income available ⁴	270,056	53,059	23,700	34,384	4,139	28,146	900,388	46,120	4,496,433	5,856,425
Total funds available ⁵	29,114,246	2,355,420	1,333,590	1,543,974	539,465	1,487,677	33,442,540	1,925,142	158,987,676	230,729,730
Expenditure ⁶	12,009,963	742,915	299,547	249,931	0	657,143	14,110,939	463,197	66,569,973	95,103,608
Closing balance ⁷	17,104,283	1,612,505	1,034,043	1,294,043	539,465	830,534	19,331,601	1,461,945	92,417,703	135,626,122

Notes:

- 1) Corresponds to the closing balance reported for the activity in the 2008 Report on Activities and Results.
- 2) Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure, savings, transfers and refunds.
- 3) Includes all contributions received in the UNOG accounts during 2009.
- 4) Includes interest and miscellaneous income.
- 5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4).
- 6) Includes disbursements and unliquidated obligations as at 31 December 2009.
- 7) Corresponds to all funds held by UNOG as at 31 December 2009 including operating cash reserves of US\$ 12.7 million and reserves for allocations of US\$ 0.4 million which were not available for activities in 2009.

* All figures are subject to audit.

OHCHR regular budget expenditure in 2008-2009 by programme (in thousands of US\$)

	Allotment 2008	Expenditure 2008	Allotment 2009	Expenditure 2009
Headquarters				
Executive Direction and Management	6,219.6	6,287.7	6,881.2	6,569.3
Policy-making Organs	5,415.2	5,518.8	4,821.1	4,543.2
Programme of Work				
Subprogramme 1: Research and Right to Development Division	8,653.9	8,820.7	10,589.8	10,169.1
Subprogramme 2: Human Rights Treaties Division	8,991.3	10,897.4	14,161.3	12,177.3
Subprogramme 3: Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division	8,601.2	9,031.4	11,607.2	10,859.5
Subprogramme 4: Special Procedures Division	5,456.8	5,008.6	6,950.1	7,138.3
Total Programme of Work - Headquarters	31,703.2	33,758.1	43,308.4	40,344.2
Programme Support and Management Services	5,037.9	5,095.9	6,041.9	5,832.8
Sub-total Headquarters	48,375.9	50,660.5	61,052.6	57,289.5
Support to field presences				
Subprogramme 3: Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division */	4,538.8	3,461.8	3,532.6	4,602.3
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (sec.22) Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities	1,571.1	1,111.7	1,568.5	1,821.9
Sub-total Support to field presences	6,109.9	4,573.5	5,101.1	6,424.2
GRAND TOTAL	54,485.80	55,234.0	66,153.7	63,713.7

*/ Includes Cambodia, Yaoundé Sub-regional Centre, Regional Offices in Panama, Dakar, Bishkek, Santiago de Chile.

Extrabudgetary income and expenditure in 2008-2009

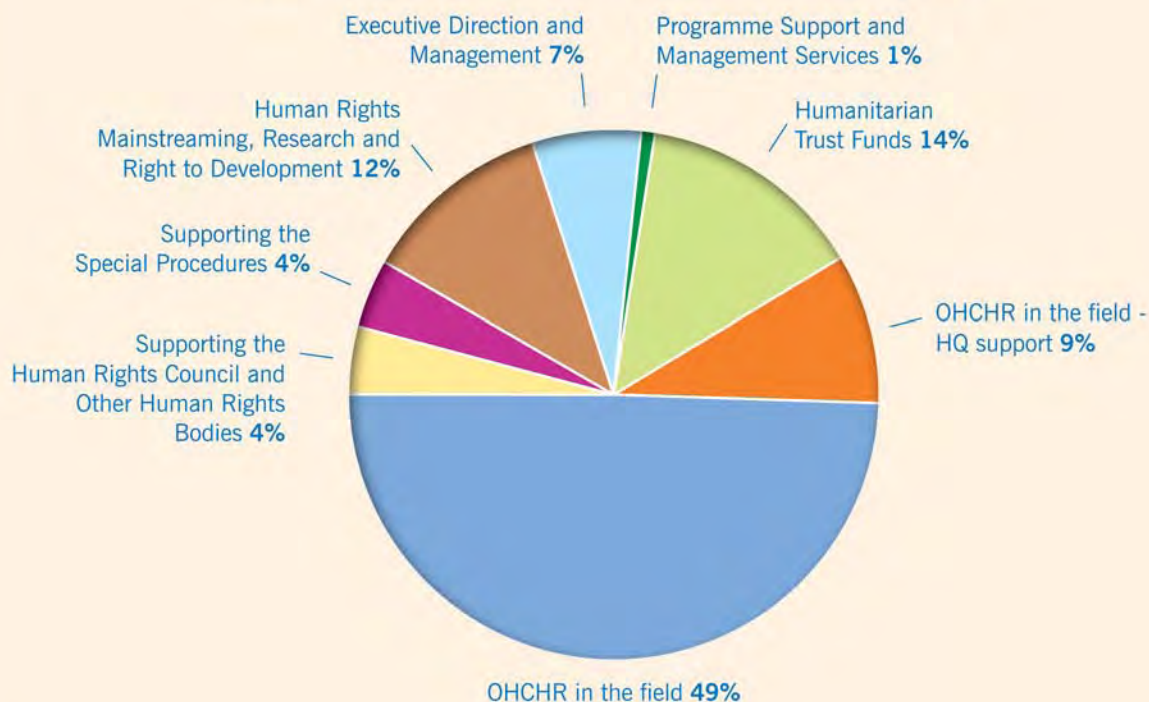
Overall summary (in thousands of US\$)

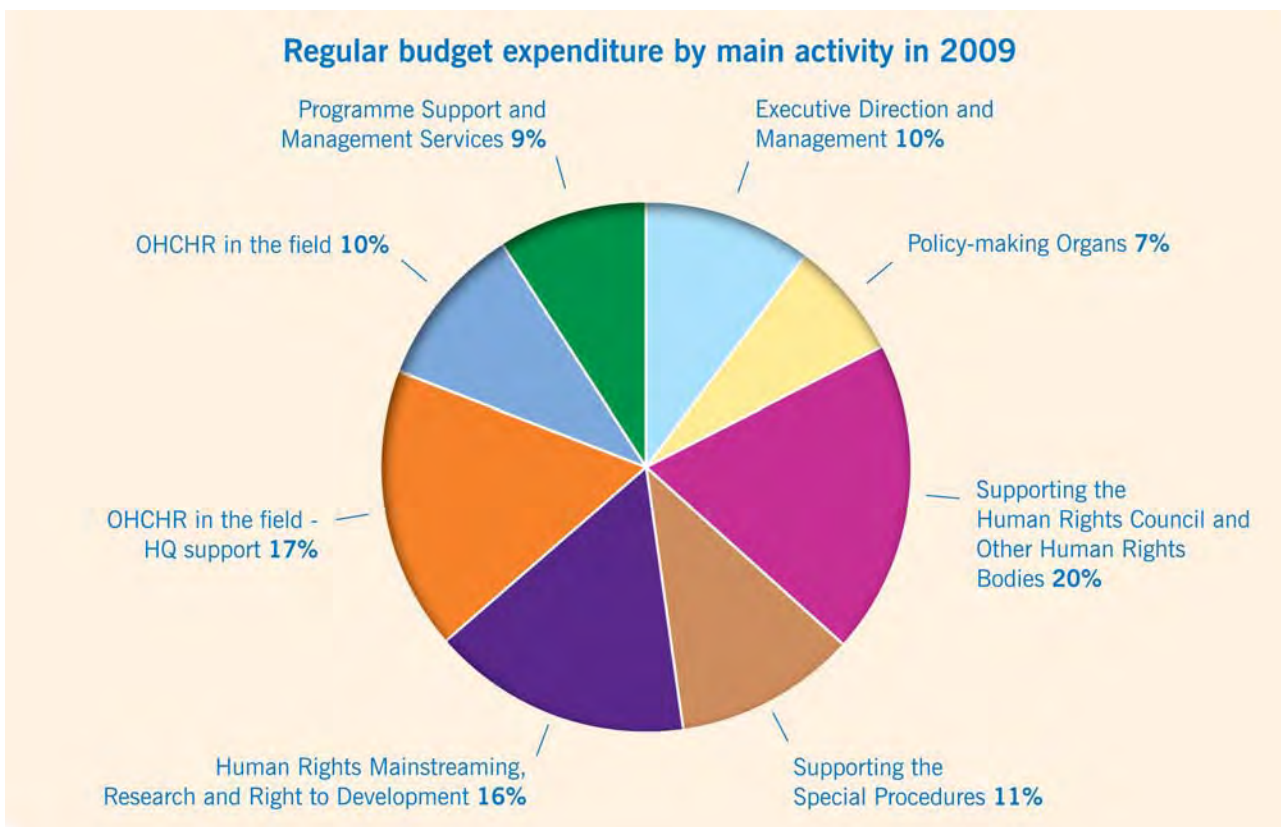
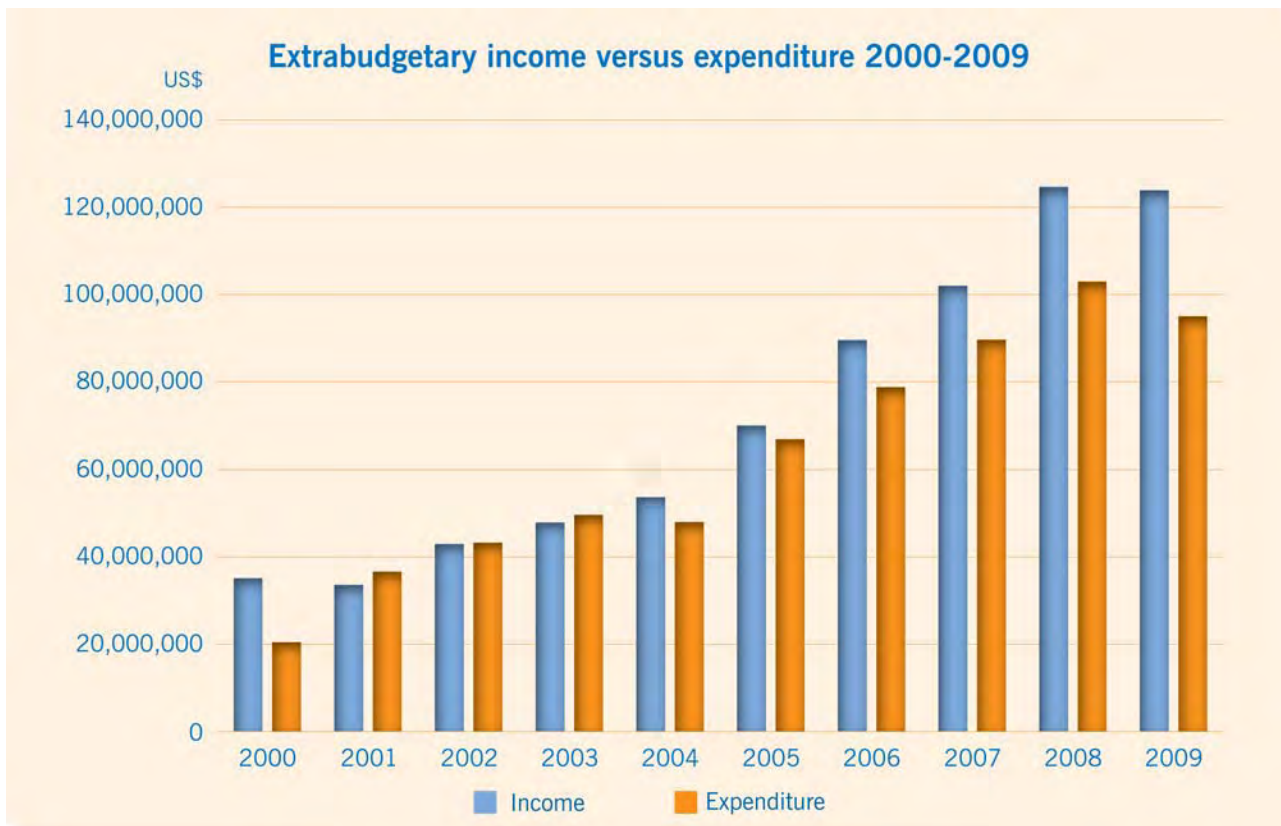
OHCHR's Programmes	Income 2008	Income 2009	Total income 2008-2009	Expenditure 2008	Expenditure 2009	Total expenditure 2008-2009
HEADQUARTERS						
Executive Direction and Management (EDM)						
EDM New York and Geneva	6,789.6	6,530.4	13,320.0	7,654.5	6,536.6	14,191.1
Sub-total	6,789.6	6,530.4	13,320.0	7,654.5	6,536.6	14,191.1
Programme of Work (subprogramme 1 to 4)						
Subprogramme 1 - Human Rights Mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development (RRDD)						
Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination	3,594.6	4,826.9	8,421.5	3,242.0	4,641.6	7,883.6
<i>Anti-discrimination</i>	407.8	1,494.9	1,902.7	725.6	954.6	1,680.2
<i>Indigenous Populations and Minorities</i>	755.2	1,349.0	2,104.2	896.0	1,416.7	2,312.7
<i>Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit</i>	1,709.2	341.3	2,050.5	394.2	805.3	1,199.5
<i>Rule of Law and Democracy</i>	722.5	1,641.7	2,364.2	1,226.2	1,465.0	2,691.2
Durban Review Conference Trust Fund	673.9	547.6	1,221.5	492.9	657.1	1,150.0
Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues	4,153.6	4,753.7	8,907.3	4,124.5	4,778.9	8,903.4
<i>MDGs and HR-based Approach</i>	722.3	715.4	1,437.7	724.5	608.5	1,333.0
<i>HIV and Aids</i>	245.4	330.6	576.0	328.3	292.5	620.9
<i>Economic and Social Issues</i>	496.2	265.7	761.9	284.0	495.1	779.0
<i>Rights to Development</i>	293.3	475.8	769.1	401.8	415.6	817.4
<i>Methodology, Education and Training</i>	1,877.4	2,372.8	4,250.2	2,016.9	2,343.2	4,360.1
<i>Trafficking</i>	186.5	262.6	449.1	187.1	267.1	454.2
<i>Disabilities</i>	332.5	80.8	413.3	181.9	272.2	454.1
<i>Support of Activities by SRSG on Business and Human Rights</i>	0.0	250.0	250.0	0.0	84.6	84.6
Coordination and Management	(165.6)	422.7	257.0	722.8	827.9	1,550.7
Sub-total	8,256.5	10,550.8	18,807.4	8,582.2	10,905.6	19,487.8
Subprogramme 2 - Supporting Human Rights Bodies and Organs (HRCTD)						
Human Rights Treaties Branch	2,879.7	3,347.0	6,226.7	2,914.8	3,001.9	5,916.8
Human Rights Council Branch	109.0	538.0	647.0	235.9	496.0	731.9
Human Rights Council and UPR Webcasting	376.9	114.4	491.4	287.0	182.7	469.7
Trust Fund for Participation in the UPR	1,296.2	252.8	1,549.0	5.0	249.9	254.9
Trust Fund for Technical Assistance in the UPR	0.0	539.5	539.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sub-total	4,661.8	4,791.7	9,453.5	3,442.7	3,930.6	7,373.3
Subprogramme 3 - Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations (FOTCD)						
Office of Director FOTCD	886.3	1,187.5	2,073.8	1,653.4	1,787.1	3,440.5
<i>Rapid Response and Peace Mission Support Unit</i>	1,281.7	1,187.2	2,468.8	1,392.3	1,337.7	2,730.1
<i>Coordination and Management</i>	(395.4)	0.3	(395.1)	261.0	449.4	710.4
AAPME Branch	2,708.1	3,460.0	6,168.1	3,806.8	3,331.7	7,138.5
<i>Africa</i>	1,141.4	1,486.6	2,628.0	1,474.6	1,277.3	2,751.9
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	902.6	1,257.8	2,160.4	1,491.1	1,362.8	2,854.0
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	664.1	715.6	1,379.7	841.0	691.6	1,532.6
LACENACANI Branch	2,822.5	2,630.1	5,452.6	3,072.1	2,979.7	6,051.8
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	480.3	477.7	958.0	588.6	498.2	1,086.8
<i>Europe, North America and Central Asia</i>	897.6	1,334.3	2,231.9	1,246.9	1,299.0	2,545.9
<i>National Institutions</i>	1,444.5	818.1	2,262.7	1,236.6	1,182.5	2,419.1
ACTION 2 Global Joint Programme	432.0	695.5	1,127.5	790.5	655.1	1,445.6
Sub-total	6,848.8	7,973.2	14,822.0	9,322.7	8,753.6	18,076.3
Subprogramme 4 - Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures (SPD)						
Special Procedures Branch	3,426.8	5,930.1	9,356.9	4,074.3	3,830.7	7,905.0
Sub-total	3,426.8	5,930.1	9,356.9	4,074.3	3,830.7	7,905.0
Total Programme of Work (subprogramme 1 to 4)	23,193.9	29,245.8	52,439.8	25,421.9	27,420.5	52,842.4
Support to the Programmes						
Programme Support and Management Services	5,612.1	2,405.5	8,017.6	6,304.2	732.8	7,037.0
Sub-total	5,612.1	2,405.5	8,017.6	6,304.2	732.8	7,037.0
TOTAL HEADQUARTERS	35,595.7	38,181.7	73,777.4	39,380.7	34,689.8	74,070.5

OHCHR's Programmes	Income 2008	Income 2009	Total income 2008-2009	Expenditure 2008	Expenditure 2009	Total expenditure 2008-2009
FIELD PRESENCES						
AFRICA						
Angola - Country Office (closed)	2,141.9	(879.2)	1,262.7	1,356.7	42.8	1,399.5
Burundi - Peace Mission Support	927.5	1,798.1	2,725.6	1,399.8	1,833.1	3,232.8
Central Africa Centre - Yaoundé	298.7	617.0	915.7	358.0	603.3	961.3
Côte d'Ivoire - Peace Mission Support	301.9	0.0	301.9	130.5	88.8	219.3
Democratic Republic of the Congo - Peace Mission Support	1,694.7	995.7	2,690.4	1,892.3	1,153.8	3,046.2
East Africa Regional Office - Addis Ababa	833.2	984.3	1,817.5	1,010.2	1,046.0	2,056.1
Eritrea/Ethiopia - Peace Mission Support	302.7	(253.9)	48.8	75.9	(30.6)	45.3
Guinea - Human Rights Adviser	441.0	459.3	900.3	408.4	475.4	883.8
Kenya - Human Rights Adviser	394.5	544.5	939.0	359.2	185.1	544.3
Liberia - Peace Mission Support	106.5	10.9	117.4	54.3	24.5	78.8
Niger - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	133.2	133.2	0.0	70.3	70.3
Rwanda - Human Rights Adviser	94.8	231.1	325.9	98.2	107.4	205.6
Sierra Leone - Peace Mission Support	633.7	0.0	633.7	364.4	271.9	636.3
Somalia - Peace Mission Support	209.3	121.1	330.3	142.8	131.8	274.5
Southern Africa Regional Office - Pretoria	621.2	301.0	922.2	568.6	614.7	1,183.3
Sudan - Peace Mission Support	1,769.5	595.4	2,364.9	1,646.1	(70.5)	1,575.5
Togo - Country Office	1,793.0	762.7	2,555.7	1,267.7	1,410.1	2,677.8
Uganda - Country Office	1,907.2	3,527.3	5,434.5	3,407.3	3,223.0	6,630.3
West Africa Regional Office - Dakar	157.5	366.4	523.9	217.3	366.7	584.0
Sub-total Africa	14,628.6	10,315.0	24,943.7	14,757.5	11,547.6	26,305.1
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Afghanistan - Peace Mission Support	1,269.4	708.3	1,977.7	764.6	749.3	1,514.0
Cambodia - Country Office	270.5	196.1	466.6	975.9	463.2	1,439.1
Indonesia - Human Rights Adviser	179.6	202.3	381.9	114.7	273.1	387.8
Nepal - Country Office	6,194.1	6,416.1	12,610.2	10,931.8	7,996.0	18,927.8
Pacific Regional Office - Suva	519.9	945.6	1,465.5	772.2	841.2	1,613.5
Pakistan - Human Rights Adviser	267.5	128.4	396.0	233.4	(5.3)	228.1
Papua New Guinea - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	405.4	405.4	0.0	393.0	393.0
Southeast Asia Regional Office - Bangkok	1,041.4	835.1	1,876.4	1,147.1	1,098.5	2,245.7
Sri Lanka - Human Rights Adviser	774.1	439.2	1,213.4	113.4	217.6	331.1
Timor-Leste - Peace Mission Support	751.3	176.8	928.1	418.8	429.9	848.7
Sub-total Asia and the Pacific	11,267.8	10,453.3	21,721.1	15,472.0	12,456.7	27,928.7
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN						
Bolivia - Country Office	1,180.0	1,405.3	2,585.2	1,124.0	1,583.7	2,707.7
Central America Regional Office - Panama	20.0	67.4	87.3	12.6	68.8	81.4
Colombia - Country Office	9,563.2	6,950.0	16,513.2	7,656.7	7,433.7	15,090.4
Ecuador - Human Rights Adviser	428.2	261.2	689.4	401.6	317.2	718.9
Guatemala - Country Office	3,713.3	3,373.3	7,086.5	3,879.7	3,470.7	7,350.4
Guyana - Human Rights Adviser	164.7	0.0	164.7	147.3	0.0	147.3
Haiti - Peace Mission Support	391.1	74.1	465.2	318.0	(56.9)	261.1
Honduras - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	13.3	13.3	0.0	13.3	13.3
Latin America Regional Office - Chile	548.8	0.0	548.8	339.5	459.4	799.0
Mexico - Country Office	1,733.4	1,861.0	3,594.4	1,586.9	2,088.1	3,675.0
Nicaragua - Human Rights Adviser	159.0	159.7	318.7	129.2	49.5	178.7
Paraguay - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sub-total Latin America and the Caribbean	17,901.6	14,166.3	32,067.9	15,595.7	15,427.5	31,023.2
EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA						
Central Asia Regional Office - Bishkek	56.7	781.2	837.9	245.7	607.2	852.9
Europe Regional Office - Brussels	0.0	553.9	553.9	0.0	375.7	375.7
Georgia - Human Rights Adviser	719.5	737.6	1,457.1	751.0	717.2	1,468.2
Kosovo - Country Office	1,245.4	361.4	1,606.8	826.1	698.4	1,524.5
Moldova - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	122.8	122.8	0.0	68.0	68.0
Russian Federation - Human Rights Adviser	948.1	768.8	1,716.9	633.0	928.6	1,561.6
Sub-total Europe, North America and Central Asia	2,969.8	3,325.6	6,295.3	2,455.8	3,395.1	5,850.9

OHCHR's Programmes	Income 2008	Income 2009	Total income 2008-2009	Expenditure 2008	Expenditure 2009	Total expenditure 2008-2009
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA						
Bahrain - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	40.8	40.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mauritania - Country Office	0.0	228.7	228.7	0.0	194.5	194.5
Middle East Regional Office - Beirut	1,445.4	737.1	2,182.5	1,378.3	950.5	2,328.8
Occupied Palestinian Territory - Country Office	1,873.3	2,834.6	4,707.8	1,832.2	2,603.9	4,436.1
Southwest Asia and the Arab Region Centre - Qatar	0.0	83.4	83.4	0.0	101.5	101.5
Sub-total Middle East and North Africa	3,318.6	3,924.6	7,243.2	3,210.5	3,850.3	7,060.8
TOTAL FIELD PRESENCES	50,086.4	42,184.8	92,271.2	51,491.4	46,677.3	98,168.7
TOTAL HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD PRESENCES	85,682.1	80,366.5	166,048.5	90,872.0	81,367.2	172,239.2
HUMANITARIAN TRUST FUNDS						
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	12,013.1	11,170.4	23,183.5	9,938.5	12,010.0	21,948.5
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	286.6	281.5	568.0	696.2	299.5	995.7
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	917.9	939.5	1,857.5	51.9	742.9	794.8
TOTAL HUMANITARIAN TRUST FUNDS	13,217.6	12,391.4	25,609.0	10,686.6	13,052.4	23,739.1
Other income/expenditure not reported above	25,868.2	31,208.0	57,076.1	1,485.5	684.0	2,169.6
GRAND TOTAL OHCHR	124,767.9	123,965.8	248,733.7	103,044.2	95,103.6	198,147.8

Extrabudgetary expenditure by main activity in 2009







Funding and Donor Profiles

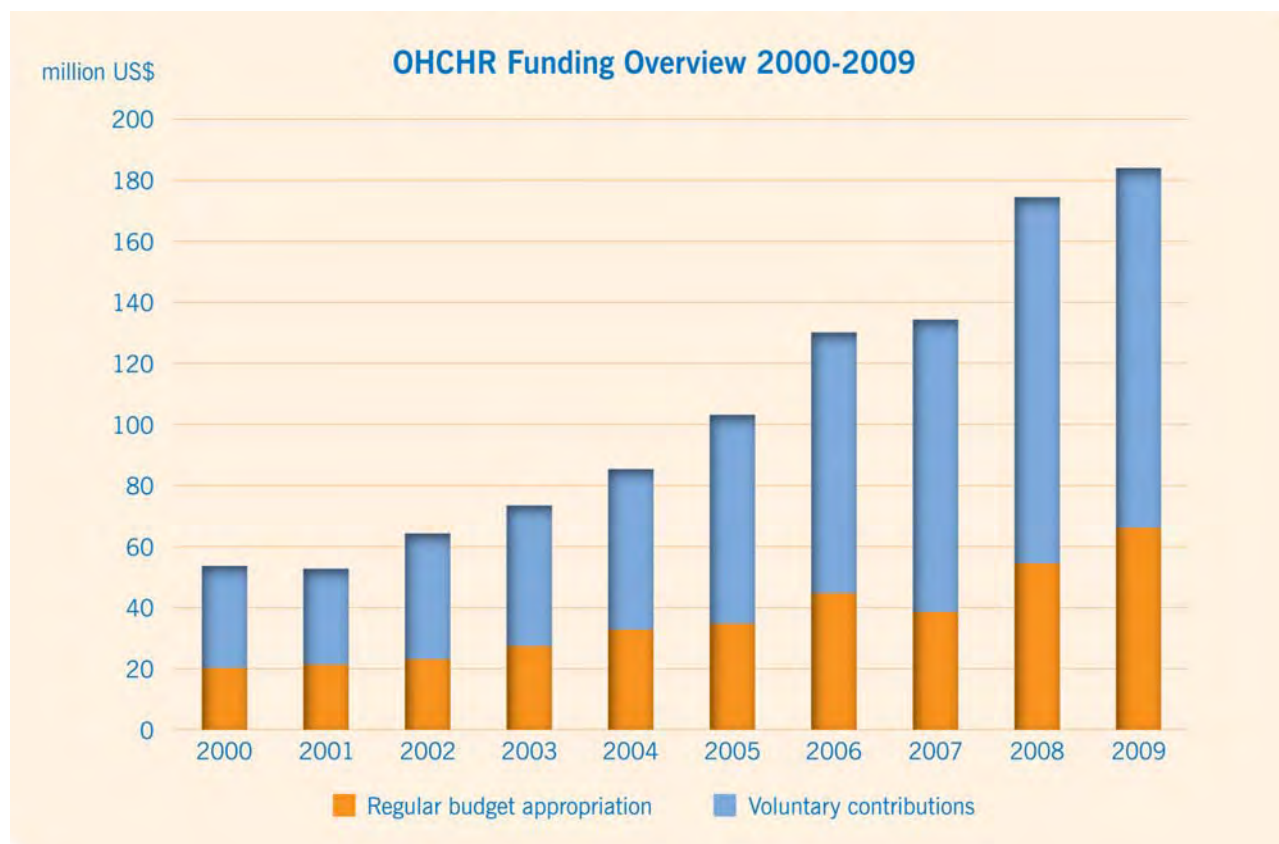


Funding

About one-third of OHCHR's global funding needs are met from the United Nations' regular budget, with the remainder from voluntary contributions by Member States and other donors. The United Nations regular budget, approved by the General Assembly every two years, is funded from "assessed contributions" by each Member State according to a formula that takes into account the size and strength of its national economy. The amount of regular budget funding appropriated for use by OHCHR has increased gradually since 2005, when leaders attending the World Summit supported a commitment to double funding for the Office over five years. For the 2008-2009 biennium, an amount of US\$120.6 million was allocated to OHCHR, compared with US\$83.4 million in 2006-2007 and US\$67.6 million in 2004-2005. While the upward trend in regular budgetary support for human rights work is welcome, the proportion of the overall United Nations regular budget devoted to human rights,

even after the recent increases, remains small, at just 2.8 per cent of the total 2008-2009 budget.

The level of voluntary funding for OHCHR's work also has increased strongly in recent years, rising from US\$52.5 million in 2004 to a peak of US\$119.9 million in 2008 before slipping slightly in 2009 to US\$118.1 million. The share of funding provided without earmarking likewise has grown steadily, rising from 20 per cent in 2004 to 54 per cent in 2008 and a new high of 56 per cent in 2009. About 58 per cent of voluntary funding in 2009 was used to support work in the field, which receives very little support from the regular budget; the remainder was distributed between other areas of the Office's work, often supplementing the limited resources made available under the regular budget and enabling the Office to achieve far greater impact in these areas than would otherwise be possible.



Who Funds OHCHR?

The table overleaf lists, in descending order, all donors that voluntarily contributed in 2009. As in previous years, the overwhelming majority of voluntary contributions came from Member States, which provided US\$107 million, or 90.8 per cent of all contributions. International organizations,

including the European Commission and UN partners, contributed a further US\$10.6 million, or 9 per cent, with other donors (mainly private foundations) providing the remaining US\$0.3 million, or 0.2 per cent.



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2009

This table refers to the total amount of voluntary contributions for 2009
(including contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)

Donor	US\$	Donor	US\$
1 United States of America	19,714,133	40 South Africa	62,115
2 Spain	13,900,952	41 India	50,000
3 Netherlands	12,771,703	42 Monaco	43,478
4 Norway	8,236,208	43 San Marino	40,816
5 Germany	7,632,262	44 CERF ⁴	40,376
6 Sweden	6,531,532	45 China	40,000
7 European Commission	6,277,164	46 Iran	40,000
8 United Kingdom	5,145,128	47 Croatia	31,000
9 Canada	4,259,278	48 Andorra	30,928
10 Finland	4,013,917	49 Chile	30,000
11 Denmark	3,593,071	50 Hungary	27,855
12 UNDP ¹	3,285,406	51 Estonia	26,962
13 Ireland	2,808,989	52 Kazakhstan	25,000
14 Switzerland	2,734,427	53 Norwegian Refugee Council	21,732
15 France	2,273,913	54 Guatemala	20,154
16 New Zealand	2,017,750	55 Czech Republic	20,000
17 Russian Federation	2,000,000	56 Indonesia	20,000
18 Belgium	1,534,527	57 Malaysia	20,000
19 Morocco	1,511,000	58 Thailand	20,000
20 Australia	1,240,209	59 Israel	15,000
21 Japan	931,416	60 Venezuela	15,000
22 Kuwait	610,000	61 Azerbaijan	10,000
23 Austria	564,596	62 Bahrain	10,000
24 OIF ²	508,219	63 Slovak Republic	9,990
25 UNFPA ³	451,850	64 Qatar	9,982
26 Saudi Arabia	400,000	65 Argentina	7,000
27 Korea, Rep. of	320,000	66 Syrian Arab Republic	5,149
28 Italy	272,109	67 Costa Rica	5,104
29 MacArthur Foundation	250,000	68 Sri Lanka	5,000
30 Greece	249,370	69 Case Western Reserve University	4,975
31 Luxembourg	216,535	70 Nicaragua	4,000
32 Turkey	126,000	71 Cyprus	3,631
33 Liechtenstein	115,314	72 Pakistan	3,469
34 Algeria	110,000	73 Cameroon	2,257
35 Slovenia	101,492	74 Armenia	1,500
36 Poland	100,752	75 Panama	1,500
37 Colombia	100,000	76 Holy See	1,000
38 Portugal	80,000	77 Albania	980
39 Mexico	76,304		
Individual donors / miscellaneous			317,898
			Total 118,109,378

¹ UN Development Programme.

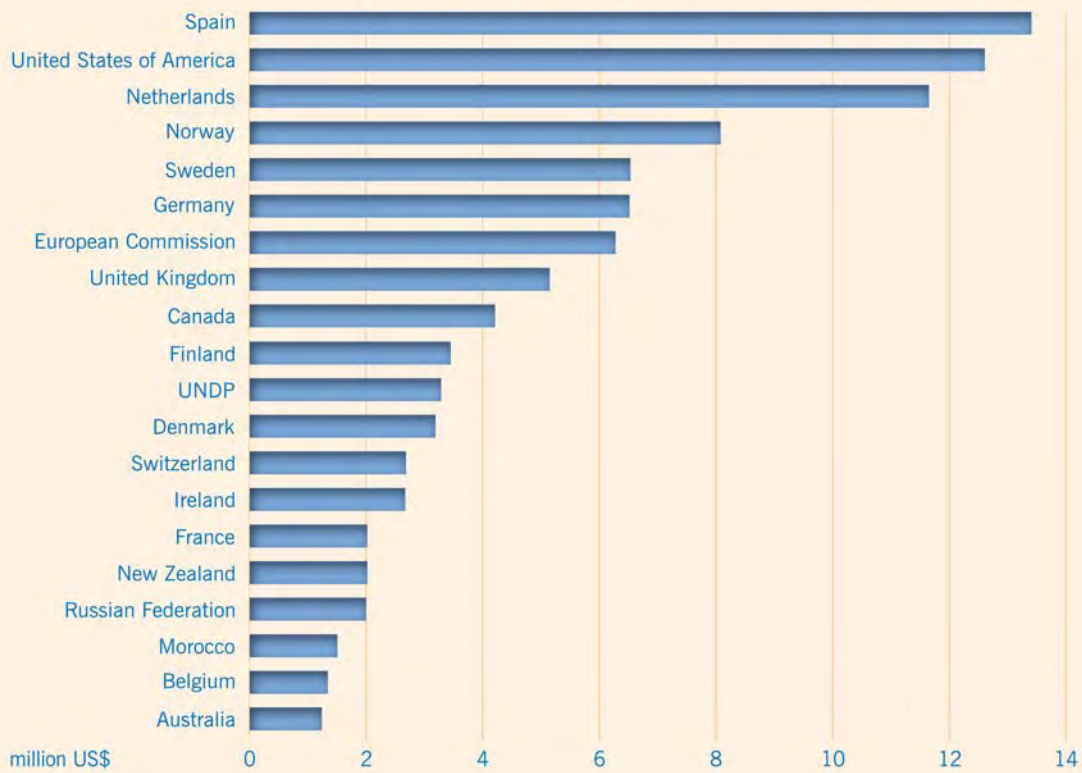
² Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

Source: Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

³ UN Population Fund.

⁴ UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

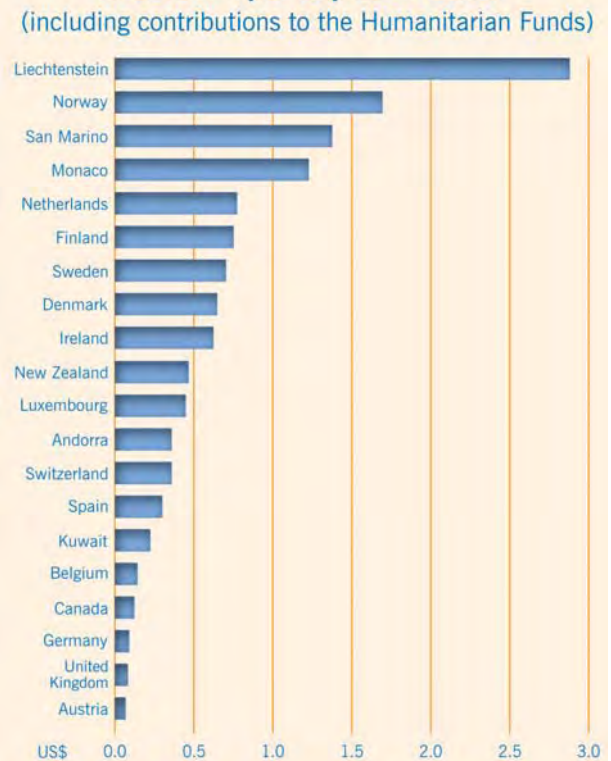
Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR's work in 2009 (excluding contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR in 2009 (including contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR per capita in 2009* (including contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



*Sources: based on 2009 voluntary contributions from OHCHR's donors (Member States) and 2008 population figures from the World Bank Data Profiles.

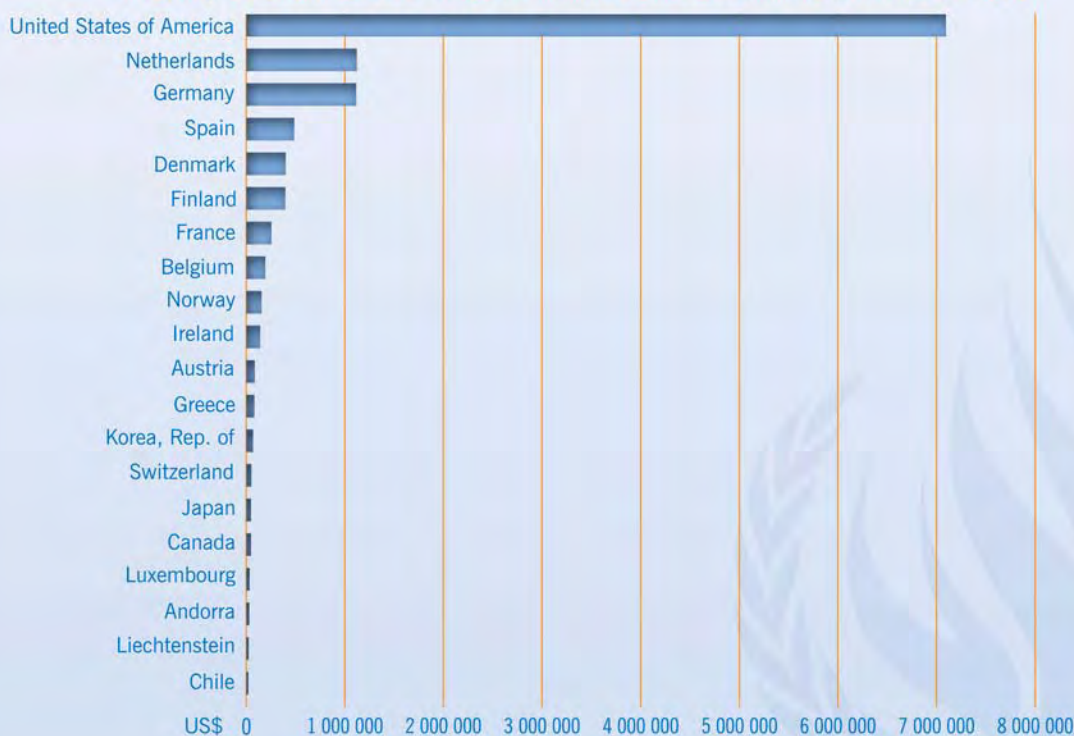
Contributions to the Humanitarian Funds

In 2009, donors provided US\$12 million to the three Humanitarian Funds that OHCHR administers, a 5.5 per cent decrease compared with the level of contributions in 2008. The three funds are the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. These three funds collect and distribute funding in the form of grants to individuals and NGOs. Contributions to the funds are not used to support OHCHR's wider work.

Of the three funds, the largest in terms of contributions and expenditures was the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, which received contributions of US\$10.9 million and recorded expenditures of US\$12 million. The Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received contributions of US\$886,482 and recorded expenditures of US\$742,915. The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations received contributions of US\$257,769 and recorded expenditures of US\$299,547.

Altogether, 38 Member States and a handful of private donors made contributions to the three funds in 2009, compared with 48 Member States and a handful of private donors in 2008. The top five donors were the United States, which provided contributions of US\$7.1 million; Netherlands, US\$1.1 million; Germany, US\$1.1 million; Spain, US\$488,000; and Denmark, US\$401,000.

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to the Humanitarian Funds in 2009



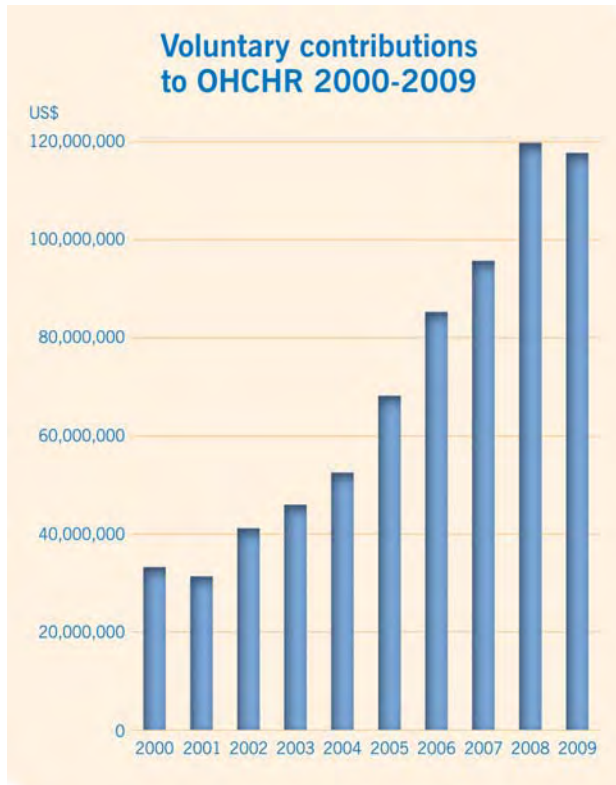
Funding Trends

Level of contributions

After seven years of growth, the level of voluntary contributions stalled in 2009. Total contributions slipped from US\$119.9 million to US\$118.1 million, while the amount from Member States was barely changed at US\$107 million (\$106.7 million in 2008).

This outcome reflects the impact of the global economic crisis, which prompted many governments to review their funding commitments and led at least two to cut significantly their contributions to OHCHR. At the same time, it also reflects the stronger US dollar, which wiped an estimated US\$11 million off the value of contributions received in 2009 from OHCHR's top 20 donors alone. Overall, measured not in dollars but in donors' own currencies, donor support actually rose in 2009 by

more than 5 per cent, in spite of the economic downturn. Had the value of the dollar remained at 2008 levels, 2009 contributions would have been worth nearly US\$130 million, or US\$10 million above the level of 2008.



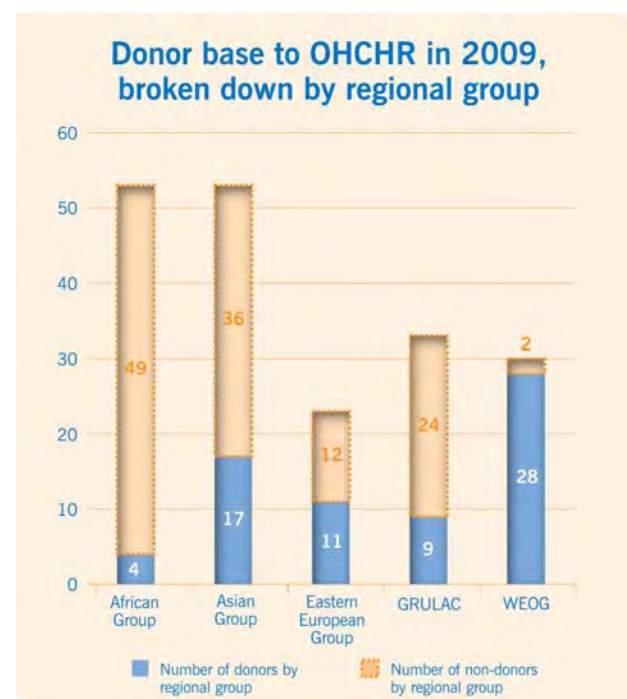
Number of donors

The number of donors – particularly the number of Member States contributing – dropped sharply in 2009 despite efforts to consolidate an expanded donor base. The total of 69 Member States contributing in 2009 was 14 fewer than in 2008, although still more than in any other year. Almost all Western European and Other Group countries contributed, along with half of Eastern European States, a third of Asian States, just over a quarter of Latin American and Caribbean States and less than 10 per cent of African States.

This drop in the number of Member States as contributors reflected the absence of a special anniversary appeal similar to that made in 2008 for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That appeal succeeded in attracting a number of first-time donors whose support appears, for now at least, to have been one-off. It has proven especially difficult in the current economic context to persuade irregular donors to renew their support.



Of the 69 Member States that contributed in 2009, 28 (more than one-third) were members of the United Nations' Western and Other Group (WEOG), 17 in the Asian Group, 11 in the Eastern European Group, nine in the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), and four in the African Group.



Earmarking

The trend toward donors providing a larger proportion of funding free of earmarking continued in 2009, with US\$66.1 million in unearmarked funds contributed (up slightly from US\$64.6 million in 2008). As a proportion of all contributions, unearmarked funding has risen steadily in recent years, from 20 per cent in 2004 to 26 per cent in 2005, 37 per cent in 2006, 43 per cent in 2007, 54 per cent in 2008 and 56 per cent in 2009.

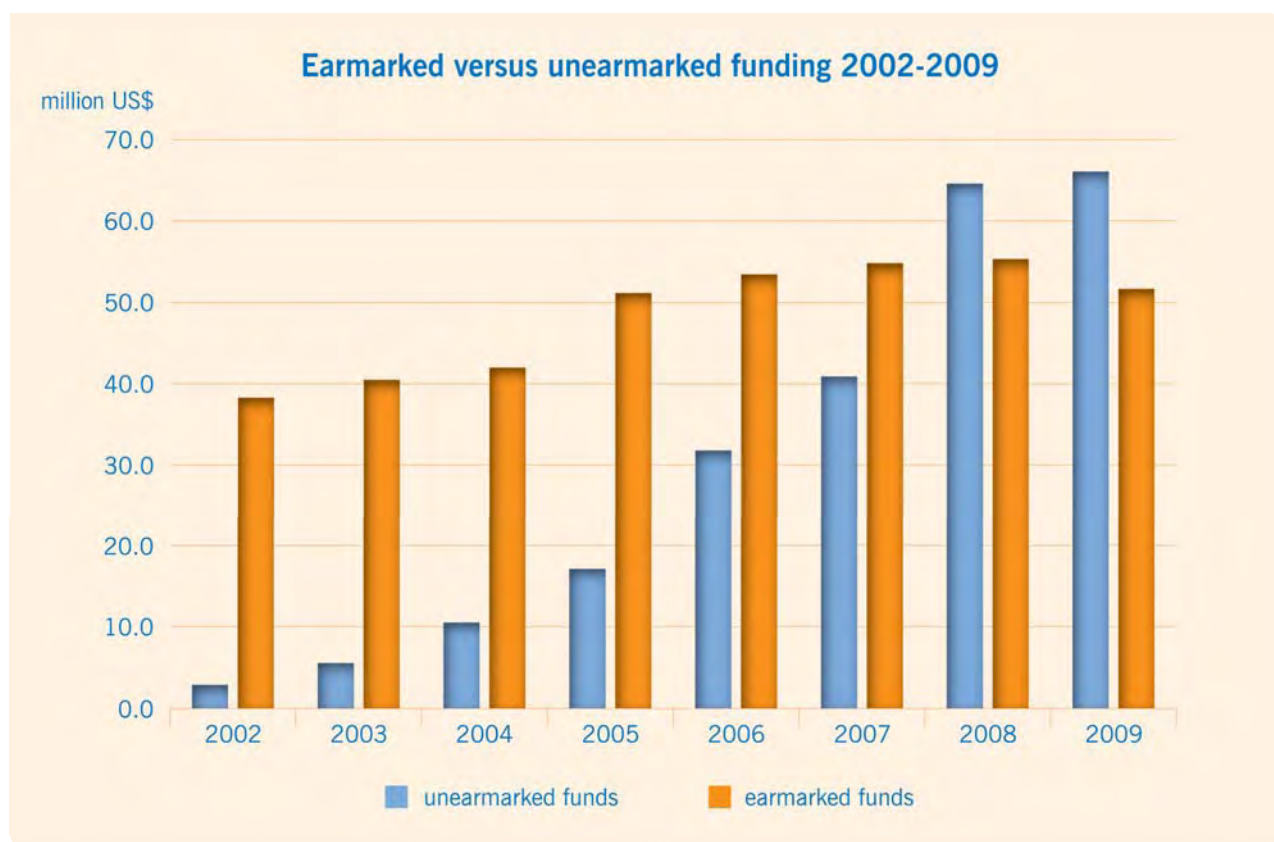
The growth in unearmarked funding follows repeated appeals by the High Commissioner for donors to provide more of their support without earmarking, thereby giving the Office more flexibility and autonomy in allocating resources. During 2009, OHCHR donor and external relations officers used every appropriate opportunity to make the case for more unearmarked funding, successfully persuading 47 donors to provide at least part of their support free of earmarking, as well as a number of major donors to increase the proportion of funds provided without earmarking (including Australia, Austria, Kuwait, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United States of America).

Predictability

Predictability of funding was reinforced by the negotiation of new multi-year funding arrangements with the European Commission, Finland, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom. OHCHR now has multi-year funding arrangements in place with 12 donors, including ten Member States (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and two international organizations (the European Commission and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie).

Regular budget versus voluntary contributions

The proportion of expenditure funded from the United Nations regular budget increased slightly, from 34.9 per cent in 2008 to 40 per cent in 2009, while the proportion funded from voluntary contributions fell from 65.1 per cent to 60 per cent. The small shift in favour of regular budget funding reflected an increase in the regular budget appropriation for the 2008-2009 biennium compared with the preceding biennium.















Unearmarked voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2009














Donor	unearmarked funding in US\$	percentage of donor's contribution
1 Netherlands	11,651,703	91.2%
2 Spain	8,875,740	63.8%
3 United States of America	8,000,000	40.6%
4 European Commission	5,741,931	91.5%
5 United Kingdom	4,904,617	95.3%
6 Canada	3,993,610	93.8%
7 Norway	3,846,154	46.7%
8 Sweden	3,507,457	53.7%
9 Denmark	2,232,526	62.1%
10 New Zealand	2,017,750	100.0%
11 Ireland	1,966,292	70.0%
12 France	1,918,159	84.4%
13 Finland	1,603,905	40.0%
14 Morocco	1,505,000	99.6%
15 Belgium	959,079	62.5%
16 Australia	913,838	73.7%
17 Russian Federation	500,000	25.0%
18 Italy	272,109	100.0%
19 Saudi Arabia	250,000	62.5%
20 Kuwait	200,000	32.8%
21 Luxembourg	183,727	84.8%
22 Greece	143,885	57.7%
23 Austria	132,275	23.4%
24 Turkey	100,000	79.4%
25 Switzerland	99,900	3.7%
26 Slovenia	84,173	82.9%
27 Portugal	80,000	100.0%
28 Poland	60,451	60.0%
29 Liechtenstein	55,351	48.0%
30 Algeria	50,000	45.5%
31 Mexico	50,000	65.5%
32 Monaco	26,350	60.6%
33 Kazakhstan	25,000	100.0%
34 Croatia	24,000	77.4%
35 Malaysia	20,000	100.0%
36 Thailand	20,000	100.0%
37 Estonia	17,975	66.7%
38 South Africa	16,977	27.3%
39 Chile	10,000	33.3%
40 Guatemala	10,000	49.6%
41 Slovakia	9,990	100.0%
42 Costa Rica	5,104	100.0%
43 Sri Lanka	5,000	100.0%
44 Nicaragua	4,000	100.0%
45 Pakistan	3,469	100.0%
46 Armenia	1,500	100.0%
47 Albania	980	100.0%
Total	66,099,976	56.1%

Source: Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

Voluntary contributions in excess of \$100,000 in 2009

The distribution of funds in this table reflects earmarking by donors (as per major headings of the Strategic Management Plan)

	United States of America 	Spain 	Netherlands 	Norway 	Germany 	Sweden 	European Commission 	United Kingdom 	Canada 	Finland 	Denmark 	UNDP 
Unearmarked	8,000,000	8,875,740	11,651,703	3,846,154	0	3,507,457	5,741,931	4,904,617	3,993,610	1,603,905	2,232,526	0
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva	0	0	0	0	0	0	154,887	0	199,681	0	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 1:</i> Human Rights mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development	0	230,241	0	38,850	418,410	0	0	0	8,052	162,651	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 2:</i> Supporting the Human Rights Bodies and Organs	0	214,497	0	310,800	1,115,760	0	225,454	159,775	0	0	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 3:</i> Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations	0	0	0	0	418,410	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 4:</i> Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures	0	1,784,817	0	310,800	836,820	0	0	30,172	8,052	139,470	0	0
Support to the Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Presences	4,614,133	2,307,491	0	3,574,203	3,727,102	3,024,075	154,892	50,564	0	1,709,301	959,509	3,285,406
<i>All regions</i>	1,400,000	0	0	0	2,789,400	0	0	0	0	562,588	0	1,285,576
<i>Africa</i>	0	73,965	0	1,398,601	0	1,193,786	0	40,632	0	0	0	0
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	2,214,133	295,858	0	932,401	0	407,123	0	9,932	0	753,012	959,509	1,999,830
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	0	295,858	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	0	0	0	310,800	278,940	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	1,000,000	1,641,811	0	932,401	658,762	1,423,166	154,892	0	0	393,701	0	0
Humanitarian Trust Funds	7,100,000	488,166	1,120,000	155,400	1,115,760	0	0	0	49,884	398,590	401,037	0
Total contributions by donor	19,714,133	13,900,952	12,771,703	8,236,208	7,632,263	6,531,532	6,277,164	5,145,128	4,259,278	4,013,917	3,593,071	3,285,406

	Ireland	Switzerland	France	New Zealand	Russian Federation	Belgium	Morocco	Australia	Japan	Kuwait	Austria	Organisation internationale de la Francophonie	UNFPA
													
	1,966,292	99,900	1,918,159	2,017,750	500,000	959,079	1,505,000	913,838	0	200,000	132,275	0	0
	140,449	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	140,449	89,127	0	0	800,000	0	0	0	31,416	100,000	0	0	0
	140,449	55,689	0	0	150,000	0	0	0	100,000	300,000	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	65,274	0	0	0	0	0
	280,899	0	0	0	150,000	383,632	0	0	100,000	0	132,275	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	0
	0	2,437,763	100,000	0	300,000	0	0	261,097	600,000	0	214,067	508,219	451,850
	0	1,373,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66,138	0	0
	0	201,166	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59,172	493,800	451,850
	0	690,705	0	0	0	0	0	261,097	450,000	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150,000	0	88,757	0	0
	0	0	0	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	172,265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,419	0
	140,449	51,948	255,754	0	0	191,816	6,000	0	50,000	10,000	85,979	0	0
	2,808,989	2,734,427	2,273,913	2,017,750	2,000,000	1,534,527	1,511,000	1,240,209	931,416	610,000	564,596	508,219	451,850



Voluntary contributions in excess of \$100,000 in 2009

The distribution of funds in this table reflects earmarking by donors (as per major headings of the Strategic Management Plan)

	Saudi Arabia 	Korea, Rep. of 	Italy 	MacArthur Foundation 	Greece 	Luxembourg 	Turkey 	Liechtenstein 	Algeria 	Slovenia 	Poland 	Colombia 
Unearmarked	250,000	0	272,109	0	143,885	183,727	100,000	55,351	50,000	84,173	60,451	0
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 1:</i> Human Rights mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development	150,000	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	60,000
<i>Subprogramme 2:</i> Supporting the Human Rights Bodies and Organs	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	18,450	0	0	0	40,000
<i>Subprogramme 3:</i> Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 4:</i> Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Support to the Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Presences	0	250,000	0	0	21,097	0	0	18,450	0	0	40,301	0
<i>All regions</i>	0	250,000	0	0	21,097	0	0	18,450	0	0	0	0
<i>Africa</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40,301	0
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humanitarian Trust Funds	0	70,000	0	0	84,388	32,808	16,000	23,063	10,000	17,319	0	0
Total contributions by donor	400,000	320,000	272,109	250,000	249,370	216,535	126,000	115,314	110,000	101,492	100,752	100,000

Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation

The Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General in 1987 in response to the former Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/83. The Fund provides resources to support national efforts at building a strong rights framework. Support is provided to promote and establish strong legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, an independent judiciary, and vibrant civil society organizations. Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational advice, evolving in recent years to advising OHCHR on policy orientation, global vision and strategy on technical cooperation at a broader programme level. The Board meets twice a year to review the programmes it supports; discuss thematic issues, methodologies and

procedures; examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters; and brief Member States on progress and achievements. The Board met for its 30th session from 20 to 23 April 2009 and its 31st session from 27 to 30 October 2009.

For the year, the Fund received US\$ 20.4 million in new contributions (including US\$20,183,055 from Member States and US\$251,000 from inter-organization arrangements). Funding was used to implement OHCHR technical cooperation activities, including many of the activities listed in the preceding sections on OHCHR's work region by region, in 27 countries or territories: Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, the occupied Palestinian territory, Papua New Guinea, Kosovo, Southern Caucasus

(Georgia), the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Togo. Activities implemented through the Fund have resulted in efforts at country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices; the establishment of more sustainable national capacities to adhere to these standards; strengthened administration of justice; greater emphasis on development of human rights education programmes; establishment of responsive national human rights institutions; deployment of human rights advisers to UN Country Teams; and development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Junior Professional Officers

In 2009, OHCHR had 39 associate experts (also known as Junior Professional Officers) supported by the following governments: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (see table below). Italy and the Netherlands also funded associate expert posts for non-nationals.

Sponsor	Number of national associate experts	Number of non-nationals associate experts
Austria	1	
Denmark	3	
Finland	3	
France	5	
Germany	3	
Italy	2	1
Liechtenstein	1	
Netherlands		1
Norway	2	
Korea, Rep. of	1	
Spain	7	
Sweden	3	
Switzerland	6	
	37	2
TOTAL	39	

How to Help

OHCHR accepts contributions from Member States, international organizations, foundations, voluntary associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals. If you, or the organization you represent, would like to make a contribution, please contact OHCHR's Donor and External Relations Section in Geneva. Tel: +41 22 917 96 55. Fax +41 22 917 90 04. Email: DexRel@ohchr.org.

Donor Profiles

Governments



Albania

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 980

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 980

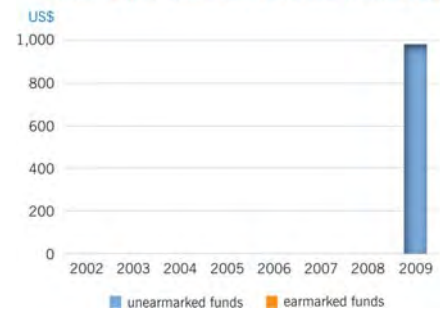
Donor ranking: 77/77

Donor ranking per capita: 60/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Algeria

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 110,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 50,000

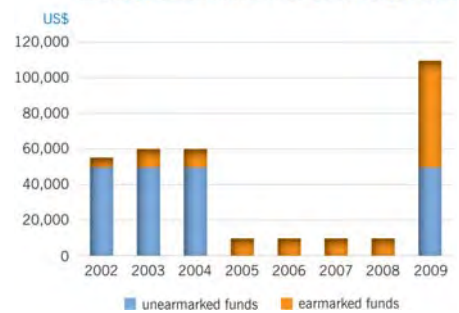
Donor ranking: 34/77

Donor ranking per capita: 38/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Andorra

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 30,928

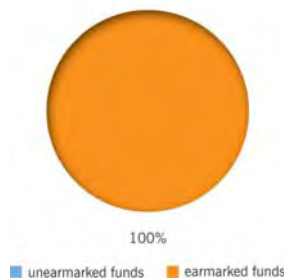
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 21,990 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

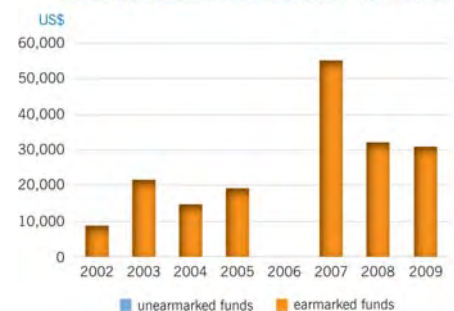
Donor ranking: 48/77

Donor ranking per capita: 12/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Argentina

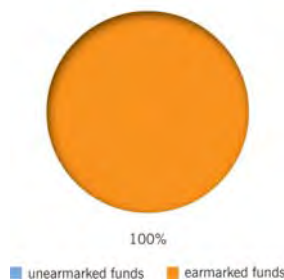
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 7,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

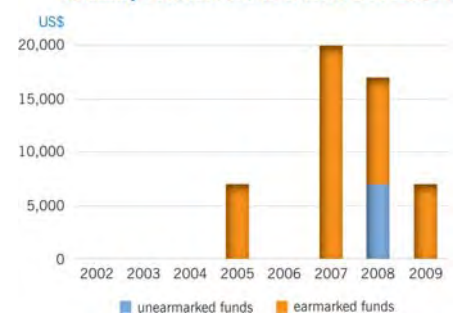
Donor ranking: 65/77

Donor ranking per capita: 63/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Armenia

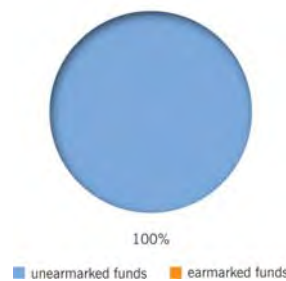
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 1,500

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,500

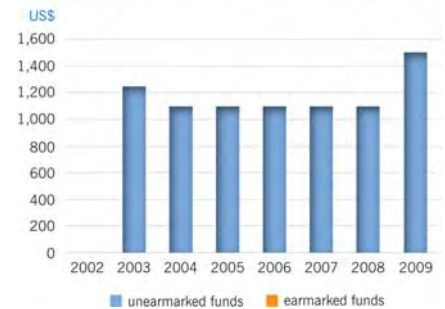
Donor ranking: 74/77

Donor ranking per capita: 57/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Australia

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 1,240,209

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,900,000 (AUD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 913,838

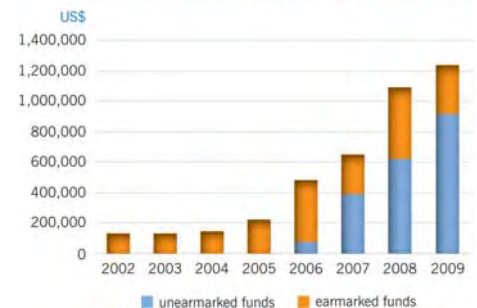
Donor ranking: 20/77

Donor ranking per capita: 22/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Austria

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 564,596

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 415,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 132,275

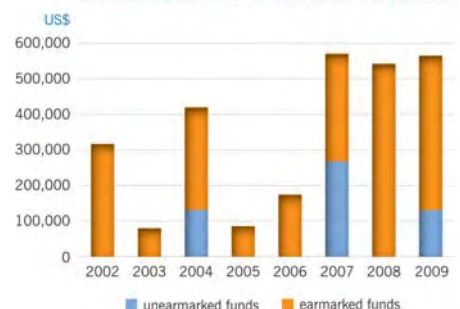
Donor ranking: 23/77

Donor ranking per capita: 20/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Azerbaijan

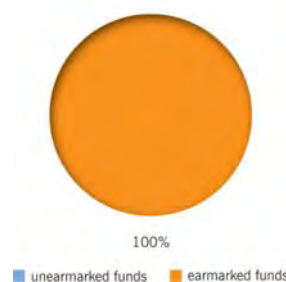
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 10,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

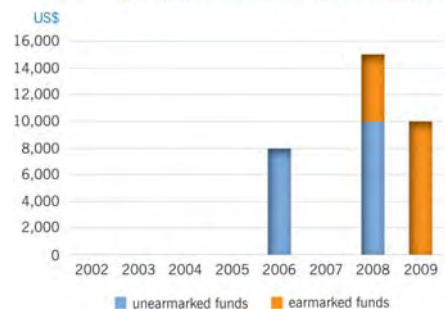
Donor ranking: 61/77

Donor ranking per capita: 51/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Bahrain

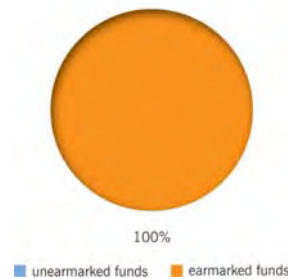
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 10,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

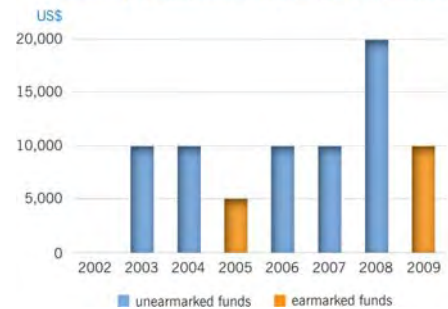
Donor ranking: 62/77

Donor ranking per capita: 30/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Belgium

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 1,534,527

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,200,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 959,079

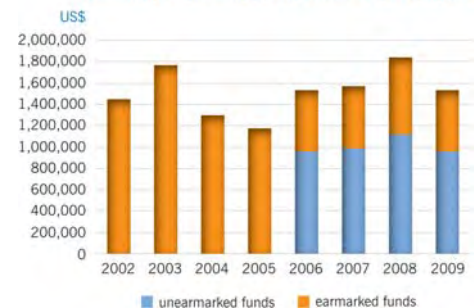
Donor ranking: 18/77

Donor ranking per capita: 16/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Cameroon

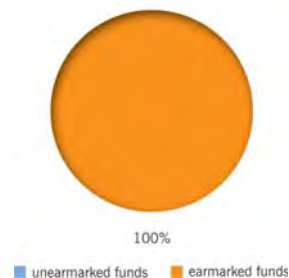
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 2,257

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

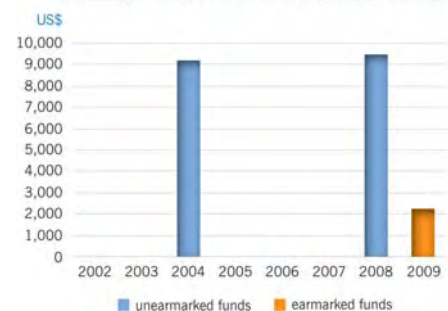
Donor ranking: 73/77

Donor ranking per capita: 64/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Canada

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 4,259,278

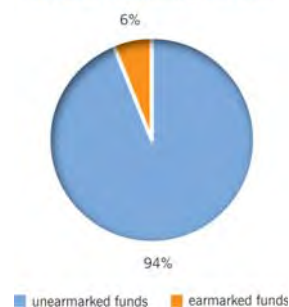
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 5,330,000 (CAD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 3,993,610

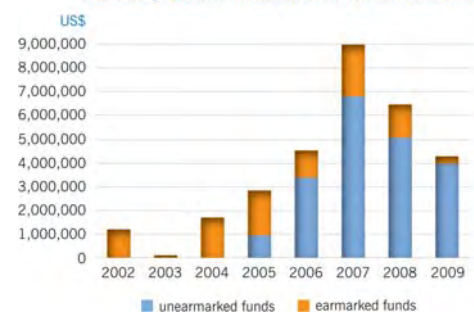
Donor ranking: 9/77

Donor ranking per capita: 17/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Chile

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 30,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 10,000

Donor ranking: 49/77

Donor ranking per capita: 45/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



China

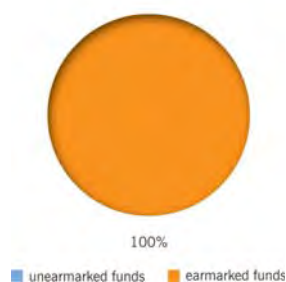
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 40,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

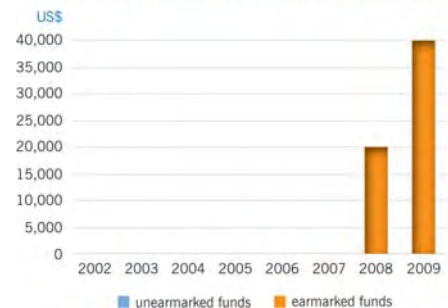
Donor ranking: 45/77

Donor ranking per capita: 67/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Colombia

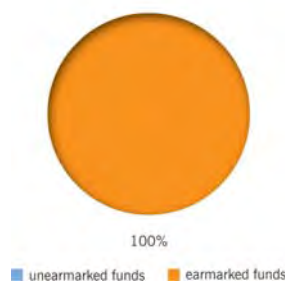
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 100,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

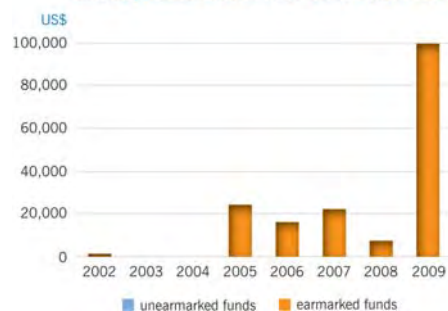
Donor ranking: 37/77

Donor ranking per capita: 41/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Costa Rica

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 5,104

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,104

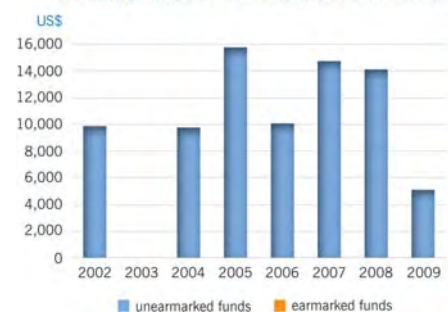
Donor ranking: 67/77

Donor ranking per capita: 50/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Croatia

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 31,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 24,000

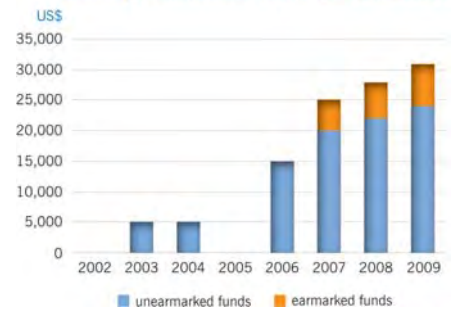
Donor ranking: 47/77

Donor ranking per capita: 33/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Cyprus

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 3,631

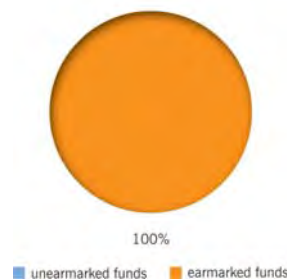
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 4,074 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

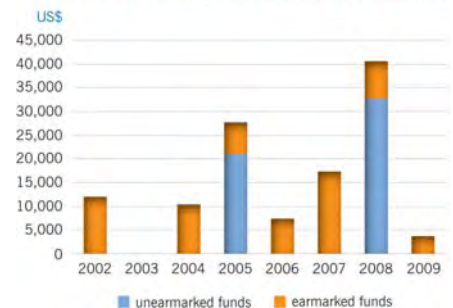
Donor ranking: 71/77

Donor ranking per capita: 37/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Czech Republic

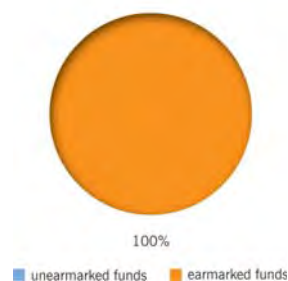
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 20,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

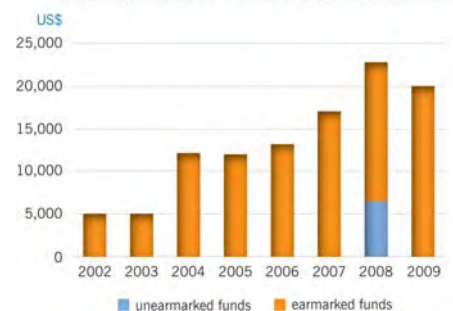
Donor ranking: 55/77

Donor ranking per capita: 43/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Denmark

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 3,593,071

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 20,300,000 (DKK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,232,526

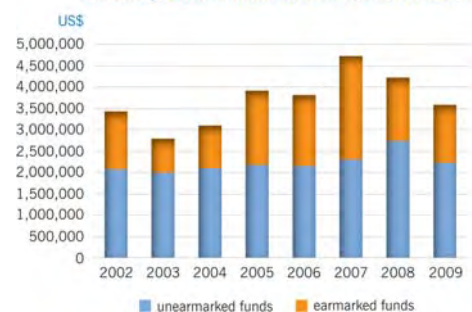
Donor ranking: 11/77

Donor ranking per capita: 8/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Estonia

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 26,962

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 300,000 (EEK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 17,975

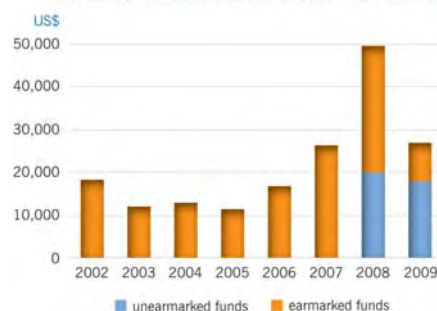
Donor ranking: 51/77

Donor ranking per capita: 27/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Finland

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 4,013,917

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,839,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,603,905

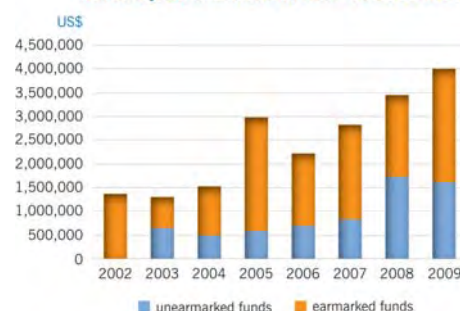
Donor ranking: 10/77

Donor ranking per capita: 6/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



France

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 2,273,913

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,700,000 (EUR) + 100,000 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,918,159

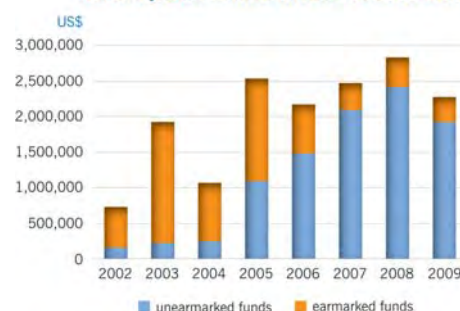
Donor ranking: 15/77

Donor ranking per capita: 25/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Germany

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 7,632,262

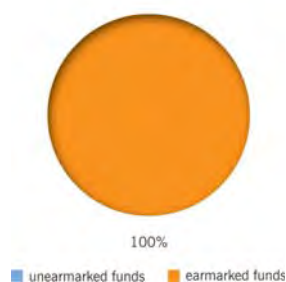
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 5,500,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

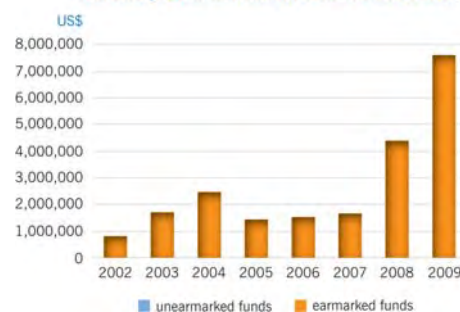
Donor ranking: 5/77

Donor ranking per capita: 18/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Greece

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 249,370

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 175,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 143,885

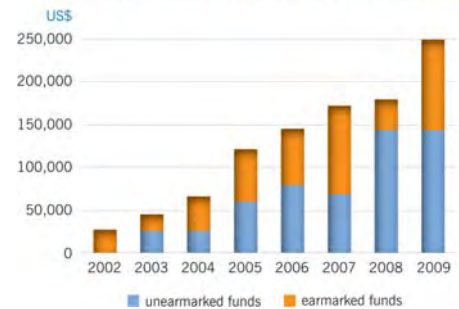
Donor ranking: 30/77

Donor ranking per capita: 26/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Guatemala

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 20,154

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 10,000

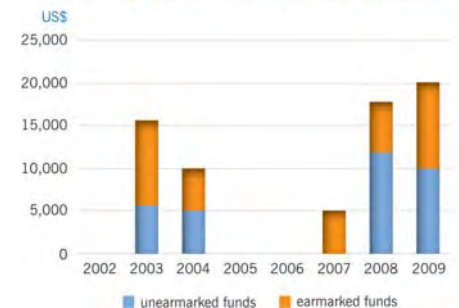
Donor ranking: 54/77

Donor ranking per capita: 48/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Holy See

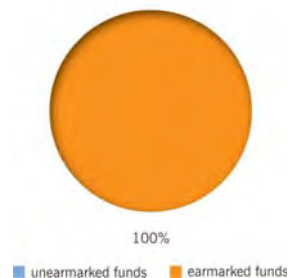
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 1,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

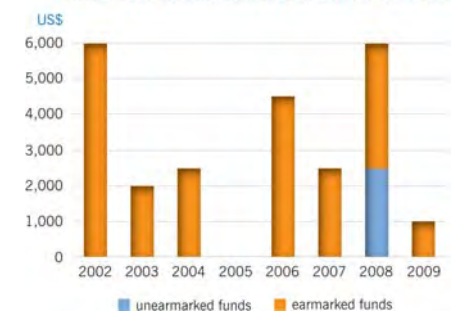
Donor ranking: 76/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Hungary

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 27,855

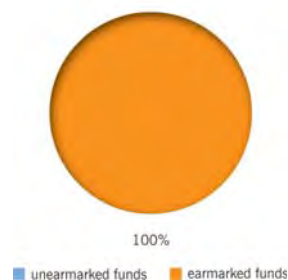
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 20,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

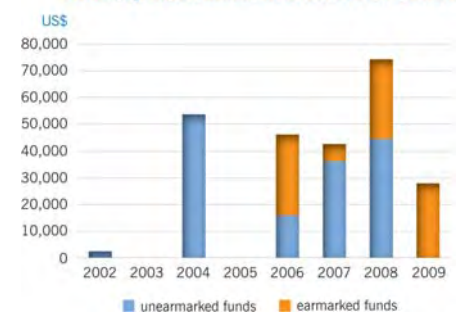
Donor ranking: 50/77

Donor ranking per capita: 39/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





India

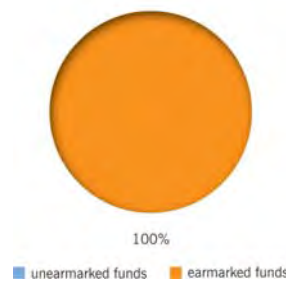
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 50,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

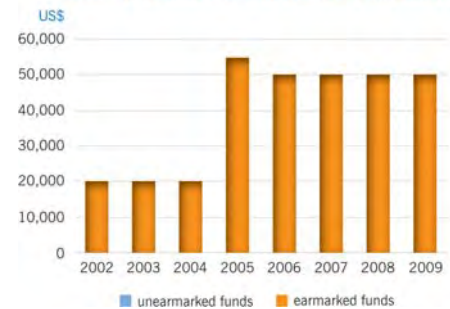
Donor ranking: 41/77

Donor ranking per capita: 66/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Indonesia

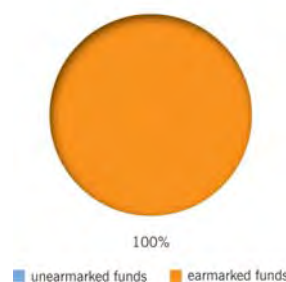
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 20,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

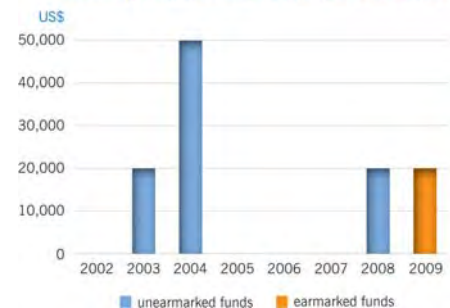
Donor ranking: 56/77

Donor ranking per capita: 65/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Iran

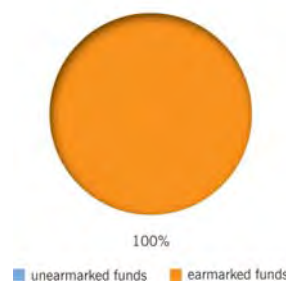
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 40,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

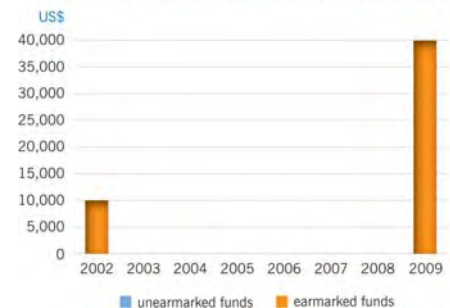
Donor ranking: 46/77

Donor ranking per capita: 56/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Ireland

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 2,808,989

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,000,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,966,292

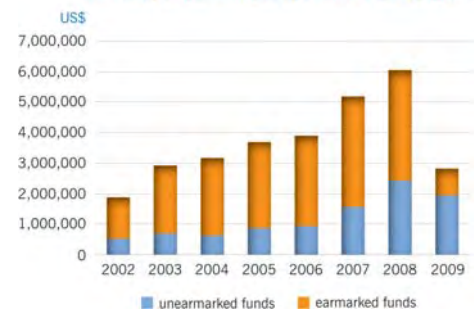
Donor ranking: 13/77

Donor ranking per capita: 9/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Israel

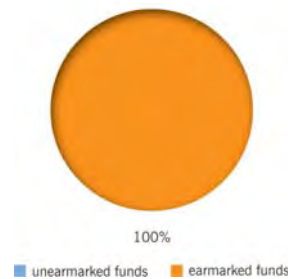
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 15,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

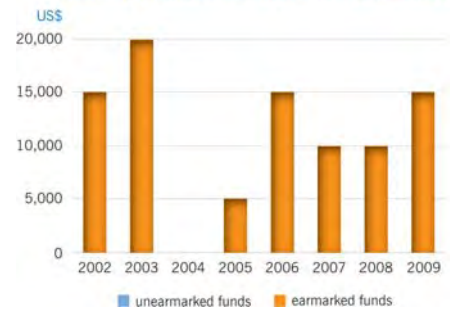
Donor ranking: 59/77

Donor ranking per capita: 42/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Italy

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 272,109

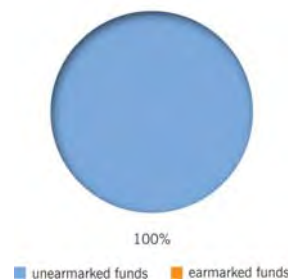
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 200,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 272,109

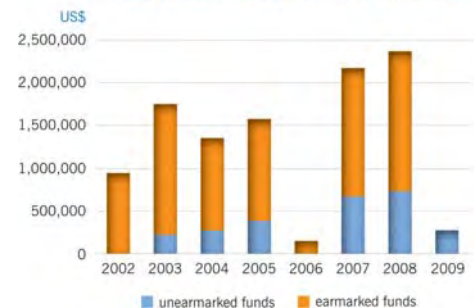
Donor ranking: 28/77

Donor ranking per capita: 36/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Japan

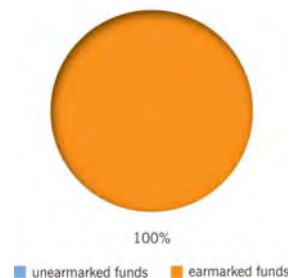
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 931,416

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

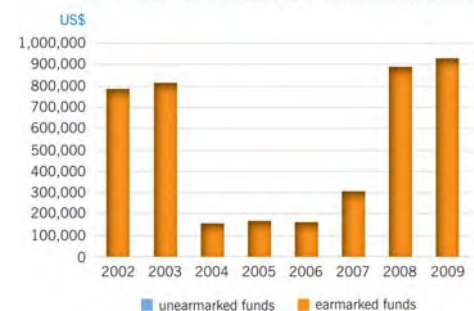
Donor ranking: 21/77

Donor ranking per capita: 32/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Kazakhstan

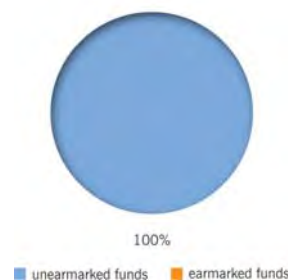
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 25,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 25,000

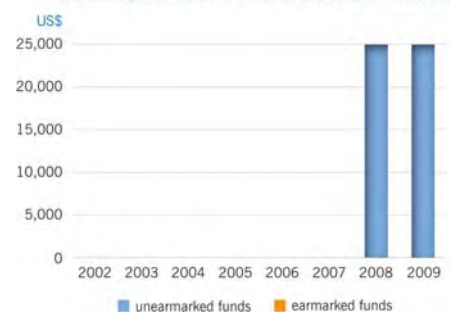
Donor ranking: 52/77

Donor ranking per capita: 47/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Republic of Korea

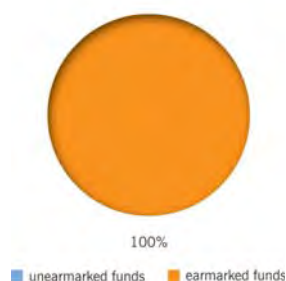
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 320,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

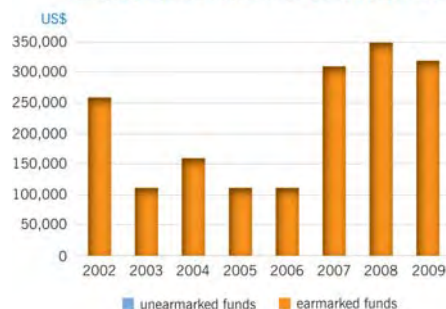
Donor ranking: 27/77

Donor ranking per capita: 34/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Kuwait

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 610,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 200,000

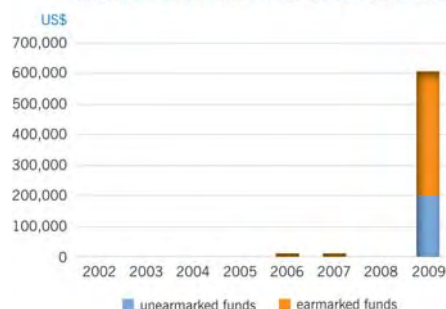
Donor ranking: 22/77

Donor ranking per capita: 15/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Liechtenstein

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 115,314

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 125,000 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 55,351

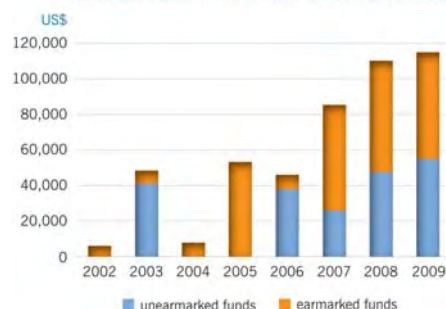
Donor ranking: 33/77

Donor ranking per capita: 1/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Luxembourg

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 216,535

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 165,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 183,727

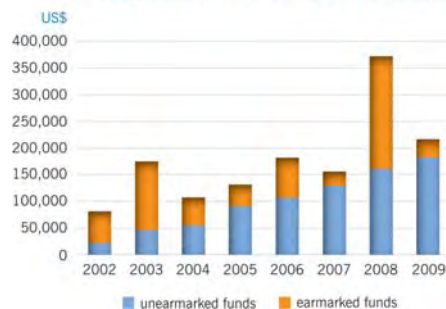
Donor ranking: 31/77

Donor ranking per capita: 11/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Malaysia

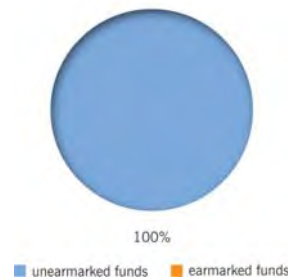
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 20,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 20,000

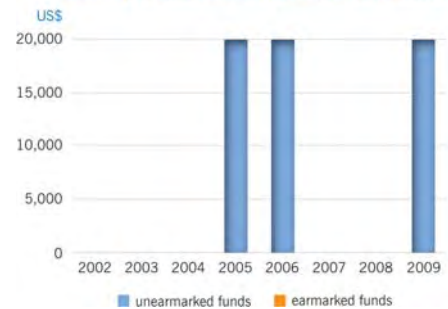
Donor ranking: 57/77

Donor ranking per capita: 52/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Mexico

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 76,304

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 50,000

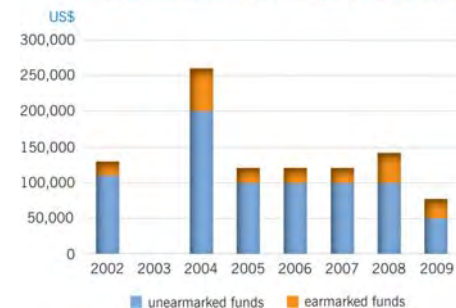
Donor ranking: 39/77

Donor ranking per capita: 53/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Monaco

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 43,478

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 33,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 26,350

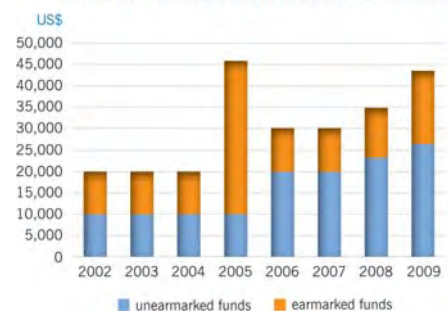
Donor ranking: 42/77

Donor ranking per capita: 4/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Morocco

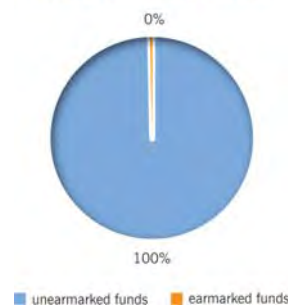
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 1,511,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,505,000

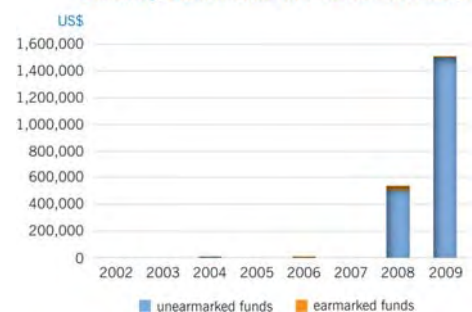
Donor ranking: 19/77

Donor ranking per capita: 24/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Netherlands

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 12,771,703

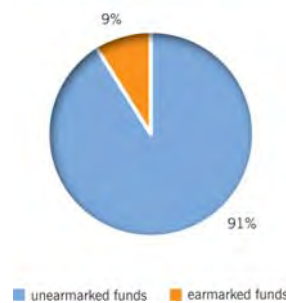
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 8,300,000 (EUR) + 1,200,000 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 11,651,703

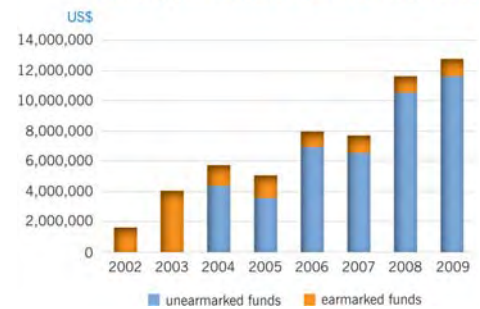
Donor ranking: 3/77

Donor ranking per capita: 5/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



New Zealand

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 2,017,750

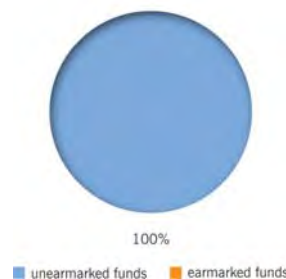
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 3,500,000 (NZD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,017,750

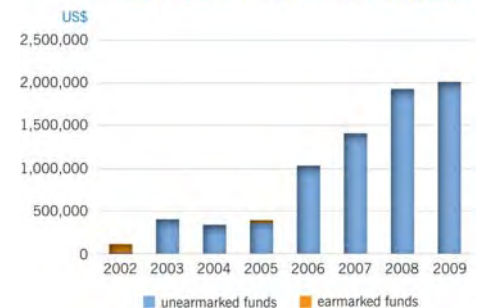
Donor ranking: 16/77

Donor ranking per capita: 10/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Nicaragua

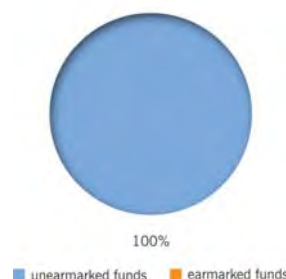
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 4,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,000

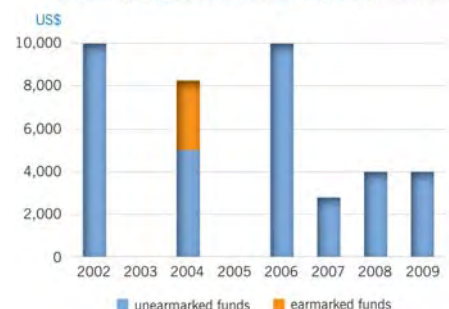
Donor ranking: 70/77

Donor ranking per capita: 54/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Norway

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 8,236,208

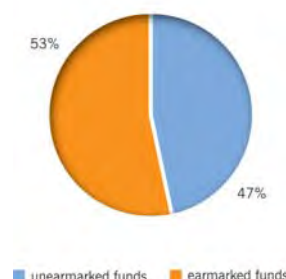
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 53,000,000 (NOK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 3,846,154

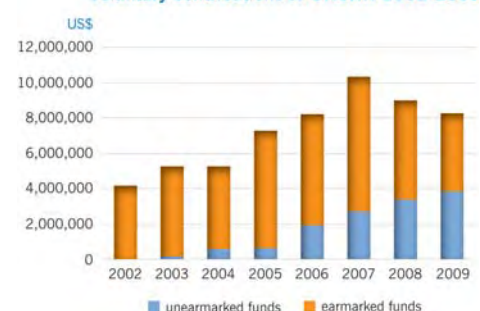
Donor ranking: 4/77

Donor ranking per capita: 2/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Pakistan

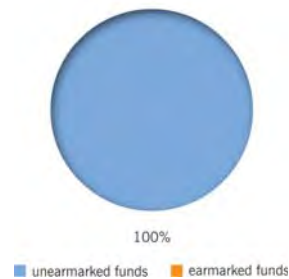
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 3,469

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 3,469

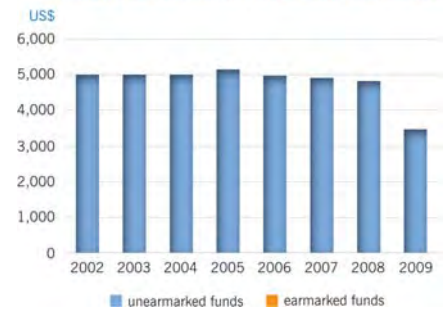
Donor ranking: 72/77

Donor ranking per capita: 68/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Panama

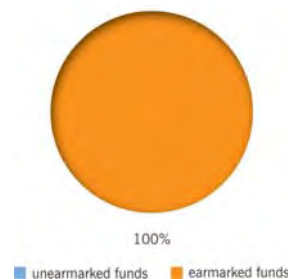
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 1,500

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

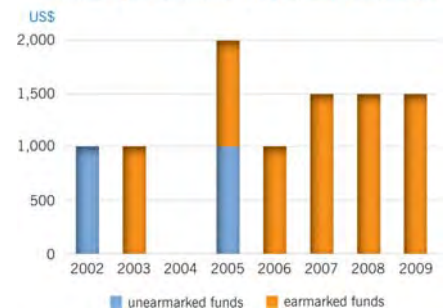
Donor ranking: 75/77

Donor ranking per capita: 58/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Poland

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 100,752

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 100,853 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 60,451

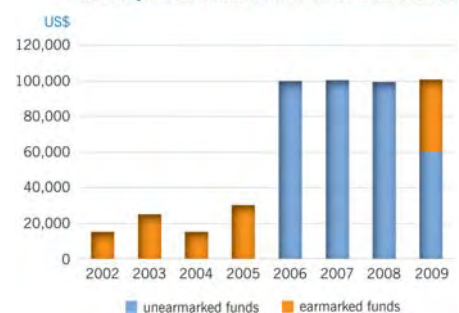
Donor ranking: 36/77

Donor ranking per capita: 40/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Portugal

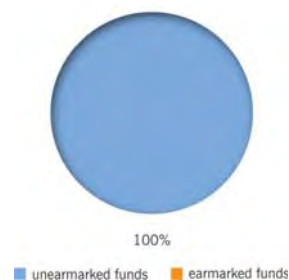
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 80,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 80,000

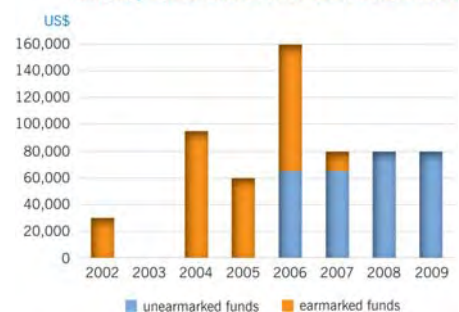
Donor ranking: 38/77

Donor ranking per capita: 31/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Qatar

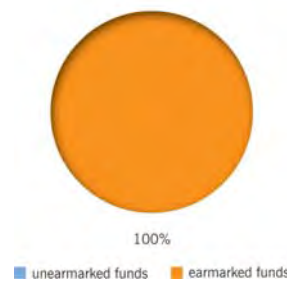
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 9,982

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

Donor ranking: 64/77

Donor ranking per capita: 35/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Russian Federation

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 2,000,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 500,000

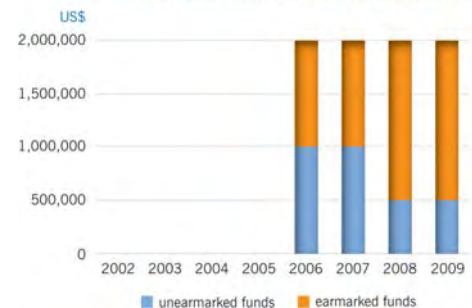
Donor ranking: 17/77

Donor ranking per capita: 28/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



San Marino

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 40,816

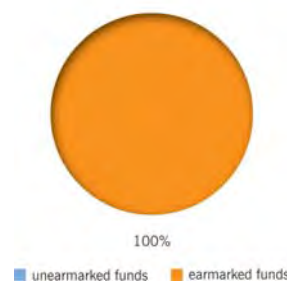
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 30,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

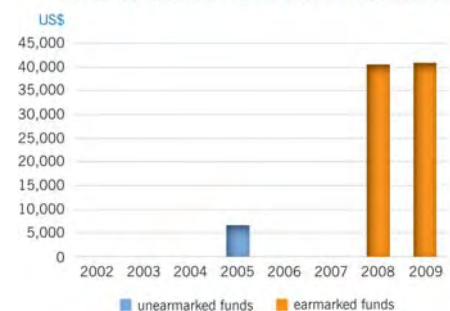
Donor ranking: 43/77

Donor ranking per capita: 3/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Saudi Arabia

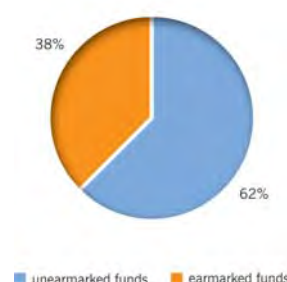
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 400,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 250,000

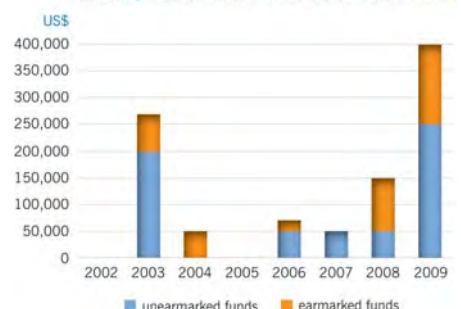
Donor ranking: 26/77

Donor ranking per capita: 29/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Slovakia

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 9,990

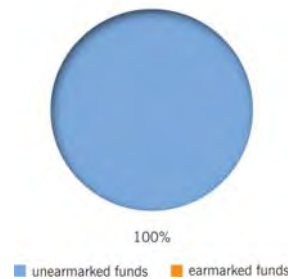
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 10,000 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 9,990

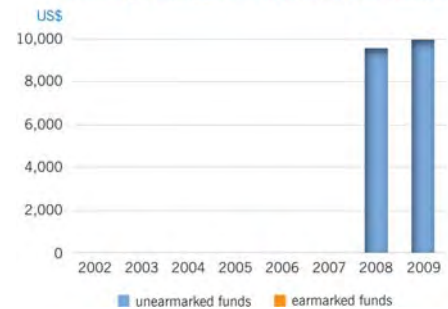
Donor ranking: 63/77

Donor ranking per capita: 44/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Slovenia

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 101,492

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 70,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 84,173

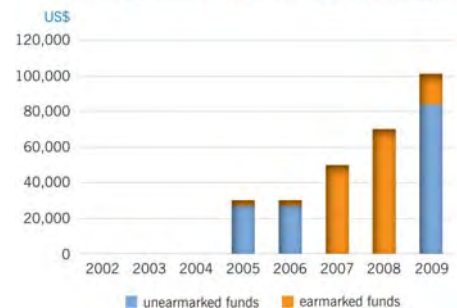
Donor ranking: 35/77

Donor ranking per capita: 23/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



South Africa

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 62,115

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 70,913 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 16,977

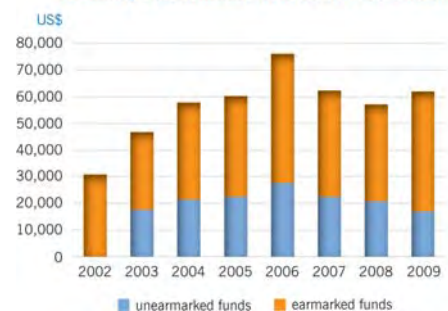
Donor ranking: 40/77

Donor ranking per capita: 49/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Spain

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 13,900,952

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 8,950,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 8,875,740

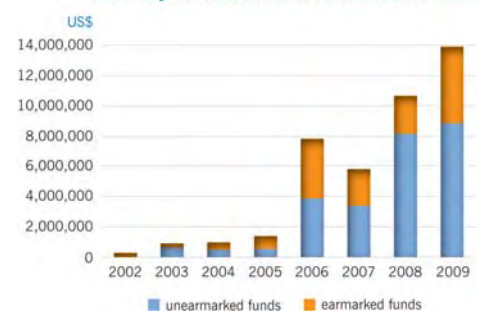
Donor ranking: 2/77

Donor ranking per capita: 14/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Sri Lanka

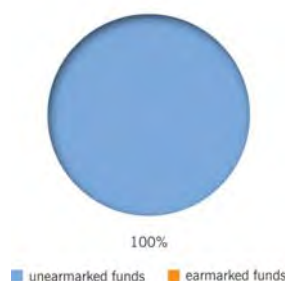
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 5,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,000

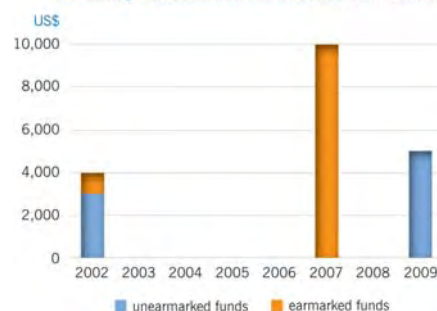
Donor ranking: 68/77

Donor ranking per capita: 62/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Sweden

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 6,531,532

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 58,000,000 (SEK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 3,507,457

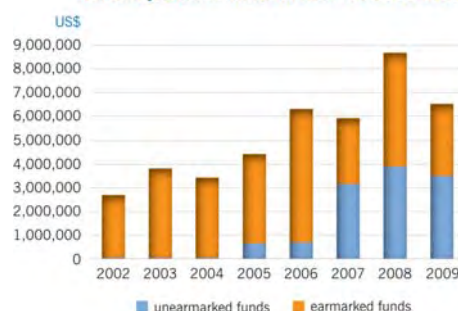
Donor ranking: 6/77

Donor ranking per capita: 7/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Switzerland

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 2,734,427

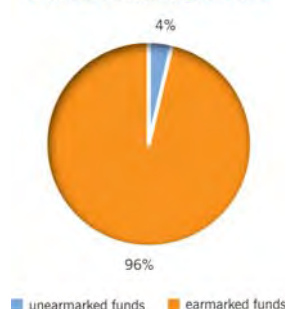
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,593,245 (CHF) + 170,000 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 99,900

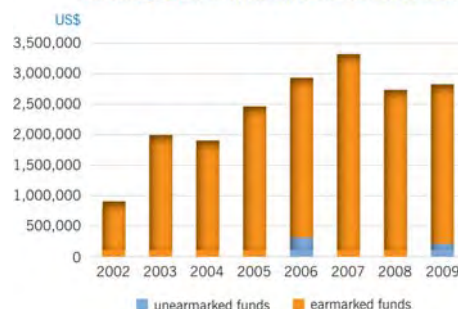
Donor ranking: 14/77

Donor ranking per capita: 13/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Syrian Arab Republic

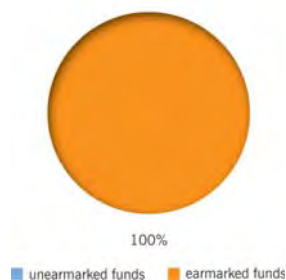
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 5,149

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

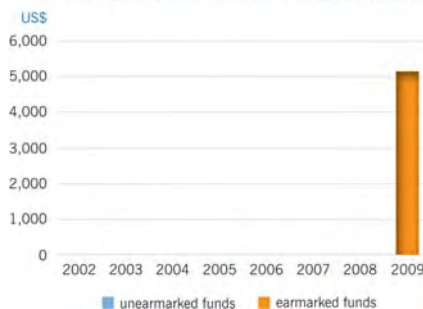
Donor ranking: 66/77

Donor ranking per capita: 61/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Thailand

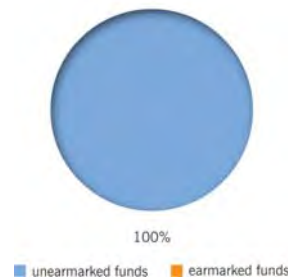
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 20,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 20,000

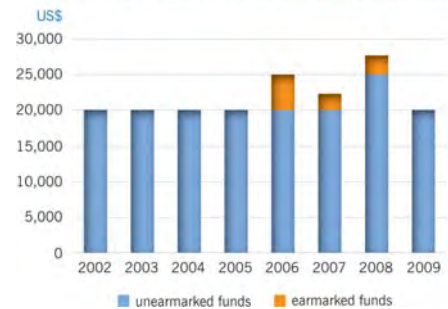
Donor ranking: 58/77

Donor ranking per capita: 59/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Turkey

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 126,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 100,000

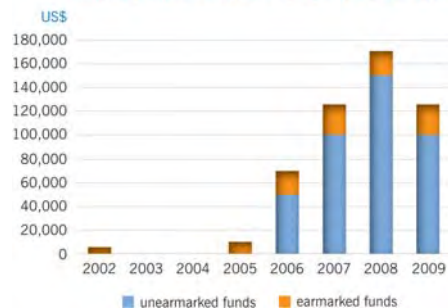
Donor ranking: 32/77

Donor ranking per capita: 46/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



United Kingdom

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 5,145,128

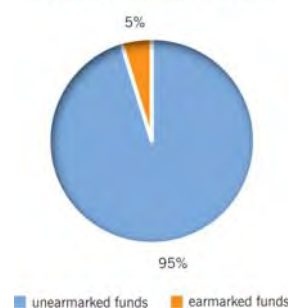
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 3,167,537 (GBP)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,904,617

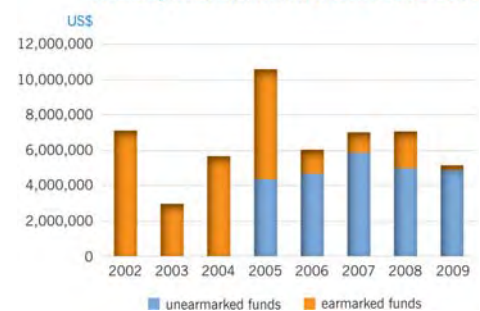
Donor ranking: 8/77

Donor ranking per capita: 19/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



United States of America

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 19,714,133

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 8,000,000

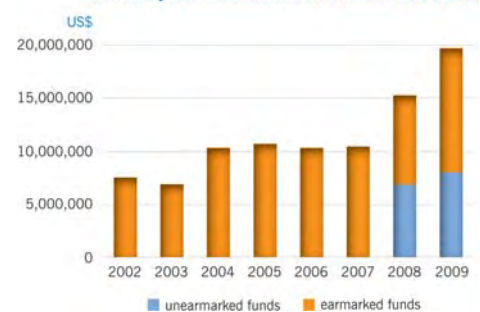
Donor ranking: 1/77

Donor ranking per capita: 21/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





Venezuela

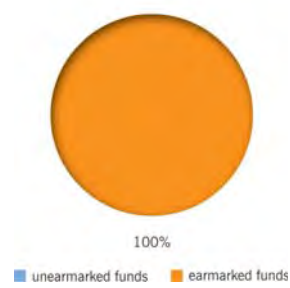
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 15,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

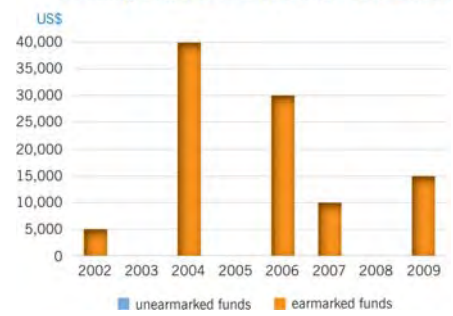
Donor ranking: 60/77

Donor ranking per capita: 55/68

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Intergovernmental Organizations



United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

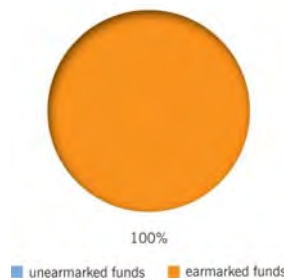
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 40,376

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

Donor ranking: 44/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



European Commission

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 6,277,164

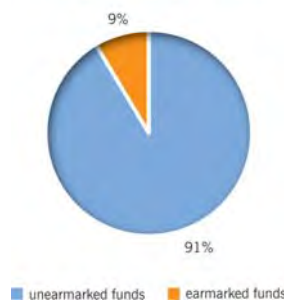
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 4,360,971 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,741,931

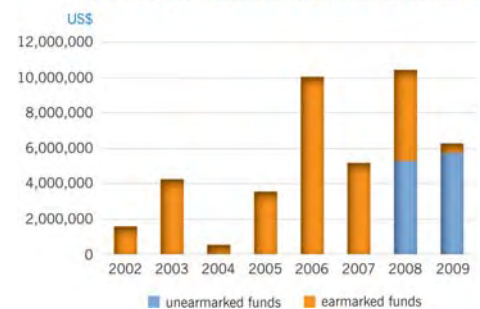
Donor ranking: 7/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 508,219

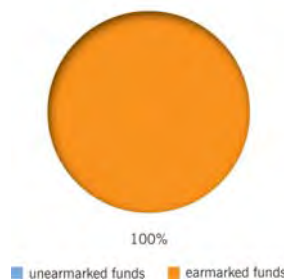
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 346,637 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

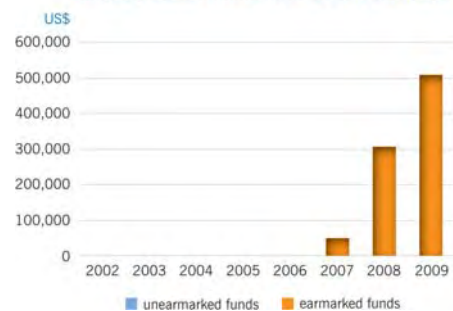
Donor ranking: 24/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



United Nations Development Programme

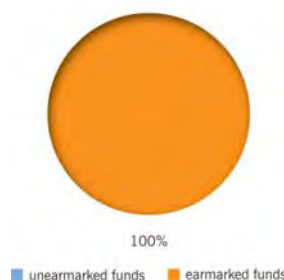
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 3,285,406

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

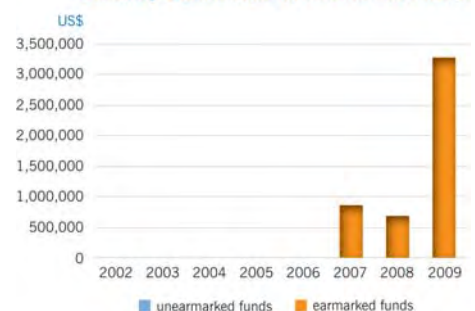
Donor ranking: 12/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009





United Nations Populations Fund

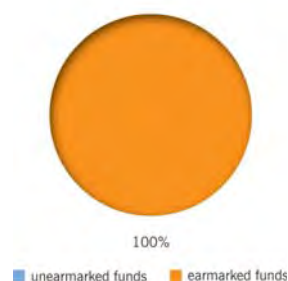
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 451,850

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

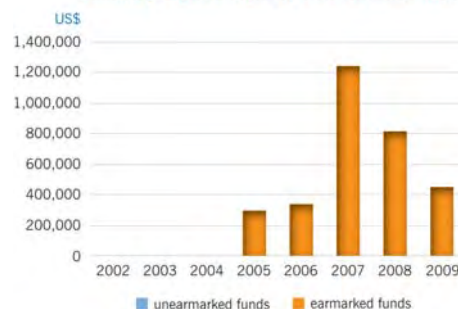
Donor ranking: 25/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Private Donors



Case Western Reserve University

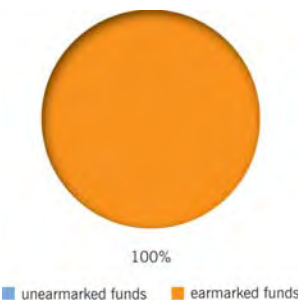
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 4,975

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

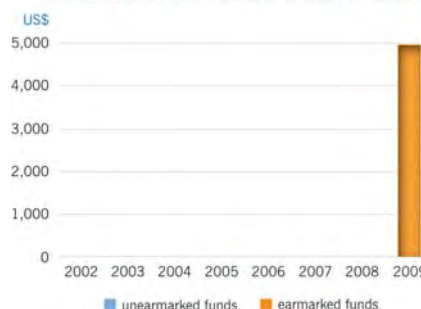
Donor ranking: 69/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



MacArthur Foundation

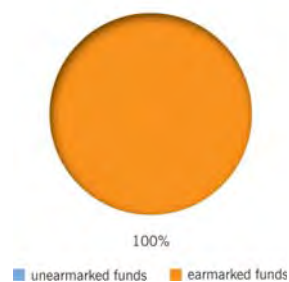
Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 250,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

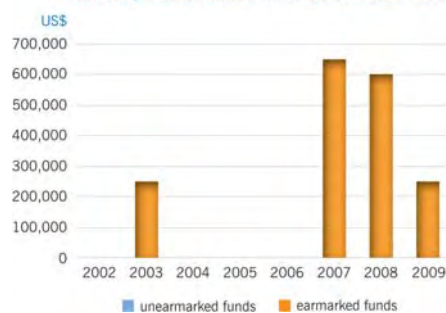
Donor ranking: 29/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009



Norwegian Refugee Council

Total voluntary contribution in 2009, in USD: 21,732

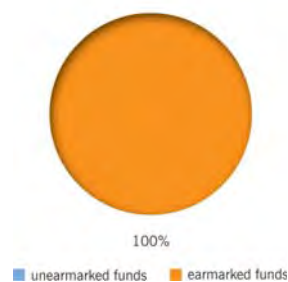
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 132,378 (NOK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

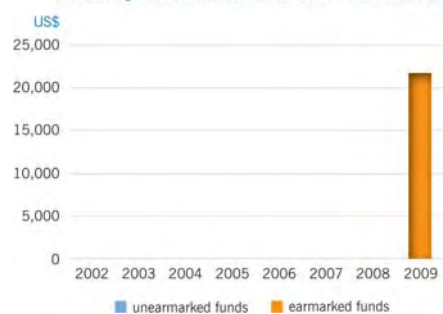
Donor ranking: 53/77

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2009



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2009

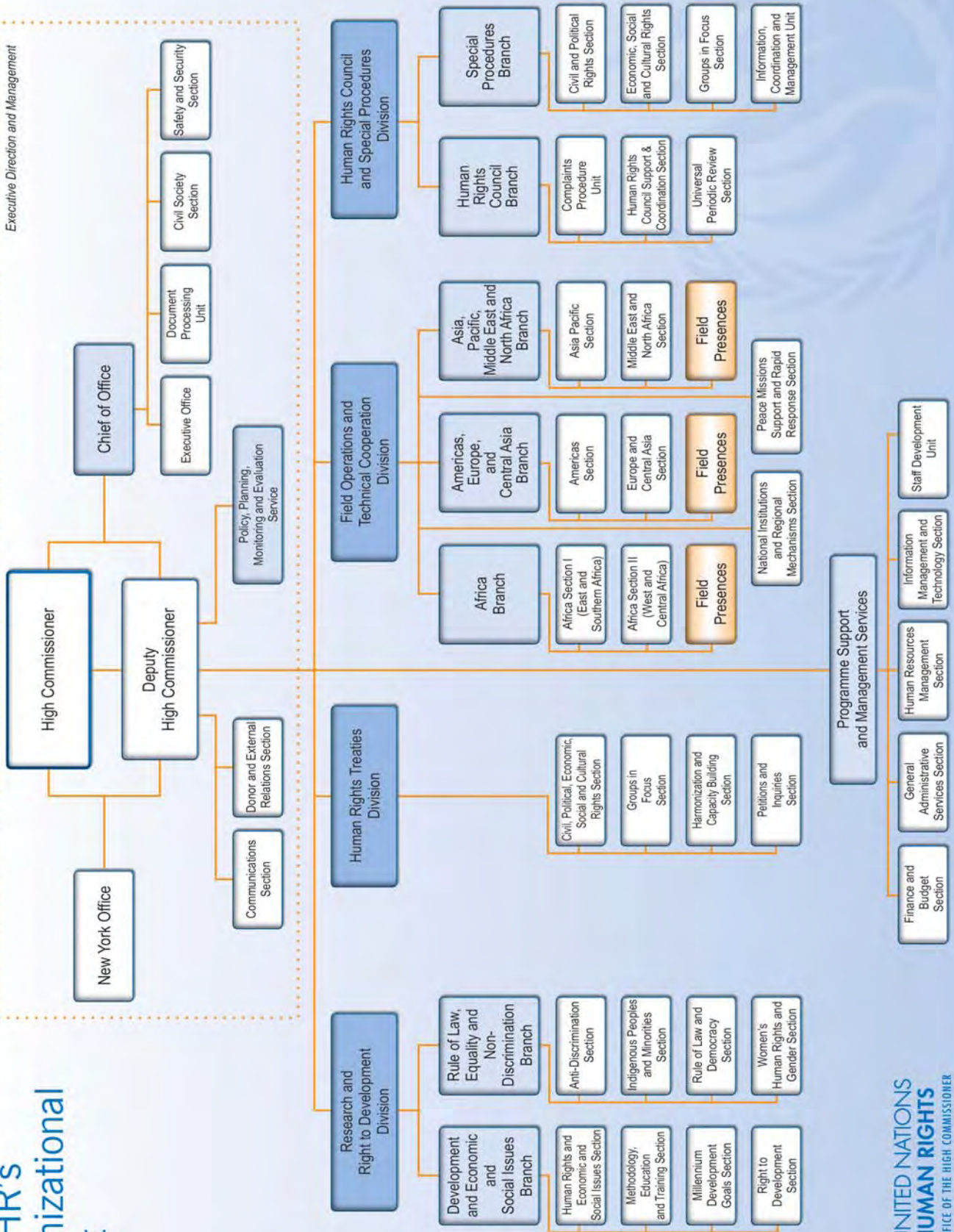






OHCHR's Organizational Chart

Executive Direction and Management



OHCHR's Expected Accomplishments for 2008-2009 – Results Table

Expected Accomplishments	Global-Level Indicators
1. Increased compliance with human rights standards by national institutions, laws and programmes	1.1 Number of national human rights institutions by status, according to categorization established by the International Coordinating Committee of the National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
	1.2 Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged that undertook legislative changes in accordance with human rights standards
2. Increased compliance and engagement by governments with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies (treaty bodies, special procedures, Human Rights Council/ Universal Periodic Review)	2.1 Number of countries that have issued standing invitations to special procedures
	2.2 Number of countries that have allowed visits in response to all or most requests by special procedures
	2.3 Percentage of special procedures communications substantially or fully replied to by governments
3. Increased ratification of international and regional human rights instruments and review of reservations	3.1 Number of new ratifications of international human rights treaties
	3.2 Number of countries that have ratified one or more international human rights treaties
	3.3 Number of countries that ratified one or both Covenants (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and/or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
	3.4 Number of countries that removed one or more reservations to an international human rights treaty
4. Justice and accountability mechanisms established and functioning in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural, human rights violations	4.1 Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged that have functional mechanisms in place in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations
5. Increased number of measures taken to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, to justice and basic services, and to allow their participation in public policy decision-making and monitoring processes	5.1 Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged that have introduced measures to allow participation of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, in public policy decision-making and monitoring processes
	5.2 Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged that have introduced measures to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, to justice and basic services

Progress against Indicators in 2009	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2009, 65 national human rights institutions had 'A'-status (compared with 64 in 2008); 16 had 'B'-status (compared with 13 in 2008); and nine had 'C'-status (compared to eight in 2008) A more rigorous and transparent accreditation process has led to increased appreciation by both civil society organizations and National Human Rights Institutions themselves
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 countries adopted new human rights-related laws following expert advice and other forms of technical assistance provided by OHCHR. In 2009, OHCHR intervention helped inform the content of 61 new laws or legislative amendments, as well as a large number of draft bills and executive orders with implications for human rights at national level (see 'Summary of Results' for examples)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66 countries issued standing invitations to special procedures in 2009, compared with 63 in 2008 and 59 in 2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 States received one or more requests to allow visits by special procedures mandate-holders, of which 58 responded positively to at least one such request. The acceptance ratio of countries allowing at least one special procedure mandate to conduct a visit is 83 per cent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments replied to 33 per cent of the 689 communications sent by special procedures mandate-holders in 2009, compared with 34 per cent in 2008 and 32 per cent in 2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87 ratifications were recorded in 2009, compared with 100 in 2008 and 63 in 2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53 countries have ratified one or more treaty in 2009, compared with 63 in both 2008 and 2007
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One country ratified one Covenant in 2009, compared with five countries in 2008. A total of 32 countries signed the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Two countries ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, compared with one in 2008; and two countries ratified the Second Optional Protocol, compared with five in 2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine countries removed one or more reservations, compared with 14 in 2008
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 countries where OHCHR has engaged established such mechanisms Africa: 20 (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe) Asia-Pacific: 8 (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste) Europe and Central Asia: 3 (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia) Americas: 6 (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico) Middle East and North Africa: 5 (Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, occupied Palestinian territory)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 countries where OHCHR engaged introduced such measures Africa: 9 (Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Uganda) Asia-Pacific: 4 (Cambodia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste) Europe and Central Asia: 7 (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan) Americas: 7 (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama) Middle East and North Africa: 4 (Iraq, Lebanon, occupied Palestinian territory, United Arab Emirates)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 countries where OHCHR engaged introduced such measures Africa: 13 (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda) Asia-Pacific: 7 (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Timor-Leste), as well as South East Asia and Pacific region Europe and Central Asia: 8 (Albania, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan) Americas: 6 (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico) Middle East and North Africa: 1 (Lebanon)



Expected Accomplishments	Global-Level Indicators
6. Increased number and diversity of rights-holders and national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of UN and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies	6.1 Total number of submissions of substantive documents to UN human rights bodies
7. International community increasingly aware, alert and responsive to critical human rights situations and issues	7.1 Number of concrete actions by UN/regional inter-governmental bodies to address critical human rights situations and issues linked to OHCHR's work
8. Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the right to development, into United Nations system policies and programmes with respect to development, humanitarian action, peace and security, and economic and social issues	8.1 Number of UN common country programmes and projects using in their programming treaty body, special procedures and Human Rights Council recommendations
	8.2 Number of relevant United Nations system agency policy documents and key speeches of heads of UN agencies/departments that integrate human rights standards and principles with OHCHR support
9. Enhanced coherence and consistency of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies	9.1 Percentage of treaty bodies and special procedures recommendations taken up by the Human Rights Council in the context of the Universal Periodic Review
	9.2 Number of countries that submitted common core documents in their most recent submission round
	9.3 Number of countries that submitted common core documents following the guidelines
	9.4 Degree of progress made over preceding year in improving the level of coordination of special procedures mandate-holders' work, as assessed by the mandate-holders
	9.5 Degree of progress made over the preceding year in improving the level of harmonization of treaty body work, as assessed by treaty body chairs

Progress against Indicators in 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty bodies received 110 admissible individual petitions out of 9,000 pieces of correspondence Special procedures received at least 1,725 pieces of correspondence from civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and individuals During regular sessions of the Human Rights Council, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC submitted 231 documents, whilst national human rights institutions submitted 27. In addition, the confidential complaint mechanism registered 1,498 communications in 2009. A total of 19 of these were submitted by civil society organizations; the remaining 1,479 were from individual authors, most in the form of mass communications In the context of the Universal Periodic Review, 811 submissions were received from civil society organizations, 14 from national human rights institutions, 13 from regional organizations and 39 from UN entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven special events, discussions and panels in the framework of the Human Rights Council, on the rights of persons with disabilities; the right to food; rights of the child; women's rights; human rights and climate change; the human rights of migrants in detention centres; and the integration of a gender perspective in the Council's work Four special sessions of the Human Rights Council, on the grave violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the January 2009 aggression in the occupied Gaza Strip; the human rights situation in Sri Lanka; and the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and East Jerusalem; as well as the second thematic Special Session on the impact of the global economic and financial crises on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights Side events taking place during the Durban Review Conference, jointly organized by OHCHR and several other UN agencies, on HIV-related discrimination; extreme poverty and human rights; migration; work discrimination OHCHR also worked to instill a human rights perspective in various events organized by UN/inter-governmental bodies, including on climate change (UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen); right to development (Joint African Union Commission, Economic Commission for Africa and OHCHR meeting on the African Peer Review Mechanism, Universal Periodic Review and Right to Development); business and human rights (multi-stakeholder consultation on the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations), and food crisis (Comprehensive Framework for Action for the United Nations system and Bretton Woods Institutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Country Teams in nine Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework rollout countries included references to relevant recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms and bodies Four training-of-trainers workshops and three UN leadership and coordination workshops delivered (Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Thailand) In addition, OHCHR field presences involved in mainstreaming human rights in the work of UN Country Teams and individual agencies as required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 major policy documents, positions statements and guidelines integrating human rights concerns were adopted by other UN and multilateral development agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The compilation of recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures prepared by the Office in the context of the Universal Periodic Review allows for a thorough listing in the report. Between 30 to 40 per cent of those recommendations are referred to by members and observers of the Human Rights Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine countries submitted common core documents in 2009, compared to five in 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All common core documents submitted in 2009 are considered to have followed the guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandate-holders assessed that they had achieved a greater level of coordination in the course of 2009, such as through the OHCHR-supported Coordination Committee and other initiatives aiming at strengthening cooperation (e.g., in the area of good practices) Special procedures mandate-holders issued 223 press releases and public statements, of which almost 14 per cent were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2009 one further treaty body adopted treaty-specific guidelines, and the Inter-Committee Meeting agreed on a revised format that includes establishment of a working group on follow-up

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