

# Annual Report 2000

*Implementation of activities and use of funds*

# Human Rights



**OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

Annual  
Report 2 0 0 0

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*Implementation of activities and use of funds*

Human Rights



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UNITED NATIONS  
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Editorial Consultant: John Steinhardt

Design and Desktop Publishing by Studio de Graphisme, Anne Iten, Joseph Maye, Genève

Printed by ATAR SA, Genève

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## Foreword by the High Commissioner

This report on the implementation of activities and use of voluntary funds received by OHCHR in 2000 is the first of its kind. It marks a further step in the process of introducing proper systems for planning, monitoring and reporting on activities and for financial and project management at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Annual Appeal followed by the Annual Report are intended to be essential tools for donors and all who are interested in the work of OHCHR. I believe that they demonstrate our commitment to transparency and accountability and that they have already improved planning and prioritization of activities. I hope they will reassure donors about our determination to improve performance in the management of and accountability for all our activities.

There is a lot of ground to be made up in reporting to donors on the uses to which their contributions have been put in past years. OHCHR is working hard to make up that ground. This Annual Report signals the start of a structured approach to reporting as of 2000 instead of the ad hoc arrangements in a multitude of formats which have been the pattern to date. Inevitably, as measures are taken to put order into the Office's finances, the shortcomings of past practices are brought into relief. It is clear that tracking systems in the Office have been unsatisfactory. One outcome of our cleaning up of past records has been the identification of significant levels of unspent funds, some going back several years. OHCHR's rate of implementation is being stepped up this year to take account of this.

The publication of the first Annual Report forms part of a process of Change Management at OHCHR, based on a culture of responsibility for management at all levels, which aims to improve efficiency. The process will intensify throughout 2001 and will affect every aspect of the Office's work. It is taking place at a time when we face major challenges. Steering the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to a successful conclusion is clearly the top priority this year, but there are many others as well – for example, implementing the decision of the Economic and Social Council to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for which OHCHR has been designated lead agency.

As OHCHR works to build capacity so as to meet these challenges, I ask that we be judged on our current and future performance. I am determined that OHCHR will carry out its mandate in a transparent manner and be fully accountable to donors and the international community generally.



Mary Robinson  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



# Managing change at OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was created in 1994, as a direct outcome of the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. The Office was established as a full department within the United Nations Secretariat, incorporating the largely service oriented Centre for Human Rights but with enhanced authority and a mandate to actively promote universal enjoyment of human rights and to play a leading role in this sphere. A major overhaul of its structure was completed in 1998, designed to increase efficiency and eliminate duplication among the core functions mandated under the regular budget. Since then, the Office's mandates and activities have expanded and continue to grow in such areas as human rights field operations including support to UN peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building operations; economic and social rights through the mandates created by the Commission on Human Rights in 1998 and 1999; mainstreaming human rights in the United Nations agencies and programmes and in the UN Common Country Assessment/Development Assistance Framework process at country level; technical cooperation and support for national plans of action; national human rights institutions and human rights education; conducting fact-finding missions, etc. Since 1993, however, the freeze in the regular UN budget has implied a decrease in real terms in OHCHR's regular budget.

To respond to the new demands, OHCHR has adopted an appraisal procedure for all its activities; associated itself with other UN agencies for administrative support during project implementation; launched two annual appeals and initiated a process of definition of regional strategies. It has also taken measures to strengthen the function of administration through a thorough review and audit evaluations of the administrative section and OHCHR field operations. The recommendations made have set a path for achieving improved systems in the financial, human resources and operational areas.

The performance of the Office still requires significant improvements to ensure that vision, knowledge, planning, management and administration develop in a coherent way, pooling the resources from the regular budget and the extra-budgetary resources in a common system.

A Change Management Programme got underway last year. It is a programme involving OHCHR in Geneva, in the New York office and in the field and is intended to be inclusive, transparent and internally managed. Staff members are encouraged to participate and are consulted on all matters, as appropriate.

The process promotes team work and horizontal networking in the Office. The programme is regularly discussed at staff meetings and is included as a standing item in the agenda of the Senior Policy Committee. Highlights of the Change Management Programme to date include:

**Mission statement:** Following a transparent and constructive internal process, the new Mission statement for the Office was adopted in September 2001 and included in the Annual Appeal and posted on the OHCHR web site.

**Priorities, objectives and strategies:** Work is in hand on a comprehensive document of OHCHR. A draft was circulated to all staff in November 2000. Further efforts are now being refined to identify clear and concrete priorities for the Office as a whole as well as for each branch/unit and to strategize better the implementation of the said priorities and objectives.

**Management – senior retreat:** As a result of discussions with the Office of Human Resource Management and MANNET consultants in November and December 2000, the third phase of the People Management Training Programme was held in January 2001. The High Commissioner established a task force on the follow up to the senior retreat and other matters “to look at the feedback in the staff survey and suggestions made during the retreat with a view to making concrete proposals to the management board”.

**Management – follow up to the senior retreat:** Two documents have been approved by the High Commissioner as a result of the deliberations of the task force: the first related to procedures for recruitment and promotion of staff members; the second included measures to improve the career of OHCHR General Services Staff. The task force is currently working on various issues relating to, inter alia, the training of staff, the preparation of information kits to be given to new staff upon arrival, measures that could be contemplated to rationalize the functioning of management bodies, etc.

**Staff matters - induction courses:** As a result of discussion with the UNOG Training Section, the first ever induction course for new OHCHR staff members was held in January 2001. Its contents and outline had been discussed in the context of the Change Management Programme with a view to strengthening professionalism within the Office and facilitating the integration of new staff members. The experience was considered as a very positive one by all participants and a new course is being organized later this year.

**Thematic directory:** This directory is a tool to facilitate interaction between external partners and the relevant OHCHR staff focal points on any given issue. It compiles practical information relating to the Commission, the Sub-Commission, special mechanisms, treaty bodies and the trust funds. It was circulated in April 2001 to all Permanent Missions in Geneva as well as UN agencies and NGOs.

**Process:** Given the specificity and size of the Branch, parallel efforts have been initiated with a view to implement a change programme within APB. In its first stage (December 2000 – January 2001), an APB drafting group prepared a report in which a number of recommendations were made. Later, specific

## **Activities and Programmes Branch**



working groups were set up to discuss the matter further and come up with conclusions and recommendations in their respective areas of responsibility. They will report to an internal task force which will play a leading role in the implementation process.

*Field presences:* Given the importance of the issues at stake, serious efforts have been made to implement the main recommendations of meetings of heads of field presences. This issue now regularly appears on the agenda of the Management Board and is dealt with by one of the working groups referred to above.

As the largest branch in the Office, many issues need to be addressed as regards the role of APB, its relationship with the field, its relationship with other parts of OHCHR, etc. The discussion about these matters will be carried forward by the new chief of branch who has recently taken up duty.

### **Support Services Branch**

Major efforts have been undertaken to facilitate processing of individual communications. In order to provide a more efficient support to treaty bodies, a new petitions unit was established and the structure of the treaty implementation team revised. Also, appropriate work plans for the units and staff concerned were approved.

### **Research and Right to Development Branch**

A specific note on issues relating to the mandates, activities and functions of RRDB was prepared by the Branch and discussed at the beginning of the year. It led, inter alia, to the circulation of OHCHR Guidelines on the adoption of a policy on managing the human rights information network.

Other issues being considered in the context of Change Management include follow up to the World Conference, improving liaison with NGOs, the decision to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the publications programme. In addition to the processes listed above, OHCHR is seeking to improve its managerial systems in the areas of programme and project management; financial management and reporting; information management and communications and human resources management and staff development. With donor assistance, senior personnel are being recruited to advise on and assist OHCHR in each of these areas.



# Funding of OHCHR

## Funding

Contributions pledged to OHCHR in 2000 largely exceeded prior years. Donors included 60 governments, the European Commission, several foundations and some private donors. Almost all major donors increased their contributions in 2000 and 15 donors contributed more than one million US dollars as compared to 8 donors in 1999 and 1998. Most contributions were earmarked according to the main headings of the Annual Appeal. Some contributions had more detailed earmarking while very few were made with no earmarking at all. An impressive number of donors gave financial support to OHCHR, however ten of them provided 75 per cent of the funding. OHCHR succeeded in broadening its donor base in 2000: the European Commission pledged US\$ 5.1 million, the United Nations Foundation, US\$ 3.6 million and several other foundations contributed, in particular to the World Conference against Racism. Some governments which in the past had contributed on an ad hoc basis, with great fluctuations, were approached more systematically resulting in increased contributions in 2000.

The overall level of financial support was very encouraging and structured relationships which have improved the predictability of the funding have been established with several major donors. However, a significant proportion of contributions were earmarked and provided late in the year. Earmarking resulted in lack of flexibility, and while some activities, such as technical cooperation projects, had more than sufficient funds available, others suffered from lack of funds and/or late availability of funds.

## Expenditure

Total expenditure for activities implemented by OHCHR with voluntary contributions amounted to US\$ 31,037,177 million. This amount includes activities administered by both the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and represents expenditure recorded in the financial systems as of 31 December 2000.

The large balance carried over from 2000 to 2001 was due to a number of factors. The absence of an adequate financial management system in OHCHR has resulted in a slow flow of funds. Financial information that would be readily available in such a system is an essential management tool that OHCHR still needs to establish. As a result, the time lag between the receipt of a pledge and expenditure incurred is unnecessarily long with delays occurring at every step of an essentially manual system. OHCHR has no programme reserves and can only spend money paid and registered. While the closing balance from 2000 was excessive, a reasonable carry-over is needed to continue activities until new contributions are received. This is of greater importance for OHCHR than for organisations such as UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDP, which have reserves and can

spend money based on pledges. Steps have been taken to accelerate the spending in 2001.

### Financial management

Investment in financial management is bearing fruit. A financial management system is being developed and staff with thorough background in finance have joined the administrative section. The new system will draw on financial information currently available with OHCHR's implementing agents UNOG, UNOPS and UNDP. It will contain information on programme and project budgets, pledges, income, allocations of funds, allotments, commitments, expenditure and balances. It will also provide programme managers with the information they require for monitoring and implementation of activities, senior managers with updated financial overviews and donors with information on how their contributions have been used. It is expected that parts of the new financial management system will become operational in 2002 and testing of the remaining parts will continue into 2003. Meanwhile, the Office will continue to improve its largely manual processes and tools in order to ensure more efficient utilisation of resources as well as financial control.

The management and monitoring of OHCHR's cooperation with UNOPS has been tightened and a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) is under negotiation. Compliance with the terms and conditions of the MOU is regularly reviewed, in particular in the area of financial reporting.

### The programming cycle

An improved annual programme and funding cycle is also being introduced. It will involve a global annual approval process for all activities to be implemented during the following year according to established internal procedures. It will also include a thorough mid-term review of activities, beginning in 2001, which is expected to improve programme implementation and build a solid planning base for 2002. The plans will be reflected in an improved Annual Appeal for 2002.

### The annual report

This Annual Report represents the start of a transparent and structured approach to reporting. It reviews implementation of activities and use of funds and aims to meet the reporting requirements of donors in order to avoid the need for specific, tailor-made reports in a multitude of formats. The Annual Report is a "mirror" of the Annual Appeal 2000, which outlined the plans and requirements for the year. The preparation of the report has furthered the internal performance assessment that is required to report on activities. It has also encouraged OHCHR to review and assess its implementing arrangements more thoroughly.

OHCHR activities are administered through the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Financial statements from these two entities have been reconciled in order to present one annual financial statement for OHCHR. Financial statements for 2000 from UNOG were made available at the end of February 2001. However, financial statements from UNOPS were only made available in April. It should be noted that none of these statements had been audited at the time of publication of this Annual Report.

OHCHR faced difficulties with the financial statements submitted by UNOPS,

which did not contain the necessary information. A substantial amount of work was therefore needed to reconcile figures in order to be able to present the financial situation for each project in 2000. In addition, further reconciliation of financial information from UNOPS with the official UNOG accounts had to be undertaken. This exercise, while delaying the issuance of the Annual Report, was indispensable in ensuring accurate financial statements. It should be noted that this Report has, for the first time, provided a consolidated account of income received, expenditure and carry-overs for all projects administered through UNOG and UNOPS and funded by voluntary contributions.

## **Financial statements**

In addition to the summary tables of total voluntary contributions, total budget and expenditure and overall statement of income and expenditure presented under "Funding of OHCHR", the 2000 Annual Report contains the following financial statements and tables:

Budget and expenditure for each main activity (such as Urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner, Technical Cooperation, Field Offices, etc.) The budgets are identical to those presented in the Annual Appeal 2000. It should be noted that the approved budget for individual projects may in some cases differ, mainly due to the necessity to adjust budgets as a result of funding constraints, political developments in the field and/or implementation capacity.

Voluntary contributions showing pledges and income by donor for each main activity. In a number of cases, pledges were made in late 1999 but payment was received in early 2000. This explains the fact that for some donors, the amount shown in the Pledge column is zero while the amount shown in the Income column reflects the payment made in 2000. After thorough analysis of the official accounts for OHCHR's trust funds as provided by UNOG, it became apparent that some contributions paid in 1999 were not credited to OHCHR's trust funds until 2000. The fact that OHCHR shares the general bank account of the United Nations with a number of other departments led to misunderstandings and delays in attribution of funds. In some cases, the lack of information from donors regarding payments also delayed the process. OHCHR, together with UNOG treasury and finance, are making all efforts in 2001 to ensure that such delays are avoided. Furthermore, the results of this analysis also explain why the amounts indicated in the contribution tables already shared with donors (i.e. "Contributions by donor in 2000" and "Pledges and contributions for field activities in 2000") showed a different picture from the one presented in this report.

Detailed expenditure reports for each programme and/or country. These reports contain a standard breakdown of expenditure by item (or object classes) as defined in the UN financial system. The associated activities are described in the narrative part of the report. The following object classes are included in these tables:

- Staff costs (i.e. salaries and associated benefits of personnel holding UN contracts, administered either through UNOG or UNOPS);
- Experts/consultants fees and travel (i.e. salaries, associated benefits and travel expenses of external experts and consultants hired for a specific time-limited mandate or purpose);
- Travel, subdivided into OHCHR staff, Commission members and representa-

- tives and other participants (i.e. all travel and related expenses incurred by OHCHR staff, members of the Commission on Human Rights, special rapporteurs and other representatives of the High Commissioner, etc.);
- Contractual services (i.e. payments for services purchased from external suppliers, for example conference services, printing services, vehicle maintenance, translation, etc.);
  - General operating expenses (i.e. payments for office rent, communications, fuel, etc.);
  - Supplies and acquisitions (i.e. payments for office supplies and equipment, including computers, printers, fax machines, etc.);
  - Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars (i.e. payments in the form of grants to external entities, including NGOs);
  - Programme support costs (i.e. 13 per cent of total project costs). This amount is generally shared at a varying ratio between OHCHR and its implementing agents UNOG, UNOPS, UNDP and UNICEF to cover the support costs of staff working at its respective Headquarters.

Statement of income and expenditure by trust fund. Eight trust funds have been established by the UN General Assembly to provide specific funding mechanisms for voluntary contributions to human rights activities. Two trust funds (Rwanda and Burundi) established in previous years are in the process of being closed, with the balances to be transferred to the Trust Fund for Support Activities of the OHCHR. The balance for one trust fund (sub-account for Indigenous Populations) will be transferred to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in 2001.

## Terminology

The most common financial terms used in this report are defined below:

**Opening balance:** Represents total carry-over into 2000 by trust fund. The amount available for implementation is, however, lower since a 15 per cent operating cash reserve must be kept for all trust funds as well as, in some cases, reserves for allocations made to implementing agents in 1999 (mainly UNOPS and UNDP) and for which financial reports have not yet been received by UNOG.

**Pledge:** A promise by a government, foundation or other entity (including individuals) to provide, at a future date, a financial contribution towards OHCHR's activities. In cases where donors pay without a pledge, OHCHR reports the pledged amount as being identical to the payment received.

**Income:** Paid contributions attributed to OHCHR trust funds during 2000. The difference between pledges and income is explained by contributions pledged in late 2000 but paid in early 2001. This was for example the case with the contribution from the European Commission (US\$ 5.1 million). Contributions from the United Nations Foundation (US\$ 3.6 million) are not paid by a transfer of funds, but through allotments and do therefore not appear as income in the official accounts. Footnotes have been added to indicate when an allotment has been made available from this donor. The remaining difference is due to various other pledges made in late 2000 and paid in early 2001.



**Other income:** Includes interest, miscellaneous income, prior period adjustments and savings on prior periods' obligations.

**Total funds available:** Includes opening balance, income from contributions and other income.

**Expenditure:** Corresponds to disbursements plus unliquidated obligations as of 31 December 2000. Expenditure for some activities carried out in late 2000 will be reflected in the official accounts for 2001. Similarly, some activities carried out in late 1999 may be part of expenditure reported in 2000.

**Closing balance:** Funds carried over into 2001. The standard 15 per cent operating cash reserve for each trust fund should be deducted from this amount as well as reserves for allocations made to OHCHR's implementing agents in 2000 and for which financial reports have not yet been received by UNOG. A large proportion of these funds was obligated in early 2001 to allow for the continuation of activities and avoid unnecessary delays or interruptions.

## Statement of income and expenditure

Activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Overall summary <sup>1</sup>	Activities implemented through UNOG	Activities implemented through UNOPS	Total
	US\$	US\$	US\$
Opening balance	24,132,757	12,275,571	36,408,328
Income from contributions <sup>2</sup>	33,245,671	720,000	33,965,671
Other funds available	5,895,723	(324,340)	5,571,383
Total funds available	63,274,151	12,671,231	75,945,382
Expenditure <sup>3</sup>	20,444,460	13,986,406	34,430,866
Allocations to UNOPS	(11,576,128)	11,576,128	0
Closing balance <sup>4</sup>	31,253,563	10,260,953	41,514,516

<sup>1</sup> All figures are subject to audit.

<sup>2</sup> In addition, a contribution in the form of an allotment amounting to US\$ 1,935,425 was made available for the World Conference against Racism and for regional strategies. Furthermore, a reallocation of US\$ 440,832 was made to the World Conference against Racism, with the consent of donors, from contributions made for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

<sup>3</sup> In addition, US\$ 857,205 was spent against a contribution/allotment made for the World Conference against Racism and for regional strategies. The total amount does not include expenditure reports processed after 31/12/00 against 2000 commitments, however, it includes US\$ 3,393,689 which was reported by UNOPS against allocations made in 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Includes US\$ 4,714,421 which was not available for activities in 2001 (US\$ 3,033,232 in operating cash reserves and US\$ 1,681,189 in reserves for allocations). Furthermore, most of the US\$ 5,294,767 carried over into 2001 for the human rights trust funds (torture, slavery, indigenous populations and the decade for indigenous people) was committed during the spring of 2001. Most of the funds carried over for the World Conference against Racism had been committed by June 2001. At the time of publication of this report, a total of US\$ 4,972,000 had also been allotted for technical cooperation activities, US\$ 1,161,075 had been allotted for operations in Cambodia, US\$ 7,293,743 had been allocated to UNOPS and US\$ 160,799 had been allotted for various other projects.

## Budget and expenditure .....

Overall summary	Budget	Expenditure <sup>2</sup>
	US\$	US\$
Human rights trust funds	11,400,000	8,590,476
World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance	3,994,799	1,472,712
Technical cooperation activities: <sup>1</sup>		
Global Projects	2,838,610	1,955,410
Africa	4,326,581	1,683,315
Latin America and the Caribbean	3,300,278	903,930
Europe and Central Asia	1,852,672	225,447
Asia and the Pacific	2,926,568	1,625,016
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>15,244,709</b>	<b>6,393,118</b>
HR support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities	15,036,677	10,622,510
International HR conventions: support to the treaty bodies	3,059,656	1,096,055
Response to allegations of HR violations: support to the special procedures	3,694,987	597,438
Urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner	499,250	43,494
Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR	3,172,318	372,499
Miscellaneous activities	0	1,848,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,102,396</b>	<b>31,037,177</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes expenditure for technical cooperation activities implemented through UNOG and activities in support of national institutions, education projects, Somalia and Rwanda implemented through UNOPS.

<sup>2</sup> In addition, US\$ 3,393,689 was reported as expenditure against 1999 activities. Due to the delay in the submission of expenditure reports against 1999 allocations by UNOPS, this amount is reported in the official UN financial statement for 2000. This explains the difference in expenditure in the above table and in the table on income and expenditure on page 13.

## Voluntary contributions

to OHCHR in 2000

Donor	Pledge <sup>1</sup> US\$	Income <sup>2</sup> US\$			
United States of America	7,350,000	6,850,000	Cameroon	7,631	7,444
European Commission	5,062,411	0	Nepal	6,988	6,988
United Nations Foundation/UNFIP <sup>3</sup>	3,600,000	0	Philippines	6,550	6,238
United Kingdom	3,126,081	3,101,696	Liechtenstein	6,097	6,097
Sweden	2,419,395	2,022,324	Greece	6,000	0
Norway	2,325,814	3,189,325	Iceland	5,425	5,266
Netherlands	2,279,240	2,654,208	Egypt	5,000	0
Denmark	1,977,173	2,831,833	Israel	5,000	5,000
Japan	1,624,000	1,624,000	Latvia	5,000	5,000
Luxembourg	1,440,928	1,440,928	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5,000	0
Germany	1,379,570	1,356,333	Morocco	5,000	5,000
Finland	1,336,084	1,388,064	Oman	5,000	5,000
Italy	1,184,625	844,390	Burkina Faso	3,542	3,542
Belgium	1,067,193	884,040	Bahrain	3,000	3,000
Ireland	1,078,248	1,235,319	Croatia	3,000	3,000
France	994,519	974,755	Holy See	3,000	3,000
Canada	586,117	593,996	International Commission of Jurists	2,819	2,819
Ford Foundation	500,000	500,000	Tunisia	2,636	1,526
Spain	434,675	504,928	Sudan	2,100	0
Switzerland	423,925	406,224	Panama	2,025	0
Rockefeller Foundation	400,000	400,000	Kansai Electricity	1,840	1,840
Korea, Republic of	160,000	160,000	Malta	1,500	1,500
Poland	120,000	120,000	Bolivia	1,000	0
South Africa	118,096	218,812	El Salvador	1,000	0
Australia	117,647	0	Archway School students	990	990
Austria	114,573	33,510	Islamic Republic of Iran	909	867
Erasmus	108,568	136,818	Association of Human Rights Lawyers	500	500
New Zealand	74,627	70,848	Instituto Tecnico Comerciale	459	459
Estonia	49,444	19,194	Movement Defense	200	0
Kuwait	25,000	25,152	Union de Banque Suisse	0	62,500
Cyprus	21,712	23,900	Mexico	0	10,000
Chile	20,000	10,000	Colombia	0	9,650
Thailand	20,000	20,000	Mauritius	0	100
India	19,969	19,969			
Czech Republic	19,205	36,410			
Monaco	17,000	7,000			
Andorra	16,200	7,900			
Turkey	15,000	15,000			
UNOG staff	13,398	13,398			
Sri Lanka	11,000	11,000			
Other private donors	10,902	11,012			
Algeria	10,000	10,000			
Argentina	10,000	7,000			
Brasil	10,000	10,000			
			<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>41,791,550</b>	<b>33,946,612</b>

<sup>1</sup> Represents pledges made to OHCHR in 2000 as well as the portion of multi-year pledges pertaining to the year 2000.

<sup>2</sup> The difference in income (US\$ 19,059) compared to the Statement of Income and Expenditure for all OHCHR's activities in 2000 is due to the UN financial rules which stipulate that firm pledges from governments and other institutions of established repute be included in the income statement for the Fund.

<sup>3</sup> A contribution in the form of an allotment amounting to US\$ 1,935,425 was made available for OHCHR's activities in 2000.

<sup>4</sup> In addition, a reallocation of US\$ 440,832 was also made to the World Conference against Racism, with the consent of donors, from contributions made for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.



# Human rights trust funds established by the United Nations General Assembly

## Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

### Statement of income and expenditure

	US\$
<b>Summary<sup>1</sup></b>	
Opening balance	3,849,314
Income from contributions <sup>2</sup>	6,561,037
Other funds available	264,293
Total funds available	10,674,644
Expenditure	7,714,531
Closing balance <sup>3</sup>	2,960,113

<sup>1</sup> This statement reflects figures reported for the UN financial year. Due to the different reporting period covered, these figures may differ from those reported for the Fund to the UN General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> The difference in income (US\$ 8,562) compared to the table showing voluntary contributions for the Fund is due to the UN financial rules which stipulate that firm pledges from governments and other institutions of established repute be included in the income statement for the Fund.

<sup>3</sup> Includes US\$ 1,157,149 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001).

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	6,397
- Commission members	33,633
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses <sup>1</sup>	206
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	6,786,805
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6,827,041</b>
Programme support costs	887 489
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,714,530</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes loss on exchange rate.

### Background

The Board of Trustees of the Fund meets annually in May, and its financial year is fixed accordingly. Grant recommendations are made by the Board on the basis of voluntary contributions received prior to its meeting (donations received thereafter are considered at its next session). Contributions are therefore to be paid in advance of the session, in order to ensure that the funds become available during the same year. This report refers to contributions received before the 19th session of the Board of Trustees (15-26 May 2000) and to allocations for grants recommended at that session. The Board estimated that the Fund would require US\$ 10 million to meet the needs outlined in the Annual Appeal 2000.

### The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Board of Trustees

#### Funds available

On 15 May 2000, US\$ 8.8 million was available to the Board, which meant that roughly US\$ 7 million was actually available for grants after the deduction of 13 per cent for programme support costs and 15 per cent for the operating cash reserve (as required by UN rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance). The increase in donations of US\$ 2 million helped meet additional demands.

#### Recommendations

The Board examines all admissible applications before making allocations in accordance with established selection criteria. In 2000, in accordance with its established practice, the Board recommended to the Secretary-General the allocation of the amount available for grants for 150 NGO projects in Africa, America, Asia and Europe as well as for emergency assistance. Priority was accorded to projects to give medical, psychological, economic, social, legal and other forms of direct humanitarian assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. Some grants supported training for health professionals and others who assist torture victims, and meetings to enable these professionals to share experience. For reasons of confidentiality, and to protect project staff and victims of torture, the reports of the secretariat do not mention the exact project allocation. In accordance with prior guidelines approved by the Secretary-General, the Board recommended that US\$ 700,000 of the funds available at the 19th session be set aside as emergency grants to be disbursed from June 2000 to May 2001. This includes US\$ 300,000 for urgent assistance to individual victims of torture in countries which lack appropriate treatment facilities and to victims of amputation and mutilation, in particular in Sierra Leone; as well as US\$ 400,000

to be used for projects already financed by the Fund if and when they experience unexpected financial difficulties.

## Reporting procedure

Progress reports on the activities of the Fund in 2000 were submitted:

- In the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/55/178);
- In the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/59 and Corr. 1 and Add.1);
- In an oral exchange of information on the last day of the session of the Board, at a meeting to which all donors are invited (26 May 2000);
- At an annual December meeting for donors organized by the Fund Board and secretariat and Board (15 December 2000).

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>
	US\$	US\$
Voluntary Fund		
for Victims of Torture	10,000,000	7,714,531

<sup>1</sup> Expenditure reported here reflect figures reported for the UN financial year. The Board of Trustees which oversees the activities under each fund makes recommendations regarding the allocation of all available funds during their respective annual meetings as follows: Victims of Torture - May, Contemporary Forms of Slavery - February/March, Indigenous Populations and International Decade for the World's Indigenous People - April. Consequently, figures reported for each Fund to the UN General Assembly may differ since the reporting periods are different.

## Voluntary contributions .....

Donor	Pledge	Income
	US\$	US\$
Algeria	5,000	5,000
Andorra <sup>1</sup>	16,200	7,900
Argentina	10,000	7,000
Austria	40,000	0
Belgium	70,277	73,791
Cameroon	7,631	7,444
Canada	17,151	57,926
Chile	10,000	10,000
Cyprus	3,701	3,735
Czech Republic	5,000	5,000
Denmark	259,928	259,928
Finland	162,649	162,649
France	73,789	72,526
Germany	122,553	121,510
Holy See	1,000	1,000
Iceland	5,425	5,266
Islamic Republic of Iran	909	867
Italy	207,594	0
Japan	124,000	124,000
Korea, Republic of	10,000	10,000
Liechtenstein	6,097	6,097
Luxembourg	11,643	11,643
Malta	1,500	1,500
Monaco	10,000	0
Morocco	5,000	5,000
New Zealand	12,438	11,808
Norway	119,457	119,457
Philippines	6,550	4,363
Poland	10,000	10,000
South Africa	23,659	28,656
Spain	38,847	37,401
Sri Lanka	1,000	1,000
Sweden	114,811	113,345
Switzerland	48,192	46,784
Tunisia <sup>2</sup>	1,685	1,526
Turkey	5,000	5,000
United Kingdom	213,115	196,969
United States of America	5,000,000	5,000,000
National Commission of Jurists	2,819	2,819
Private donors	167	167
UNOG staff	13,398	13,398
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,798,185</b>	<b>6,552,475</b>

<sup>1</sup> In addition, Andorra paid US\$ 8,300 on 15 November 2000 to the UN general account in New York (reported in the official UN statements for the 2000-2001 biennium).

<sup>2</sup> In addition, Tunisia paid US\$ 2,000 on 31 July 2000 to the UN general account in New York (reported in the official UN statements for the 2000-2001 biennium).

## Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

### Statement of income and expenditure

	US\$
Summary <sup>1</sup>	
Opening balance	266,666
Income from contributions	248,387
Other funds available	22,084
Total funds available	537,137
Expenditure	161,048
Closing balance <sup>2</sup>	376,089

<sup>1</sup> This statement reflects figures reported for the UN financial year. Due to the different reporting period covered, these figures may differ from those reported for the Fund to the UN General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> Includes US\$ 24,157 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001).

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	67,023
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	75,497
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>142,520</b>
Programme support costs	18,528
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,048</b>

### Background

The Board of Trustees of the Fund meets annually at the end of January or beginning of February, and its financial year begins at the same time. Grant recommendations are made by the Board on the basis of voluntary contributions received prior to its meeting (donations received thereafter are considered at its next session). Contributions are therefore to be paid in advance of the session, in order to ensure that the funds become available during the same year. The Board estimated that the Fund would require US\$ 300,000 to meet the needs outlined in the Annual Appeal 2000.

### 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Board of Trustees

At its 5th session (Geneva, 7-10 February 2000), the Board examined the financial position, the implementation of the previous year's recommendations and new applications for grants. The Board also met representatives of donor Governments and NGOs. It was noted that funds had been well spent and that reporting was satisfactory. The Board examined 43 applications for travel grants to a value of approximately US\$ 113,000 and 25 applications for project grants to a value of US\$ 552,000.

### Funds available

The amount available for the 5th session of the Board was US\$ 265,466, including new contributions (US\$ 110,600) and the balance carried over from the previous year. Therefore US\$ 191,136 was actually available for grants after the compulsory deduction of 13 per cent for programme support costs and 15 per cent for the operating cash reserve.

### Recommendations

The Board's recommendations focused on facilitating the participation of NGO representatives in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (whose primary focus in 2000 was bonded labour and debt bondage); and extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid (through established channels of assistance) to individuals who have suffered contemporary forms of slavery. The Board recommended that US\$ 30,800 be spent on travel grants and US\$ 83,500 on project grants (approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 17 February 2000).

### Reporting procedure

Progress reports on the activities of the Fund in 2000 are submitted to:

- The General Assembly in the report by the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund (A/55/204); and
- The Commission on Human Rights in the report of the Secretary-General on the Fund (E/CN.4/2000/80 and Add. 1).

These reports contain detailed information on the recommendations adopted, including lists of beneficiaries. Donors are also informed about the activities of the Fund at the annual session of the Board, when they are invited to an "information meeting" and other meetings organized for them by the secretariat and Board of the Fund.

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>
	US\$	US\$
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	300,000	161,048

<sup>1</sup> Expenditure reported here reflect figures reported for the UN financial year. The Board of Trustees which oversees the activities under each fund makes recommendations regarding the allocation of all available funds during their respective annual meetings as follows: Victims of Torture - May, Contemporary Forms of Slavery - February/March, Indigenous Populations and International Decade for the World's Indigenous People - April. Consequently, figures reported for each Fund to the UN General Assembly may differ since the reporting periods are different.

## Voluntary contributions

Donor	Pledge	Income
	US\$	US\$
Bahrain	3,000	3,000
Brasil	10,000	10,000
Burkina Faso	1,369	1,369
Cyprus	4,000	4,153
Holy See	1,000	1,000
Japan	103,000	103,000
Kuwait	25,000	25,152
Libya	5,000	0
Netherlands	38,294	73,262
Poland	5,000	5,000
South Africa	7,886	9,551
Archway school students	990	990
Ass. of Human Rights		
Lawyers	500	500
Instituto Tecnico Comerciale	459	459
Kansai Electricity	1,840	1,840
Private donors	9,001	9,111
<b>Total</b>	<b>216,339</b>	<b>248,387</b>

## Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

### Statement of income and expenditure

	US\$
Summary <sup>1</sup>	
Opening balance <sup>2</sup>	991,556
Income from contributions <sup>3</sup>	287,361
Other funds available <sup>4</sup>	138,214
Total funds available	1,417,131
Expenditure	418,329
Closing balance <sup>5</sup>	998,802

<sup>1</sup>This statement reflects figures reported for the UN financial year. Due to the different reporting period covered, these figures may differ from those reported for the Fund to the UN General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup>In addition, US\$ 276,449 remained under the sub-account for the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

<sup>3</sup>The difference in income (US\$ 5,495) compared to the table showing voluntary contributions for the Fund is due to the UN financial rules which stipulate that firm pledges from governments and other institutions of established repute be included in the income statement for the Fund.

<sup>4</sup>In addition, US\$ 13,513 was earned in interest income under the sub-account for the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

<sup>5</sup>Includes US\$ 62,749 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001). In addition, US\$ 289,962 remained under the sub-account for the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. This balance will be transferred into this Fund during 2001.

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	23,052
- Representatives and other participants	347,151
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses <sup>1</sup>	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>370,203</b>
Programme support costs	48,126
<b>Total</b>	<b>418,329</b>

### Background

The Board of Trustees of the Fund meets annually at the end of March or at the beginning of April, and its financial year begins at the same time. Grant recommendations are made by the Board on the basis of voluntary contributions received prior to its session (donations received thereafter are considered at its next session). Contributions are therefore to be paid in advance of the session, in order to ensure their registration before the next session of the Board. The Board estimated that the Fund would require US\$ 600,000 to meet the needs outlined in the Annual Appeal 2000.

### 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Board of Trustees

During its 13th session (10-12 April 2000), the Board considered the financial position, met donors and recommended travel grants (approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 13 April 2000). The Board considered 119 applications for grants to cover travel and per diem expenses for indigenous representatives to attend the 18th session of the Sub-Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations (24-28 July 2000); and 36 applications for similar grants for indigenous representatives to attend the 6th session (16-27 October 2000) of the Working Group set up by the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 1995/32) to elaborate a draft UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

### Funds available

The amount available for the 13th session of the Board was US\$ 994,000, including new contributions (US\$ 154,222) and the balance carried over from the previous year. Therefore US\$ 715,680 was actually available for grants after the compulsory deduction of 13 per cent for programme support costs and 15 per cent for the operating cash reserve.

### Recommendations

Following the examination of admissible applications in accordance with selection criteria established by General Assembly resolution 40/131, the Board recommended:

- 66 travel grants worth US\$ 163,000 for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations (23 women and 43 men) to attend the Working Group on Indigenous Populations;
- 29 grants worth US\$ 102,200 for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations (7 women and 22 men) to attend the Working Group to elaborate the draft UN declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; and
- The Board also recommended that funds amounting to US\$ 100,000 be set aside to allow indigenous representatives to attend a possible new meeting on the Permanent Forum, pending the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly which would extend the mandate of the Fund.

### Reporting procedure

Progress reports on the activities of the Fund in 2000 were submitted:

- To the General Assembly in the biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund (A/55/202);

- In the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade (A/55/268);
- To the Commission on Human Rights in the annual report of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on the activities undertaken for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/2000/85);
- In the annual Note by the secretariat to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/4);
- At the session of the Board, when its members invite all donors to an information meeting; and
- Periodically at meetings organized for donors by the secretariat and Board of the Fund.

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>
	US\$	US\$
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	600,000	418,329

<sup>1</sup> Expenditure reported here reflect figures reported for the UN financial year. The Board of Trustees which oversees the activities under each fund makes recommendations regarding the allocation of all available funds during their respective annual meetings as follows: Victims of Torture - May, Contemporary Forms of Slavery - February/March, Indigenous Populations and International Decade for the World's Indigenous People - April. Consequently, figures reported for each Fund to the UN General Assembly may differ since the reporting periods are different.

## Voluntary contributions

Donor	Pledge	Income
	US\$	US\$
Bolivia	1,000	0
Chile	5,000	0
Cyprus	5,006	5,006
Denmark	40,000	40,000
Estonia	19,194	9,597
Finland	34,062	34,062
Greece <sup>1</sup>	6,000	0
Holy See	1,000	1,000
Japan	13,000	13,000
Netherlands	31,425	29,489
Norway	53,631	103,493
Switzerland	45,971	44,602
Private donors	1,617	1,617
<b>Total</b>	<b>256,906</b>	<b>281,866</b>

<sup>1</sup> In addition, Greece paid US\$ 6,000 on 19 December 2000 to the UN general account in New York (reported in the official UN statements for the 2000-2001 biennium).

## Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

### Statement of income and expenditure

	US\$
Summary <sup>1</sup>	
Opening balance	333,224
Income from contributions <sup>2</sup>	599,404
Other funds available	33,741
Total funds available	966,369
Expenditure	296,568
Closing balance <sup>3</sup>	669,801

<sup>1</sup> This statement reflects figures reported for the UN financial year. Due to the different reporting period covered, these figures may differ from those reported for the Fund to the UN General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> The difference in income (US\$ 5,000) compared to the table showing voluntary contributions for the Fund is due to the UN financial rules which stipulate that firm pledges from governments and other institutions of established repute be included in the income statement for the Fund.

<sup>3</sup> Includes US\$ 44,485 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001).

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	1,000
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	7,015
- Representatives and other participants	79,466
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses <sup>1</sup>	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	174,969
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>262,450</b>
Programme support costs	34,118
<b>Total</b>	<b>296,568</b>

### Background

This Fund's Advisory Group meets annually at the beginning of April, and its financial year begins at the same time. Grant recommendations are made by the Advisory Group on the basis of voluntary contributions received prior to the annual meeting (donations received thereafter are considered at the next session). Contributions are therefore invited in advance of the meeting, in order to ensure that the funds become available during the same year. The Board estimated that the Fund would require US\$ 500,000 to meet the needs outlined in the Annual Appeal 2000.

### 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Advisory Group

At its 5th session, (13-14 April 2000), the Advisory Group met donors; examined the financial position, applications for new project grants, and the funding for existing programmes; and adopted recommendations, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, on 13 April 2000.

### Funds available

The amount available for the Advisory Group was US\$ 350,700, including new contributions (US\$ 155,298) and the balance from the previous year. Therefore US\$ 257,742 was actually available for grants after the compulsory deduction of 13 per cent for programme support costs and 15 per cent for the operating cash reserve. This amount was insufficient to cover expenditure envisaged in the Fund's cost plan for 2000.

### Recommendations

When allocating funds, the Group gave priority to indigenous projects and programmes; 60 applications for project grants were examined according to the established selection criteria. Sufficient funds were available to recommend 20 grants, worth approximately US\$ 175,000, which were subsequently approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In addition, further to proposals by OHCHR's Indigenous Project Team, the Advisory Group recommended that the High Commissioner approve the following meetings and publications:

- The second workshop for indigenous journalists organized at the United Nations in New York (11-14 December 2000) at a cost of no more than US\$ 64,000;
- The second workshop on multiculturalism in Africa: peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples, held in Kidal, Mali (8-13 January 2001) at a maximum cost of US\$ 30,000;
- A sub-regional seminar in another country in Africa for a maximum of US\$ 30,000;
- A workshop on indigenous children held in Geneva (19-21 July 2000) with the participation of experts and indigenous representatives, at a cost of approximately US\$ 23,000; and
- The translation, editing and printing of a UN guide for indigenous peoples, at a maximum cost US\$ 19,800.

## Reporting procedure

The 2000 activities of the Fund were reported:

- In the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade (A/55/268);
- In the annual report of the High Commissioner to the Commission on Human Rights, on activities undertaken for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (E/CN.4/2000/85);
- In the annual Note by the Secretariat to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/3);
- At the session of the Board, when its members invite all donors to an information meeting; and
- Periodically at meetings organized for donors by the secretariat and Board of the Fund.

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>
	US\$	US\$
Voluntary Fund for the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People	500,000	296,568

<sup>1</sup> Expenditure reported here reflect figures reported for the UN financial year. The Board of Trustees which oversees the activities under each fund makes recommendations regarding the allocation of all available funds during their respective annual meetings as follows: Victims of Torture - May, Contemporary Forms of Slavery - February/March, Indigenous Populations and International Decade for the World's Indigenous People - April. Consequently, figures reported for each Fund to the UN General Assembly may differ since the reporting periods are different.

## Voluntary contributions .....

Donor	Pledge	Income
	US\$	US\$
Chile	5,000	0
Cyprus	5,005	5,006
Denmark	130,039	129,381
Estonia	19,194	9,597
Germany	23,627	21,599
Japan	60,000	60,000
Netherlands	98,366	98,366
New Zealand	12,438	11,808
Norway	53,631	115,958
Sweden	34,443	34,004
Tunisia	951	0
Erasmus	108,568	108,568
Movement Defense	200	0
Private donors	117	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,579</b>	<b>594,404</b>



# World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

## Introduction

### Statement of income and expenditure

	US\$
Summary	
Opening balance	635,538
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	2,931,661
Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	424,459
Total funds available	3,991,658
Expenditure <sup>3</sup>	1,472,712
Closing balance <sup>4</sup>	2,518,946

<sup>1</sup> A contribution in the form of an allotment amounting to US\$ 976,872 was made available from UNF/UNFIP.

<sup>2</sup> A reallocation of US\$ 440,832 was made, with the consent of donors, from contributions made for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

<sup>3</sup> US\$ 633,758 was spent against a contribution/allotment from UNF/UNFIP.

<sup>4</sup> Includes US\$ 220,907 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001).

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	519,255
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	71,740
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	245,073
- Commission members	136,383
- Representatives and other participants	19,909
Contractual services	10,000
General operating expenses	5,748
Supplies and acquisitions	24,227
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	270,950
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,303,285</b>
Programme support costs	169,427
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,472,712</b>

<sup>1</sup> In addition, total expenditure of US\$ 633,758 were incurred against a contribution/allotment from United Nations Fund/UNFIP. Of this amount, US\$ 145,095 was spent on regional expert seminars.

### Background

During 2000, numerous activities were undertaken in preparation for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001. Although regular budget resources were allocated for the World Conference, it was recognized that these would not cover all of the requested activities. The Commission on Human Rights therefore requested in its resolution 1999/78, that a voluntary fund be established to be used 'specifically to cover all aspects of the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance'.

### Objectives and overall preparatory activities

- Provide suggestions and proposals for the global Draft Declaration and Programme of Action through regional preparatory meetings, including expert seminars and inter-governmental conferences;
- Ensure that participation at the preparatory meetings is as broad as possible, including the participation of special rapporteurs, treaty body experts, representatives from least developed countries, and national human rights institutions;
- Ensure that NGOs and other civil society actors actively participate in the preparatory process as well as the World Conference itself;
- Raise awareness of the topics under discussion at the World Conference and publicise it as widely as possible; and
- Provide logistical and substantive support during the preparatory meetings and the World Conference.

### Implementation and achievements

#### Internet-related activities

An Internet site for the World Conference accessed through OHCHR's website ([www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)) was established in early 2000 in English, French and Spanish. The site was designed to provide full and timely information before, during and after the World Conference, focusing on the events and issues being raised with regard to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Documentation and background information are continually being updated on the site. At the same time, OHCHR has made available live audio coverage in English and French and the archive files of the first Preparatory Committee (1-5 May 2000). Preliminary results of OHCHR's research on the use of the Internet

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure
	US\$	US\$
Activities in support of the World Conference against Racism (including the Decade to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination)	3,994,799	1,472,712
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,994,799</b>	<b>1,472,712</b>

<sup>1</sup> In addition, total expenditure of US\$ 633,758 were incurred against a contribution/allotment from the United Nations Fund/UNFIP. Of this amount, US\$ 145,095 was spent on regional strategies.

were submitted in a report to the first session of the Preparatory Committee. The High Commissioner's report on the use of the Internet to incite racial hatred, racist propaganda and xenophobia – and ways to combat it internationally – was presented to the second session of the Preparatory Committee. In 2001 a programme will be established on human rights education and exchanges over the Internet, focusing on the struggle against racism and xenophobia. OHCHR's website records an average of 5 million hits per month, which increased during the second session of the Preparatory Committee to 5.5 million. This illustrates that the public has actively sought information on the World Conference, and that general awareness of its aims has risen as a consequence.

### Regional expert seminars

The following five expert seminars were held to cover trends, priorities and obstacles in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance:

- Remedies available for victims of racial discrimination (Geneva, 16-18 February 2000);
- Protection of minorities and other vulnerable groups and strengthening human rights capacity at the national level (Warsaw, 5-7 July 2000);
- Migrants and trafficking of people, with particular reference to women and children (Bangkok, 5-7 September 2000);
- Prevention of ethnic and racial conflict (Addis Ababa, 4-6 October 2000); and
- Economic, social and legal measures to combat racism, with particular reference to vulnerable groups (Santiago de Chile, 25-27 October 2000).

The seminars have served to build awareness of the various sub-themes and on the World Conference more generally, especially in the regions where they were held. Scholars were brought together from each region and thus a whole range of opinions and approaches found expression in the conclusions and recommendations adopted. Some of the conclusions and recommendations were included in the draft global Declaration and Programme of Action as presented to the first inter-sessional working group of the Preparatory Committee (6-9 March 2001).

### Public information activities

Working closely with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), OHCHR has used the calendar of preparatory activities to generate publicity for the World Conference. Prior to the regional preparatory seminars and conferences, background papers, press releases, two fact sheets and other publications were issued, including a general brochure on the World Conference, and posters carrying the World Conference logo, including one designed by the renowned artist Tomi Ungerer. The High Commissioner and her public information team have used the Internet, the regional expert seminars, inter-governmental conferences and satellite meetings to publicise the World Conference through radio and television interviews as well as through contacts with the print and electronic media. In addition, weekly updates to the press in Geneva and bi-monthly updates in New York (in collaboration with DPI) have been provided.

Six newsletters entitled *United against Racism, Durban 2001* will have been issued in English, French and Spanish by the end of 2001. The first was issued in December 2000. They cover topics and issues relevant to the World Conference and preparations by States, UN bodies and specialised agencies, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, civil society, the media and the World Conference secretariat.

Several goodwill ambassadors helped to raise awareness and have agreed to

advance the aims and objectives of the World Conference in 1999, 2000 and up to the world conference in 2001: Ruben Blades, an actor and singer from Panama; Marian Wright Edelman, a children's rights advocate from the United States; Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland, currently President of the Women's Leadership Forum; Seamus Heaney, Irish Nobel prize-winning poet and translator; Tahar Ben Jelloun, Moroccan author; Ravi Shankar, Indian musician; and Wole Soyinka, Nigerian Nobel prize-winning author. In 2001 the Anglo-Egyptian singer Natacha Atlas was also appointed. On 23 October 2000 a special event at the United Nations in New York brought together the goodwill ambassadors of various agencies and organizations, including some of the above-mentioned.

### **Studies requested of the High Commissioner**

The following studies were submitted to the first session of the Preparatory Committee:

- A study outlining ways to improve coordination between OHCHR and specialized agencies and international, regional and sub-regional organizations in the fight against racism (A/CONF.189/PC.1/4). Another document contains reviews and recommendations submitted by specialized agencies, other international organizations, relevant UN bodies and regional organizations (A/CONF.189/PC.1/17);
- A study which reviewed progress in the fight against racism since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/CONF.189/PC.1/3). The study summarized obstacles to progress as identified by a questionnaire sent out to States, specialized agencies, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and national institutions;
- A compendium of references on racism (A/CONF.189/PC.1/3); and
- A study of the effects of racial discrimination on minority children and migrants in the fields of education, training and employment (A/CONF.189/PC.1/11).

### **Studies requested of UN bodies and mechanisms dealing with racism, and their participation in the run-up to the World Conference**

The following studies were submitted to the first session of the Preparatory Committee:

- A study by the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, on action to combat incitement to hatred and conflicts related to religious intolerance (A/CONF.189/PC.1/7);
- A report by the Special Rapporteur on migrants (A/CONF.189/PC.1/19);
- A contribution by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/CONF.189/PC.1/12). Six working papers prepared by individual Committee members, which were made available to the open-ended working group that met during the 55th Session of the Commission on Human Rights, and two further working papers prepared by individual members of the Committee;
- A contribution by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/CONF.189/PC.1/14);
- A paper submitted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/CONF.189/PC.1/15); and
- A contribution by the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities (A/CONF.189/PC.1/13). In addition, a separate report was submitted by one of the Sub-Commission members (A/CONF.189/PC.1/13/Add.3) and three working papers that had previously been prepared for the Sub-Commission were circulated by other individual members of the Sub-Commission.



It was initially envisaged that studies would be prepared by consultants, but experts from the treaty bodies and the Sub-Commission volunteered to write them instead; therefore no expenses were incurred (as UN rules stipulate that these experts must normally undertake such studies without charge). Travel and daily subsistence allowance was provided to enable three special rapporteurs and five experts from treaty bodies and the above-mentioned Sub-Commission to attend the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

**Activities under the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**

Seminars and studies were not prepared as initially anticipated. However, five expert seminars were organized and several relevant studies were submitted (listed above).

**Regional preparatory meetings**

In 2000, two regional inter-governmental preparatory meetings took place: the European Conference against Racism, in Strasbourg (11-13 October 2000) and the Regional Conference of the Americas, in Santiago de Chile (5-7 December 2000). In early 2001, two more inter-governmental meetings were held: the African group met in Dakar (22-24 January 2001) and the Asian group in Tehran (19-21 February 2001). All these meetings adopted a declaration and a plan of action, received wide press coverage and were well attended. With regard to financial assistance in 2000, World Conference secretariat staff participated in the Strasbourg meeting (having previously assisted the Council of Europe in its preparations through the attendance of staff at a number of preparatory meetings in Strasbourg in 2000). In addition, a financial contribution by the European Commission was utilized to support the Conference of the Americas. A grant was provided to the host Government for administrative costs related to the meeting (e.g. personnel, equipment and supplies). The contribution also allowed for the participation of one special rapporteur, five experts from treaty bodies, five representatives from national human rights institutions and two representatives from least developed or low income countries of the region. However, some other invited special rapporteurs, experts and representatives from national human rights institutions were unable to attend. Financial assistance was also provided in support of the NGO Forum, especially with regard to personnel and equipment costs; and to allow for the participation of around 120 NGO representatives.

**NGO participation**

An NGO liaison unit was formed within the World Conference secretariat. In 2000 it has been responsible for:

- Facilitating the accreditation of NGOs to the World Conference in accordance with the decisions taken at the first session of the Preparatory Committee. No further accreditation was required by NGOs enjoying consultative status with ECOSOC or representing indigenous peoples and organizations recognized by ECOSOC under resolution 1995/30. However, other NGOs wishing to participate needed to apply for accreditation by 2 July 2001, in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and the relevant decisions of the Preparatory Committee. It is expected that more than 1,200 NGOs will have been accredited through this process.
- Assisting in the preparation of NGO forums prior to the regional inter-governmental meetings in Strasbourg (10-11 October 2000) and Santiago de Chile (3-4 December 2000); the regional NGO networking meeting in Warsaw (15-18

## World Conference secretariat

November 2000); and the steering committee meetings in Warsaw (15-18 September 2000), San José (1-2 October 2000), Colombo (22-23 October 2000) and Dakar (5-6 October 2000). Assistance was also provided to raise funds for broad NGO participation at the Regional Conference of the Americas.

During the first half of 2000 the World Conference secretariat consisted of five professional staff members and two support staff members. By the end of the year 2000, ten professional staff (including two associate experts) and five general support staff had been recruited to work on:

- All items listed above for which the World Conference secretariat had either principal or complementary responsibility;
- All logistical aspects of the regional expert seminars, the two inter-governmental preparatory meetings, the first session of the Preparatory Committee, numerous meetings of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, as well as the meetings of the inter-departmental management committee established to coordinate planning with the host Government of the World Conference, South Africa;
- Preparing and submitting reports and supplying all necessary documentation to the regional preparatory meetings and the Preparatory Committee;
- Drafting documentation for these meetings including: the provisional agenda and its annotations; rules of procedure; official reports on the first session of the Preparatory Committee, its working groups and other subsidiary bodies; other internal documents, as requested by the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, and the Executive Coordinator, related to briefing notes, speeches, progress reports, etc.; other internal documents related to coordination and administrative aspects of the preparatory process and the World Conference itself; fundraising documents for donor organizations and project documents for the Office;
- Liaising activities with Governments, UN bodies and specialized agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, NGOs, foundations, academic institutions and other interested entities and persons.

## Constraints

Many of the activities were implemented by a limited number of staff under considerable pressure to meet a series of deadlines. Notably, the World Conference secretariat was obliged to function until September 2000 with a staff of only eight (six professional staff and two support staff).

## Coordination

The World Conference secretariat works closely with United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations interested in the objectives and themes of the World Conference. These include, among others, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Some of the above plan to hold special events during the World Conference and/or intend to release specific publications related



to issues addressed at the Conference. UNDP offices and the Regional Economic Commissions for Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have provided invaluable logistical support to OHCHR in organizing the regional expert seminars and the inter-governmental Conference of the Americas. Several of the above-mentioned documents were published in close collaboration with DPI. The distribution of information and awareness-raising materials was carried out with the help of the United Nations Information Centres and UNDP offices worldwide.

## Voluntary contributions .....

(including the Third Decade to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination)

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge US\$	Income US\$
Algeria	Decade	5,000	5,000
Belgium	WCAR	95,989	0
Czech Republic	WCAR	14,205	14,205
Denmark	WCAR	71,174	67,662
Estonia	WCAR	11,056	0
Finland	WCAR	38,825	63,255
France	WCAR	73,789	72,526
Germany	Reg. prep. mtg Dakar	14,145	14,145
	WCAR	92,541	92,162
	WC Secretariat	28,087	17,087
India	JPO	11,000	11,000
	Decade	1,712	1,712
Ireland	WCAR	90,615	88,981
	Internet activities	33,981	33,367
Israel	WCAR	5,000	5,000
Italy	WCAR	150,000	150,000
Japan	WCAR	17,000	17,000
	Decade	7,000	7,000
Latvia	WCAR	5,000	5,000
Luxembourg	WCAR	250,000	250,000
Netherlands	WCAR	0	115,998
Norway	WCAR	268,240	275,719
Poland	WCAR	5,000	5,000
South Africa	WCAR	15,573	19,104
Spain	WCAR	83,243	166,555
Sweden	WCAR	114,811	109,072
Switzerland	WCAR	28,736	30,488
Turkey	WCAR	10,000	10,000
United Kingdom	WCAR	134,921	134,623
United States of America	WCAR	250,000	250,000
European Commission	Reg. prep. mtg Dakar	589,468	0
	Conference Durban	1 297,466	0
	Reg. prep. mtg. Teheran	665,264	0
	Reg. prep mtg. Santiago	579,395	0
Ford Foundation	Public information	500,000	500,000
Rockefeller Foundation		400,000	400,000
United Nations Foundation/UNFIP <sup>1</sup>	NGOs	900,000	0
	Regional experts	360,000	0
<b>Total <sup>2</sup></b>		<b>7,218,236</b>	<b>2,931,661</b>

<sup>1</sup> Contribution/Allotment for activities in 2000: US\$ 644,177 was allocated to NGO activities and US\$ 332,695 to regional expert seminars in support of the World Conference against Racism (not recorded as income in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium).

<sup>2</sup> In addition, a reallocation of US\$ 440,832 was made in 2000, with the consent of donors, from contributions made for the 1993 world Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

# Technical cooperation activities

## Introduction

### Statement of income and expenditure

#### Voluntary fund for advisory services and technical assistance in human rights

Summary <sup>1</sup>	US\$
Opening balance	9,038,367
Income from contributions	6,109,806
Other funds available	2,139,925
Total funds available	17,288,098
Expenditure <sup>2</sup>	4,762,389
Closing balance <sup>3</sup>	12,525,709

<sup>1</sup> Financial data related to technical cooperation activities in support of national institutions, education projects, Somalia and Rwanda implemented through UNOPS is reported in the statement of income and expenditure for the trust fund for support activities of the OHCHR (page 109).

<sup>2</sup> Does not include expenditure reports processed after 31/12/00 against 2000 commitments.

<sup>3</sup> Includes US\$ 1,681,189 in reserves for allocations to implementing agents and US\$ 714,358 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001).

OHCHR's technical cooperation programmes support countries in their efforts to promote and protect human rights at the national and regional level by incorporating international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices. The programmes help to build the institutions needed to implement these standards and ensure respect for human rights. They are established at the request of the governments concerned and projects are formulated and implemented with the broadest possible participation of all elements of national societies, including civil society, national institutions, and the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. The technical cooperation programmes are implemented in the context of the pursuit of national development objectives, often through national programmes and/or assistance coordinated by the United Nations system.

The programmes tackle a broad range of human rights issues: national human rights strategies and structures; human rights education; economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development; racism; the rights of indigenous people; women and gender; the child; trafficking of women and children; and humanitarian law. OHCHR supports the continuing development of regional strategies on these issues, in order to stimulate inter-governmental cooperation and a shared approach to policy and programmes. OHCHR is also pursuing a policy of greater collaboration with other UN actors, especially with UNDP, as a way of ensuring maximum impact and more efficient use of resources.

OHCHR undertook a collaborative analysis of technical assistance provided by UN entities in the field of human rights. Following publication of the resulting report in April 1999, OHCHR hosted a series of inter-agency consultations in Geneva to consider its recommendations. These consultations led during the first few months of 2000 to the formation of an informal inter-agency working group to consider a global project entitled System-wide Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. However, this project was not implemented as initially envisaged. Instead, OHCHR is in the process of developing its capacity to cooperate with and support the UN Country Teams at the national level (as recommended by the report).

In 2000, the global project to protect the rights of internally displaced persons was also revisited. This was due to the fact that the debate on institutional responsibilities for internally displaced persons was re-opened with the involvement of other UN agencies. OHCHR thus took part in discussions held by the senior inter-agency network on internal displacement, which is meant to recommend ways to improve the international provision of protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. As certain points remained under discussion throughout the year, it was not possible in 2000 to propose a fully-fledged project on the matter.

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure <sup>1</sup>
<i>Global projects</i>	US\$	US\$
National institutions	813,600	942,706
System-wide technical cooperation	474,600	0
Education	548,100	626,342
Internally displaced persons	167,240	0
Human rights training (peacekeepers)	80,230	0
Trafficking in persons	754,840	153,087
Interim measures for ESCR	0	29,437
Project development, formulation and evaluation	0	153,252
Board of Trustees	0	50,586
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,838,610</b>	<b>1,955,410</b>

<i>Africa</i>	US\$	US\$
Regional activities	1,011,350	230,311
Cameroon	119,780	0
Central African Republic	113,877	0
Chad	158,200	86,558
Gabon	197,750	17,443
Guinea-Bissau	90,400	0
Lesotho	146,900	0
Madagascar	374,697	166,760
Malawi	124,300	28,445
Morocco	483,075	332,166
Namibia	215,371	87,261
Rwanda	215,371	71,375
Sierra Leone	63,370	58,249
Somalia	236,170	272,071
South Africa	493,470	204,881
Togo	0	21,699
Uganda	282,500	106,096
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,326,581</b>	<b>1,683,315</b>

<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	Budget	Expenditure
	US\$	US\$
Regional activities	791,000	36,910
Andean Commission	310,750	0
Argentina	0	56,500
Bolivia	313,914	64,639
Ecuador	395,274	141,416
El Salvador	731,110	367,336
Guatemala	401,150	106,474
Nicaragua	357,080	130,655
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,300,278</b>	<b>903,930</b>

<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	US\$	US\$
Albania	111,870	42,372
Armenia	0	12,002
Azerbaijan	100,118	17,293
Georgia	267,609	125,197
Kyrgyzstan	96,050	0
Macedonia	125,430	0
Moldova	96,050	28,583
Russian Federation	932,375	0
Ukraine	123,170	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,852,672</b>	<b>225,447</b>

<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	US\$	US\$
Regional activities	791,000	463,561
Afghanistan	117,520	0
Bhutan	61,924	18,120
Indonesia	273,460	225,717
Mongolia	72,320	96,423
Nepal	36,160	34,344
Palestine	1,087,584	641,375
Philippines	181,500	145,476
Yemen	305,100	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,926,568</b>	<b>1,625,016</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>15,244,709</b>	<b>6,393,118</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Includes expenditure for activities in support of national institutions, education projects, Somalia and Rwanda implemented UNOPS.



## Voluntary contributions .....

to the fund for technical cooperation

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge	Income
		US\$	US\$
Austria	VFTC	40,000	0
Belgium	VFTC	0	295,165
Canada	Sierra Leone	44,828	43,618
Colombia	VFTC	0	9,650
Denmark	Indonesia	0	96,479
El Salvador	VFTC	1,000	0
Finland	VFTC	155,298	151,430
	Angola <sup>1</sup>	93,179	0
	Somalia	23,295	22,715
France	VFTC	221,368	217,577
	Palestine (Gaza)	76,838	0
	Mauritania	49,916	0
Germany	VFTC	197,984	192,398
	Yemen	98,043	95,740
India	VFTC	18,257	18,257
Ireland	VFTC	117,243	111,224
	Sierra Leone	0	96,128
	Uganda	0	96,127
Italy	VFTC	0	138,950
	Angola <sup>2</sup>	238,438	0
	Somalia	63,153	0
Japan	VFTC	1,280,000	1,280,000
Korea, Republic of	VFTC	150,000	150,000
Luxembourg	VFTC	250,000	250,000
	Trafficking	100,000	100,000
Mexico	VFTC	0	10,000
Netherlands <sup>3</sup>		466,168	0
New Zealand	VFTC	14,925	14,170
Norway	Somalia	56,370	55,953
	Sierra Leone	107,296	111,149
	Trafficking	80,472	82,307
Poland	VFTC	50,000	50,000
South Africa	VFTC	23,659	28,656
Spain	VFTC	55,495	53,430
Sweden	VFTC	57,405	158,690
	System-wide TC	114,811	113,345
Sudan <sup>4</sup>	VFTC	2,100	0
Switzerland	VFTC	186,747	176,136
United Kingdom	VFTC	182,540	182,137
	Sierra Leone	396,825	395,875
United States of America	VFTC	1,500,000	1,250,000
European Commission	Ecuador	343,284	0
	Georgia	120,980	0
	Indonesia	143,559	0
	Madagascar	102,829	0
	Nicaragua	252,226	0
	Russia	476,441	0
Union de Banque Suisse	Trafficking	0	62,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,952,972</b>	<b>6,109,806</b>

<sup>1</sup> US\$ 88,759 received on 4 October 2000 and transferred to UNDPKO for implementation. Not reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.

<sup>2</sup> US\$ 230,578.76 received on 8 September 2000 and transferred to UNDPKO for implementation. Not reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.

<sup>3</sup> Netherlands pledged US\$ 2,000,000 for Technical Cooperation in November 1998 to be paid in four instalments. The second instalment (US\$ 466,168) is reflected as a pledge in 2000 but is not part of income recorded in 2000 since it was paid in December 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.

## Voluntary contributions .....

to other technical cooperation activities

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge	Income
		US\$	US\$
Australia	Nat. Institutions/Asia	117,647	0
Canada	Nat. Institutions	0	48,825
Cyprus	Nat. Institutions	0	2,000
Germany	Nat. Institutions	94,422	94,553
New Zealand	Nat. Institutions/Asia	34,826	33,062
South Africa	Nat. Institutions	15,773	54,282
Sweden	Nat. Institutions	114,811	113,107
Switzerland	Education (Act II)	10,000	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>387,479</b>	<b>345,829</b>

## Global projects - National institutions

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	504,538
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	177,173
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	88,728
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	18,061
General operating expenses	10,817
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	34,936
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>834,253</b>
Programme support costs	108,453
<b>Total</b>	<b>942,706</b>

### Background

OHCHR aims to consolidate and strengthen the role of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. This aim is fundamental to OHCHR's existence, and finds expression in its Mission Statement (which draws upon the relevant resolutions passed by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights). Since 1995, OHCHR has supported the establishment and strengthening of such institutions through national technical cooperation programmes and through the work of the Special Adviser to the High Commissioner on National Institutions.

### Objectives

The overall objectives of this project are to:

- Provide advice on constitutional provisions or on the appropriate legislation for the establishment of independent national human rights institutions;
- Encourage and assist the involvement of civil society in the activities of national institutions;
- Develop and deliver training and technical assistance to establish and/or strengthen national human rights institutions; and
- Facilitate consultations between national institutions and treaty monitoring bodies on protection mechanisms established by the Commission on Human Rights.

### Implementation

During 2000, advisory missions were conducted by the Special Adviser and/or OHCHR staff to Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nepal, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, St. Lucia, South Africa, Sweden and Thailand. The Special Adviser discussed the appropriate form of proposed legislation to establish national institutions in Cambodia, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, and Thailand. Technical cooperation programmes – all with a component on national human rights institutions – continued in Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malawi, Moldova, Palestine, South Africa and Uganda. Further consultations on cooperation agreements were held with already established institutions in Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Rwanda and Sri Lanka. OHCHR provided the various treaty bodies with its observations regarding national institutions. Representatives of the treaty bodies and special mechanisms attended OHCHR meetings and workshops whenever possible (including workshops relating to economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of women).

At the international level, the National Institutions Team provided technical and financial support to the 5th International Workshop of National Human Rights Institutions held in Rabat, Morocco (March 2000). The Team also continued to act as the Secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, which held its annual meeting during the 56th session of the Commission on Human Rights (April 2000).

The following workshops and meetings were held with the support and/or the participation of OHCHR:

- At the regional level, the National Institutions Team, along with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Fiji Human Rights Commission, organized a workshop in Suva, Fiji, on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing the international human rights of women (May 2000).
- OHCHR supported the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Institutions, held in New Zealand (August 2000).
- OHCHR conducted a workshop in Manila for national institutions and NGOs on economic, social and cultural rights in collaboration with the Philippine Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (November 2000; funded jointly by OHCHR and the Canadian Government).
- OHCHR supported the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting of National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas and the Caribbean (November 2000) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (November 2000), both held in Mexico City.
- The Special Adviser and/or the National Institutions Team also participated in:
  - the 1<sup>st</sup> Council of Europe Round Table Discussion with National Human Rights Institutions and the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Meeting of National Institutions (Strasbourg, March 2000);
  - the Regional Meeting of the Caribbean Association of Ombudsmen (St. Lucia, June 2000);
  - the Commonwealth Conference on National Human Rights Institutions (Cambridge, July 2000); and
  - the Annual Meeting of the International Institute of Ombudsmen (Durban, October/November 2000).

Following consultations with Government ministers, civil society and donors, OHCHR's National Institutions Team, the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the Sierra Leone National Forum of Human Rights jointly held a consultative workshop (Freetown, December 2000) with a view to setting up an independent and adequately funded Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission as soon as possible.

OHCHR facilitated the participation of national institutions in preparatory meetings and events leading up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (as requested by the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Human Rights). Information on the World Conference was provided at all relevant OHCHR activities.

The Special Adviser participated in a training course on the basic pre-requisites for the establishment of independent national human rights institutions, organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden for government officials and NGOs from Central and Eastern European, and Central Asian countries.

## Impact and achievements

A number of new national human rights institutions have been established in Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal and Rwanda. Legislation on the establishment of national human rights institutions has been drafted in several other countries, including Bangladesh, Kenya, and the Republic of Korea. At year's end, recruitment was well underway for the recently established Human Rights Commission in Thailand.

## Lesson learned

As a result of the above-mentioned activities it is now recognised that:

- In the context of the World Conference against Racism, national human rights

institutions play a crucial role as they have mandates which deal with discrimination and other forms of racial intolerance. Therefore, methods of strengthening the role of such institutions should be considered, particularly with respect to women and other vulnerable or marginalised groups within society.

- Governments need to create and/or strengthen: national mechanisms for the advancement of the rights of women and the integration of gender perspectives into legislation; policy discussions that centre upon industry and trade agreements; and global initiatives considered by governments themselves, educational curricula and other relevant programmes and projects.
- National human rights institutions should pay greater attention to the economic, social and cultural rights of women, including shelter, food, water, primary education and primary health care as fundamental rights, as well as sexual and reproductive rights.
- National human rights institutions should establish national focal points or appoint human rights commissioners dealing with child rights and/or work closely with other existing national bodies such as children's ombudsmen.
- National human rights institutions should work harder to promote and protect children's rights in accordance with existing international treaties and conventions.
- National human rights institutions should focus on the fight against poverty and the universal enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and therefore encourage governments to ratify the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and move towards the adoption of an Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

## Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries included the respective national human rights institutions, governments and civil society in countries where OHCHR operates. In addition, treaty bodies and special mechanisms have benefited from the expertise of the Special Adviser and the National Institutions Team.

## Constraints

In 2000, the National Institutions Team consisted of a Special Adviser and three professional staff, supported on an ad hoc basis by several experienced practitioners. Although the work of the National Institutions Team is increasingly integrated into that of the geographical desks, the team remains under-resourced: it handles the increasing demands for advice and support by more than 50 United Nations Member States and a great many national human rights institutions.

## Coordination

OHCHR continued to work closely with UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNV, UNFPA, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth Secretariat, in particular within the framework of national technical cooperation projects. The National Institutions Team continued to work with its regional partners, including the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. The Team contributed to the establishment of a network of national institutions for the Americas (which includes the Caribbean), with the Mexican Human Rights Commission acting as its interim Secretariat. The Team also continued to work with other institutions such as the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Canadian Human Rights Foundation.



# United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004)

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs <sup>1</sup>	46,247
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	238,150
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	4,802
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	3,573
Contractual services	39,789
General operating expenses	301
Supplies and acquisitions	36,695
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	184,728
<hr/> Sub-total	<hr/> 554,285
Programme support costs	72,057
<hr/> <b>Total</b>	<hr/> <b>626,342</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure.

## Background

In December 1994, the General Assembly designated the years 1995-2004 as the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and put the High Commissioner for Human Rights in charge of coordinating the implementation of a related plan of action, which provides a strategy for strengthening human rights education programmes at the international, regional, national and local levels. Working closely with its partners, OHCHR undertook a mid-term evaluation of overall progress made during the first five years of the Decade (as provided for in the original plan of action and pursuant to the consequent General Assembly resolution of December 1999).

## Objectives

OHCHR's programme for the Decade aims to strengthen national and local capacities for human rights education by:

- Developing methodologies and materials to upgrade the capacity of all partners to deliver improved human rights education programmes; and,
- Enhancing coordination and facilitating information-sharing among international, regional and national governmental and non-governmental organizations carrying out human rights education activities.

## Implementation

The following activities were undertaken during 2000:

- A mid-term global evaluation (March/April 2000) included a worldwide survey, an on-line forum, an expert meeting, and a global report to the General Assembly. The evaluation looked at what had been accomplished at the international, regional, national and local levels, identified shortcomings and made recommendations for the five remaining years of the Decade. It was seen that questionnaires alone (as originally planned) would provide insufficient data for planning purposes, so they were supplemented with the on-line forum (within a human rights education network) and the expert meeting.
- OHCHR's database of human rights education organizations, programmes and materials – and its own collection of human rights education resources – were unveiled in Geneva on International Human Rights Day 2000 (11 December 2000).
- OHCHR's database on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is available in more than 320 languages, was further developed and updated.
- Two publications were finalized: *Human Rights Training* and the *Compendium of National Plans of Action for Human Rights Education*.
- Work continued on the preparation of six training packages (for prison officials; teachers; the legal profession; NGOs; human rights monitors; on human rights and parliaments).
- OHCHR gave small grants to 97 grassroots organizations to assist human rights work in 16 countries in accordance with the second phase of the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project.
- OHCHR advised various organizations involved in the Decade and provided

- support for their educational and training activities.
- OHCHR and other experts participated in conferences, training courses and workshops related to human rights education.
- OHCHR also coordinated all other general tasks related to the Decade and human rights monitoring.

## Impact and achievements

The mid-term evaluation showed how uneven were the responses of governments to the Decade, and how much remains to be done in the field of human rights education. The evaluation also confirmed that NGOs are key actors in this field, and that the Decade is slowly but increasingly providing an effective backdrop for their efforts. Moreover, it became clear that there is a growing need for increased collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors with respect to their human rights education activities.

The database on human rights education organizations, programmes and materials (available on-line at <http://www.unhchr.ch/hredu.nsf>) and the collection of human rights education resources (at OHCHR in Geneva) have facilitated information-sharing and networking among international, regional and national governmental and non-governmental organizations. In 2000, OHCHR was better able to provide swift expert answers to questions on human rights education.

The database on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is available on-line at <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm> and is the world's most accessible depository of the Declaration (in more than 320 languages, making it the most translated document in the world). As a result of this project OHCHR was awarded the World Guinness Record in November 1999, for the UDHR as the most translated document worldwide, which at that time existed in 289 languages. The database is a useful resource for human rights initiatives for all actors and the web page with translations of the Declaration (ten per cent of the website as a whole) receives an average of 66,600 hits per month.

Under the ACT project, public information campaigns, human rights education in schools, and cultural events conceived by grassroots organizations were developed, implemented and evaluated.

## Beneficiaries

OHCHR has a mailing list of approximately 2,000 organizations and individuals and receives about 600 requests every month for human rights publications, education materials, and related information. Day in, day out, interested individuals and organizations visit OHCHR headquarters and field offices to obtain information. In addition, OHCHR's website has approximately 3 million hits per month. Furthermore, about 5,000 individuals (including teenagers, people living with HIV/AIDS, refugees and others) benefited personally from support to grassroots activities as a result of the 97 grants awarded by the ACT project. Finally, OHCHR carries out technical cooperation projects in about 55 countries; these frequently include education and public information components, and various regional/international training programmes.



## Constraints and lessons learned

- In 2000, the finalization of various training packages and the development of new publications took longer than expected, for lack of appropriate staff. In future, OHCHR will focus on fewer training packages and publications, so that they can be completed within a reasonable time-frame.
- The mid-term global evaluation confirmed the need to support human rights training activities by NGOs. This concern was reiterated in the plan of action for the Decade and related General Assembly resolutions. As a result, the ACT project (small grants to grassroots organizations) has been brought under the umbrella of the Decade programme.

## Coordination

In implementing the Decade programme, OHCHR has established partnerships (each based on one or two specific activities) with other UN agencies, in particular UNESCO and its National Commissions, the Department of Public Information and its UN Information Centres, UNDP and its field offices, and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Other partners include regional inter-governmental organizations, governments, national institutions, human rights institutes and NGOs.



## Human rights training for peacekeepers

### Background

An integrated approach to peacekeeping and human rights recognises the link between two of the fundamental aims of the United Nations: the maintenance of peace and the achievement of respect for human rights for all. The importance of this link is reflected in the evolution of the mandates of the UN peacekeeping operations, which today almost invariably cover various aspects of human rights. The functions assigned to both the military and civilian policing components of peacekeeping operations have evolved accordingly, and human rights now amount to a tool on which the modern peacekeeper relies. The monitoring, advisory and training role of Civilian Police (CIVPOL) officers requires a thorough knowledge of international human rights norms and how to apply them. The same applies to the monitoring, support and observation role of military peacekeepers. This was the rationale behind the 9th UN training course for military and civilian police trainers held at the United Nations Staff College (UNSC) in Turin, Italy (13 November - 1 December 2000). The course was a joint initiative by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), OHCHR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Staff College itself.

### Objectives

The purpose of the course was to familiarize military and civilian police trainers with peacekeeping concepts and procedures, including the operational, human rights, and humanitarian aspects of peacekeeping and to prepare national trainers to train peacekeepers for service with the UN missions.

### Implementation

The overall structure of the course was the same as in previous years. The first section, conducted by DPKO, focused on general peacekeeping issues including peacekeeping principles, procedures, and operational techniques. The second section, conducted by UNHCR, focused on refugee law and humanitarian assistance. During the third and final week of the training course, OHCHR focused on human rights standards and their application in the work of peacekeepers. In view of the different functions performed by the military and CIVPOL peacekeepers, the two groups were divided and given specialized training. The military peacekeepers considered topics such as standards related to the supervision, monitoring and verification of cease-fire agreements, or mediation and negotiation between belligerent parties. CIVPOL peacekeepers took an in-depth look at police investigations, arrest and detention, and the use of force and firearms. Other issues were covered by both groups, but from different perspectives; these included mission coordination and liaison with other actors in the field, peacekeepers' rights, duties and ethics, the protection of women's and children's human rights, monitoring, and reporting human rights violations. The human rights section of the overall training programme was practical in orientation and provided participants not only with knowledge of international human rights norms, but also with practical skills: how to perform peacekeeping functions and how to integrate human rights into the training curricula of national peacekeepers.

## Impact and achievements

In the evaluation exercise, participants expressed their satisfaction with the course, their appreciation of the facilitators' guidance and their understanding of the importance of the topics covered. Teaching materials and training aids were distributed to all participants throughout the week, for use and adaptation according to the requirements of future national training courses. DPKO maintains contact with the network of trained police and military peacekeepers who participated in the course and all the UN agencies support follow-up activities at the national level, as requested by the participants.

## Beneficiaries

The programme was directed towards trainers of peacekeepers responsible for training either in the mission areas or at the national level (prior to deployment); 35 military and police officers from the following countries participated: Austria (1), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Bulgaria (1), Cameroon (1), Canada (2), Chile (1), France (1), Germany (1), Ghana (2), Italy (2), South Korea (1), Kyrgyzstan (1), Malaysia (3), Morocco (1), Mozambique (2), the Philippines (2), Senegal (2), Singapore (2), Switzerland (1), Thailand (2), and the United States (4). The course was attended by more participants than any of the eight previous courses.

## Constraints

The Turin training course is the only forum for the comprehensive training of military and CIVPOL peacekeepers currently undertaken within the UN system. As it is an annual event, the number of places for participants is necessarily limited. One main constraint, therefore, is the present inability of national authorities and/or the UN to provide systematic pre-deployment training or on-the-job training to military personnel and CIVPOL assigned to UN peacekeeping operations. The translation into French and Spanish of the OHCHR *Trainer's Guide on Human Rights and Law Enforcement for CIVPOL* and the OHCHR *Trainer's Guide on Human Rights for Military Peacekeepers* is still pending finalization of the original English version.

## Coordination

As in the past, the course was jointly organized by DPKO, OHCHR, UNHCR and the Staff College.

## Lessons learned

One of the first activities to be undertaken jointly by OHCHR, DPKO and UNHCR was the annual training course; it has provided a good foundation for subsequent analogous initiatives at the regional and national levels. Experience during UN peacekeeping (and peace-building) operations over recent years, particularly in former Yugoslavia, East Timor and in Africa, has demonstrated the pivotal role of human rights in peacekeeping. At the same time, knowledge of human rights standards (and their implication for peacekeeping work) remains relatively low. Over and above the training of national trainers, all peacekeepers should ideally be trained directly by the UN before being deployed to UN mission areas.

## Regional activities

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	47,467
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	7,893
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	729
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	9,328
Supplies and acquisitions	14,313
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	124,085
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>203,815</b>
Programme support costs	26,496
<b>Total <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>230,311</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes the following projects: Strengthening Capacities of Arab NGOs; Training of Police Forces in Southern Africa; and Strengthening National and Regional Capacities in Human Rights Democracy and the Rule of Law in Southern Africa.

### Regional and sub-regional strategies

The focus of regional activities in Africa was altered during the course of the reporting period and priority was given to developing regional and sub-regional strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights. These strategies have emphasised the need to address issues of common concern to the region, the development of suitable regional and sub-regional solutions and the need for complementary national projects which accentuate: strengthening national human rights capacity; establishing national human rights commissions; bringing national legislation into line with international standards; preparing and implementing national plans of action; and training law enforcement personnel in human rights standards. In this regard, strategies were elaborated for the following sub-regions: Central Africa and the Great Lakes; Southern Africa; and West Africa; the sub-regional strategy for the North Africa and Arab region is still being prepared.

During 2000, negotiations were held on how best to develop the sub-regional strategy for Central Africa and the Great Lakes region. In July 2000, OHCHR conducted a joint needs assessment mission with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to work on a strategy for Central Africa. A staff member was subsequently deployed (September-December 2000) to coordinate and consolidate this sub-regional strategy. Consultations were held with member states of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), leading to the drafting of a project document and the conclusion of a legal agreement, with the Government of Cameroon as host country for the Sub-Regional Centre for Democracy and Human Rights in Yaoundé.

In 1998, a Southern Africa sub-regional office was inaugurated in Pretoria as a joint project with UNDP. As the first sub-regional office, it amounted to an important test of OHCHR's regional strategy. In 2000, OHCHR continued to provide assistance to the United Nations Country Teams on the implementation of a rights-based approach; it responded to the training needs of country teams in Lesotho (April 2000), Mauritius (May 2000) and Zambia (June 2000); and facilitated human rights training activities in Botswana (February 2000) and Mozambique (October 2000). In May 2000, the sub-regional office assisted a UNDP team in the evaluation of its governance project in Mozambique. Further to its assistance to the institutions of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in February 2000, OHCHR facilitated a workshop for the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO). Through interaction with the Resident Coordinators in the sub-region, the sub-regional office mobilized assistance for the implementation of a rights-based

approach. This assistance served to support United Nations system-wide rights programming at the sub-regional level. The sub-regional office also participated in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) report for Mozambique.

During the reporting period, the sub-regional strategy for West Africa was also elaborated. It focused on developing close cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Due to the prevailing political situation, the implementation of the strategy was delayed. In the meantime, a task force was set up to reconsider strategies in light of the renewed UN efforts at developing a coordinated approach to West African problems. These problems include civil conflicts, political instability, humanitarian issues, arms trafficking, and sub-regional integration; they should be addressed by way of a sub-regional approach.

### National-level activities

At the national level, OHCHR implements technical cooperation projects dealing mainly with: support to national institutions and the development of national plans of action on human rights; human rights training for law enforcement officers, the armed forces, the media, civil society, and the judiciary; and the development of human rights curricula for schools at different levels. These national activities are increasingly being integrated into regional/sub-regional strategies. OHCHR provided broad support (including logistical, human resources and training support) for the establishment of national commissions on human rights in Gabon, Madagascar and Rwanda. In Malawi and Chad, human rights training courses were being developed. In Morocco, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo a network of documentation centres was also being established. On its own account, OHCHR maintains field offices in countries such as Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In cooperation with the Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO), or the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), field offices are also maintained in Angola, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Through these offices, projects and programmes which focus on the promotion and protection of human rights are being implemented. In addition, these field offices play an important advisory role in peace negotiation and peace-building processes. OHCHR also provides assistance to geographic and thematic rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts for countries in the region (e.g. Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan).

### Impact and achievements

Although some of the sub-regional strategies were not implemented during the reporting period, it is anticipated that these strategies will in future enhance the impact of national-level activities in the region. The activities that were organized have already demonstrated how sub-regional activities can enhance national activities through the sharing of information and experience. This impact can be measured on the basis of an increasing number of requests for assistance in strengthening and establishing national human rights commissions, supporting national capacity and building awareness of human rights. OHCHR's contributions to the peace processes in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone made human rights an integral part of the reconciliation process and an indispensable forerunner of conditions conducive to lasting peace.

### **Strengthening the capacities of Arab non-governmental organizations**

## Constraints

In many instances, insecurity and political instability curtailed the implementation of projects, in particular in Guinea-Bissau and Lesotho; and implementation of the entire West Africa strategy had to be postponed. The national project for Cameroon was redefined and incorporated into the sub-regional strategy for Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, which was considered a more effective framework for the relevant activities. In other instances government feedback was very slow.

## Background

Since its inception in 1989, the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) has encouraged the development of Arab NGOs in the field of human rights and OHCHR has regularly provided grants in support of its activities. These NGOs have managed to survive throughout the Arab world despite the complex political and social contexts in which they operate. The main purpose of this project is to assist the Institute in strengthening the operational capacities of NGOs; to reinforce the network of NGOs in the Arab world initiated by the AIHR; and to promote a regional approach which strengthens civil society in the field of human rights.

## Objectives

The project aims to support Arab civil society in the following areas:

- Activities geared towards the promotion of a human rights culture;
- Strengthening of the NGO network established as a result of initiatives taken by the AIHR;
- Training of leaders of NGOs representing women, students, young people, children, advocates, journalists, workers, etc. in human rights techniques (organization of campaigns, human rights reporting, regional and international procedures for the protection of human rights);
- Training NGOs on United Nations reporting procedures/mechanisms and their prospective contribution as agents in the implementation of recommendations made by relevant UN bodies;
- Promotion of a regional approach to the strengthening of civil society in the field of human rights; and
- Strengthening OHCHR's relationship with the AIHR with a view to benefiting from its knowledge and goodwill in the region and formulating a sub-regional strategy.

## Implementation

In 2000, the Training Programme for Human Rights Trainers organized two sessions. The first one was held in Amman (Jordan), 2-17 May, with 23 participants from eight Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen). The second one took place in Aden (Yemen), 8-21 September, in cooperation with the Yemenite Organization for the Defence of Human Rights and Democratic Freedoms and the Centre for Information on Human Rights; this session was attended by 20 participants from the same Arab countries.

Another important meeting was the 10th regional session of "Anabtawi 10" held in Tunisia (28 June-11 July 2000) with the participation of 43 NGO leaders and

others from eleven Arab countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates). The meeting paid particular attention to human rights norms, non-discrimination, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to reservations made by State signatories of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

### Impact and achievements

The Arab Institute for Human Rights is now known among NGOs in the region as a regional institute which skilfully promotes human rights through training and documentation. A steadily increasing number of NGOs have attended the training sessions and seminars organized by the AIHR. The ripple effect is demonstrated by, for example, the local human rights centres established in Egypt and Yemen by former students trained at the AIHR.

### Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project were Arab NGOs and other associations which work for the promotion and protection of human rights. They are now able to make better use of regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. Their staff acquired the necessary training skills to disseminate their knowledge of human rights and techniques for the collation of information, the investigation of allegations, reporting, etc. NGO leaders were given the opportunity to meet, exchange experiences and build a regional network.

### Coordination

In order to achieve its aims, the AIHR cooperates with all Arab governments, as well as with national, regional and international organizations, without compromising its independence. The AIHR has been granted special consultative status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and plays a monitoring role in the Permanent Arab Committee for Human Rights at the League of Arab States and in the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights. It has benefited from the support of the former UN Centre for Human Rights, the European Commission, ICCO (Netherlands), and the Governments of Tunisia and Jordan.

### Lessons learned

OHCHR should continue systematically to support AIHR because the Institute's credibility and potential in the Arab world represent crucial leverage for OHCHR's sub-regional strategy.

## Country projects

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### Central African Republic

#### Background

The United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), led by the Representative of the Secretary-General, was established on 15 February 2000 when the *Mission des Nations Unies en République Centrafricaine* (MINURCA) was completed. Its remit is to support the efforts of the Government to consolidate peace and national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions and facilitate the mobilization of international political support and resources for national reconstruction and economic recovery. In accordance with recommendation S/1999/1235 of 3 December 1999 and following Security Council consultations on 3 October 2000, BONUCA's mandate, initially due to expire on 15 February 2001, was extended until 31 December 2001. Through BONUCA a human rights unit steered by OHCHR was established, consisting of two international staff and six local staff to carry out its technical assistance activities. The decision to extend the mandate of BONUCA until the end of 2001 came after the 2000 Annual Appeal was prepared. As a result some of the human rights activities were funded under the regular budget, which supports BONUCA's activities. Voluntary contributions were therefore not utilized to support activities in 2000.

#### Objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

- Strengthen the national capacity of government institutions in the field of human rights promotion and protection, in particular in the areas of the administration of justice and the consolidation of national law;
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society to promote and protect human rights;
- Promote the teaching and dissemination of human rights within all socio-professional strata of society; and
- Monitor the general development of the human rights situation throughout the country.

#### Implementation

Two training programmes were held for law enforcement officers, from 3-19 May 2000 and from 3-17 August 2000: the Human Rights Section of MINURCA trained 300 participants from the police, gendarmerie and military. This was carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior in order to provide officers with an explanation of the application of the rule of law and provide information and training materials on the human rights standards relevant to their respective functions; and train technical experts in the field of human rights. A preparatory conference for the General Assembly Special Session on Beijing +5 was held from 26-27 May 2000 in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Promotion of the Family and the Disabled. More than 106 participants were in attendance from various ministerial departments, NGOs and women's organizations and made contributions to the final document, which reflects the concerns of women from all sectors of society.

# Chad

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	78,898
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>78,898</b>
Programme support costs	7,660
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,558</b>

## Impact and achievements

The training sessions disseminated human rights knowledge throughout the country. As a consequence, now that national human rights institutions are in place, alongside other relevant infrastructure, the promotion of human rights is no longer a taboo. Public authorities and NGOs alike made a significant contribution here. In future however, human rights activities should be devolved to the provinces.

## Background

In September 1997, the Government of Chad requested OHCHR to provide technical assistance with a view to strengthening national human rights institutions, in particular the National Commission on Human Rights. Subsequently, on 8 April 1998, the Commission on Human Rights formally requested that OHCHR and UNDP implement a joint technical cooperation project in Chad. OHCHR and UNDP therefore conducted a joint needs assessment mission in October 1998. In its final report, the mission noted high levels of impunity and recommended the establishment of institutions protective of human rights. In order to strengthen the rule of law, OHCHR aims to develop the capacities of the National Commission on Human Rights, the Supreme and Constitutional Courts, as well as human rights NGOs. Activities began in February 2000, to last for a period of 18 months.

## Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve the human rights situation in Chad. In this regard, the immediate objective is to strengthen human rights insti-



tutions to the extent that they become able to develop and implement overall strategies, individual programmes and training courses which promote and protect human rights.

## Implementation

During the reporting period, the following training sessions were organized:

- A workshop on investigative methods in the field of human rights was held from 22-26 May 2000, with 32 participants from the National Commission on Human Rights, Parliament and human rights NGOs.
- A two-day workshop on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners was held from 31 July to 1 August 2000, attended by 19 officials and NGOs representatives.
- A one-week training session was organized to support human rights NGOs in their work to promote the rule of law.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, educational material on human rights was distributed to various NGOs, including the *Association des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (ACAT/Tchad)*, the *Association Jeunesse Anti-Clivage, Tchad Non-Violence* and the *Ligue Tchadienne des Droits de l'Homme*. Grants were given to a human rights NGO concerned with the rights of the child (*Association des Femmes Juristes du Tchad*) and another that provides training for the police and soldiers (*Ligue Tchadienne des Droits de l'Homme*). On 10 October 2000, representatives from the National Commission and an NGO visited detainees in prisons in N'Djaména. Books were ordered for a documentation centre, to be established in 2001 under the aegis of the Supreme and Constitutional Courts.

## Impact and achievements

The training sessions improved cooperation between government officials, members of the National Commission and NGO representatives. The National Commission is now able to assume its coordinating role more effectively in the field of human rights and operates with greater visibility and transparency. Furthermore, the provision of documentation enabled the Constitutional and Supreme Courts, the National Commission and beneficiary NGOs to develop their skills.

## Constraints

The partners involved in this project took considerable time to sign the project document, and this resulted in significant delays in the implementation of activities. Furthermore, the Government failed to make its contribution as initially agreed. This delayed the recruitment of a permanent member of staff to assist the National Commission in its coordination and implementation of the project. The lack of dedicated premises for the project was another impediment.

## Coordination

The international expert/coordinator of the project benefited from support provided by OHCHR, UNDP and the National Commission. In order to further develop coordination, the project now operates from the National Commission's Office. The international expert responsible for coordinating the project also worked closely with the *Mission de Coopération Française*, GTZ (Germany) and the World Bank.

# Gabon

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	13,786
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	450
Supplies and acquisitions	1,200
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>15,436</b>
Programme support costs	2,007
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,443</b>

## Background

Following the High Commissioner's visit to Gabon in 1996, the Government made a request for technical assistance in the field of human rights. A memorandum of understanding between OHCHR and the Government was signed in June 1999 and activities began immediately thereafter.

## Objectives

The main objective of the project is to assist in the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights, by boosting its expertise and resources with the provision of training and appropriate equipment. Other objectives include: building the institutional capacity for drafting periodic reports to be submitted to human rights treaty bodies; bringing domestic law into conformity with international human rights standards; and guiding the judiciary, the security and defence forces, and prison administration to respect and protect human rights through training.

## Implementation

With regard to institutional capacity building, OHCHR organized a workshop for Government officials on the methodology of drafting and presenting initial and periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Two consultants provided training for 30 government officials and members of national NGOs. In addition, OHCHR provided training in Geneva for the Director General for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice. OHCHR also provided stationery and office supplies for the General Directorate for Human Rights. The National Commission on Human Rights finally came into being with a decree for its creation, signed on 7 November 2000, followed on 30 March 2001 by the nomination of its constituent members.

## Constraints

Project implementation was delayed because the National Commission was not established until November 2000 and its members were not nominated until March 2001. Activities related to the work of the Commission are expected to take place in 2001.

## Coordination

The project management team (a project manager and a member of the National Commission) is responsible for implementation in close cooperation with OHCHR and UNDP-Libreville. Contacts were established with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in order to provide information technology training for members of the Commission. UNDP, UNICEF, ECOSOC and the Ministry of Justice are OHCHR's operational project partners. UNDP will share project costs.

## Lessons learned

In order to accelerate implementation of the project, all actors must take a more pro-active approach. Since OHCHR cannot maintain an indefinite presence in Gabon, the National Commission on Human Rights must be closely involved in the management of the project.

# Madagascar

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	17,900
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	43,262
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	6,451
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	2,800
General operating expenses	15,552
Supplies and acquisitions	47,300
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	14,310
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>147,575</b>
Programme support costs	19,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,760</b>

### Support to the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights

### Technical and logistical support to the Ministry of Justice

### Strengthening the capacity of national NGOs

## Background

In order to better promote and protect human rights, the Ministry of Justice plans to revive the judicial system and nurture public confidence by making the system more accessible and credible. The National Commission on Human Rights was established in 1996, but only became operational in July 2000 (due to budgetary constraints). Since then the Government of Madagascar has appointed 25 members to the Commission. In view of problems within the Ministry of Justice, the Government asked OHCHR to implement a project of technical assistance. Activities began in July 1999, to continue for a period of two years.

## Objectives

The immediate objectives of the project are to support the establishment and operation of the National Commission; to help the Ministry of Justice in its efforts to promote respect for human rights; and to strengthen national NGOs devoted to the protection and promotion of human rights, especially women's and children's rights.

## Implementation

In April 2000, a "train-the-trainers" workshop was organized on human rights and democracy, for secondary school teachers and college lecturers. It was attended by 64 participants, 28 of them women and 34 from the various provinces. Three members of the Commission received a fellowship to study at the Canadian Commission on the Rights of the Person (Ottawa, 5-30 June 2000). In October 2000, the Saint Antoine College of Antananarivo held a human rights education session for its staff and teachers, with the support of the NHRC; there were 190 participants, 89 of them women.

From August to December 2000, all relevant Malagasy legislation was reviewed by OHCHR, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Population. Laws and procedures relevant to the protection of women and children were reviewed in terms of their compatibility with international standards; in this regard, an international consultation was held to facilitate the process. Madagascar's customary law was also reviewed in terms of its conformity with international norms.

In March 2000, a "train-the-trainers" workshop was held for civil society organizations and NGOs, on the theme of Strengthening Democracy and Human Rights; there were 47 participants, 27 of them women. Its aim was to provide information on all basic legal and human rights concepts. In July 2000, two members of national NGOs were sent to Brussels for a human rights training fellowship: the aim was to strengthen the capacity of NGOs, which would in turn train members of civil society. In August 2000, UNDP funded a training session for 37 participants at Ihosy/Fianarantsoa: the aim was to build awareness within civil society and thereby foster tolerance, respect and solidarity inherent in human rights principles.

In October 2000, a human rights training seminar for members of local NGOs from Toamasina province was held by an NGO called Zon'Olombbelona; there were 75 participants, including mayors, teachers and councilors of *communes*.

### Impact and achievements

Beneficiaries were able to develop their experience and practical knowledge of human rights issues. More importantly, the training sessions have had a snowball effect, as trainers are now able to train others. The positive impact of the project can also be measured by the fact that on average the office receives three visitors per day (NGOs, students, teachers) who request information and documentation on human rights training and fellowships.

### Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries were the Ministry of Justice, members of the National Commission on Human Rights, NGOs, secondary school teachers, college lecturers, and the public at large.

### Constraints

There were delays in the release of the Government's share of funds for the training activities itemised in the project document. Although efforts were made to secure some funding, the Government credit officer and the liaison officer from the Ministry of Justice are both still following up on the Government's contribution for the year 2001.

### Coordination

OHCHR and UNICEF were responsible for coordinating the project, especially with respect to the framework for the revision of laws on women and children and the customary law. Coordination was facilitated by the Director of Legislative Reform at the Ministry of Justice. The United Nations Information Centre assisted the information, education and communication programme for human rights.

### Lessons learned

All the activities should be linked to the human rights information, education and communication programme. Such an approach would further strengthen the capacity of civil society. There is an increasing demand for human rights training in every province. OHCHR should therefore send a follow-up mission to other provinces in Madagascar in order to determine the situation outside the capital.

# Malawi

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	8,210
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	4,226
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	5,250
Supplies and acquisitions	2,500
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	4,987
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>25,173</b>
Programme support costs	3,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,445</b>

## Background

The OHCHR project for Malawi entitled "Consolidation of the Democratic Process" was developed in the wake of the democratic transition in Malawi and the entry into force of the 1994 Constitution. It commenced in 1996, initially for a two-year period, later extended into 2000. Its aim is to assist the development of a strong and resilient civil society and strengthen national institutions which foster the protection and promotion of human rights.

## Objectives

In 2000, the objectives of the project were to:

- Help democratic institutions to function effectively; these include the Human Rights Commission, the Law Commission and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and Democracy;
- Provide training in human rights and the resolution of disputes for participants from the correctional services, the police, and judiciary, as well as statutory bodies like the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Human Rights Commission, the Law Commission and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and Democracy; and
- Disseminate human rights documentation by translating, printing and distributing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

## Implementation

On 23 April 2000 implementation of the project was assigned to a United Nations Volunteer posted under the Human Rights Strengthening Programme (HURIST). This programme was developed by OHCHR and UNDP, to support UNDP's policy of integrating human rights with sustainable development. During the year, the project assisted the newly created Human Rights Commission by:

- Funding a study fellowship at the South African Human Rights Commission for three members of the National Commission in May 2000. This exposure was provided to enhance their understanding of the operational and technical aspects of the work of a human rights commission;
- Supporting the participation of a representative of the Commission at the 5th International Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions in Rabat (Morocco), 13-15 April 2000. The objective was to encourage networking between national human rights commissions and to strengthen strategic partnerships for the protection and promotion of human rights pursuant to resolution 1999/72 of the Commission on Human Rights, entitled "Effective Functioning of Human Rights Mechanisms: National Institutions and Regional Arrangements"; and
- Conducting a preliminary assessment of the Commission in August 2000, following the fellowship in South Africa and participation in the Rabat workshop. The following national workshops were held at the Malawi Institute of Management in Lilongwe:
  - "Human Rights in the Administration of Justice" (7-8 July 2000): the participants included a Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeal, five High Court judges, two High Court registrars, six senior magistrates, and the Executive Secretary of the Office of the Ombudsperson;
  - "Human Rights and Prison Services" (10-12 July 2000): the 20 participants were senior prison officials from all parts of the country; and
  - "Human Rights and Conflict/Dispute Resolution" (30 October-4 November 2000): the participants were drawn from the Law Reform Commission, the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Police Training Academy and various civil society organizations.

As a follow-up to the workshop on “Human Rights and Prison Services”, subsequent workshops on the resolution of disputes, and on investigative techniques and report writing initially scheduled for December 2000, were postponed due to a pre-scheduled UNV meeting in Geneva; these workshops were rescheduled for 2001. In addition, the project supported the translation, printing and dissemination of the English and Chichewa versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and a police manual.

### Impact and achievements

Although the long-term benefits of the project will become more apparent at a later stage, some immediate results are already discernible. The participants in the workshops rapidly developed a clearer picture of their role and their own potential contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights. The Human Rights Commission deliberately precipitated the establishment of regional outreach programmes by stimulating debate in the print and electronic media. Furthermore, the workshop on “Human Rights and Conflict/Dispute Resolution” resulted in the establishment of a task force to coordinate the creation of the association of mediators in Malawi. This association will continue to take shape during 2001.

### Constraints

The major constraint during the reporting period was the lack of an officer in situ with direct responsibility for project implementation. This was addressed with the posting of a UNV HURIST human rights officer in April 2000.

### Coordination

The project was implemented by OHCHR in coordination with UNDP, the national Human Rights Commission, and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and Democracy.

## Morocco

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants'	0
Fees and travel	
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	200,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>200,000</b>
Programme support costs	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>220,000</b>

### Human Rights Documentation, Information and Training Centre

### Background

Following the visit of the High Commissioner in April 1998, the National Human Rights Documentation, Information and Training Centre was inaugurated by the High Commissioner in Rabat, in April 2000. The new Centre aims to introduce and promote a culture of human rights at all levels of civil society and provide targeted groups such as university professors, school teachers, the judiciary, the police, the media, NGOs, women and children with adequate documentation, information and training according to expressed needs.

### Objectives

#### Training

- To sensitize members of various socio-professional categories on human rights issues relevant to their areas of work and to provide them with the appropriate intellectual tools and necessary skills;
- To reinforce the operational capacities of civil society (in particular vulnerable groups of society such as rural women, children, or the disabled) so that a firm grasp of the basic principles of human rights allows people to harness them for the greater good;

- To train NGOs and national institutions in leadership and other professional skills;
- To provide specialized human rights training for targeted professional groups, i.e. law enforcement officials, police officers, judicial officers, prison personnel, the media, trade unions, teachers; and
- To support the introduction of human rights into school and university curricula.

#### *Documentation and information*

- To help various governmental and non-governmental bodies develop the ability to collect and handle a large volume of information in the field of human rights;
- To establish a specialized library and database on human rights using audio-visual and electronically stored material (to be made freely available to a broad range of users);
- To develop standardised Arabic human rights terminology;
- To identify available sources of information in Morocco and abroad with a view to facilitating access for various users, and at the same time to promote the use of new techniques for the storage, retrieval and analysis of human rights information; and
- To organize and prepare material on basic human rights concepts and principles suitable for dissemination to all sections of civil society for the purpose of raising awareness.

### Implementation

On 13 July 2000, the Government issued a decree institutionalizing the Centre; it also drafted internal statutes which still require ratification by the relevant Moroccan authorities. A Technical Council will assist the Director of the Centre; it will include representatives of the Government, OHCHR, UNDP, Moroccan NGOs (to be designated), and a member of the Bar Association. The Council has not yet been convened, but the Government did appoint a Director in March 2000 to lead the team of eight staff members. As provided for in the working plan agreed by OHCHR, UNDP and the Government in February 2000, two international consultants were recruited by OHCHR. The first consultant was requested to provide assistance during the initial stages of the Centre's establishment, i.e. help consolidate its internal structure and determine the initial programming of its activities. The second consultant assisted in setting up the Centre's documentation and information component (i.e. library, database, bibliographies, manuals, specialized human rights documentation, and other relevant material).

### Impact and achievements

It would be premature at this stage to assess the impact of the new Centre; its real impact will depend not only on its capacity to work with State institutions and civil society at large, but also on its ability to provide services to the various NGOs and community associations working with vulnerable or isolated groups of people in suburban and rural areas (such as rural women, street children, children forced into labour and girls forced into early marriage).

### Constraints

The first two training workshops to be held at the Centre – for NGOs and prison officials – had to be postponed until January 2001 as a consequence of clashing schedules (regarding human rights meetings organized by governments and NGOs in Morocco and the Mediterranean region).

A vital legal agreement between OHCHR and the Government still needs to be signed. It will complement the existing project document by setting out the mutual responsibilities taken on by OHCHR and the Government of Morocco; the agreement also commits OHCHR to further expenditure on the project.

### Coordination

The project if implemented by OHCHR in coordination with UNDP and the Government of Morocco. It will take some time before the Centre establishes regular contacts, but the following have already expressed a keen interest in its human rights activities: UN agencies (such as UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA), the Delegation of the European Commission, and several other national organizations, including the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights, the Moroccan Association of Human Rights, and the Union of Women's Action.

### Lessons learned

There is a need for improved communication and coordination between all partners involved in this project. When such a large project is financially managed by three different institutional partners (i.e. UNOG Financial Services in Geneva, UNDP Treasury in New York and UNDP Rabat) the lines of communication can easily get tangled.

## Morocco

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	26,400
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	1,262
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	12,900
General operating expenses	6,500
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	52,200
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>99,262</b>
Programme support costs	12,904
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,166</b>

### Introduction of Human Rights Education in School Curricula

### Background

This project was launched in 1997 with completion expected to be in August 1999; however, due to unforeseen circumstances that did not happen, the second phase of the project was only implemented in part during the first six months of 2000. This project was therefore not presented in the 2000 Annual Appeal.

### Objectives

The long-term objective of the project is to train young Moroccans to respect democratic values and human rights and to help them become active agents of development at all levels of society. More specifically, the project intends to introduce human rights education into school curricula by means of activities in three main areas: revision of programmes and curricula; training of teachers and lecturers; and the development and application of appropriate educational resources and teaching methodologies.

### Implementation

OHCHR is still involved in the second phase of the project, which only started in 1999 and was due to end by December 2000. This phase focuses on specific training for school inspectors throughout Morocco. As soon as it is complete, OHCHR will carry out an evaluation. The third phase of the project (initially scheduled for 1999-2000) will introduce human rights education into primary and secondary school curricula throughout the country. This phase will not require any input from OHCHR. So far, only 34 training sessions have been held for school





## Namibia

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	44,939
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	10,796
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	2,860
Supplies and acquisitions	11,901
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	6,726
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>77,222</b>
Programme support costs	10,039
<b>Total</b>	<b>87,261</b>

inspectors (May-June 1999; and January-June 2000): they have involved 1,819 participants, including trainers. Due to unexpected financial delay the remaining training sessions for school inspectors could not be held in 2000.

### Beneficiaries

For the time being, the beneficiaries of the project include the trainers and school inspectors who took part in the 34 training sessions organized in all the more densely populated areas of the country.

### Coordination

The project received financial support from various UN agencies such as UNESCO, as well as from international donors, through the European Commission, especially during its first phase.

### Background

The OHCHR project entitled "Assistance in the implementation of human rights standards" was developed to support the Government of Namibia in implementing human rights aspects of the Constitution. Activities began in July 1997 for an initial period of two years, later extended until December 2001. The reporting period was characterized by the escalation of war in Angola, incidents along the Angola-Namibia border, with attacks in Namibian territory by the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and by Namibia's military intervention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, on a positive note, with the passage in 2000 of the Combating of Rape Act N<sup>o</sup>. 7 and the Combating of Immoral Practices Amendment Act N<sup>o</sup>. 7, Namibia now has comprehensive and progressive legislation on rape and sexual abuse.

### Objectives

The project aims to increase awareness and understanding of human rights, and provide training in legal drafting and law enforcement. The target groups are government officials, institutions and civil society organizations including the police, correctional services, the military and the judiciary. The emphasis is on training in international human rights standards, and on strengthening the Human Rights and Documentation Centre at the University of Namibia in Windhoek. The project provides assistance and support to the Human Rights and Documentation Centre, the Justice Training Centre, and the Law Reform and Development Commission in strengthening national human rights capacities. It also provides training to members of the police and correctional services. The project served to bring together a pool of local expertise on international human rights standards.

### Implementation

During the reporting period, the project focused on human rights education and encouraged the development of local resources for human rights research through support to the Human Rights and Documentation Centre. The following training workshops took place during the reporting period:

- Two workshops on human rights and correctional services were held in Windhoek (24-28 January, and 3-7 July 2000); the participants included senior and middle level prison officials from all over the country.
- Two workshops on human rights and traditional authorities were held, one in Oshakati for the northern area (19-23 June 2000) and the other in Windhoek for the central and southern area (18-22 September 2000). The following topics were covered:
  - the relevance of human rights to the work of traditional authorities;
  - the legal framework for traditional authorities and human rights;
  - customary law, courts and human rights;
  - financial administration of traditional authorities and human rights;
  - development and human rights;
  - land, natural resources and human rights;
  - the roles of secretaries of traditional authorities; and
  - human rights and its relevance to the functions of traditional authorities.

The proceedings of the workshops were developed into a *Manual on Traditional Authorities in a New Namibia* which was funded by the project.

- A human rights workshop for magistrates was held in Windhoek (13-17 November 2000). The participants included 20 magistrates, drawn from all parts of the country, who discussed issues such as the criminal justice system in Namibia, the protection of victims' rights and redress, and the right to a fair hearing in criminal cases. Participants were also trained on alternative dispute resolution processes including arbitration, mediation, negotiation and other processes. The workshop was concluded by presenting practical proposals for improving the performance of the magistracy. (These proposals were a response to the challenge described by the Attorney General and the Minister of Justice who opened the workshop).
- A human rights retreat for Supreme Court and High Court judges scheduled for December was postponed until February 2001 at the request of the Registrar of the Court.

With respect to the Human Rights and Documentation Centre, the project:

- Sent the Centre's documentalist to Canada to attend the Internet Training Programme 2000 (Ottawa, 3-8 July 2000). The programme covered the theory and practice of seeking and retrieving human rights information on the Internet and creating websites;
- Financed the acquisition of INMAGIC software for Centre; and
- Provided funding, from October 2000, for a consultant coordinator to assist in implementing the recommendations made by the UN expert mission to the Human Rights and Documentation Centre (autumn 1997).

## Impact and achievements

An important outcome of the human rights training for magistrates is the establishment of the National Arbitration and Mediation Association of Namibia, which will help develop alternative methods of dispute resolution by combining traditional and contemporary methods. Upon her return from Canada, the documentalist developed a website which contains information on all of the Centre's activities including training activities conducted under the OHCHR technical cooperation project (the website address is [www.unam.na/centres](http://www.unam.na/centres)). The training-of-trainers programme for law enforcement agencies ensured the emergence of a pool of local officers who will continue training their colleagues.

## Rwanda

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	62,817
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	347
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>63,164</b>
Programme support costs	8,211
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>71,375</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes TC in Rwanda and Support to the Rwandan National Human Rights Commission.

### Beneficiaries

The immediate beneficiaries were:

- Prison officials through improved knowledge of international human rights standards and practice;
- Students and researchers who now have access to documentation and expertise through the facilities provided by the Human Rights and Documentation Centre of the University of Namibia; and
- Traditional authorities, and magistrates, through improved knowledge of human rights and their application.

### Constraints

The major constraint on the implementation of the project was the University's delay in appointing a coordinator for the Human Rights and Documentation Centre. This matter was resolved with the recruitment of a consultant coordinator in October 2000.

### Coordination

Project implementation was coordinated with UNDP, the Ministry of Justice, the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for Human Rights, the Faculty of Law at the University of Namibia, and the Human Rights and Documentation Centre.

### Background

In May 1999, the Government of Rwanda created the National Human Rights Commission and asked OHCHR for technical assistance. An agreement for technical cooperation was signed in October 2000, aimed at helping the National Commission to be independent and efficient, by providing expertise (capacity building) and financial support for activities and materials. The project under review is only a small part of much wider and longer-term activities within the planning framework of the Commission. As such, it provided for specific budgeted activities planned for two months only (November and December 2000). Exceptionally, authorization was sought and obtained to extend the period of implementation until the end of June 2001 in order to complete tasks which could not commence on time.

### Objectives

The project was designed to facilitate the work of the recently established National Human Rights Commission, through the development of its substantive and technical capacity for the sustained promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Although the main focus of the project was on the Commission itself, there were initiatives to strengthen linkages between the Commission and other human rights stakeholders in Rwanda: the Parliament, the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, the Ministries of Justice, and Interior, NGOs and civil society as a whole.

### Implementation

The initial activities were predicated on the recruitment of an international expert by OHCHR to act as institutional development adviser. This adviser duly arrived

in Rwanda in November 2000. OHCHR also provided an international office automation expert and an international expert for the documentation centre and library for two weeks (in the months of November and December 2000). They were responsible for assessing the needs of the National Human Rights Commission and submitting a report with appropriate recommendations. OHCHR also provided an international expert to assess the training needs of staff at the National Commission and subsequently develop training courses to enable the Commission to assume its responsibilities (vis-à-vis education and training and promoting and protecting human rights in Rwanda). Office equipment, including computer hardware and software, was purchased as recommended in the report submitted in December 2000. The installation of the equipment commenced in January 2001 and will continue until June 2001. On 27 February 2001, the Project Steering Committee reviewed activities (completed and/or pending) and made appropriate recommendations. The National Commission, UNDP, the Institutional Development Adviser and OHCHR all participated and helped in the organization of the meeting. In October 2000, in response to an appeal for assistance from the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, OHCHR made a contribution of US\$ 20,000 in support of the first National Summit on Reconciliation. The President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission and the Executive Secretary of the NGO *Association des Volontaires pour la Paix* were sponsored for a course in human rights law held in Brussels in April 2000.

### Impact and achievements

On the whole, the objectives of the two-month activity plan were met. Commissioners experienced two weeks of concentrated work with experts, and they discussed and made decisions on major questions affecting the National Human Rights Commission. Work was intensified and resulted in speedier recruitment of all necessary national staff by mid-January 2001. The Institutional Development Adviser ensured efficient working practices.

### Constraints

The National Human Rights Commission could not identify and recruit three national project officers, or other staff, as quickly as envisaged in the project plan. This can be attributed to a lack of suitable candidates coupled with the pressure of work involved in moving to new offices. Without national staff, OHCHR postponed the arrival of the international trainer on national institutions and treaty bodies until the project's second stage. As a new institution, the National Commission took some time to find its feet: its slow decision-making process resulted in some delays.

### Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of the project has been the National Human Rights Commission. The indirect beneficiaries of the project include NGOs, government departments, women associations and other civil society organizations.

### Lessons learned

The Project Steering Committee meeting was very useful, both for the project's work and for the indirect beneficiaries, who until then did not feel part of the process.

## Sierra Leone

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	1,500
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	19,049
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	16,299
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	13,700
Supplies and acquisitions	1,000
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>51,548</b>
Programme support costs	6,701
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,249</b>

### Background

The Lomé Peace Agreement signed in July 1999 between the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels and the Government provided a basis for the restoration of peace in the country. Article 26 of the Peace Agreement provided for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Pursuant to her commitment to the Sierra Leone Human Rights Manifesto of June 1999, the High Commissioner undertook to assist the Government in shaping and establishing an appropriate TRC. OHCHR provided technical assistance and support to the process that culminated in the approval by Parliament of the Truth and Reconciliation Act of 2000, on 22 February 2000; the President signed the Act into law in early March 2000. The Government subsequently expressed its appreciation of this assistance, and requested further technical support for the implementation of the legislation. Although civil society and the Government of Sierra Leone have demonstrated commitment to the successful implementation of the Act, there was an expectation, based on the existing relationship with OHCHR regarding the TRC, that further technical assistance and resources would be forthcoming. In recognition of this fact, OHCHR developed a preparatory assistance project to support the establishment of the TRC. The project dovetails with previous technical assistance by OHCHR and supports the implementation of legislation (facilitated by OHCHR), whereby the High Commissioner has a statutory role in the selection of Commissioners. The project is also linked to the larger question of the success or failure of the Peace Agreement, since the TRC is meant to serve as one of its major pillars. In supporting the project, OHCHR would be reinforcing and indeed rewarding compliance with the Lomé Peace Agreement. Such action is consistent with United Nations Security Council resolution 1289, which urges the speedy establishment of the TRC and other institutions stipulated in the Agreement, as fully functioning and effective bodies. The proper implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Act could potentially facilitate reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons by providing a locally based process to address grievances and tensions emanating from the conflict. The activities of the project were due to commence in May 2000 for a period of six months, but were delayed until November 2000 due to the resumption of armed conflict. The project has since been revised and an extension was approved for one year commencing in May 2001.

### Objectives

The long-term objective of the project is to contribute to the effective implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Act, thus significantly supporting an important element in the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone after a decade of war. The project aims to support the preparatory phase of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's activities. This phase will provide a solid foundation from which to fulfil its statutory role to:

- Create an impartial historical record of human rights and international humanitarian law violations and abuses related to the armed conflict;
- Address impunity;
- Respond to the needs of victims;
- Promote healing and reconciliation; and
- Prevent a repetition of the violations and abuses suffered.

The project seeks to support the TRC through the following specific activities:

- A public information/education campaign;
- Mapping of the Sierra Leone conflict (i.e. compilation of information regarding defining events within the period of jurisdiction of the TRC);
- Researching traditional methods of conflict resolution and reconciliation employed among different cultural groups in Sierra Leone;
- Selection of Commissioners;
- Preliminary identification of the Commission's requirements, for instance the nature of its secretariat, including staffing and logistical requirements; and
- Assist with arrangements during the statutory three-month preparatory period (which starts two weeks after the inauguration of the Commission), including planning of operational procedures, setting up offices, recruitment, etc. The Act states that during this preparatory period, the Commission "will undertake all tasks necessary to ensure that it is able to work effectively from the commencement of its operations" (article 5/2).

## Implementation

The following activities were carried out during 2000:

- A local non-governmental organization, Manifesto 99, was contracted to conduct research on traditional methods of conflict resolution and reconciliation;
- An international workshop on the TRC took place in November 2000 and a follow-up national workshop took place in Bo in January 2001;
- The process of selecting international commissioners recommenced (following its suspension due to the resumption of the armed conflict in May 2000);
- The Special Representative of the Secretary General (in his role as selection coordinator) initiated the process of selecting national commissioners;
- The project was revised in light of operational circumstances, especially with regard to the envisaged establishment of an independent special court; and
- Preparations commenced for the first round table discussion on the relationship between the Independent Special Court and the Commission, in order to ensure that they complement each other, with mutual respect for their different, but related, mandates.

## Impact and achievements

The project supported and provided expertise for the drafting process leading to the adoption of the Truth and Reconciliation Act. It also contributed greatly in raising awareness on the TRC and assisted coordination with local NGOs in their support of the truth and reconciliation process in Sierra Leone. Several discussions on the topic appeared in the print and electronic media; since March 2001 the local NGO community has published a monthly *Truth Bulletin* on the truth and reconciliation process.

## Constraints

The implementation of activities was delayed by the deterioration of the security situation in Sierra Leone following the resumption of armed conflict in May 2000.

## Coordination

The project is implemented jointly with the human rights unit of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and coordinated with UNDP, UNICEF, and Government agencies, including the Ministry of Justice.

## Somalia

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	138,490
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	13,820
Commission members	4,109
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	275
Supplies and acquisitions	2,987
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	84,198
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>243,879</b>
Programme support costs	28,192
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>272,071</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes TC in Somalia and Assistance to Somalia in the Field of Human Rights.

### Consultation and mainstreaming

### Human rights monitoring

### Background

OHCHR launched a one-year project in October 1999; it derived from the prospects for technical cooperation as expressed by the Independent Expert of the Commission on Human Rights on Somalia, who suggested possible ways to engender a better appreciation of, and respect for, human rights. A Human Rights Officer was posted within the Nairobi-based United Nations Coordination Unit. The project entailed the provision of technical assistance in the field of human rights, by supporting the local administration, human rights defenders, NGOs and women's groups. Activities were carried out within the framework of current activities undertaken by UN agencies operating in Somalia, including the monitoring of human rights violations and the integration of a human rights component into the work of UN agencies in Somalia. The project was extended until 31 March 2001, with a view to facilitating the entry into force of a new project in Somalia, following an evaluation mission planned for early April 2001.

### Objectives

The project sought to implement an overall strategy to enhance human rights protection in Somalia. This was pursued through:

- Better knowledge of the human rights situation, involving the review and verification of human rights information.
- The integration of a human rights component into the work of UN agencies, with a particular focus on law enforcement, human rights defenders, NGOs and women's groups.

### Implementation

On 13 January 2000, the Human Rights Officer participated in a meeting of heads of agencies at which it was agreed to create an inter-agency human rights working group coordinated by OHCHR, to promote and integrate human rights into the programmes and activities of its partners. In January 2000, informal discussions with UNDP began; these concerned OHCHR's participation in the implementation of the Somali Civil Protection Programme (SCPP). A manual on human rights training was revised and prepared by UNESCO, to be published as a joint UNESCO/OHCHR publication in 2001. A memorandum of understanding was prepared to formalise cooperation between OHCHR and the Swedish NGO Diakonia, which has been implementing the SCPP in Puntland, in accordance with the SCPP project document. The Human Rights Officer delineated the main components of the governance for the Somali Aid Coordination Body in order to enable it to rationalise its programmes and projects.

The Human Rights Officer visited Djibouti (7-12 May) to participate in UNESCO's Cultural Festival; to observe the on-going Somali National Peace Conference (SNPC); and to take part in a one-day conference attended by representatives of Somali human rights and civil society groups, addressing, inter alia,

“freedom of expression, conscience and thought in the Horn countries”. In July, the Human Rights Officer attended the SNPC meetings in Djibouti aimed at resolving conflict and preparing for the establishment of a central government in Somalia. The officer was involved in consultations for drafting the Charter Constitution, in making recommendations on the inclusion of international human rights standards, and in convening meetings on human rights attended by several participants including clan representatives and NGOs; he also supported the activities of the Independent Expert. In August, OHCHR-Somalia responded to an invitation from Somaliland’s Minister of Justice to attend the trial of a clan leader charged with high treason for taking part in the SNPC in Djibouti. He was found guilty and sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment. Following petitions for clemency and a request for his release by OHCHR-Somalia, President Egal granted him an amnesty (after 45 days).

## Capacity building

A Human Rights Strategy Document was finalized early in 2000 and translated into Somali by the national project coordinator. It was designed to serve as a starting point for human rights workshops with local groups, including NGOs. Further to resolution 2000/81 of the Commission on Human Rights, OHCHR-Somalia translated into Somali the Independent Expert’s report to the Commission and the Commission’s resolution on Somalia. The translation was completed in late June. OHCHR-Somalia then distributed a thousand copies of each of the two documents. By mid-October, eight human rights projects were implemented in Somaliland and Puntland, focusing primarily on women’s and children’s rights, with the involvement of local groups, including NGOs. The project had to be responsive to changing political conditions, most notably the creation of a Transitional National Government.

## Impact and achievements

The project was due to be evaluated in early April 2001. Without prejudging the outcome of the evaluation exercise, significant NGO participation in human rights activities in various venues throughout Somalia and recognition by local administrations suggest widespread endorsement of the project’s activities. After less than a year of operation, proposals were made by other UN agencies, specifically UNDP, to continue similar activities after the completion of the initial project. This led to the development of a new OHCHR project in Somalia with implementation scheduled to commence in April 2001.

## Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project were local human rights-oriented NGOs, women’s groups and the local administration, whose projects have been supported by OHCHR. Nairobi-based UN agencies also benefited from a further integration of a human rights dimension into their work.

## Coordination

OHCHR Somalia worked closely with UNDP and other Nairobi-based UN agencies. Collaboration with locally based donors was also useful for the implementation of ongoing and planned activities. Partnerships with international and local Somali NGOs were instrumental in the execution of the project’s activities.



## South Africa

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	116,600
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	49,200
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	10,111
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	1,900
Supplies and acquisitions	3,500
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>181,311</b>
Programme support costs	23,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,881</b>

### Background

The project was conceived against the background of South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy. Accordingly, it focused on human rights training and capacity building. Activities began in August 1997, to continue for two years, and were subsequently extended until February 2001, to allow sufficient time for the implementation of outstanding activities and the consolidation of previous years' accomplishments.

### Objectives

The objectives of activities implemented in 2000 were to:

- Support the implementation and monitoring of the Government's National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;
- Develop and implement a human rights training programme for independent prison visitors based at the Office of the Inspecting Judge;
- Support the Justice College in its efforts to train magistrates and public prosecutors in human rights and constitutional law;
- Extend support to the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights and the Department of Land Affairs to build the capacity to deal with the increasingly frequent farm evictions and address the problems related to the security of tenure; and
- Support the Human Rights Resource and Documentation Centre affiliated with the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights, at Fort Hare University.

### Implementation

In 2000, OHCHR supported the following activities:

- The development of a human rights training manual and guide for the Office of the Inspecting Judge on the role and responsibilities of independent visitors.
- Human rights training for approximately 380 independent prison visitors.
- A resource person at the South African Human Rights Commission, helped the Commission and the Ministry of Justice develop a reporting system for the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. The resource person helped the Commission to organize a National Conference on Racism (30 August – 2 September 2000); he also participated in a training workshop for independent prison visitors (31 May – 9 June 2000).
- A resource person at the Justice College was identified to assist the incorporation of human rights into the training of magistrates. The officer produced several training manuals and during the year developed a comprehensive curriculum for the Justice College on human rights training for magistrates, including a module on social context training.
- A resource person at the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights was identified and, with the support of a consultant, developed training manuals on the eviction of farm workers and security of tenure for farm workers.
- The sum of US\$ 41,500 was disbursed as the second and final tranche of a total grant of US\$ 83,000 for the Oliver Tambo Chair for Human Rights at Fort Hare University and the development of a Human Rights Resource and Documentation Centre. During the year the Centre conducted extensive human rights education, going into schools in the Eastern Cape Province, in collaboration with the Street Law/Democracy for All Project. Training in human rights and democracy was provided for teachers and university students, and thirty magistrates from the Eastern Cape Province were trained in international human rights standards, professional ethics and the social context. In June 2000, the Centre organized a seminar

entitled Education for Human Rights in the Third Millennium: Problems and Challenges for UNESCO Chairs in Southern Africa. The seminar was organized for the UNESCO Chairs in the sub-region and was attended by representatives of non-governmental groups including the South African Human Rights Commission.

### Impact and achievements

While it is possible to identify some immediate achievements such as the launching of the National Consultative Forum for Human Rights by the government on 21 March 2000, it is more difficult to assess the full impact or achievements of the project. It will be some time before the catalytic effect of the project is seen, in terms of developing both the human resources and the institutional capacity to protect and promote human rights. An evaluation of the project will take place during 2001.

### Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of the project included the South African Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, the Justice College and various Government departments. In the long run, the beneficiaries will be the people of South Africa, through an improved human rights environment.

### Coordination

The implementation of the project is coordinated with UNDP, the Regional Programme Office in Pretoria and national partners including the South African Human Rights Commission, the Justice College, and the Restitution Commission. A project steering committee composed of all stakeholders, and headed by the representative of the Ministry of Justice, is also involved in coordination.

## Uganda

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	93,936
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>93,936</b>
Programme support costs	12,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,096</b>

### Background

This project was designed to facilitate the effective functioning of the Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC) through the development of its technical and substantive capacities. A key element of the project was the appointment of an Institutional Development Adviser to give management advice to the UHRC on a day-to-day basis and undertake related activities. The activities were initiated in mid-May 1999 when the Adviser took up the post, and were later extended for three months. The project was terminated in November 2000 and a joint evaluation with UNDP is planned for 2001.

### Objectives

The project was designed to support efforts to establish mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda, through the development of capacities within the Uganda Human Rights Commission and other collaborating institutions. It was divided into five components, as follows:

- Building the operating capacity of the commission;
- Public awareness, information and training;
- Support for human rights advice and reporting;
- Complaints procedure; and
- Consultative, coordinating and capacity-building arrangements with external bodies.



## Implementation

In 2000 all the components were put into effect, with a special emphasis on the first one. The following key activities were undertaken:

### **Building the operating capacity of the Commission**

- The Commission's administration and support staff were trained in human rights principles in February 2000.
- In March 2000, a documentalist was recruited to review the structure and organization of the existing Documentation Centre at the UHRC; training was provided for the librarian; and recommendations for action were put forward.
- In March and April, a national expert in media relations was recruited to provide training for the Commissioners, the Press Relations Officer and other key senior staff; and to review a draft communications strategy.
- Office automation was largely achieved by the end of July 2000. Commissioners and most senior staff were provided with computers; a network environment was created; and all Commissioners and staff received training in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, the Internet and Access.
- An international expert on public hearings was engaged and several Commissioners and relevant staff received training on the subject.
- The Commission and a staff member took up a study fellowship in July at the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission, where they were exposed to the handling of public inquiries and mediation; on their return they provided training to other Commissioners and senior staff based on their experiences.
- A study tour to the South African Human Rights Commission was organized and two representatives of the UHRC participated. The tour focused on complaint-handling and monitoring activities, especially with regard to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Two representatives of the UHRC took up a short study fellowship in South Africa to look at its investigative and monitoring process.

### **Public awareness, information and training**

- In January 2000, a training workshop was held on the rights of persons with disabilities, with the participation of the NGOs most active in this field.
- The project facilitated the hiring of interns from Makerere University for the periods March-June and July-September 2000.
- During the latter half of the year a national expert was engaged to coordinate the production of a human rights manual for use by prison officials.
- A national expert on manuals and training was recruited in July 2000 and work commenced on the development of a human rights training manual and a trainers guide for prison officials.
- The hiring of national and international experts on monitoring was finalized and training was conducted (16-26 October 2000). All those who attended the training sessions agreed to work together over the subsequent eight months to implement the Plan of Action produced during the training sessions.

### **Support for human rights advice and reporting**

- Preparations for the launch of the public hearing on disability were completed on 23 October 2000. This included several meetings with an advisory panel of representatives of the disabled community in Uganda, and preparatory visits to Fort Portal, Mbarrara, Mbale and Gulu. The first set of hearings was held in Kampala (25-27 October); the hearings panel was scheduled to travel to four other regions.

### **Complaints procedure**

- A computerized complaints management system was installed, tested and finalized by the end of November.



**Consultative, coordinating and capacity-building arrangements with external bodies**

- In March/April the project supported the attendance of Commissioners at the International Workshop of National Human Rights Institutions in Morocco.
- During the second half of the year, the network was tested and accepted, and all adaptations required for internal and external communications were completed.
- Meetings were held with the UN Team in Uganda to develop a proposal for applying a rights-based approach to UNDP programming in Uganda.

### Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of the project was the UHRC and, indirectly, the public it serves. Government officials and civil society also benefited from several of OHCHR's activities.

### Constraints

Attendance at some of the training exercises was not as high as anticipated, and possibly reduced their impact among target groups. It was also felt that the project could have benefited from more realistic schedules for meetings (e.g. for Project Steering Committee meetings) than originally envisaged in the project document. It was suggested that the efficiency of the project could have been improved through the appointment of a part-time accountant and a full-time administrative assistant.

### Coordination

Activities were carried out in coordination with UNDP in Uganda. Informal tripartite meetings were held at the field office with UNDP and the Aid Liaison Department of the Ministry of Finance to address difficulties with the approval procedures of the various organizations. UNCTAD and OHCHR in Geneva provided the necessary back-up.

# L ATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## *Regional activities*

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel: OHCHR staff	6,749
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	5,215
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	20,700
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>32,664</b>
Programme support costs	4,246
<b>Total <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>36,910</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes a project to strengthen national institutions in Latin America.

### Background

In the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC), OHCHR is developing and implementing a regional strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights; offering advisory services and technical assistance at the national, sub-regional and regional levels; providing support to its regional adviser, human rights field officers, the holders of special procedures mandates and treaty bodies; and strengthening cooperation with UN Country Teams and regional partners.

The region, which covers 32 countries, has a vast network of NGOs working to promote and protect human rights. OHCHR has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights and the Andean Commission of Jurists; they are now partners in the LAC region. OHCHR is also enhancing its cooperation with the UN Country Teams and the institutions of the Inter-American system, i.e. the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Some of these partners made contributions to the formulation, design and implementation of the LAC projects in 2000. The region also has 12 national institutions with specific human rights mandates and almost as many Ombudsmen (whose mandates emphasize mediation).

### Objectives

At a regional workshop held in Quito in November and December 1999, governments adopted a technical cooperation framework in the LAC region. Since its adoption, OHCHR's regional and national activities have been based on the Quito Framework, which emphasises the provision of assistance to develop national, sub-regional and regional capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights. OHCHR's overall objectives have therefore been to implement projects which:

- Ensure the exchange of expertise and experience among countries, national institutions and NGOs in the region;
- Facilitate the development and implementation of human rights action plans;
- Promote the ratification of human rights treaties; and
- Provide advisory services in the areas of legislation, training, human rights education and institution building.

### Regional-level activities

OHCHR organized a three-day expert seminar (Santiago, 27-29 October 2000) to identify issues of concern prior to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Participants included representatives from national institutions, NGOs, governments from the LAC region and observers from other regions; then the Regional Preparatory Meeting was held in Santiago (4-7 December 2000).

In November 2000, OHCHR supported two activities for national institutions held in Mexico. The first was an annual meeting of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen. The other was the second Conference of the Americas, with representatives from national institutions from the LAC region and Canada; designed as a springboard for cooperation amongst national institutions, the Conference gave rise to a network of national institutions from the Americas. In addition, OHCHR conducted activities under the regular budget, including support to the independent expert on Haiti and a regional training workshop on reporting obligations for 45 participants from national institutions, NGOs and governments in the LAC region (and Equatorial Guinea).

### National-level activities

In 2000, the High Commissioner travelled to the region twice, and visited five countries in all (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela). During these visits, she signed memoranda of intent with Brazil, Chile, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; these three agreements aim to develop technical cooperation programmes under the Quito Framework.

During the course of the year, OHCHR decided to extend its national project in Argentina until 31 December 2000 (which is why this project did not appear in the 2000 Annual Appeal, published at the end of the previous year). In addition, a new project was approved for Mexico in 2000 although activities did not commence until 2001. OHCHR agreed with the respective governments that, prior to conducting further technical cooperation projects in El Salvador and Guatemala, it would conduct independent final evaluations to review the implementation of activities. As a result of this decision, OHCHR reduced the number of staff working on projects and activities in both countries pending submission of the final evaluations.

### Constraints

As the following sections demonstrate, the implementation of OHCHR's national activities during the reporting period was low. Some of the anticipated regional activities were not implemented, owing to various time constraints (further aggravated by protracted negotiations with implementing partners about the timeframe of activities). OHCHR also decided to take stock of the strategies for regional institutions and work more closely with UN partner agencies in order to identify common grounds for future cooperation. These negotiations and considerations took longer than anticipated and as a result many regional activities agreed under the Quito Framework had to be postponed until 2001. The implementation of the project for the Andean Commission of Jurists (ACJ) was postponed until 2001. In 2000, OHCHR and the ACJ were engaged in negotiations in order to re-define priorities and activities.

## Country Projects

### Argentina

#### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions grants, contributions,	0
Fellowships and seminars	50,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>50,000</b>
Programme support costs	6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,500</b>

#### Background

Technical assistance has been provided to the Government of Argentina since 1994, in support of the Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights Documentation, Training and Advisory Services. In January 1996, OHCHR signed a new technical cooperation project entitled "Strengthening of Human Rights", which was reformulated in August 1997 following the final evaluation of the previous project. Activities aim to build human rights awareness by promoting the effective implementation of international human rights standards, and strengthening the capacity of provincial and national institutions concerned with human rights. OHCHR has collaborated with the Under-Secretariat for Human Rights at the Ministry for Justice and Human Rights, which has been responsible for implementing activities. The project did not feature in the 2000 Annual Appeal as its completion (in 1999) had been expected; it is now in its final stages and an evaluation will be conducted in June 2001.

#### Objectives

The overall objectives of the project were to:

- Support the Human Rights Documentation Centre;
- Promote awareness and disseminate information on human rights principles;
- Provide human rights education and training for civil servants; and
- Ensure cooperation and the effective incorporation of international human rights instruments into national legislation.

#### Implementation

In 2000, the following activities were carried out:

- A human rights training course was held for 60 high-ranking police officials from the province of Corrientes (24-27 July 2000).
- An additional edition of the human rights magazine *Hechos y Derechos*, which focuses on economic, social and cultural rights, was published in August 2000.
- A workshop on human rights and disability, organized by the Senate and the Ministry of Justice, was attended by 90 participants including various NGOs (18-19 October 2000).
- The 11th Meeting of the Federal Council of Human Rights was held in November 2000 in Buenos Aires with the participation of government representatives at the local, provincial and national levels. Channels were established for closer cooperation between the different jurisdictions on human rights in the country, and the federal database on human rights was completed.

#### Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of OHCHR's activities were civil servants at the provincial and national level, police and security officers, judges, lawyers, legislators, teachers and lecturers.



## Constraints

Some activities were delayed because the Under-Secretariat for Human Rights did not sign the implementation agreement until the end of 2000; this delay was exacerbated by the run-up to the presidential elections in October 2000.

## Coordination

In 2000, the Under-Secretariat for Human Rights was OHCHR's main counterpart. The Under-Secretariat worked closely with national NGOs and other institutions such as universities. OHCHR also worked closely with UNDP, which was primarily responsible for the transfer of funds.

# Bolivia

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	57,203
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>57,203</b>
Programme support costs	7,436
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,639</b>

## Background

Bolivia has been consolidating its process of democratisation since 1992. The human rights situation in the region of Chapare became an acute cause for concern after the Government decided to eradicate the excess coca crops with the help of police forces. In April and September 2000 there were serious incidents in Ayacucho following farmers' demonstrations.

OHCHR approved its Bolivian project proposal in August 1998, then in November the Government approved it, and in December OHCHR undertook a project review mission. Activities eventually began in May 1999, scheduled to last for a period of two years. Since then, four monitoring missions have been conducted by OHCHR and UNDP.

## Objectives

The project's immediate aims were to:

- Strengthen the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and other national institutions endeavouring to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- Establish mechanisms for coordination between the Government and civil society (i.e. NGOs and other relevant institutions and individuals).

These objectives are being achieved through the provision of expert advice to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and by conducting a series of workshops.

## Implementation

During the reporting period, the following workshops and seminars were held:

- Several seminars for NGOs on the rights of women, children and indigenous people.
- A human rights workshop for senior police officials (June 2000).
- A human rights workshop for senior military officers (July 2000).
- A seminar on human rights and documentation for officials at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (August 2000).
- A seminar on human rights and formal education for university professors and students (May 2000).
- A seminar on reporting obligations to treaty bodies was held for Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials (September 2000).





Two human rights training manuals were produced for police and military officials. These manuals also proved to be of assistance to the military, national police and universities in their preparations for a human rights curriculum. Five technical cooperation agreements were signed by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights with the following institutions: Vice-Ministry for Women; Vice-Ministry for Indigenous People; National Institute for Agrarian Reform; and *Capitulo Boliviano; Pastoral Social/Caritas Bolivia*. Two institutional cooperation agreements, with the military and the police, were reformulated.

Human rights posters and pamphlets were published during the latter half of 2000. The inter-institutional committee for coordination between the Government and civil society (*Comite Interinstitucional*) met on several occasions during the year 2000 to discuss the evolution of the project, the human rights situation in the country and issues pertaining to the National Plan of Action for Human Rights. Two monitoring missions were undertaken by OHCHR's desk officer for Bolivia (24-28 April and 21-29 August 2000) with the support of UNDP's programme officer responsible for the project in La Paz.

Due to the low level of project implementation and problems encountered by officers conducting the monitoring missions, the Government of Bolivia, UNDP and OHCHR agreed in April 2000 that the subsequent three months (May-July) would serve as a probationary period, to allow the project to prove itself. OHCHR and UNDP therefore presented nine recommendations to the Government to help it accelerate and improve the level of project implementation.

## Impact and achievements

The project has helped make the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights the focal point for the Government on issues related to human rights and has also brought human rights into the mainstream of the work of public institutions. During the monitoring mission in August 2000, it was noted that the May-July trial period had a positive impact. Shortly thereafter, the documentation centre was inaugurated; the inter-institutional committee met five times; the National Plan of Action for Human Rights was distributed by the Government to the beneficiary institutions and several ministries; human rights training workshops were conducted for high ranking police and military officers. It was noted that most of the nine recommendations put forward by OHCHR and UNDP had been implemented by the Government and that most of the activities planned for the first quarter had been satisfactorily carried out by project staff. During the same monitoring mission, the project was reviewed in depth and all parties involved decided to put further resources into implementation in order to guarantee a higher level of achievement. In addition, several Government institutions (including the armed forces, the police, the Ministry of Justice) and NGOs recognised the positive effects of the project on their respective institutions and the high quality of the human rights training activities provided through the project. At year's end, a final evaluation mission was scheduled for June 2001.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project include the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, women, children and the indigenous population.

## Constraints

The high turnover of ministers in office has been a major constraint for the project. Since the beginning of the project, three different Ministers of Justice and three different Vice-Ministers for Human Rights have been appointed. Furthermore, during

the first nine months of the project, project personnel and officials from the Ministry of Justice were not very familiar with the objectives and scope of activities.

## Coordination

This project is co-financed by OHCHR and UNDP Bolivia. UNDP plays a significant role in the implementation of the activities. Various governmental institutions have been made responsible for addressing the needs of women, children and indigenous people.

# Ecuador

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	19,374
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	6,773
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	20,300
General operating expenses	600
Supplies and acquisitions	32,500
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	45,600
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>125,147</b>
Programme support costs	16,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,416</b>

## Background

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action (1993), the Government of Ecuador decided to elaborate a National Plan of Action for Human Rights. Discussions on the Plan were held in 1997 between officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, representatives of civil society, the church and the military. The Plan eventually adopted by presidential decree on 24 June 1998 is a comprehensive document which covers civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. It allows for the establishment of a permanent commission for follow-up and evaluation, consisting of representatives of the Government, NGOs and civil society, to monitor and facilitate implementation.

## Objectives

The project aims to support the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights as well as the specific sectoral plans that will flow from it. The main objective of the project is to enhance national infrastructure in the field of human rights and to support civil society, in particular indigenous populations, women and children.

The project has four components:

- Support for the coordination and promotion of the national plan;
- Support for legal development and the State's compliance with its reporting obligations;
- Strengthening of the Ombudsman's Office (*Defensoria del Pueblo*); and
- Human rights education and training.

## Implementation

The implementation of activities was somewhat delayed by the late recruitment of a National Coordinator (appointed at the end of April 2000). The project initially focused on implementing the component on education and training. However solid progress was also made on the other project components during the latter half of the year.

### Support for the coordination and promotion of the national plan

Several activities were conducted within the framework of a public campaign on human rights, in order to sensitize Ecuadorian society to the most salient aspects of OHCHR's work. From October to December 2000, several workshops and seminars were held in Quito, Cuenca, Esmeraldas (coast region) and Guayaquil on raising human rights awareness, with participation from a broad range of civil

society groups (i.e. NGOs and other relevant institutions and individuals). In this regard, two training seminars were held in Quito on the rights of indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian people; conferences on the rights of migrants were held in Quito, Cuenca and Guayaquil. A workshop on the rights of indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian people was held in Esmeraldas with the support of the Council for the Development of Indigenous People and other Ethnic Groups (CODENPE).

A national seminar entitled "Analysis of the thematic plan for elderly people" was held in Quito towards the end of 2000, to support the Working Group on Senior Citizens, which collaborates with NGOs and UNDP. The seminar was a source of crucial information about the National Plan of Action and its various thematic plans for the 200 participants. In order to implement the thematic plans in the future, a "debt swap" for human rights mechanisms is being identified to assist projects funded by donor countries; in other words, if the Government implements human rights activities as per the thematic plan, in exchange donors will accept debt cancellation.

**Support for legal development and the State's compliance with its obligations**

Between October and December 2000, four seminars were carried out at the regional level with the participation of the relevant national congressional commissions. The first seminar (in Cañar) was on human rights, environmental rights and citizenship; the second (in Quito) was on the rights of prisoners; and the third and fourth (in Esmeraldas and Quito) were on the rights of indigenous people. During this period, four seminars on the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on minority rights and on democracy were organized for thirty human rights specialists from the University of Guayaquil.

**Strengthening of the Ombudsman's Office**

In October 2000, a national seminar was held on human rights and the handling of individual complaints. Deputies from all the provinces of Ecuador, representatives of the police forces, NGOs, the media as well as a delegate from the Ombudsman's Office in Peru attended the meeting. A training seminar on human rights and migrants was organized in collaboration with the *Defensoría of Guayas*, to assist in the training of its staff at the regional level. A workshop was also held in Quito for staff of the *Defensoría*, with participation from NGOs concerned with the thematic plan for the defence of consumer rights.

The project also assisted in the establishment of a research, documentation and information centre. Human rights materials were published and reproduced for the Ombudsman's Office in support of its daily work. In particular, books on economic, social and cultural rights, and civil and political rights, were purchased and distributed throughout Ecuador.

**Human rights education and training**

OHCHR supported the implementation of the sectoral plan for education and training. To this end, an international consultant was recruited in October to conduct two training workshops on human rights and the police for the *Escuela de Estado Mayor de la Policía* and for the *Escuela de Oficiales* in Quito. In both instances the beneficiaries of the workshops were middle and high ranking police officers.

Training was also provided for prison officials, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, the media and NGOs. In November and December 2000, a seminar and a training workshop were held in Guayaquil on human rights for the judges of the Court of Appeal of Guayaquil and the *Consejo de la Judicatura*. In cooperation with the Guayaquil Chamber of Commerce, the Embassy of the Netherlands and UNDP, OHCHR organized training for mediators and consultants of the human rights



programme of the Chamber of Commerce and the centres for social justice between October and December 2000. In December 2000, a training workshop for teachers was organized in Quito, in cooperation with the national teacher training institute, in order to revise the human rights curriculum for primary and secondary schools; 82 teachers from all over the country attended.

## Impact and achievements

Following OHCHR's monitoring mission in October 2000, the project has been widely recognised and understood, and all parties concerned with strengthening the Ombudsman's Office have extended their support for it. An ad hoc committee was established and organized by the Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with support from the Ombudsman's Office, to select civil society representatives to sit on the permanent commission for follow-up and evaluation. This has assured the participation of civil society organizations in the follow-up and review of the thematic national plans of action.

The project has aroused considerable interest within the media and different sectors of civil society, particularly those involved in educational activities. The main indigenous organizations, including the NGOs *Pueblo Indio* and *Pachacutik*, have enthusiastically welcomed the project. The creation of the National Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of Interior and the establishment of the institutional thematic working group have both been notable achievements. The latter is composed of the Ministry of Interior, the Supreme Court, the General Attorney's Office, the General Police Command Headquarters and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project include the permanent commission for follow-up and evaluation; the project Steering Committee; the relevant government counterparts (i.e. the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior); the Congress, the Ombudsman's Office, the judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers, the police, prison officials, the media, NGOs and other relevant institutions.

## Constraints

During the course of the year 2000, the country faced economic, political and social crises. Ecuador has started to make policy decisions conducive to the achievement of a new political and economic order. These policies are geared towards restructuring public expenditure so as to create viable institutions (i.e. modernise the state to ensure good governance and democracy).

## Coordination

Although OHCHR's main counterpart was UNDP, activities were also undertaken in close cooperation with other UN agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF and UNV. Other agencies and organizations such as WHO, ILO, UNFPA, UNIFEM, ILANUD (the Latin American Institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank will in future be supporting activities within their mandates in areas such as education, training, legal development and human rights documentation.

## El Salvador

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	218,696
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	13,341
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	4,739
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	3,500
General operating expenses	37,800
Supplies and acquisitions	12,000
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	35,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>325,076</b>
Programme support costs	42,260
<b>Total</b>	<b>367,336</b>

### Lessons learned

The project has relied on the constant support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its partners. It has become increasingly evident that institutions and civil society organizations that work with relevant human rights policies and programmes (i.e. NGOs and other institutions and individuals) should be strengthened in order to ensure the effective implementation of activities. OHCHR's collaboration with certain UN agencies and programmes operating in Ecuador (especially UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNV) has proven to be essential.

### Background

Following a recommendation by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the Government of El Salvador and OHCHR signed two technical cooperation projects in January 1997 (one on human rights training and documentation; the other on police work and human rights). In order to implement the activities provided in the projects, OHCHR established a technical cooperation office in El Salvador in April 1997 and initiated operations the following month. Most of the activities pertaining to the above projects were completed by December 1999.

### Objectives

In view of internal political problems encountered by some of the project's direct beneficiaries (especially the Office of the Ombudsman), the primary objective as agreed by OHCHR and the Government was to conduct a final evaluation of the two projects, and complete several outstanding activities, prior to the implementation of any new technical cooperation project.

### Implementation

An external consultant conducted the final evaluation mission from 3-14 July 2000. From January to August 2000, the following activities were carried out by the project team:

- Assistance to the National Congress for the revision of legislation concerning children.
- Four human rights workshops for the national civilian police.
- Four workshops on women's rights for the national civilian police.
- Three workshops on the revision of various laws concerning children.
- Two workshops on domestic violence for police officers.
- Three workshops for the elaboration of a national plan of action for human rights education.
- Assistance to UN partner agencies on human rights issues.

### Impact and achievements

The external consultant pointed out that activities had been implemented in a cost-efficient and professional manner. He also stated that the "impact study" conducted by project staff "showed very consistently positive results". Quantitative results were more than satisfactory in terms of the number of courses, persons assisted and the volume of publications. In particular, the

number of courses implemented was almost three times as many as the number initially planned. An unforeseen and very important task – to assist the Legislative Assembly in the preparation of human rights-related laws – was promptly initiated in response to a request from the Assembly.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Secretary for the Family, the National Congress and the National Civilian Police.

## Constraints

During the implementation of the three above-mentioned projects the main constraints were related to the political situation with respect to some beneficiary institutions, especially the Office of the Ombudsman.

## Coordination

OHCHR in El Salvador coordinated sectoral activities with several UN agencies and programmes in the country but mainly with UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF. OHCHR worked jointly with UNICEF and UNESCO in providing assistance to the National Congress with regard to the revision of legislation concerning children. The project also provided support to beneficiary institutions, and most notably, continued to participate in the work of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) country team. Nonetheless, the evaluation mission noted that “there is obviously a need for better UN coordination in El Salvador. It is openly recognized that there have been important gaps between the strategies pursued by different UN agencies in the country in the human rights field.”

## Lessons learned

The positive lessons learned relate mainly to the role and functioning of the Project Steering Committee; the training approach developed in different areas; and the active commitment of the OHCHR in El Salvador to the widespread entrenchment of international human rights norms at all levels.

According to the external consultant, the following are the main lessons learned:

- “The impact assessment must be planned from the very conception of a project/programme, with baseline data, indicators and a data-collection strategy. Although it is difficult to make impact evaluations of a human rights project, it is not impossible.”
- “It is very important for OHCHR to be flexible, creative and open-minded, and available to new initiatives as situations and needs emerge.”

The following are the main recommendations presented by the consultant:

- OHCHR’s human rights programme should continue, and the office should be maintained with the present number of permanent staff, including the Director.
- Continued technical cooperation should be based on a broader vision of cause-effect relations between violations of first and second generation human rights (i.e. civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, especially with regard to the political consequences of social and economic policies) with a choice of where the programme would have its most obvious comparative advantages and complement other donors’ efforts.

- The first priority of the new project should be to contribute to the reconstruction of the Ombudsman's Office as an effective and trustworthy institution for the promotion and protection of human rights. This could be done if OHCHR appoints a high-level adviser (either an international adviser or a national project Director) to the new Office of the Ombudsman.
- The second institutional priority where strategic support could be provided, would be in the justice sector, where a recommendation has been made to make an adviser available for the Executive Unit of the Coordination Commission of the Justice Sector.
- Support to the public security sector should be the third priority of the project proposal. The political aspects of the sector's problems should be dealt with through the support to the Ombudsman institution.
- Along with direct support to public institutions, the new proposal for technical assistance should ensure the active involvement of civil society.
- OHCHR should continue to assist the Legislative Assembly in its preparation of important law reform proposals.
- The modification of OHCHR's mandate, which will follow from the above proposals, will not change the technical character of the programme.

## Guatemala

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	33,600
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	14,256
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	4,769
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	39,600
Supplies and acquisitions	2,000
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>94,225</b>
Programme support costs	12,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,474</b>

### Background

Following the signature of the peace agreement on 29 December 1996 between the Government of Guatemala and the *Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca* (URNG), the United Nations decided to assist in the implementation of the agreement and the United Nations Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) was charged with this responsibility. In 1996, OHCHR began its technical cooperation project with Guatemala; in 1998 it was adjusted and extended until March 2000. The overall objective of the project was the strengthening of the rule of law by reinforcing the institutional capacity of the state and civil society, in order to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights for all. This objective remained unchanged, as did the immediate objectives flowing from it. However, activities had to be adjusted and the budget was revised during the reporting period to cover the new priorities of the Government, the National Congress, the Ombudsman's Office and NGOs. Subsequently, OHCHR decided to suspend activities anticipated in the 2000 Annual Appeal and concentrate instead on conducting an evaluation before extending the office's mandate in Guatemala.

### Implementation

From January to September 2000, the office collaborated with COPREDEH (Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Human Rights Policies) on the preparation of its 2000-2004 National Human Rights Plan. The office also assisted in the preparation of several drafts of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and took a lead role in drafting the human rights sections of this document. The Guatemalan United Nations Volunteer continued to carry out training activities, for example, for the *Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena* (the Ombudsperson for Indigenous Women, established in late 1999). In addition, the Office continued to advise PROFED (Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, a UNDP project).

Regular meetings were held with COPREDEH and the *Procurador de Derechos Humanos*. The national project coordinator continued to advise the UN Resident Coordinator on human rights issues; he also brought human rights issues to the forefront of discussions with various UN agencies and working groups. An evaluation mission was conducted by an independent consultant and a senior OHCHR official (9-20 July 2000). The evaluation report was produced and shared with the Government and other implementing partners.

## Impact and achievements

The following is a summary of the evaluation mission's conclusions with regard to the implementation of all activities:

- OHCHR's presence in Guatemala has been widely acclaimed by UN partners. The UN Resident Coordinator felt that OHCHR and the National Coordinator had made outstanding contributions in their efforts to help integrate a human rights perspective into the activities of UNDP and other agencies. The acting Director and other leading staff of MINUGUA expressed similar positive opinions, as did the UNICEF Director. Furthermore, OHCHR's participation in the various UN working groups helped ensure that human rights concerns were covered in the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and in UNDAF. However, due to the nature of the project and the limited resources available, the project had little impact outside Guatemala City.
- OHCHR was the only international agency supporting the *Defensoría Indígena* (Ombudsperson for Indigenous People). It succeeded, through the work of the national consultant, in helping to significantly advance the *Defensoría Indígena*'s mandate: Statutes were prepared, consultations took place in various regions and initial steps were taken to support the *Defensoría Indígena* with suitable publicity.
- The indigenous project component suffered a decline in momentum partly which may be attributed in part to the diminished importance of indigenous issues on the national political agenda since the 1999 referendum. There has since been a growing need for the *Defensoría Indígena* to defend indigenous rights.
- The human rights training of police officials has clearly had a significant impact, especially given the large number of trained police. OHCHR trained over 4,500 police agents, financed the printing of 800 copies of a professional training publication used by the police, and 3,000 copies of a publication on international human rights standards. Its two national consultants also participated in the preparation of two versions of the basic human rights manual, and a guide for the human rights instructor. However, the evaluation mission also observed that to date there were no real signs that the human rights instruction was resulting in comprehensively improved police behaviour, and noted that MINUGUA had recently singled out the police for particular criticism for its use of torture and maltreatment. The mission did nevertheless stress the importance of a project of this kind, particularly at a time of large-scale recruitment of new agents for the civil police.



- The training provided by OHCHR to future magistrates, judges and lawyers was of a high quality, and was well received by all participants. OHCHR's input was highly commended by the Presiding Magistrate of the new Supreme Court, and also by the UNDP official with primary responsibility for judicial reform.
- The activities carried out by the international consultants were favourably received; they included support to human rights NGOs and indigenous peoples' NGOs, in the form of training, seminars and workshops organized in conjunction with other agencies. The Guatemalan NGOs participating in these events regarded them as useful.
- The United Nations Volunteer recruited by OHCHR to provide practical training to NGOs in the use of human rights instruments was well received and had a positive impact.

## Beneficiaries

The Office of the Ombudsman was a beneficiary of the project through the assistance that it received for the establishment of the *Defensoria Indígena*. Other beneficiaries include the police academy and the magistrature college through the provision of good quality training, as well as civil society (i.e. relevant NGOs and other institutions). The project also benefited the UN Country Team by providing expertise in the field of human rights and by ensuring that human rights concerns are covered by the work of various agencies and in the UNDAF document.

## Constraints

With regard to the support provided to the *Defensoria Indígena*, the project suffered from a tailing off of political momentum following the May 1999 plebiscite. Furthermore, the rapid turnover of judges at all levels, and the arbitrary appointment of judges, tended to hinder the impact of the training of the magistrature.

## Coordination

All the activities were carried out by the office in close consultation with MINUGUA and with the support of UNDP. The office was mainly concerned with mainstreaming human rights into the work of the UN Country Team. In this regard the national coordinator of the project acted as a personal adviser to the UN Resident Coordinator on human rights issues.

## Lessons learned

The key lesson is that in future OHCHR should concentrate its efforts in areas where it has comparative advantages, for example the effective incorporation of international human rights instruments into national legislation, backed up by enforcement in the courts. These instruments should be better understood and more assiduously applied, not only by the judiciary, but also society at large. The challenge here is to involve more elements of Guatemalan society – local government, civil society, including NGOs and indigenous organizations – in monitoring the application of these instruments. This is the central thrust of the new project proposal currently under discussion.

# Nicaragua

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	26,400
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	34,600
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	8,837
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	1,787
Supplies and acquisitions	31,600
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	12,400
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>115,624</b>
Programme support costs	15,031
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>130,655</b>

## Background

The Nicaraguan police force is overstretched: it has neither the financial nor the human resources to deal with crime as effectively as it or the public would like. NGOs have noted rising crime levels, paralleled to an extent by an increase in human rights abuses by the police; they also allege that arbitrary acts have been committed by police officers, often untrained, and poorly educated police volunteers or private security guards upon whom the police has come to rely on in many areas to increase its presence.

## Objectives

The project was designed to assist the National Police in the elaboration of a strategy for community work. This two-year project was approved in September 1999, its main objectives being:

- The establishment of a system within the police department for processing human rights complaints by citizens.
- An institutional framework for police-community relations concordant with the basic principles of human rights. The framework includes procedures for the treatment of detainees, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups, training officers to incorporate a knowledge of human rights into their work, and advising the police on crime prevention and human rights.

## Implementation

Activities began in late March 2000, with the selection of a project coordinator and the establishment of his office. The first monitoring mission to Nicaragua was carried out shortly thereafter and resulted in a positive evaluation of the project, with only minor adjustments being made to the timetable of activities and the budget. A second monitoring mission, originally envisaged for October 2000, had to be postponed due to a delay consequent upon the October municipal elections. The monitoring mission, which was eventually carried out in 2001, noted the following with respect to activities undertaken during the project's first year:

- The results of the OHCHR-ILANUD project (on strengthening human rights and the image of the police in the community) were systematized: a thorough recompilation of information was undertaken on police-community relations, human rights, citizens' security and police policies on gender, children and young people.
- Training materials (i.e. one manual and four short-format videos) were developed and used at 32 training courses on human rights training for 1,200 officers, with the assistance of two recognized local institutions, selected in open competition.
- A document on citizens' security was presented to senior police officers during the year-end evaluation meeting. This document describes the knowledge and abilities required of police officers to meet the needs of detainees (women and children in particular).
- Workshops were held on police-community relations for regional directors of public security, heads of sectors and members of the special police commissions for women from all the country's police departments. The workshops focused on the rights of detainees and how to deal with victims of violence.

## Impact and achievements

The project's main achievements included:

- Assistance to the Director of the Police Academy, in the design of the post-

- graduate degree in police administration.
- An evaluation conducted by the police department on the role of the head of sectors in police-community relations in León, one of Nicaragua's most populous regions.
- Assistance to the police in their assessment of the impact of police-community relations and on the prevention and resolution of disputes in a poor neighborhood of Managua.
- An assessment of support for community organizations in Managua involved in tackling drug abuse by children and adolescents.
- The national project coordinator participated in various workshops including one coordinated by Johns Hopkins University (USA) which defined strategies for dealing with the problem of increasing suicides among children and adolescents in northern and western regions of the country.
- Training was provided to police officers and cadets on the self-esteem of the police and the role of the ideal police officer in police-community relations, and on police-community relations, legal procedures and the psychological treatment of children and adolescent victims of sexual abuse.

## Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of the project is the police department. In future, other beneficiaries will include the police forces in other Central American countries, who will be represented at a forthcoming regional workshop organized under the aegis of the Nicaragua project with the purpose of facilitating the exchange of experience of police-community work.

## Constraints

Despite the efforts of all partners involved in the project, the fiercely contested municipal elections placed an enormous demand on the police in October 2000. As a result, activities were slightly delayed (though some progress has been made following the elections).

## Coordination

When the project was designed, other human rights projects which focused on the police were examined, including the work of organizations like the European Commission, the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights, UNDP and the National Human Rights Ombudsman. Input from these institutions was integrated into the project when the national police-community relations strategy was developed. Project officials also met representatives of German agency GTZ, Save the Children (Sweden), and the Central American Parliament, who have been at work in areas of relevance to this project. The purpose of these meetings was to share experience with a view to identifying areas where a greater impact could be achieved (avoiding any overlap of efforts).

## Lessons learned

Economic and human resources can be used more effectively through well-planned coordination and communication with other agencies, NGOs and beneficiaries. This is exemplified by the fact that during the first year of the project, savings of US\$ 35,000 were made possible by effective management of resources and coordination with UNDP in Nicaragua. In future, the project hopes to find further savings (in terms of costs and staffing levels) by engaging in joint activities with other organizations.



# EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

## *Regional overview*

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### Background

OHCHR's approach to activities in Europe and Central Asia takes into account the region's great diversity and the significant role that regional organizations play in it. OHCHR's projects in the region are tailored to the needs of individual countries and designed to complement the work of partner agencies and bilateral actors. OHCHR has also begun to explore broader regional and sub-regional approaches which will dovetail with processes taking place under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other key regional actors. There is still a great need for effective work on the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. Many countries are still going through a difficult process of transition in which civil and economic rights are at risk. There is also a continuing potential of conflict in some parts of the region, in many cases linked to human rights violations growing out of national, religious or ethnic prejudice. Discrimination and xenophobia are widespread, and attention is already focusing on the forthcoming World Conference against Racism in September 2001. OHCHR's strategy in the region hinges on increasing public awareness of human rights obligations and helping to develop mechanisms to ensure respect for them (i.e. national institutions and effective law enforcement bodies). OHCHR has ample experience of the commitment of most governments in the region to improving the human rights record of the nation it represents, but the process is long and complicated, and the need for international support is undiminished.

### Sub-regional strategy

The year 2000 saw the development of a sub-regional strategy for Southeastern Europe which tackled three issues best addressed outside of the country context: trafficking, return of refugees, and war-related prosecutions. A top priority is coordination with partners including UNHCR and signatories of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe. OHCHR has begun to explore other sub-regional approaches in the region, notably in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. In Georgia and Tajikistan, OHCHR works closely and effectively with the UN peacekeeping operations. Human rights officers have been placed in UNDP offices in Armenia and Kazakhstan under the joint OHCHR/UNDP Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) initiative, which has helped to make human rights a fundamental preoccupation for all UN activities at a country level. Better coordination with the key regional organizations is a priority. One

useful model has been the Office's partnership with OSCE in the context of the United Nations Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, which is part of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

### National-level activities

OHCHR's country projects emphasize the promotion of tolerance, gender equity, respect for the rule of law and democratic participation. Different projects focus on different areas of OHCHR expertise. In Albania, the Office is working on improving procedures for treaty-reporting, while in Moldova the focus is on increasing the impact of the national human rights institution. In the Southern Caucasus (Georgia and Azerbaijan), OHCHR has sought to strengthen the rule of law as well as the interaction between Government and civil society with a series of training sessions directed toward specific sectors, including legal professionals, journalists and NGOs. In Armenia, activities were limited to completing a project which began in 1996 and conducting a project evaluation. In addition to its work on technical cooperation, OHCHR continued to mount three field operations in Southeastern Europe (in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). These operations combined intensive monitoring work with initiatives to strengthen human rights protection. The field offices launched initiatives in the areas of gender, the rights of prisoners and detainees, and general capacity-building.

### Constraints

The main constraint on OHCHR's activities in the region in 2000 was the staffing shortage at headquarters. This prevented progress on projects in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. In other countries, such as the Russian Federation, there was no expenditure during the year. Instead, activities focused on assessing the current state of human rights education in Russia.

## Country projects

### Albania

#### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	33,751
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	3,746
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>37,497</b>
Programme support costs	4,875
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,372</b>

#### Background

Since acceding to the six major human rights treaties in the early 1990s, Albania has to date failed to submit any reports to United Nations treaty bodies. It has requested assistance in this regard. A project to provide such assistance was approved in 2000 by the three participants (the Government, OHCHR and UNDP) and project implementation began in October 2000.

#### Objectives

The immediate objective of the project is to help the Government acquire sufficient expertise to begin to draft and submit in a timely fashion State reports to various treaty bodies without assistance. Overall, the project seeks to promote a participatory process that improves cooperation on human rights issues among Government departments and between Government and civil society.

## Implementation

Project implementation began with the recruitment of an international consultant and a mission undertaken by OHCHR's project officer. An inter-ministerial working group has since been established and has met on a regular basis to discuss submissions to treaty bodies. Preparations began in 2000 for a workshop on human rights treaty reporting; this included an assessment of available information for the purpose of reporting. The workshop took place in Tirana in March 2001, bringing together members of treaty bodies, country and treaty experts, representatives of the Government, NGOs and members of the UN Country Team. Among other issues, the workshop touched upon legislative review, the implementation of international standards in Albania, monitoring and analysis, the role of civil society in treaty reporting, and the preparation of specific reports that the Government is to submit in the near future.

Outside the immediate framework of the project, but in harmony with its objectives, was OHCHR's sponsorship of two Albanian officials to participate in the annual fellowship programme on treaty reporting at the UN Staff College (April 2000).

## Impact and achievements

The impact of the project in 2000 lay in the authorities' increasing acknowledgement of the importance of submitting periodic reports. The project also raised awareness of human rights in the country in general, and within the inter-ministerial working group in particular, and some sectors of civil society have now acquired knowledge on human rights treaty reporting.

## Beneficiaries

The two main beneficiaries were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the coordinating ministry for preparing periodic reports to the United Nations treaty bodies, and the inter-ministerial working group. The two participants in the annual fellowship programme were indirect beneficiaries.

## Coordination

The project was designed in partnership with UNDP. UNICEF was an important partner and co-sponsor of the above-mentioned workshop. Other international bodies, including OSCE's mission in Albania, were enthusiastic participants.

## Lessons learned

A single mission to Albania undertook to formulate the project, i.e. ensure that all partners reached a common understanding, not only on broad outlines but also on the details of implementation. In retrospect it can be seen that this was a lot – arguably too much – to expect from a single mission. Intensive follow-up correspondence, telephone conferences – and possibly a follow-up mission – would be needed to strengthen the commitment of local partners and ensure that they take greater responsibility for project implementation. This sort of follow-up could be built into project design from the outset.

# Azerbaijan

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	10,745
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	4,558
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>15,303</b>
Programme support costs	1,990
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,293</b>

## Background

The year 2000 was marked by increased efforts to bring Azerbaijan's legislation and administrative practices into line with international and European standards. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe voted on 28 June 2000 to grant Azerbaijan full membership of the Council, and Azerbaijan took its seat in January 2001. This has had considerable influence on the implementation of project activities, insofar as the Government has tended to devote its energies to the European context. The Government nonetheless frequently reiterated its commitment to implementing the recommendations of UN human rights bodies.

The translation of norms into practice represents a challenge. Reports from regional organizations and international and local NGOs continue to highlight areas of alleged human rights violations and the need for improvement. These concerns relate to democratization, freedom of expression, the rule of law, personal security and other issues.

The United Nations (through its charter-and treaty-based mechanisms) has underscored the need to expand human rights education, increase public awareness of UN human rights standards and intensify training, in particular for law enforcement officials. In fact, UN treaty bodies have since 1997 repeatedly stressed the need for training in Azerbaijan. This concern has been underlined by the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In his report to the 57th Session of the Commission on Human Rights, the special rapporteur on torture made recommendations related to law enforcement, and invited the Government to give the go-ahead for more training for police and security officials (as part of the technical cooperation programme).

## Objectives

The objectives of the project are broadly defined as strengthening the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights and developing a symbiotic pattern of interaction between the Government and civil society.

## Implementation

A one-week training course on UN human rights standards and procedures was organized for NGOs in Baku (2-5 May 2000). Approximately 30 participants attended, including two international experts and several local experts.

The active involvement of all participants – especially women – was encouraging. There were consultations between the Government, UNDP and OHCHR throughout the year: these related to project implementation and the provision of advisory services; their main focus was to establish the Local Project Steering Committee (LPSC) and appoint a national project coordinator to enhance overall project management at the local level. The first LPSC meeting was held on 10 October and coordination was carried out by UNDP's Country

Office in Baku. OHCHR staff undertook two missions to the country to participate in LPSC meetings and hold other discussions with Government counterparts and other partners.

Owing to the demands of the legislative reform process, seminars for most professional groups were postponed, as was the drafting of a national plan of action and preparation of the framework for an independent national human rights institution.

In September 2000, OHCHR's Project Review Committee decided that this project should be subject to an in-depth evaluation and that activities in 2001 should continue within the framework of a new project, taking into account changed circumstances in the country. The evaluation mission travelled to Azerbaijan in January 2001.

### Impact and achievements

NGOs who attended the training course acquired in-depth knowledge of UN human rights standards, mechanisms and procedures, especially complaints procedures. They are now better equipped to collect information and to cooperate with treaty bodies. They also have an understanding of Government obligations, an understanding which will in itself be supportive of a non-confrontational and mutually beneficial relationship between the Government and NGOs.

### Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries were the 30 staff members of human rights NGOs in Azerbaijan who participated in the training course; they will in turn pass on their newly-acquired knowledge to their colleagues. Other beneficiaries included those who sought assistance directly from NGOs, or who were trained through activities organized by NGOs. It is to be expected that, as human rights standards are increasingly respected, the Government will increasingly be an indirect beneficiary of the training given to NGOs in UN human rights standards, mechanisms and procedures.

### Constraints

The complexity of the local situation, the legal reform process and changes in key government posts (especially at the Ministry of Justice) made it difficult to plan some activities. The Government was heavily involved in processes related to the Council of Europe. Project activities were also affected by the departure of the local project coordinator half way through the year.

### Lessons learned

More time must be dedicated both by in-country partners and OHCHR to activities. Further UN involvement at the country level would increase managerial efficiency. This could be achieved through the ongoing process of integrating a rights-based approach into development programming, and strengthening OHCHR's support for UNDP in Azerbaijan. It is recommended that cooperation with relevant regional organizations be strengthened.



# Georgia

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	2,000
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	26,306
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	3,388
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	1,500
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	77,600
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>110,794</b>
Programme support costs	14,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,197</b>

## Background

The overall human rights situation in Georgia has not changed significantly over the past year. Negotiations were stepped up to resolve the country's conflicts, but a peace agreement remains some way off, and the long-standing issue of 300,000 internally displaced persons remains a major concern for the Government. The Government continues to express its commitment to the goals laid down by regional organizations and UN human rights bodies, but much remains to be done, and the Office continues to receive reports of human rights violations. In 1999, activities of the project entitled "Strengthening Capacities and Infrastructures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" and of the sub-project entitled "Capacity Development of the Public Defenders Office in Georgia" were launched.

## Objectives

The broad objectives are to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights through a series of training courses for selected groups of professionals, and to develop a permanent pattern of interaction between the Government and civil society. The activities implemented in 2000, in line with these objectives, entailed training for judges, lawyers, academics and representatives of civil society.

## Implementation

Overall project implementation was successful in 2000, despite the security situation in the Abkhazia region, which remained a limiting factor. Coordination among in-country partners was strengthened. With the signing of a grant agreement with the Tbilisi-based NGO Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA) an important implementing arrangement was established. Cooperation with this NGO proved as successful as in previous years and is expected to continue into the third year of project. A local legal assistant was recruited to work with the UN Human Rights office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG), which is a part of the UN peace-keeping operation of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

Training courses were organized as follows:

- Two five-day training courses on the administration of justice were held 14-18 October 2000 in Gagra, Abkhazia region, and 25-29 October in Gudauri.
- Two five-day training courses on human rights for NGOs and the mass media were held 21-24 April 2000 in Gagra, and 16-22 December in Bakuriani.
- Two follow-up training courses on human rights in higher education took place 26-31 January 2001 in Gudauri, and 4-8 April 2001 in Gagra.

The Project Steering Committee meetings of UNDP's Public Defender's Office project were not held as planned due to the delayed appointment of a new Public Defender. However, the Special Adviser to the High Commissioner on National Institutions continued to provide expertise and was involved in policy direction and decisions relating to international assistance to the Public Defender's

Office. Consultations with the Chief Technical Adviser of the UNDP project, as well as with other partners, continued throughout the year. Increased activity is envisaged once the UNDP project gains momentum.

### Impact and achievements

The training courses have been a significant step towards raising public awareness of human rights, educating target groups to assist in this process, and improving the general observance of human rights norms. Participants acquired in-depth knowledge of UN human rights standards, mechanisms and procedures, especially those relevant to their own specific field. The methodological skills and materials they acquired will be valuable in their future work. Interaction between participants and the consultants, national and international, was useful in view of the contacts made and subsequently maintained.

### Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of training activities were the approximately 120 persons who participated in the training courses. Judges and lawyers, NGO staff members and media representatives as well as educators all accepted the task of transmitting the knowledge they had acquired to their colleagues.

### Constraints

The security situation, particularly in Abkhazia, Georgia, affected the participation of international experts at the training sessions. The small UN Human Rights office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG), and the implementing partner in Abkhazia were sometimes obliged to focus on other priority issues, with consequent delays in project implementation.

## Moldova

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	21,570
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	3,725
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>25,295</b>
Programme support costs	3,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,583</b>

### Background

In 1994 the country adopted a Constitution which provides for a multi-party, representative Government with power divided between the president, cabinet, Parliament and judiciary. The Constitution also provides for a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of human rights. The institutional structure, however, needs to be strengthened. The Moldovan Human Rights Centre was established on 17 October 1997 as an independent national institution for the protection and promotion of human rights in Moldova, in accordance with the Constitution and international human rights treaty obligations. The Centre focuses on strengthening human rights awareness by informing the public of its rights, conducting investigations, considering allegations of human rights violations and providing advice on policies and legislation. A joint UNDP/OHCHR project was signed in December 1997 to help build up the human and material resources of the Human Rights Centre.

### Objectives

The project aims to nurture an effective Human Rights Centre. Activities have focused on developing the institution's technical and substantive capacities, as well as strengthening linkages between the Centre and those involved in human rights protection and promotion in Moldova (both within and outside the Government).

## Implementation

- An international consultant conducted three missions in January, May and November on programme design and implementation;
- In April 2000, a two-day human rights training workshop was held for police officials;
- The annual report of the Moldovan Human Rights Centre was prepared;
- A continuing publicity/information campaign was conducted on the Centre's activities;
- Missions were conducted by OHCHR's project officer in January and November 2000 to assess project developments and plan for the future;
- A series of half-day sessions was organized on complaints processing (with users of the Centre and its complaints team);
- Training sessions were organized with the legal analysis team to improve response to complaints;
- Introductory training sessions on mediation and negotiation were organized for the Centre's users and the complaints team;
- Workshops were organized for new staff at the Centre's branch offices;
- Meetings with the Centre's leadership were held on various aspects of management;
- Meetings were held with the education and promotion team regarding the management of new branch offices within the Centre; and
- Meetings were held with key sectors of Government, including ministry officials and parliamentarians, on strategic approaches to improving the Centre's effectiveness.

## Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries were the management and staff of the Moldovan Human Rights Centre. Other beneficiaries included parliamentarians and Government officials, as well as those segments of society most in need of effective human rights intervention (i.e. refugees, internally displaced persons, children, the disabled, prisoners, and members of ethnic and religious minorities).

## Coordination

This is a joint UNDP/OHCHR project. A Steering Committee has been responsible for monitoring project implementation on a regular basis. It consists of the National Project Coordinator and representatives from UNDP Moldova, OHCHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities.

# Russian Federation

## Background

In Russia, a growing interest in human rights education is attested to by the number of recently published articles and textbooks on the subject. NGOs have contributed greatly to this process by holding seminars on human rights education in various regions of the country, publishing source materials and transcripts of proceedings of relevant meetings.

## Objectives

A technical cooperation project was approved in June 1999, to run for a period of three years. Its overall objective is to support the development of human

rights education by acting as a catalyst. This involves support for the development of a national network of human rights educators. It was decided that the initial stage of the project should focus on analysing the current state of human rights education in Russia. This involved tracking and evaluating current initiatives, in-depth analysis of all related activities in the region and a review of curricula and teaching resources. The year 2000 was spent developing optimal methods of project implementation at the regional level.

## Implementation

To achieve the project objectives, a national NGO, Fulcrum Charitable Foundation, was contracted to carry out an assessment of the status of human rights education. Experts in human rights teaching in secondary and higher education were brought together; they then produced a comprehensive overview of the situation, paying special attention to smaller scale programmes supported by the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation), the Russian Foundation for Reform of the Law (World Bank), and the Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (European Union). A systematic review of the current methodological literature was carried out, as well as a review of human rights education at teacher training colleges. Information on other initiatives in the area, including those of NGOs, was collated and analysed. The project was formally launched in September 2000 in the wake of the Expert Meeting on Human Rights Education in Russia which was convened in Moscow by OHCHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participants at the Meeting included foreign experts in human rights education, and 37 Russians, including six representatives of the Russian regions: the North-West (St. Petersburg), Central Russia (Oryol), the Volga (Samara, Yoshkar-Ola), the Urals (Ekaterinburg), and Siberia (Krasnoyarsk). Representatives of international organizations also attended, including UNESCO, UNHCR and the European Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to leading Russian experts; to discuss human rights education in schools and teacher training colleges; to evaluate the current situation, identify key individuals and institutions and find ways for the project to complement and build on current activities.

In September 2000, the project's Executive Committee met in Moscow to finalize the budget and the plan of activities, as well as to agree on the implementing partner for 2001. One of the first project activities was the recruitment of regional organizations to hold training courses at regional teachers' educational institutes (as recommended by the Expert Meeting). The project was thus put out to tender on 28 November 2000 in the nationwide Teachers Gazette. The next Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for March 2001, would make the final selection of regional implementing partners for the training courses and convene the first meeting of the Project Advisory Committee.

## Constraints

In 2000, the implementation of planned activities was delayed as a consequence of the need to gather information on human rights education in Russia. However, this preparatory work yielded vital data for the project. Comprehensive information was gathered on the main actors and materials in this area and it was systematically analysed. Activities were due to start in the first months of 2001.

# A SIA AND THE PACIFIC

## Regional activities

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	40,759
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	86,815
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	188,977
Contractual services	51,470
General operating expenses	3,210
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	39,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>410,231</b>
Programme support costs	53,330
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>463,561</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes the following projects: enhancing national capacities in the Asia-Pacific region; workshops in Tokyo, Yemen and Mongolia; evaluation of the Teheran Framework; training of national institutions in Manila; and strengthening national institutions and NGOs in Asia.

### Background

At the 1998 Tehran workshop, participating States agreed on a framework for regional technical cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region whose main purpose was the development of national plans of action to promote and protect human rights and strengthen appropriate national capacity; human rights education; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and strategies for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. At the 1999 New Delhi workshop, participating States decided to convene inter-sessional workshops: these were to address issues under each of the four aforementioned areas of the framework for regional technical cooperation, with designated funding from the Office of the High Commissioner. Workshops were subsequently convened on national human rights action-plans; human rights education in North-East Asia; national plans of action for human rights education; strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights; and the promotion and strengthening of national human rights institutions.

The March 2000 Beijing workshop reviewed progress since the New Delhi workshop in the four areas covered by the Tehran framework, outlined the next steps to be taken, and proposed various options in the context of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop's conclusions are: that one of the key components of the promotion of human rights in the region was the implementation of the technical cooperation programme with the support of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and other representatives of the international community; that activities covered by the framework should be undertaken at national and sub-regional levels, with the assistance of the relevant governments, national institutions and civil society; that within each of the areas of the framework close attention should be paid to the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups; and that parliaments, national institutions and NGOs were to be invited to participate, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the framework for regional technical cooperation.

The Beijing workshop endorsed the OHCHR paper entitled "Next steps and activities to be considered in the Asia-Pacific region to facilitate the process of regional cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights". This paper proposed that over a two-year period the following should take place:

- Finalization of the Handbook on National Human Rights Action Plans and its distribution to key beneficiaries;
- A survey on human rights education;
- A study on non-formal human rights education;

- A meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum on the role of national institutions in combating racism;
- Training on approaches to protection adopted by national institutions;
- A workshop on the impact of globalization;
- A regional preparatory meeting on the World Conference against Racism.

In addition, several workshops and other activities at a sub-regional level were recommended: these would bring together key experts and professional groups with a view to developing sub-regional approaches to certain specific, crucially important human rights issues. All elements of the Beijing conclusions and Plan of Action implemented in 2000 are detailed in the sections which follows.

It was also requested that OHCHR undertake an expert review of the implementation of the Tehran framework. The review was conducted during 2000 by Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn.

The following activities were carried out by OHCHR:

- A workshop on human rights education was held in Japan, in January 2000, providing a forum for States in the region to share experience and identify strategies for developing national human rights education plans.
- A workshop on the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights, was held in Yemen in February 2000; participants approved a working document with suggestions on how to further the achievement of these rights in the Asia-Pacific region through an holistic approach.
- The first draft of a handbook on national human rights action plans was completed.
- The eighth Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop was held in Beijing, in March 2000, as described above.
- A sub-regional workshop on human rights and parliamentarians was held in Mongolia in August 2000; conducted together with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), it aimed at assisting Parliaments from Northeast Asia to share experience and explore strategies for the enhancement of their role in promoting and protecting human rights at a national level.
- Three regional meetings/workshops on national institutions were held: a workshop on the role of national institutions in advancing the human rights of women (Suva, Fiji, May 2000); the 5th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific forum of national human rights institutions (Rotorua, New Zealand, August 2000); and a training workshop on economic, social and cultural rights (Manila, November 2000).

## Evaluation

The external evaluation, carried out in 2000, of the activities implemented under the Tehran framework between 1998 and 2000, concluded that: "In retrospect, it may be observed that in general the activities under the Tehran framework have provided some constructive steps towards a regional arrangement/arrangements on human rights. The progress has been incremental." On the basis of his findings, the evaluator made 15 recommendations aimed at maximizing the impact of OHCHR initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. OHCHR is already implementing the following elements of those recommendations: enhancing the roles of civil society and key professional groups within the framework activities; encouraging states to participate vigorously and at a high level in the annual workshop activities; developing new methodologies and conducting appropriate evaluation and review activities.

## National-level activities

National-level activities, though based on universal standards of human rights, are tailored to specific circumstances and are all directed towards the enhancement of national capacity to promote and protect human rights. Areas covered by technical cooperation activities which are being implemented include: national human rights action planning; the development or strengthening of national human rights institutions; the development and implementation of national human rights education plans and programmes; projects of support to civil society, including human rights NGOs; and rationalising key aspects of state structures, such as the administration of justice, the police and prison services, line ministries, parliament and the army. OHCHR's national-level activities devote equal attention to civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as well as to the right to development.

In 2000 national-level activities were carried out in Bhutan, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine, and the Philippines. At year's end, activities in Bhutan, Nepal and Mongolia were due to be concluded. Within OHCHR's national-level activities, field presences have been established in Cambodia (where OHCHR also supports the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights Situation in Cambodia), Mongolia (now closed upon conclusion of the project activities) and in Palestine. In East Timor OHCHR provides substantive support to the human rights programme of United Nations Transitional Authority for East Timor (UNTAET). In Afghanistan, OHCHR substantively supports the work of the human rights officer at the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

The Annual Appeal for 2000 sought funds in support of activities in Afghanistan; instead of seeking and administering its own funds in Afghanistan, OHCHR maintained a programme of support to the human rights adviser in the Office of the UN Coordinator for Afghanistan, who benefits from access to funds raised within the framework of humanitarian programming. The Annual Appeal for 2000 also sought funds for activities in Yemen; the planning phase of the technical cooperation project took longer than originally envisaged: a technical cooperation project on juvenile justice was finalized during the latter part of 2000 and signed by the High Commissioner and the Government of Yemen on 14 February 2001.

## Coordination

In the Asia-Pacific region, OHCHR has developed close cooperation both with United Nations agencies and other partners such as the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Institutions. Of particular importance is the OHCHR collaboration with UNDP (including the Regional Bureau for Arab States in New York and UNDP's regional facilities in Bangkok and Islamabad), with UNICEF and also UNESCO. OHCHR attaches great importance to cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). OHCHR also cooperates with other regional and international organizations to implement its national and regional strategies, a good example being the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which co-organized the Workshop for Northeast Asian countries on "Enhancing the role of Parliaments to promote and protect human rights in Northeast Asia" (Mongolia, August 2000). NGO partners also play an increasing role in OHCHR's national and regional programme. They have well-developed networks and have already made valuable contributions in implementing and promoting the sharing of best practice.



## The regional adviser

In 1999, the High Commissioner appointed a former chief justice of India and current vice-chairman of the Human Rights Committee, Justice Bhagwati, as honorary regional adviser for the Asia-Pacific region. He plays a significant role in: the promotion of human rights and human rights advocacy; designing strategies and developing partnerships for human rights; facilitating appropriate coordination of technical cooperation on human rights in the region; and fostering regional cooperation (e.g. between national institutions, parliamentary human rights bodies, bar associations and NGOs).

## Country projects

### Bhutan

#### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	10,945
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	5,090
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>16,035</b>
Programme support costs	2,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,120</b>

#### Background

A request of the Government of Bhutan has been for the development of a national capacity to meet the challenges of modernization; this concern is reflected in the Government's approach to institutional changes and human rights issues. Strengthening the judiciary is a priority to be effected by providing specialized training in judicial structures and functions, for judges at the High Court and at district courts and for new law graduates. The *Jabmis* (legal representatives) need training in order to increase the effectiveness and equity of the administration of justice. Police officials need to be sensitized, through training and study fellowships, to the implications of their work for the overall protection of human rights. Finally, Government officials responsible for drafting reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, need assistance with United Nations' human rights reporting mechanisms to become familiar with UN procedures. A technical cooperation project was signed by OHCHR and the Royal Government of Bhutan in 1996 following a needs assessment mission. Most of the activities which began in March 1997 and especially all in-situ activities have been accomplished. The final elements of the project were implemented during 2000 and an evaluation mission was conducted in April 2001.

#### Objectives

The project aimed to strengthen the system for the administration of justice, bolster the nation's capacity to report within the framework of international human rights instruments, and train Government officials in international human rights norms and obligations.

#### Implementation

A fellowship programme for two women police officers was organized by OHCHR in cooperation with the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex (United Kingdom) from 1 October to 12 December 2000. It included lectures and training sessions on human rights in the administration of justice, briefings with NGOs and also an exchange of experience with law enforcement officials at police headquarters and police stations in the United Kingdom. The evaluation mission concluded that the implementation of the project had been satisfactory.



## Constraints

OHCHR's ability to deliver materials for the human rights library has been reduced in part due to a delay in response from the Office of the Chief Justice. Further to the evaluation mission, this has been officially resolved.

## Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project include judges, lawyers, police officers, Government officials, law graduates and prison officers.

## Coordination

The fellowship programme was organized in 2000 with the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex together with several UN-recognized experts in the field of human rights and in the administration of justice. Logistical details, such as travel for the two police officers, were arranged in cooperation with UNDP in Bhutan. Preparations for the evaluation mission have been processed in cooperation with UNDP and the Government of Bhutan. Provision of documentation for the High Court is being coordinated with Ministry of foreign Affairs and UNDP.

# Indonesia

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	103,832
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	6,233
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	23,385
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	9,300
General operating expenses	23,100
Supplies and acquisitions	22,400
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	11,500
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>199,750</b>
Programme support costs	25,967
<b>Total</b>	<b>225,717</b>

## Background

As explained in the 2000 Annual Appeal, OHCHR's original technical cooperation project with the Government of Indonesia was to support the National Plan of Action on Human Rights. This project was prepared following the signing in August 1998 of a memorandum of understanding between OHCHR and the Government. The main objective was to strengthen national capacities for the implementation of the National Plan of Action and the creation of a culture of human rights. This was to be achieved through the provision of assistance in four main areas: (a) strengthening national capacity for reporting to human rights treaty bodies; (b) developing a human rights education programme in both formal and informal institutions and the media; (c) raising human rights awareness among Government officials and members of civil society; and (d) capacity building within the National Commission on Human Rights (KomnashAM).

Further to the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to Indonesia in February 2000, the UN was requested, *inter alia*, to help to facilitate the prosecution and trial of suspected perpetrators of serious human rights violations in East Timor in 1999. In response to this request, a new project was prepared and approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in May 2000, entitled "Enhancing the capacity of the Indonesian administration of justice sector for the prosecution of human rights violations". Activities began in June 2000 and continued for an initial period of seven months. It was then proposed that this project be brought to a close, but that those elements of the project considered most relevant should in due course be revised, following agreement between OHCHR and the Government, with a view to relaunching a follow-up project. In November 2000, the law on human rights courts was adopted by Parliament. It provides for the establishment of ad hoc human rights courts to try past human rights violations and regular human rights courts to try violations that

take place after the setting up of the regular courts. It is expected that the Attorney General will be appointing the ad hoc judges and prosecutors in early to mid-2001.

## Objectives

The long-term objective of the new project is to assist Indonesia to develop an effective justice system which conforms to the relevant international standards, especially with regard to the prosecution of gross human rights violations.

## Implementation and constraints

The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs provided advice regarding the forwarding to the Attorney General of materials from the International Commission of Inquiry for East Timor. In addition, OHCHR provided regular reports on various human-rights related issues falling under its mandate.

For various reasons, most of the activities under this project could not be implemented. Specifically, the Government decided on 4 November 2000 not to renew the memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation with OHCHR, which had expired in August 2000. Furthermore, the political situation in Indonesia has delayed the adoption of the law on human rights courts and the appointment of the ad hoc judges and prosecutors.

Despite delays, a legal framework for collaboration between the Government and OHCHR was re-established following the High Commissioner's visit to Jakarta in November 2000. More recently, a series of activities have been agreed between OHCHR and the Government, and implementation is anticipated for mid-2001.

An expert technical adviser was eventually recruited in February 2001 and will be responsible for providing advice on, inter alia, the Indonesian and international legislation applicable to the prosecution of alleged violators of human rights in East Timor (1999). In addition, the expert would provide assistance more generally to the Indonesian authorities in ensuring that the investigation and prosecution of East Timorese and other cases were in compliance with international human rights standards. Furthermore, it is expected that a training course on international human rights standards will be held for judicial and legal officers appointed to conduct the East Timor and other trials.

## Impact and achievements

An expert commentary and guide on the relevant principles of international law was completed and delivered to the Attorney General, who subsequently approved it for wider dissemination.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the ad hoc judges, ad hoc prosecutors, defence counselors and other legal officials. They will all benefit from the assistance of the technical adviser and the training to be provided. Academics and legal experts will also benefit from the above-mentioned expert commentary. In the longer term, it is hoped that the victims of human rights violations will benefit from the administration of justice in accordance with international human rights standards.

# Mongolia

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	17,700
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	31,411
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	4,307
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	7,100
General operating expenses	18,200
Supplies and acquisitions	5,600
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	1,012
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>85,330</b>
Programme support costs	11,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,423</b>

## Background

The aim of this project is to strengthen national infrastructure for the promotion and protection of human rights in Mongolia. Project activities began in May 1998 (for an initial period of one year) and were extended until early 2001.

## Objectives

The main objective of the project during 2000 was to enhance Mongolia's capacity to protect and integrate human rights standards into national laws, by:

- Increasing awareness of human rights within civil society;
- Supporting prison reforms congruent with international human rights standards;
- Providing support for the establishment a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Office also aimed to clarify and bring to the fore its role within the United Nations Country Team as a catalyst for human rights, and to support the integration of a rights-based approach into UN programming and activities.

## Implementation

OHCHR Mongolia organized a training course on international human rights norms and recruited an international consultant to train 12 prospective trainers from national human rights NGOs. The trainees later conducted a series of training courses on international human rights norms for some 240 participants representing NGOs and civil society organizations (including religious organizations, the mass media, local parliamentarians, academics and advocates in Ulaanbaatar and in Mongolia's eight provinces). OHCHR Mongolia provided training materials for all the participants. In addition, the office enabled two professors from the Law School of the Mongolian National University to participate in short human rights training courses in the Netherlands and Poland.

Two international consultants were recruited to organize a "training of trainers" course on human rights and prisons for the General Department for the Enforcement of Judicial Decisions. Subsequently, the newly trained trainers from the General Department in turn provided training materials and conducted a series of training courses on human rights and prisons for 174 prison inspectors and wardens from 12 prisons in four regions and in Ulaanbaatar. During 2000, the Special Adviser to the High Commissioner on National Institutions provided advice on the draft legislation for the establishment of a national human rights commission. An overwhelming majority of the Mongolian Parliament eventually approved the legislation on 7 December 2000.

Throughout the year, OHCHR worked closely with the UN Country Team Theme Groups and developed a joint Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST) project, which aims to support the elaboration of Mongolia's first national human rights action plan. The project document was signed by the Government on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2000, and includes provisions which seek to place human rights at the core of all the UN Country Team's activities and programmes.

## Impact and achievements

In December 2000, an external consultant evaluated the project. The consultant noted that the training courses on international human rights norms for representatives of civil society organizations had contributed to increased public awareness of human rights issues, especially in the rural areas. The courses on human rights and prisons had improved the protection of prisoners. In addition, the two law professors who attended human rights training courses in the Netherlands and Poland had strengthened the human rights element of their curriculum.

The High Commissioner's visit to Mongolia, and the Sub-Regional Workshop on Human Rights and Parliamentarians organized by OHCHR in August 2000, gave impetus to the advancement of the human rights agenda in Mongolia. During the second half of 2000, the Government became a State Party to the Convention against Torture. The legislation for the establishment of the national human rights commission of Mongolia was approved on 7 December 2000, after more than two years of parliamentary debate. In addition, the Government of Mongolia launched the process of formulating a national human rights action plan on 10 December 2000.

Collaboration between OHCHR and the UN Country Team, under the auspices of the HURIST programme, was strengthened throughout the year. The Office is now well placed to serve as a catalyst for integrating human rights into UN activities, and to support the UN contribution to the development of a national human rights action plan.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project were members of local human rights NGOs and civil society organizations, including religious organizations, the mass media, universities and academia, local parliaments, and advocates in provinces where awareness of human rights was strengthened through specialist training. In addition, the Training Centre of the General Department for the Enforcement of Judicial Decisions, prison inspectors and the wardens at local prisons benefited from focused training on human rights. Ultimately, the project will benefit the people of Mongolia by creating a broad awareness of human rights: an awareness conducive to the strengthening of relevant institutions and legislation.

## Constraints

Delays in the adoption of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia impeded the activities designed to assist it.

## Coordination

OHCHR Mongolia was the lead agency of the UN Theme Group on Human Rights and acted as a member of the UN Theme Group on Gender and Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV-AIDS. The UN Theme Group on Human Rights co-ordinated and provided input on collaborative activities, including: the National Conference on Human Rights, held to launch the development of a national human rights action programme; the adoption of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia; and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework/Common Country Assessment (UNDAF/CCA) exercises, which involved the UN Country Team, national authorities and civil society through the

sharing and dissemination of information, common programming and cooperation. The Office also worked in close collaboration with the United Nations Country Team for the development of a project within the framework of the joint UNDP-OHCHR programme for human rights strengthening (HURISTMON), which will be the main vehicle for mainstreaming human rights within the UN system.

### Lessons learned

With stronger inter-agency collaboration, the Office can play a significant role in supporting UN efforts to mainstream human rights into the work of each agency. Such collaboration would thereby stimulate awareness of human rights, ensure stronger coordination and contribute to the realization of all human rights standards.

## Nepal

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	22,030
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	7,863
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	500
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>30,393</b>
Programme support costs	3,951
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,344</b>

### Background

Since the restoration of democracy in 1990, successive Governments have affirmed their commitment to enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. A technical cooperation project was signed in 1996 by OHCHR and the Government of Nepal following a needs assessment mission. The activities began in November 1996 and its latter stages took place during 2000. A few elements remained for finalization of the project in 2001.

The priorities of the project include assistance in: (a) developing a human rights culture amongst the police through training courses, human rights standing orders and a training curriculum for the National Police Academy; (b) strengthening the capacity of the Government to comply with reporting obligations under the human rights treaties; (c) enhancing the capacity of NGOs to promote and protect human rights, in particular through training courses and financial grants. The project also aims to sensitize all relevant actors to the relationship between human rights and development policies, including the status of women; to promote the adoption of common strategies and cooperative approaches from a human rights perspective; and to establish a national human rights commission.

### Objectives

The project aimed to assist the building of a national human rights capacity by:

- Strengthening the administration of justice;
- Improving treaty reporting;
- Promoting a better understanding of the human rights dimension vis-à-vis trafficking of women and development policies;
- Assisting in the establishment of a national human rights commission; and
- Enhancing the capacity of local NGOs.

### Implementation

In January 2000, the High Commissioner's Special Adviser on National Institutions conducted a high level briefing on the establishment of an effective human rights commission in Nepal; the Human Rights Commission was subsequently established on 26 May 2000.

Two local consultants prepared a human rights training manual for integration into the curriculum of the National Police Academy. The manual was printed and distributed to the Police Academy and its regional centres at the beginning of 2001.

Ten human rights projects proposed by NGOs active in remote areas have been selected by the UN Country Team to receive OHCHR financial grants through UNICEF. The projects focus on women, trafficking, indigenous populations and community organizations; their implementation is underway.

OHCHR undertook a mission to Nepal in March 2000 in order to elaborate activities on the trafficking of women, to complement the UN's Joint Initiative on Trafficking. Designed as a follow-up to activities on the rights of women, the mission coincided with the development of Nepal's first national human rights action plan. This project has substantively involved OHCHR in activities relating to the development of the national action plan and has ensured the reinforcement both of the plan's methodology and of links between the plan and human rights activities.

### Impact and achievements

An evaluation was undertaken in Kathmandu by two international consultants (19-29 October 2000). It reviewed all activities undertaken in: (a) administration of justice; (b) treaty accession and reporting obligations; (c) development and human rights; (d) support to NGOs; (e) promoting the human rights of women; and (f) support for the establishment of a national human rights commission. The evaluation report concluded that the project design and technical approach were sound and that the majority of the activities were successful; it was noted that the activities were implemented efficiently. Although it is recognised that the project has become a catalyst for a number of longer-term initiatives, such as national human rights planning, its benefits will only be fully apparent in the future.

### Beneficiaries

The key direct beneficiaries of this project are the police, who will be trained according to the manual; NGOs, through financial grants; and the newly established Human Rights Commission. United Nations agencies (in particular UNDP's country team) and counterparts in Government and civil society are also benefiting from OHCHR expertise on national human rights action planning.

### Lessons learned

The project experienced some delays due to the transfer of funds within the UN system, and the need to draft many agreements and papers in the local languages. The implementation of the project has demonstrated the importance of addressing the practicalities of inter-agency funding arrangements from the outset, as well as providing sufficient time for translation requirements.

### Coordination

OHCHR has implemented this project in coordination with the national project coordinator nominated by the Government of Nepal, UNDP and UNICEF.

# Palestine

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	315,973
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	158,483
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	21,208
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	1,600
General operating expenses	41,400
Supplies and acquisitions	9,000
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	20,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>567,664</b>
Programme support costs	73,711
<b>Total</b>	<b>641,375</b>

### Establishing a legal framework consistent with international human rights standards

## Background

OHCHR in Gaza is responsible for implementing the technical cooperation project entitled 'Support for the Rule of Law in Palestine', as agreed between OHCHR and the Palestinian National Authority in April 1996. The project began in November 1996, with the establishment of an office based in Gaza, and a sub-office in the West Bank (Ramallah). It was initially agreed to run until April 1998, subsequently approved for another two years (to 2000) and finally extended until 31 December 2001.

## Objectives

The project focuses on institution-building supportive of the rule of law. It addresses three main areas:

- Establishing a legal framework consistent with human rights standards, through the provision of advisory services on the drafting of legislation and support for Palestinian institutions and organizations engaged in legal analysis;
- Developing an official human rights policy, through support for a national plan of action on human rights; and
- Strengthening national structures responsible for protecting and promoting human rights, by concentrating on the administration of justice (through advisory services and training for police, prisons officials, judges, prosecutors and lawyers); the Palestinian Independent Commission on Citizens' Rights; and on local NGOs.

## Implementation

OHCHR's main counterparts in the implementation of this component of the project have been the "Legal Opinion and Legislation Office (*Diwan al-Fatwa wa'l-Tashri*) of the Ministry of Justice", which is the focal point within the Palestinian Executive for reviewing and drafting new Palestinian legislation; "the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)"; the "Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR)"; and three NGOs in receipt of grants from OHCHR for legal analysis. OHCHR's office in Gaza has been working closely with all of the above institutions. It has given human rights documentation to the "Legal Opinion and Legislation Office", to the "General Police Training Directorate", various PNA departments, police units, and NGOs. It continues to assist the "Legal Opinion and Legislation Office" by providing documentation, equipment, and advisory services.

OHCHR is also supporting PICCR in its analysis and review of laws in a variety of areas, including land, the family, juvenile justice, penal institutions, judicial structures, law enforcement and the press. PICCR has been producing commentaries on the consistency of these laws with relevant international human rights standards and practices. It has sent these commentaries to the "Ministry of Justice", other concerned Ministries, and the Legislative Council, to elicit their support. PICCR promotes coordination among all Palestinian bodies involved in the law reform process, by regularly organizing thematic workshops to discuss specific areas of law. PICCR has to date focused on the Basic Law, and on the laws regulating labour, the police, public assembly, the penal system and the judiciary itself.

Prior to submission of the Criminal Procedures Law to the President on 12 April 2000, the “Palestinian Association for Legal Sciences”, PICCR, and the PLC reviewed the drafting history of this law, going back as far as 1998. PICCR also reviewed the Juvenile Justice Law (reviewed 13 June 1999) and the Social Welfare Law (reviewed 1 December 1999) both of which were submitted to the PLC, but are yet to be discussed.

After several delays, an international expert was recruited in August 2000 to advise on training techniques. A two-week course on legal drafting techniques was then provided for to 20 lawyers in the employ of the Ministry of Justice and other relevant Ministries. OHCHR also supported research on the Labour Law conducted by Democracy and Workers’ Rights (an NGO). This law has been passed and embodies about 80 per cent of the International Labour Organization’s standards. The international expert indicated that other important laws needed revision, but for various reasons the revision process has been difficult.

**Development of an official human rights policy**

Further to the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, OHCHR-Gaza has been assisting the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in the elaboration of a National Plan of Action for Human Rights in Gaza and the West Bank. This process has entailed broad consultations with the PNA, the Palestinian Legislative Council, human rights NGOs and the judiciary. Strategy papers on six sectors were prepared and included in the Plan of Action.

The National Plan of Action was completed on 30 September 2000, two days after the current uprising (Intifada) began. An English translation of the plan was prepared and OHCHR distributed 500 copies among government agencies and civil society organizations. PNA representatives gave oral commitments to approve the plan and OHCHR tried to negotiate its launch on International Human Rights Day (10 December 2000). However, due to unfavourable circumstances the launch was postponed indefinitely. Nevertheless, despite considerable delays, all planned activities relating to the Plan of Action have been completed, bar formal approval by the PNA. OHCHR-Gaza has also been working with the office of the Presidential Adviser on Human Rights to support its research and policy advice functions on human rights.

**Strengthening national structures for the promotion and protection of human rights**

OHCHR-Gaza has been working with the Palestinian police to support the establishment of a long-term human rights capacity. The following courses were held in Gaza:

- “Strategic Management” conducted in cooperation with the Danish Police Academy, in April, May and June 2000, with a total of 43 participants. During these courses, participants were asked to draft standing orders for their units. The results of this exercise will serve as a basis for drafting comprehensive and standardised standing orders incorporating human rights regulations.
- A course for prison officials was scheduled for October but could not be held on account of the renewed unrest in the Palestinian territories. The above-mentioned courses were replicated in the West Bank, with the same objectives.

**Impact and achievements**

Although the Palestinian National Authority has not formally approved the National Plan of Action, all NGO representatives interviewed on the subject have expressed satisfaction with the draft plan.



The "Presidential Adviser for Human Rights" has opened channels of communication and cultivated an atmosphere of confidence among key PNA officials. The Ministry of Justice and the Police Training Centre have been strengthened through the provision of human rights documentation and training materials.

The legal research activities supported by OHCHR have helped stimulate a broad public debate on the crucial issue of developing new human rights legislation. The international expert has clearly made a significant contribution to the law reform process and has fulfilled his function as facilitator of the link between civil society and the Palestinian Authority in this area.

The expertise of legal drafters at the Ministry of Justice was enhanced by ongoing advice and training by the expert.

OHCHR's assistance has helped to underpin PICCR's status as a Palestinian institution. PICCR is held in high esteem both by the PNA and the Palestinian population, as evidenced by the civilian population's increased willingness to make use of its services.

A core group of law enforcement officials are now well versed in human rights standards relevant to their profession and are committed to human rights principles. They are ensuring ongoing human rights training within their respective branches.

### Evaluation mission

An evaluation team concluded that the project's original rationale – assisting institutions that strengthen the rule of law in Palestine – remains valid. The team recommended "accepting the request of the Palestinian National Authority to extend the Project until the end of 2001". If it is to support a sustainable long-term development of the rule of law, then OHCHR must place a greater emphasis on strengthening institutional structures. To this end, the evaluation mission suggests that OHCHR apply itself more vigorously to:

- Encouraging the launch of the National Plan of Action and following up its implementation in the various sectors. This will involve: advice on and support for legislation and specific regulations which put the provisions of the National Plan into practice; technical training to enhance professional monitoring and legal reporting by Palestinian civil society organizations; support for appropriate awareness raising activities by civil society organizations (radio and television broadcasts, booklets, street campaigns).
- Supporting human rights training at the Police Academy as soon as it is established, and help embed human rights issues within the overall police training package.
- Intensifying cooperation with the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and its Committees to strengthen the legislature structurally and to enhance the legislative capacities of PLC members and staff.
- Offering technical training to Palestinian national institutions and NGOs to raise awareness and detailed knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian law; to enhance capacities for professional monitoring of and reporting on violations of economic, social and cultural rights; and to find ways of working effectively with the various UN and other international human rights bodies.
- Providing dedicated support to women's organizations, in particular those working to enhance the status and the rights of women, as well as those



involved in relief operations. Special attention should be given to women's empowerment projects in remote areas. This could be achieved by providing small grants to grassroots organizations through OHCHR's Assisting Communities Together (ACT) programme.

## Constraints

Following the outbreak of violence during the last quarter of the year 2000, several restrictions on the movement of Palestinians within and between the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been imposed. As a result of these restrictions, OHCHR had to postpone the implementation of planned training programmes for prison officials and training for members of the Human Rights and Monitoring Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Under these circumstances, a number of activities scheduled by OHCHR had to be cancelled; other UN and international agencies have been similarly affected. Considerable time and energy have been spent trying to circumvent the constraints and address emergency needs, leaving little room for pursuing long-term development and institution-building goals. It remains to be seen to what extent development efforts can be seriously resumed if current conditions persist, let alone deteriorate.

## Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries of the programme include Palestinian Authority officials, police, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers, prison officials, members and staff of the Palestinian Legislative Council, PICCR and various human rights NGOs. Indirect beneficiaries include civil society at large, through improved police services and an improved legal framework; victims of human rights violations, through the services of PICCR and the NGOs supported by the OHCHR programme; and women's groups and individuals, through the legal aid and public-awareness activities implemented by NGOs supported by the OHCHR programme.

## Coordination

The OHCHR project relies for the implementation of programme activities to a large extent on existing human rights expertise and institutions. Civil society and non-governmental groups, as well as Palestinian Authority ministries, agencies and departments, have contributed to the project's implementation. Several programme activities are specifically designed to bring together various national actors involved in, for example, law reform, or the formulation of national development strategies for various sectors. Various forms of coordination have also been established with other UN agencies and bilateral donors. This process is facilitated by the special structure set up by the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories (UNSCO). This structure provides for a number of sectoral working groups (on issues such as the rule of law and police) that gather together representatives of the United Nations, donors and the Palestinian Authority to review the assistance provided in each area, facilitate coordination and enhance synergies with other partners.

## The Philippines

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	0
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	134,700
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>134,700</b>
Programme support costs	10,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,476</b>

### Legal assistance

### Background

In January 1995, the Committee on the Rights of the Child considered the initial report of the Philippines. Noting the Government's firm commitment to promote and protect the rights of the child, the Committee recommended that the Philippines undertake a comprehensive reform of the administration of the juvenile justice system and seek assistance from OHCHR in this regard. Following a request from the Government in 1996, a needs assessment mission took place in July 1996, and a project formulation mission in September 1998. In December 1999, the High Commissioner, the Government of the Philippines and the Representative of UNICEF in Manila gave their signature to the inception of a two-year project. Activities began in May 2000.

### Objectives

The long-term objective of the project is to enhance the protection of the rights of the child within the juvenile justice system. The project provides assistance for:

- Developing juvenile justice legislation which conforms with international standards;
- Elaborating internal procedures for professionals dealing with children in conflict with the law;
- Training public authorities to promote the best interests of children, including developing specialised materials for the training-of-trainers courses; and
- Launching an information campaign to raise public awareness on the rights of children in conflict with the law.

### Implementation

Two project officers were hired by UNICEF in consultation with OHCHR: a legal adviser and a national training specialist.

The legal adviser participated in the drafting of the bills on a comprehensive juvenile justice system, which were filed in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the Philippine Congress. The adviser also provided technical support to the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives, where two hearings and three technical working group meetings on the law have already been conducted. Two workshops on juvenile justice were conducted for the House of Representatives and for the Senate in cooperation with the AKAP-Ateneo Human Rights Centre (AKAP).

A number of studies and workshops, raising awareness of the need for a comprehensive juvenile justice law and dealing with specific issues under debate, were subcontracted to relevant partners:

- The Integrated Bar of the Philippines conducted a consultation workshop on the bills on juvenile justice.
- A national dialogue on juvenile justice was organized by AKAP, bringing together more than a hundred lawyers from governmental and non-governmental institutions to discuss and propose reforms of the juvenile justice system.
- A study on harmonizing Philippine law with international standards on Juvenile Justice is being undertaken by the University of the Philippines at the Institute of Human Rights. The study will identify gaps in Philippine law and in so doing, support advocacy of law and policy reform.
- The Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (PAYO) has been conducting a study on the age of discernment of out-of-school youth, in support of the proposal in the juvenile justice bill to increase the age of criminal liability.
- PAYO has also been compiling case studies and success stories of children in conflict with the law, as an advocacy tool to show to what extent children are able to reintegrate themselves into society.

## Elaboration of internal procedures

**Judges:** Acting on a proposal by the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA), the Supreme Court promulgated the Rule on Examination of a Child Witness, which took effect on 15 December 2000.

**Media:** The Council for the Welfare of Children conducted a forum on media guidelines, for reporting and covering cases involving children, specifically addressing the problem of public exposure in the media.

**Police:** The National Police Commission has been conducting an evaluation of police structures, procedures and processes, with a view to proposing reforms in police handling of children.

## Training of public officials

**Family courts:** The Philippine Supreme Court, through PHILJA, has been preparing a manual on juvenile justice for use in the Family Courts by judges, prosecutors, public attorneys and paralegal personnel. The Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted a training seminar for social workers assigned to the Family Courts. PHILJA also conducted three multi-sectoral training seminars on the Family Courts in different regions and, in addition, a training for trainers seminar for police officers, prison officials and lawyers.

**Detention centres:** The Manila Youth Reception Centre of the Manila Social Welfare Department is producing a manual on best practice in juvenile detention, to be used by detention centre personnel. A workshop was held as a preliminary activity and the Commission on Human Rights – Child Rights Centre (CHR-CRC) also conducted a training seminar for prison wardens.

**Police officers:** Five training seminars for police officers and one orientation seminar for police chiefs were conducted by the Women's and Children's Concerns Division of the Philippine National Police.

**Prosecutors:** Two training seminars for prosecutors were conducted by the Department of Justice-Special Committee for Protection Children. The Public Attorneys held two training seminars which focused on the handling of cases of young offenders.

**Community leaders:** The National Secretariat for Social Action conducted training on the rights of the child for church workers and community leaders, with the objective of promoting community-based interventions and juvenile delinquency prevention programmes.

**Children:** The Albert Schweitzer Association of the Philippines (ASAP) conducted three workshops on children in conflict with the law and on empowering child detainees to become child rights advocates.

## Public awareness

ASAP produced a book of child detainees' stories, poems and drawings reflecting their aspirations.

A two-volume compilation of international standards and Philippine laws on justice for children is being produced by the University of the Philippines at the Institute of Human Rights; the draft has been completed and will be finalized during 2001.

## Impact and achievements

The juvenile justice system in the Philippines is at a critical turning point. Its conceptual basis and legal structure continue to be debated in Congress and within civil society. This turning point represents a unique opportunity to maximize on the impact of the project and its objectives. The project has thus been able to contribute substantially to promoting the protection of the rights of children in conflict with the law. It has done so by playing a catalytic and supervisory role and by ensuring that developments in the legal system, in procedures and in training

comply with international human rights standards. The drive to institutionalize a system of justice for children was instigated in March 2000 by the Supreme Court's designation of 69 Regional Trial Court branches as Family Courts. This action was subsequently complemented by the promulgation of the Rule on the Examination of a Child Witness. Cases involving children, whether as victims or as the accused, are now legally within the jurisdiction of the Family Courts. However, the adoption of a comprehensive juvenile justice law that will provide for non-judicial approaches to juvenile offences is still necessary. Through this project, UNICEF has expanded its involvement in the sector of juvenile justice administration to an extent well beyond that initially set by the project. UNICEF is now covering areas such as the prevention of juvenile delinquency, and crisis intervention, recovery and reintegration. It has also advocated that the *barangay* justice system, which puts a great emphasis on mediation and conciliation, be integrated into the administration of juvenile justice.

### Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are the Philippine children who are in conflict with the law. The direct beneficiaries are the five "pillars" of the juvenile justice system, including public attorneys, members of relevant committees of both chambers of the Legislature and members of the national human rights commission, representatives of NGOs and the media, those who use the internal operational guidelines and individuals who will receive training.

### Constraints

For officials within the five "pillars" justice system, the use of non-judicial approaches to handling cases involving children in conflict with the law is a new concept. They have been accustomed to dealing with these children by filing cases against them in court in accordance with existing legislation. Now, as a consequence of activities conducted under this project, officials are receptive to non-judicial approaches. However, the enactment of a comprehensive juvenile justice law, which provides the legal basis for these approaches, has been delayed due to political turmoil in the country. Following the adjournment of Congress in early February 2001, the juvenile justice bill will have to be re-filed when Congress reconvenes in June 2001.

### Coordination

The project was developed in close collaboration with UNICEF in Manila. The activities of the project fall within the remit of a broader project entitled "A comprehensive system of justice for children" which is included in the Fifth Master Plan of Operations as agreed and signed by the Government of the Philippines and UNICEF on 29 September 1998. The Philippine Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is the Government counterpart. As envisaged at the outset, local academic centres and NGOs have been subcontracted for the implementation of selected activities. There are currently 19 partners under this project, including the Commission of Human Rights, relevant professional organizations, the various administrative departments concerned and the University of the Philippines.



## Activities implemented through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

The following sections describe (page 110-163) a wide range of OHCHR activities, which are implemented through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). These include OHCHR field offices with the exception of Cambodia, support to the treaty bodies and special procedures, urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner and activities undertaken to strengthen the capacity of OHCHR. In 2000, these activities were funded from four trust funds administered by UNOG: the trust fund for support activities of OHCHR; the trust fund for human rights education in Cambodia; and two separate trust funds established to support field operations in Burundi and Rwanda. Unspent balances of voluntary contributions paid directly to UNOPS between mid-1998 and November 1999 constituted another important source of funding. Total voluntary contributions for these activities amounted to US\$ 17,228,015 of which US\$ 720,000 was paid directly to UNOPS.

### Statement of income and expenditure .....

(Activities implemented through UNOPS)

	TF for support activities of OHCHR	TF for human rights education in Cambodia	Support to field operations in Burundi	Support to field operations in Rwanda	Projects implemented through UNOPS	Total
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Opening balance	6,493,421	402,733	1,365,113	480,376	12,275,571	21,017,214
Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	14,631,828	1,876,187	0	0	720,000	17,228,015
Other funds available	1,540,520	800,480	126,871	391,623	(324,340)	2,535,154
Total funds available	22,665,769	3,079,400	1,491,984	871,999	12,671,231	40,780,383
Expenditure <sup>2</sup>	3,743,732	1,652,444	0	222,707	13,986,406	19,605,289
Allocations to UNOPS	(11,576,128)	0	0	0	11,576,128	0
Closing balance <sup>3</sup>	7,345,909	1,426,956	1,491,984	649,292	10,260,953	21,175,094

<sup>1</sup> In addition, a contribution in the form of an allotment amounting to US\$ 2,100,000 was made available from the United Nations Foundation/UNFIP.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include expenditure reports processed after 31/12/00 against 2000 commitments.

<sup>3</sup> Includes a total of US\$ 1,618,854 in operating cash reserves (not available for activities in 2001)

# Human rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities

## Introduction

### Budget and expenditure

	US\$	US\$
Burundi	2,750,031	2,282,897
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,521,048	1,141,344
Colombia	3,670,805	2,145,441
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,096,212	737,617
Croatia	1,334,845	694,226
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	3,230,896	1,764,033
Cambodia	1,376,340	1,652,444
Afghanistan <sup>1</sup>	56,500	(18,199)
Rwanda <sup>2</sup>	0	222,707
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,036,677</b>	<b>10,622,510</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjustments to prior period expenditure.

<sup>2</sup> OHCHR's field operation in Rwanda ended in 1998. Expenditure are related to outstanding commitments.

OHCHR's support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities in 2000 was a reflection of the importance it attaches to the geo-political application of human rights. OHCHR's field presence in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, contributed to the promotion and protection of human rights and to the integration of a human rights perspective into the work of the respective UN Country Teams. This was achieved by developing national human rights capacities and infrastructures; bringing national legislation and practices into line with international human rights norms; promoting human rights through information and education; preventing or addressing human rights violations, including arbitrary detention and capital punishment; and by supporting human rights work by Government or state institutions, NGOs and civil society.

OHCHR's operations included preventive action, and human rights work in situations of on-going armed conflict or post-conflict reconstruction. This entailed the development of more effective cooperative arrangements with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, particularly in connection with the recommendations of the Brahimi report on the human rights elements of UN peace operations. Similar developments have characterized on-going country-level efforts to integrate human rights into development processes shepherded by UNDP and other UN programmes.

In autumn 2000, the "management of change" programme yielded a carefully conceived strategy to consolidate OHCHR's field presence. At the same time, communication between Headquarters and OHCHR's field offices was sharpened up (according to recommendations by the heads of field offices, putting into practice the High Commissioner's policy of 'One Office').

A number of factors delayed the implementation of projects; these factors were often external to OHCHR (notably security and related considerations). Nevertheless, OHCHR's field presence has enhanced the management of its human and financial resources. Administrative problems were greatly reduced in 2000, through the support provided by OHCHR's new Chief of Administration. OHCHR's geographic teams of the Activities and Programmes Branch provided much needed support and backstopping to field offices which included a weekly review of outstanding problems.

## Voluntary contributions

Donor	Earmarking/ allocation	Pledge	Income					
		US\$	US\$					
Austria	FR Yugoslavia	34,573	33,510	Netherlands	Bosnia and Herzegovina	200,000	323,698	
Belgium	Burundi	93,703	86,716	Norway	Burundi	100,487	246,695	
	DR Congo	187,407	0		Colombia	235,000	235,000	
Canada	Colombia	400,000	385,825		Croatia	200,000	408,000	
Denmark	Burundi Bosnia and Herzegovina Cambodia Colombia Croatia	235,183	235,183		DR Congo	100,000	100,000	
		131,926	131,926		FR Yugoslavia	805,000	1,019,200	
		425,114	562,940					
		118,624	251,770					
		150,000	235,183					
Finland	DR Congo Bosnia and Herzegovina Cambodia Colombia Croatia FR Yugoslavia	25,000	143,837	Poland	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15,000	15,000	
		25,000	143,838		FR Yugoslavia	15,000	15,000	
		100,000	100,000	South Africa	Burundi	0	10,118	
		193,719	312,557		DR Congo	0	10,119	
		25,000	25,000		Rwanda	0	10,118	
		25,000	25,000		Yugoslavia	0	10,000	
France	Colombia DR Congo FR Yugoslavia	98,386	96,701	Spain	Colombia	83,243	79,018	
		98,386	96,701	Sweden	Cambodia	567,787	563,115	
		98,386	96,700		Colombia	619,058	217,746	
		FR Yugoslavia	50,000		0			
Germany	Bosnia and Herzegovina Cambodia Colombia Croatia FR Yugoslavia	118,027	120,483	Switzerland	Cambodia	18,072	17,241	
		71,811	72,438		Colombia	86,207	86,705	
		118,027	113,218	United Kingdom	Colombia	171,429	171,050	
		94,422	96,386					
		236,054	239,796					
Ireland	Bosnia and Herzegovina* Cambodia <sup>1</sup> Colombia* Croatia* FR Yugoslavia <sup>1</sup>	89,412	89,412	United States of America	Colombia	250,000	0	
		153,268	131,224		FR Yugoslavia	350,000	350,000	
		27,960	27,960	European Commission	DR Congo	388,252	0	
		120,000	120,000			DR Congo (Doc. Centre)	103,247	0
		36,990	36,684					
Italy	Burundi <sup>2</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia DR Congo <sup>2</sup> FR Yugoslavia	120,000	65,263					
		0	51,183					
		0	51,183					
		150,000	65,262					
		0	167,109					
Japan	Cambodia	20,000	20,000					
Luxembourg	Bosnia and Herzegovina <sup>3</sup> Cambodia Colombia <sup>4</sup> Croatia <sup>3</sup> FR Yugoslavia <sup>3</sup>	80,000	80,000					
		80,000	80,000					
		251,325	251,325					
		137,960	137,960					
		80,000	80,000					
<b>Total</b>						<b>10,127,327</b>	<b>10,997,680</b>	

<sup>1</sup> US\$ 20,000 allocated by OHCHR.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of US\$ 270,000 will be reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.

<sup>3</sup> Amount paid as a direct deposit to UNOPS New York.

<sup>4</sup> Of this amount, US\$ 222,040 was paid as a direct deposit to UNOPS New York.

\* Earmarked to field activities by donor, allocated by OHCHR.



# Burundi

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	1,142,064
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	740,355
Travel:	
OHCHR staff	50,340
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	124,104
General operating expenses	33,661
Supplies and acquisitions <sup>1</sup>	(58,062)
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars <sup>1</sup>	(12,199)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,020,263</b>
Programme support costs	262,634
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,282,897</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjustments to prior period expenditure.

## Background

The High Commissioner launched the Burundi technical cooperation programme in 1995. Since then, OHCHR's involvement has been extended, with monitoring by human rights observers deployed in 1996, and legal assistance provided by national and international lawyers recruited in 1997. In 1998 and 1999, evaluation missions were conducted. In 1998 the office in Burundi was restructured in order to develop closer links between civil society and local authorities: as a result of this restructuring, two sub-offices were opened in Gitega and Ngozi, and stronger links with other United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations were forged for the purposes of sharing information and experience. In addition to the two evaluation missions, an administrative audit was carried out in 1999, and a needs-assessment mission was conducted in 2000, with a focus on administration and personnel. Despite the signing of the Arusha Peace Accord in August 2000, there are persistent problems of insecurity in Burundi. There has been disagreement over the modalities of a cease-fire agreement and the leadership of transitional institutions. Meanwhile, instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has had repercussions in Burundi, particularly in the provinces bordering Tanzania, where rebel groups have intensified their efforts to control parts of the territory. In September 2000, a United Nations System Emergency Plan for Burundi was officially launched in the presence of major donors. The donor community reiterated its support for the Plan at a conference in Paris in December 2000. Through its role in the Emergency Plan, OHCHR has helped to bring a vital human rights perspective to the Arusha peace process and related activities.

## Objectives

The overarching goal of the project is to enable local partners to take over activities currently carried out by the Burundi office of OHCHR, namely monitoring, providing legal assistance through national lawyers, and supporting the development of an independent civil society.

**Monitoring:** The main immediate objective is to assist the Government in monitoring the human rights situation and contribute to the restoration of lasting peace in Burundi. The monitoring exercises aim to provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of the human rights situation. They focus on investigating serious human rights violations; monitoring detentions; understanding the minutiae of the administration of justice; and monitoring the situation of regrouped and internally displaced persons.

**Administration of justice:** The Burundi office is aware that lasting peace is only possible if supported by a strong and independent judiciary. The office aims to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law through the implementation of and respect for international human rights instruments. It seeks to achieve this on a day-to-day basis by providing technical cooperation on criminal justice procedures and legal assistance to individual defendants and plaintiffs.

**Human rights promotion, education and training:** The office also sensitizes the population by educating and training civil servants and members of various associations on the principles and mechanisms of human rights protection. It is envisaged that these civil servants and other trained national staff will promote and protect human rights after the human rights observers have departed.

## Implementation

OHCHR Burundi consists of three substantive units:

- The Observation Unit, whose mission is principally to investigate all cases of human rights violations and collaborate with the Government of Burundi to improve the situation;
- The Justice Unit, which provides legal assistance to defendants whose cases are going through the Criminal Chambers; and
- The Promotion Unit, which responds to human rights violations by organizing awareness-raising and training programmes for local authorities and civil society in Burundi.

The Office also provides regular substantive and logistics support to the special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burundi.

## Monitoring

During 2000, the office carried out monitoring activities, including the investigation of human rights violations, in particular violations of fundamental rights such as the right to physical integrity, the right to personal security, freedom of expression, or the right to choose one's residence; and murders. The human rights observers conducted regular visits to all prisons and most of the detention centres (*cachots*) in Burundi, with the exception of Makamba province and a part of Bururi province. The Office also carried out visits to internally displaced persons camps in the Bujumbura – Rural province and monitored the dismantling of these camps. The observers received hundreds of individual complaints; these were investigated and followed up when necessary. These complaints furnished reliable information to back up the urgent appeals made in the context of the Commission on Human Rights' special procedures. The office continued its collaboration with the Governmental Human Rights Commission through weekly meetings with its members and joint monitoring missions. The Observation Unit produced detailed weekly and monthly reports for the attention of the High Commissioner and monthly reports for the attention of the Government.

## Administration of justice

Through the services of national and international lawyers, OHCHR Burundi provided legal assistance in three Criminal Chambers in the country. In total, eight national lawyers provided legal assistance on a regular basis; furthermore, six international lawyers were assigned to the Criminal Chambers during its four one-month sessions in 2000. Workshops and debates were organized on judicial issues such as streamlining of the appeals process, the possible reform of the law on the Criminal Chambers, political detainees, amnesty, and impunity. An individual workshop was also organized on the issue of capital punishment. In addition to OHCHR's contribution to the elaboration of a new Penal Code, which entered into force in January 2000, the Burundi office participated actively in the accompanying awareness campaign organized by the Ministry of Justice throughout the country. This involved stimulating a national debate on the new Penal Code and the roles of the police force and the judiciary. The office also contributed to the revision of the prison regulations (through its participation in the Commission established for that purpose).

## Human rights promotion, education and training

In order to strengthen the capacity of civil society, technical assistance was provided to five local associations involved in the promotion of human rights either as a whole or in specific areas such as reproductive health, disability or conditions in detention. However, due to insufficient financial resources, many

educational projects on the promotion of human rights could not be carried out (for example, audiovisual campaigns, or training for NGO leaders and those employed in the field of education).

OHCHR Burundi actively participates in inter-agency activities on gender. These cover reform of the law, combating violence against women, and awareness campaigns on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The office also provides legal assistance to women who have been victims of discrimination as defined in various conventions.

OHCHR, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education participated in human rights competitions organized in primary and secondary schools. Contributions were made to the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on children and armed conflicts. OHCHR was also a participant at the launching of UNICEF's report entitled the *Situation of Children in the World – 2001* organized by UNICEF and the Government.

The office made a presentation on the Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons at a seminar attended by 30 people representing a variety of religious and professional groups. In June 2000, OHCHR and the NGO *l'Association pour la Communication et l'Education aux Droits de l'Homme* organized a joint seminar on torture and relevant legislation with officials from the Ministry of Human Rights, the judiciary and the police. In September 2000, the office participated in a seminar organized by UNDP and the ministry responsible for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and former refugees who have returned to Burundi. It contributed to the elaboration of 23 recommendations concerning the rehabilitation of IDPs. The Office also in a joint inter-agency evaluation mission led by the office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on the situation of IDPs and will present its report and recommendations to the Secretary-General.

The sub-office in Gitega was involved in the organization of training courses for 65 young people from the Nyamugari Centre on the principles of human rights and methods of resolving conflict. The office also made a contribution at the seminar in Ngozi on ethics and the practice of law.

The office organized commemorative activities for the 52nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and civil society organizations. These activities included round table discussions, television and radio programmes, and a human rights quiz competition; they provided a wide array of opportunities to disseminate the High Commissioner's message. The sub-offices in Ngozi and Gitega organized conferences and debates on International Human Rights Day.

## Impact and achievements

More than 2,000 defendants and plaintiffs benefited from the OHCHR's legal assistance programme, which led to a clear decrease in the number of death sentences. During the year, 197 long-term detainees were released as a result of the OHCHR's monitoring and legal assistance. The office's intervention tended to accelerate the wheels of justice. Detainees gained the confidence needed to face the court and defend themselves. Within the framework of technical cooperation, OHCHR contributed to the implementation of the new Penal Code. Since the enforcement of the new Penal Code on 1 January 2000, the legal authorities have been obliged to improve conditions for detainees, particularly with regard to the period of detention. Through its assistance to NGOs and promotional activities, the office was able to increase the resources and skills available within civil society and to raise human rights awareness in Burundi.



## Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of OHCHR's activities was the Government of Burundi, which is regularly notified about cases of human rights violations and receives assistance through OHCHR's various programmes. The other beneficiaries include civilians and victims of human rights violations who, with the help of OHCHR, now have an intermediary to defend their rights, and who are more convinced of the judiciary's credibility now that they enjoy the assistance of lawyers. The most vulnerable civilians (i.e. those detained, imprisoned or regrouped) were of particular concern to the office. OHCHR's activities also benefited NGOs and local associations which received technical assistance and financial support for their human rights related activities.

## Constraints

In 2000, the office in Burundi experienced four major constraints:

- Delays in the implementation of some planned activities due to the imposition of security phase IV (programme suspension) following the Muzye incident, in which two UN staff members and seven Burundians were killed. This security measure was imposed from October 1999 to April 2000 and resulted in the evacuation of five staff members and geographical restrictions in the area. These measures limited the scope of activities and shifted them to the main cities (i.e. Bujumbura, Ngozi and Gitega).
- Political instability and insecurity due to the absence of a cease-fire agreement despite the signing of the Arusha accord.
- With a significant decrease in resources for the Observation Unit, only three observers were left to monitor human rights violations. The observers therefore conducted monitoring exercises according to an established set of priorities, and with the emphasis on ensuring proper follow-up and the transfer of capacities to national institutions.
- Activities related to the promotion and education of human rights were postponed due to the non-availability of resources for these particular activities.

## Coordination

OHCHR Burundi works in close collaboration with United Nations agencies such as UNDP, UNESCO, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF, the Permanent Representation of the European Commission, international and national NGOs such as *Avocats sans Frontières*, *Ligue Iteka*, *Association Burundaise pour la Défense des Prisonniers* and others. The office started a process of mainstreaming human rights into the activities of the UN Country Teams, through the establishment of an inter-agency working group and through participation in the adoption of a strategy to assist internally displaced persons.

## Lessons learned

The office was readily informed about cases of human rights violations, but faced difficulties in investigating all of these with only three observers. OHCHR Burundi needs more manpower if it is to play a greater role in sustaining peace by incorporating human rights principles into the peace-building process. With massive repatriation of refugees as a central feature of this transitional period in Burundi's history, human rights violations associated with land rights and property issues have become matters of particular concern. The implementation of the peace agreement therefore requires additional human rights observers in the field to prepare for the return of refugees.

# The Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	607,016
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	57,566
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	59,013
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	104,259
General operating expenses	86,699
Supplies and acquisitions	8,547
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	86,940
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,010,040</b>
Programme support costs	131,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,141,344</b>

## Background

The political, economic and social contexts, as well as the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were marked by a multitude of events which took place during the reporting period. Significant progress in the area of human rights was offset by human rights violations taking place in the territory controlled by the Government and in the regions held by the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie* (RCD).

There were some positive developments, including: the Government's signing of a decree for general amnesty, which granted the release of 245 individuals; the demobilization of child soldiers and the establishment of a Rehabilitation Commission; and the release of political prisoners as well as the 509 individuals held at the *Centre Pénitentiaire et de Rééducation de Kinshasa* (CPRK) in November.

In November 2000, the DRC had approximately two million displaced persons, 70 per cent of them women and children. The socio-economic situation was no better than in 1999. The prices of basic goods rocketed as the value of the local currency plummeted. Transport problems were exacerbated by the shortage of fuel and the deterioration of basic infrastructure throughout the period.

## Objectives

The project aims to strengthen national governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in human rights matters. In particular, to encourage the DRC to demonstrate its respect for the provisions of the international and regional conventions to which it is a party by adhering to the national action plan for the promotion of human rights. OHCHR hopes as a consequence to see a significant improvement in the human rights situation in the country.

## Implementation

- The office conducted regular prison visits in Goma, Bukavu, Mbuji-Mayi and Bunia as well as weekly visits to the CPRK;
- A database on human rights violations was created;
- Weekly and monthly reports on the human rights situation were drafted;
- Support was provided to the Special Rapporteur through information gathering on cases of human rights violations, and follow-up with the Government or the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie/Goma* (RCD/Goma); support was also provided during the Special Rapporteur's visit of August 2000;
- A committee was set up to help protect vulnerable persons; it consisted of the Human Rights Field Office in the DRC (HRFOC), the ICRC and OCHA in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights;
- Following the application of the general amnesty pronounced by President Kabila in February 2000, 245 prisoners were released, including some political prisoners;
- Support was provided to the High Commissioner during her visit to the DRC in October 2000;
- Field investigations were conducted in Mwenga and Katagota in May 2000, in Sake in July 2000, and in Kirolirwe in August 2000;

## Human rights monitoring



- A family was reunified (members of the Meva family who had been stranded in the eastern and western regions of the DRC respectively); and,
- Field missions were conducted in the provinces of Bukavu, Bunia and Kisangani, which are under RCD authority.

### Technical cooperation

- The national human rights documentation centre in Kinshasa currently holds about 1,060 documents. An electronic bibliography is already available and the documentation centre was used by more than 3,100 people during the year. In the East, the office established a mini – library with brochures, books and UN reports on human rights;
- The *Centre d'Assistance Judiciaire et d'Education Juridiques* (CAJEJ) enabled legal assistance to be given free of charge to victims of human rights violations;
- Documentation was purchased for the CAJEJ and the Military Court;
- Support was provided to government institutions and civil society bodies for the organization of the International Human Rights Day events;
- A training seminar on the principles and mechanisms of human rights protection was held in Goma (August 2000) for 37 human rights activists from the provinces of North and South Kivu, Maniema and the Eastern Province;
- A training seminar on the role of lawyers in establishing the rule of law in the DRC was held in December 2000 for 50 lawyers from the provinces under government control;
- Relations with civil society were strengthened and the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project was implemented with five human rights NGOs;
- Human rights documentation was disseminated to human rights NGOs and to schools in the four eastern provinces of the DRC;
- Electronic and office equipment was provided to human rights NGOs in the eastern part of the DRC.

### Impact and achievements

Despite the political situation in the DRC, limited financial resources, and inadequate tools for the tasks in hand, the activities carried out by the office in 2000 had two broad effects. Firstly, they created collaborative links with the authorities and strengthened the role of civil society in the democratic process, and secondly, they brought together the various actors in the human rights arena (the Government, NGOs, especially human rights NGOs, other civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and others).

National, bilateral and multilateral partners and United Nations agencies have given greater consideration to human rights as a result of OHCHR's field office presence. Moreover, some of the office's achievements cannot be measured in quantifiable terms. These include follow-up on violations, especially the harassment of human rights activists, political leaders and journalists. The presence of a sub-office in Goma led to an increase in the number of professional human rights associations and of human rights teachers/trainers among NGOs and leaders of civil society. These associations are now more familiar with human rights principles and mechanisms (in effect, the educational and deontological tools they need) and have received vital logistical support. OHCHR's presence in the DRC served to build awareness within the population of human rights related questions. Civilians have expressed an interest in acquiring further

knowledge of basic human rights principles. In support of continuing education on human rights, the human rights documentation centre facilitated access to information, through in situ consultations, the provision of free documentation, and Internet searches for relevant documentation.

### Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project include: victims of human rights violations; members of NGOs; civil society actors; students and teachers; civil servants at the ministries dealing with human rights questions, in particular the Ministries of Human Rights, Information, Justice, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, and Education.

### Constraints

The main obstacles faced by the office relate to insufficient human and material resources, the persistence of the war and the insecure situation in the provinces. It should be noted that the Assistant Director only took up his position in September 2000, a whole year after the departure of his predecessor. Furthermore, the international member of staff in charge of the Goma sub-office worked alone for many months, without the necessary logistical support, until two local officers were recruited in June 2000.

### Coordination

The office's participatory approach facilitated the involvement of all United Nations agencies in the question of human rights in the DRC and provoked considerable interest within the donor community. Every month, the office organized two meetings to exchange information on the human rights situation, one in collaboration with certain embassies in the DRC, international NGOs and United Nations agencies, and the other with human rights NGOs.

In addition, a weekly meeting was held throughout the year with the human rights section of the United Nations Mission in the Congo (MONUC) in accordance with the terms of reference of cooperation between this section and the HRFOC. The office was part of a pilot group on the intervention of different donors in the field of justice.

In the area of inter-agency cooperation, OHCHR and UNDP began a joint project to support local peace initiatives in North and South Kivu provinces, in December 2000. Through this project, 36 persons from 18 areas in the target provinces were trained in human rights principles and mechanisms and in the methods of preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. The office in Kinshasa took part in the preparatory work of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and was responsible for three topics (justice, human rights and good governance); in the East, the Goma sub-office chaired the Commission on the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights.

### Lessons learned

As the main point of reference in support of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the adoption of the national plan of action assured the involvement of all national and international actors in its implementation.



# Colombia

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	1,240,744
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	259,682
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	194,521
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	26,069
General operating expenses	77,212
Supplies and acquisitions	49,491
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	50,901
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,898,620</b>
Programme support costs	246,821
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,145,441</b>

## Background

In November 1996, the High Commissioner and the Government signed an agreement that established a mandate for an office in Bogotá. The mandate includes the monitoring of the country's human rights situation and the provision of technical assistance to support the formulation and application of policies, programmes and measures to protect and promote human rights. The agreement was extended and modified on three occasions; most recently in February 2000, when the Government renewed the office's mandate until April 2002 and relaxed an earlier restriction on the number of international personnel working in the country. The office now hopes to expand and intensify its coverage of regions outside Bogotá.

## Overview of the national situation

Colombia continues to be wracked by violent internal conflict, which involves several armed elements including government forces, guerrilla groups, paramilitary forces and drug-traffickers. The civilian population continues to be the principal target of violence. As long as their crimes go unpunished, the perpetrators of human rights violations continue to act against the civilian population. Following the call by the Commission on Human Rights for greater respect for international humanitarian law, efforts are now underway to promote a "Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law". This initiative was supported by the Commission at its 56th session, as expressed in the Chairperson's Statement and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In addition, a number of countries that support Colombia are focusing their energies on a negotiated solution to the internal armed conflict. OHCHR's activities were undertaken within the framework of activities developed by the United Nations system in Colombia, and as such emphasised the promotion of a Comprehensive Agreement.

The call for such an accord is gaining support. The international community has called upon the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), the main guerrilla group, to adopt a human rights and humanitarian agreement. In November 2000, President Pastrana spearheaded a multi-political consensus initiative known as the "Common Front for Peace and Against Violence". There is an urgent need to include a comprehensive agreement within this initiative. In keeping with its mandate, the Bogotá office will continue to promote the proposal for a comprehensive agreement, in a spirit of support for the important process of consensus-building. This process is the only way to counteract the downward spiral of confrontation and polarisation.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country on the 3rd and 4th of December 2000. The visit was undertaken in order to verify the human rights situation in Colombia and support the work of the Bogotá office. The High Commissioner's presence came at a critical moment for the country when it appeared that a rupture of the peace process with the FARC could be imminent.

## Objectives

The principal objective of the project is to observe the human rights situation with a view to supporting the rule of law and promoting the development of a



self-sustaining environment for the protection, promotion and full enjoyment of human rights by all Colombians. This will be achieved through:

- Observation, monitoring and compiling analytical reports for the High Commissioner so that the international community is kept informed of the human rights situation in Colombia.
- Advising the Colombian authorities on the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes to promote and protect human rights and providing technical assistance to selected State and non-governmental institutions to strengthen national capacity in human rights protection.
- Public information and promotion of human rights activities, including publications and awareness raising campaigns. This is to be achieved by strengthening OHCHR's links with the local media, through the development of a communication strategy. Such a strategy will allow the Bogotá office to highlight human rights topics and raise the level of discussion within Colombian society, in particular with policy-makers.

## Implementation and achievements

### Advocacy and monitoring

The office focused its monitoring efforts in specific areas of the country where human rights violations are of particular concern. These areas include: Putumayo, Norte de Santander, Magdalena Medio, Montes de María, Urabá, Medio Atrato, Oriente de Antioquia and Centro Valle. In these areas, the office reported the persistent crisis in human rights and international humanitarian law to the government. However, the civilians in these areas continue to live under constant threat and the measures taken by the State to protect them proved inadequate. The observation team acquires its information through assiduously developed networks at a local and regional level and through frequent field trips to rural areas, particularly to areas of conflict. The office made a conscientious effort to intensify its activities and continue its work under serious and difficult circumstances.

- In May 2000, the UN Audit and Management Consulting Division released a positive report on the performance of OHCHR's Colombia team in 1999. It was noted that the office is well managed and has established a good internal control system. The Government, NGOs, and the donor community recognized that the office constitutes a valuable and credible presence in the country.
- Through well-targeted publicity drives with the national and international media, the Bogotá office successfully generated serious discussion within civil society and the international community about peace negotiations and the urgent need for the FARC guerrillas and the Government to reach a comprehensive agreement on human rights and international humanitarian law.
- During the last week of June, at a meeting with the FARC leadership, 21 embassy representatives called for such an agreement.
- The office presented the Colombian Constitutional Court with two *amicus curiae* for important human rights cases (the massacre in Mapiripán and the disappearance and extra-judicial execution of Erika Nidia Bautista). In the Bautista case, the *amicus curiae* helped ensure that this crime against humanity will not be tried in the military courts.
- The office, through its participation in the debate on the "specialised justice system" contributed to a Constitutional Court decision which declared unconstitutional a provision for the anonymity of prosecutors and witnesses.

### Advisory and technical cooperation activities

The implementation of seven of the 13 technical cooperation projects formulated in 1999 was initiated; three of them have been completed. As a



result, two compilations were produced, one on international humanitarian law instruments and international criminal law, and the other on international and national case-law and doctrine. In addition, the human rights and international humanitarian law study programme was incorporated into the standard training of judicial officials, both at the Higher Judiciary Council and the Prosecutor General's Office.

- Relations with national NGOs entered a new positive phase of dialogue. Two workshops were carried out in July and November in the cities of Barranquilla and Bucaramanga. These workshops were attended by 125 representatives of NGOs, social organizations, unions and the church in Atlantico, Sucre, Bolivar, Cordoba, Magdalena, La Guajira, Cúcuta, Arauca, Santander, Norte de Santander and Middle Magdalena.
- In collaboration with UNDP, the office financed and advised five community organizations administering micro-projects in Cartagena, Tubú, Carmen de Bolivar, Bucaramanga and Carmen de Atrato.
- A workshop on human rights and protection mechanisms for the displaced was held in coordination with the national NGO CODHES (Advisory Office for Human Rights and Displacement).
- Human rights became a central theme of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as a result of OHCHR's efforts.

### **Public information and human rights promotion**

During the second half of 2000, the office prioritized the development and implementation of a coherent multi-faceted strategy for public information, including the promotion of international human rights standards. The strategy targeted the mass media, political interest groups, public opinion makers, the academic community, NGOs and the private sector. Among the many promotion activities, the following may be singled out:

- More than 30 articles were published in national newspapers thus establishing an important relationship with the media devoted to human rights issues.
- OHCHR staff made presentations on human rights at numerous national and regional seminars, workshops and forums.
- The Bogotá office held a series of briefings and meetings with union leaders, national and international journalists, opinion makers, regional and national politicians, and the business sector.
- In partnership with the National University, the office published a compilation and update of the recommendations on international human rights and humanitarian law applicable to Colombia. A CD-Rom on the same subject and a web page were designed.
- The 1999 report of the High Commissioner to the Commission on Human Rights was very well received by the international community and NGOs. The report was the object of unprecedented coverage in the media: it was cited in a number of significant newspapers and featured in news broadcasts on four national television stations.
- Six fact-sheets and a booklet on self-protection measures for Colombian defenders of human rights were completed in 2000 and published in 2001.

### **Beneficiaries**

#### **Direct beneficiaries**

- Individuals and communities at risk of human right violations and breaches of international humanitarian law;
- State and national institutions working in human rights protection and education;
- Vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons and Afro-Colombian and indigenous minority groups;

**Indirect beneficiaries**

- Representatives of national print and broadcast media, especially journalists; and
- National NGOs and other civil society organizations.
- Society in general, as all Colombians will benefit from any progress towards fulfilment of the conditions needed to guarantee the full enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

**Structure of OHCHR Colombia**

Under the leadership of a Director and Deputy Director, the Bogotá office is divided into four strategic, interdependent work areas:

**Observation:** Responsible for consolidating data concerning cases and situations with a view to encouraging investigations by national authorities. Identifies and initiates follow-up on situations and themes requiring further analysis and preventive action.

**Public information and human rights promotion:** Responsible for promoting and raising consciousness of: OHCHR's mandate, functions and activities; international human rights norms; recommendations concerning human rights and international humanitarian law.

**Legal support:** Responsible for the analysis of legal and thematic aspects of human rights and international humanitarian law as applied to the office. Reviews complaints and cases in terms of admissibility under law and/or legal categorization, and initiates follow-up strategies with the competent authorities.

**Technical cooperation:** Responsible for the identification, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of projects, relations with donors, the measurement of impact and the development of performance indicators for OHCHR's activities.

**Coordination**

The office interacts with a wide variety of partners, including UN agencies, international financial institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Government institutions, universities and national and international human rights NGOs. OHCHR continues to work in close cooperation with the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on International Assistance to Colombia.

OHCHR participated in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Common Country Assessment (CCA). The UN agencies in Colombia set up four groups to coordinate work on priority areas of concern. OHCHR is coordinating the thematic group on human rights and participated in the three other thematic groups: alternative development, local development and reconciliation and internal displacement.

As OHCHR is viewed as an "honest broker" in Colombia, the office plays a key role in bringing together State and non-governmental human rights actors. It established and continues to facilitate and coordinate forums where national institutions working for the protection and promotion of human rights meet on a regular basis to exchange information and build consensus around key national policy issues. The office also participates in forums with national and international institutions set up to address regional and thematic concerns.



## Challenges and constraints

Given Colombia's complex political and security situation, it is still too early to contemplate an "exit strategy" for OHCHR, which represents the only international human rights monitoring capacity in Colombia. In addition, signals from the Government of Colombia and the international community indicate a desire for OHCHR to increase, not reduce, its presence in Colombia. The Bogotá office is nevertheless conscious of the need to ensure the early involvement of national human rights partners in as many of its activities as possible. Due to the late arrival of funds, the Office has yet to implement a number of agreements signed with local partners. The ultimate goal of the Office is to establish a self-sustaining environment for the protection, promotion and full enjoyment of human rights by all Colombians. This would reduce, or even eliminate, the need for international protection in the form of the High Commissioner's Office.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	565,592
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	31,536
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	27,946
General operating expenses	21,896
Supplies and acquisitions	5,788
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>652,758</b>
Programme support costs	84,859
<b>Total</b>	<b>737,617</b>

### Background

Although the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in November 1995 ended the war and brought Bosnia and Herzegovina into a phase of peace-building, serious obstacles continue to prevent recovery. Annex VI of the Dayton Agreement incorporated a wide range of international human rights instruments into Bosnia and Herzegovina's legal system, including virtually all the major United Nations and European instruments. A complicated constitutional and legal system was created with a highly decentralized structure, especially in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (one of two so-called Entities which make up the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the other being the Republika Srpska). This decentralized structure and its poorly functioning institutions have, unfortunately, effectively conspired with political obstruction to prolong the reimposition of the rule of law and the reassertion of respect for human rights. OHCHR has worked on two fronts, ensuring that a human rights perspective is incorporated into the work of the international community on one hand, and the national authorities on the other.

On 9 May 2000, two ministries were created: the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, and the Ministry of European Integration. They have proved reliable partners for OHCHR and other international organizations in addressing trafficking issues; their potential, however, remains largely untested. Other positive developments were the Government's increased compliance with recommendations by human rights institutions. Experience in 2000 appears to show increased willingness on the part of the Government to cooperate across ethnic divides, specifically at the technical level.

The human rights situation did not change fundamentally, but some progress was made, especially in the area of minority returns and property reinstatement as well as in addressing the problem of trafficking in human beings. The improvement of the security situation was satisfactory, largely due to an international military and police presence, but also due to the improved performance of local police in some areas. Nevertheless, as the economic situation continued to worsen and social tensions increased, there were incidents of human rights violations (more than 300 incidents recorded during the last 9 months of 2000).

In municipal elections in April and general elections in November 2000, an increase in votes for non-nationalistic political parties was recorded in the Federation only (not in Republika Srpska). The obstructiveness of some political parties after the November elections prolonged the political impasse in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and rendered the Government generally ineffective for the rest of the year. The Constitutional Court responded by issuing a significant decision on the conformity of the Entity Constitutions with the Federal Constitution, but there was no progress in implementing the decision in 2000.

## Objectives

In 2000 OHCHR's priorities with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina were unchanged and focused on gender issues, discrimination, social and economic rights, the protection of minorities and the rule of law as well as the mandate of the special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

OHCHR's overall and immediate objectives for 2000 were to:

- Achieve a better understanding of gender issues and increased protection of women's rights;
- Reduce all forms of discrimination and enhance the protection and promotion of economic and social rights;
- Bring human rights, including women's rights and economic and social rights, to the forefront of all the activities of the United Nations and the international community; and
- Ensure constructive dialogue with government authorities and civil society, based on an accurate assessment of the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Implementation

### Human rights training

OHCHR assigned a human rights officer to train the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina/International Police Task Force (UNMIBH/IPTF) and the Stability Force (SFOR) on human rights, and to devise other human rights training programmes as required. The trainer developed and updated training materials to ensure their compatibility with the evolving needs of the UN mission and country situation. The trainer also provided assistance and expert advice on developing various policies and guidelines with the UNMIBH/Human Rights Officers (HRO). In addition, he assisted in developing training materials for different units of the UNMIBH and participated in the establishment of a human rights campaign. OHCHR staff (i.e. human rights and gender experts) also extended their training expertise to other organizations in the Region by developing human rights training materials, especially with respect to violence against women (two missions were set up to assist the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Albania in 2000).

### Gender issues and trafficking

A major focus of OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2000 was on gender mainstreaming and trafficking. The primary focus was to initiate, coordinate and assist the Government in its response to the problem of trafficking in human beings, in particular as it relates to the forced sex trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In November 2000, the Council of Ministers agreed that Bosnia and Herzegovina should devise and implement a national plan of action to combat trafficking. This was a major achievement for OHCHR, which initiated the process. The Ministry for European Integration took overall responsibility in



the preparation of the plan, which involved the cooperation of all relevant ministries and NGO networks as well as working with the international community. OHCHR will continue to provide support to the Ministry in this area. Building on previous experiences in Bosnia and Herzegovina, OHCHR played a significant role in working towards the adoption of a regional approach to trafficking. To this effect, OHCHR was involved in the creation and work of the trafficking task force of the Stability Pact chaired by the working group on prevention. This included the drafting of concept documents (including model national plans of action, and project proposals) and attending the meetings of the working group, which is now complete.

To this effect, the following activities were conducted in 2000:

- The OHCHR gender expert continued to provide vital input and expertise on the work of the gender coordination group.
- The implementation of a coordinated programme on the protection of victims of trafficking continued: the bulk of the practical assistance was provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNMIBH, while OHCHR provided support and expertise. OHCHR focused increasingly on working with the Government, successfully encouraging state responsibility, and much time was devoted to ensuring the protection of victims of trafficking at the regional level (in order to enhance regional cooperation).
- A report on the situation and approaches taken to combat trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina was issued in May 2000 in cooperation with UNMIBH.
- In cooperation with local NGOs and international organizations, a training programme on gender-based violence was piloted in Zenica Canton for the police, the judiciary and others; the programme was successfully completed in August 2000.
- Assistance was given to UNHCR for its gender analysis of the repatriation programme; a report was issued in May 2000.
- In March 2000, OHCHR provided “Beijing plus Five” training for NGOs. This resulted in a series of recommendations, which were forwarded to the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina in New York, in June 2000, as part of the Beijing review process.
- In June 2000, OHCHR organized training for all representatives of the international community on how to incorporate a gender analysis into the work of the international community.
- Numerous presentations and training sessions were provided by OHCHR on gender issues and trafficking both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Region, including:
  - Training at a conference organized by IOM in Sarajevo on trafficking and the media (spring 2000).
  - A speaker and presenter at a conference organized by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), in Sofia (spring 2000).
  - Participation in the gender task force of the Stability Pact, in Zagreb (spring 2000).
  - Providing a keynote speaker and facilitator at the Council of Europe/OHCHR Conference on Trafficking, in Athens (June 2000).
  - OHCHR made contributions to two conferences/seminars on gender and peacekeeping funded and attended by the Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands (November/December 2000). The aim was to assess the overall progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina on gender issues and to comment on the role and impact of the international community, including the peacekeeping forces.

## **Discrimination in the enjoyment of economic and social rights**

### *Discrimination in employment*

The general objective was to formulate strategies to eliminate discrimination in the area of economic and social rights, and to integrate international human rights standards into Bosnia and Herzegovina's economic and social legislation. More specifically, the aim was to have relevant international organizations prioritise the issue of discrimination in employment and encourage them to integrate a human-rights dimension into their strategies and legislation.

To this end OHCHR:

- Coordinated an awareness-building strategy with relevant international and local counterparts, mainly through the monthly Coordination Group on Economic and Social Rights (GESR), but also on an individual basis to share information.
- Advised international organizations involved in economic and social reforms on human rights standards and the implications of enforcing human rights legislation, programmes and policies.
- Elaborated issue papers and reports on, for example, discrimination in the employment sector and the situation of trade unions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Drafted a strategy document on anti-discrimination in the employment sector aimed at creating equitable employment standards and practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The strategy includes the elaboration of an information campaign, dissemination of fair employment principles, audits of targeted companies, the establishment of a monitoring system to measure progress, the development of a solid litigation strategy, and the implementation of the principle of conditionality of assistance and investments. Some elements of the strategy were implemented, while others will be implemented in 2001.
- Undertook an analysis of the Federation and Republika Srpska laws on labour relations and employment services in light of international labour and human rights standards and proposed amendments to be incorporated into the legislation.
- Initiated cooperation with relevant local actors, namely trade unions (including recently founded women sections), to inform them about anti-discriminatory standards and initiatives, and to increase their participation in civil society.

### *Health and human rights*

The objectives of this project were to:

- Identify the main agencies involved in the provision of health care, both international and national;
- Gather relevant information about the Bosnian health structure and identify inequities in access to health care due to deficiencies in the health system;
- Conduct reviews of health legislation in light of international human rights standards and urge local health stakeholders to make positive changes;
- Review the health status of disadvantaged groups, i.e. the unemployed and the disabled, with special attention to the situation of returnees and displaced persons as well as to the accessibility of health care to ethnic minorities; and
- Assess the current situation and policies relating to HIV/AIDS, particularly in prisons.

To this effect, the following activities were conducted in 2000:

- In January 2000, OHCHR identified the main agencies dealing with health and human rights, and chaired the first working group on health and human rights in February 2000, with regular meetings subsequently throughout the year.
- OHCHR worked on promoting solutions for inequities in the health care system in accordance with international human rights standards and criteria



for measuring inequalities in health care. However, this research could not be written up due to the lack of accurate health data in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- OHCHR prepared a review of two Federation laws - on health care and health insurance - in light of international human rights standards.
- OHCHR organized the recruitment of a medical expert to assess the impact of health legislation on selected vulnerable groups, but owing to a lack of funds and other technical difficulties, the consultant could not be hired.
- The office provided extensive advice to OHCHR in Geneva during preparations for a conference on human rights and mental health held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.
- OHCHR began to work with UNHCR, IOM and the Office of the High Representative to overcome the difficulty of ensuring the safety of returnees, including repatriated pensioners, and their access to health care.

#### *Other economic and social rights*

This project was developed further to reports by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia about the insecurity of the environment for the most vulnerable groups of people. Many victims and witnesses were unable to return to their homes, as they lacked the most basic protection of their rights, including the right to secure housing. In an attempt to create a secure environment, a rights-based approach was initiated by OHCHR at the end of 2000 and discussed with members of the gender coordination group. At year's end, this project document was being prepared by OHCHR for implementation in 2001.

### **Return of refugees and irregular migration**

OHCHR conducted a legal analysis of return-related legislation in Croatia, including the "1998 Programme for the Return and Accommodation of Displaced Persons, Refugees and Resettled Persons", which was adopted by the Croatian Parliament. A comprehensive report issued in February 2000 was subsequently endorsed by the Special Rapporteur and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report successfully drew attention to the need for a regional strategy on return-related issues.

During 2000, irregular migration through Bosnia and Herzegovina became a major issue of concern; it also became clear that neither local authorities nor the international community were dealing with this issue from a human rights perspective. As a result, OHCHR began to address the issue in November 2000. OHCHR participated in the working group responsible for drafting the bye-laws on conditions and methods of entry of aliens, issuance of visas and other travel documents and issuance of residence permits for aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as implementing the law on immigration and asylum.

### **Mandate of the Special Rapporteur**

The objective of OHCHR's reporting function is to ensure that regular reports and briefings on human rights developments are provided to support the mandates of the Special Rapporteur and the High Commissioner. To this effect, the following activities were undertaken in 2000:

- OHCHR continued to collect and analyze information on the human rights situation throughout the country. This was for the most part achieved through cooperation with the Human Rights Coordination Centre which meets regularly in Sarajevo with other agency partners and to which an OHCHR staff member was seconded on a part-time basis.
- Information and briefings were provided at regular intervals to the Special



Rapporteur and the High Commissioner about the human rights situation. The Office organized and assisted field missions and follow-up sessions for two missions during 2000, and also assisted in the drafting of reports for the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly.

- Since January 2000, the Human Rights Coordination Centre has produced quarterly human rights reports, which are widely distributed to the public in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere. It has also issued progress updates on the inclusion of a human rights perspective in the criteria for accession to the Council of Europe. It also organized the priority-setting exercise in January 2000 which charted a course for the human rights task force.
- In addition, OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina produces its own weekly and monthly reports for OHCHR in Geneva.

## Impact and achievements

Evaluations and comments received from the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and others indicated that OHCHR training had a significant impact on the ability of the International Police Task Force (IPTF) to work with the local police on human rights issues. It is anticipated that discrimination in the employment sector will be addressed as a consequence of OHCHR efforts to ensure the reform of labour legislation and the promotion of fair employment principles. The legal framework, which complies with international standards, was established for both Entities. The recommendations flowing from the analysis of health-related legislation should lead to improved access to health care, if backed up by advocacy and monitoring, and ensure the protection of vulnerable groups. In order to involve local health authorities and ensure greater continuity of the work of the health and human rights working group, OHCHR proposed that the newly established Inter-Ministerial Health Council take over the administration of the working group.

## Coordination

OHCHR's Office in Bosnia is located at the UN House in Sarajevo and works closely with the IPTF and the UNMIBH Human Rights Office. The office also cooperates closely on specific projects with other UN agencies and international organizations present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the World Bank. In addition to co-operating on specific projects, OHCHR participated in the Common Country Study (CCS) process, which took place from March to October 2000. OHCHR's role was to ensure that a human rights and gender perspective was incorporated into the CCS document, which became the underpinning of the joint UN Plan of Action for Bosnia and Herzegovina. To that end, OHCHR staff participated in a UN group which reviewed drafts provided by national experts.

## Constraints

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a State in transition, undergoing a difficult reconstruction process after a devastating war. It continues to be a deeply divided society and the reconciliation process will undoubtedly be long and slow. Governmental capacities are very limited for several reasons, not least the country's overarching economic problems and ruined infrastructure. Cooperation is still poisoned by inter-ethnic suspicion – sometimes hatred – which is manifest in the politically obstructive behaviour of certain political parties. Corruption and



organized crime are endemic and endanger healthy economic development. The authorities are therefore hard pressed to fulfil even their most basic responsibilities.

### Lessons learned

To sustain and achieve progress in programme implementation, OHCHR must work more closely with its Government counterparts and Bosnian civil society. Project coordination with UNDP and other UN agencies is equally crucial, if Bosnia and Herzegovina is to escape the semi-paralysis of its post-conflict period and develop.

## Croatia

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	482,315
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	0
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	29,991
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	21,332
General operating expenses	30,920
Supplies and acquisitions	17,128
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	32,673
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>614,359</b>
Programme support costs	79,867
<b>Total</b>	<b>694,226</b>

### Background

OHCHR has been present in the Republic of Croatia since 1993. The field office was first established to support the mandate of the special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and was primarily engaged in monitoring activities. It has recently given greater attention to technical cooperation programmes with the Government, especially after the signing of an agreement between the High Commissioner and the Foreign Minister in Zagreb in May 1999. A memorandum of understanding recognizing OHCHR's status was signed in June 2000. In January 2000, a coalition of centre-left parties won an overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections. Early the following month, Stjepan Mesic won the presidential election, completing the final phase of a period of political change in Croatia.

The human rights situation in Croatia has improved substantially since the field office was first established. Improvements were made in a number of key areas and the new Government's progress has been widely acknowledged; an important development was Croatia's accession to the Council of Europe. Nevertheless, several causes for concern remain, and these were the focus of the office's overall activities. These include: the slow pace of return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees; the unresolved question of restitution of property; continued disregard for international standards of fair trial (in war-crimes prosecutions); and delays in resolving issues related to missing persons. In some cases, problems persist at the local level after they have ostensibly been resolved by changes in legislation and policy.

### Objective

In 2000, the principal objective was to continue to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in a manner consistent with the mandate of OHCHR. To achieve this, the office adopted the following strategy:

**Monitoring:** Continue to observe and assess the human rights situation in the field and report violations to relevant UN bodies, as well as to the Government, for redress.

**Training:** The office trained and advised government officials on reporting obligations to UN treaty bodies. It also implemented training programmes for police officers, judges and prosecutors, journalists and members of NGOs on human rights norms appropriate to their professions; this was undertaken within the framework of OHCHR's overall technical cooperation programme.

**Advocacy:** The office disseminated information on various human rights topics pertinent to Croatia. Relevant UN human rights documents, and works by prominent human rights defenders and academics, were obtained and distributed.

**Regional approach:** In cooperation with OHCHR offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the field office in Croatia developed a regional approach to specific human rights issues common to all three countries, including gender and anti-trafficking strategies, the return of refugees, and war-related prosecutions.

## Implementation

- In February 2000, OHCHR organized two round tables in Zagreb on human rights issues relevant to Croatia, in cooperation with the European Law Students Association. A similar meeting was organized by the office in March 2000, at the Law Faculty of Split University.
- In March 2000, OHCHR held a seminar for judges and prosecutors on the promotion and protection of women's rights, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Croatian Law Centre.
- In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, OHCHR conducted a training seminar on human rights and law enforcement for Croatian police officials in March 2000 in Opatija.
- OHCHR funded and provided expert assistance to the Ministry of the Interior to translate into Croatian *Human Rights and Law Enforcement*, a UN manual on human rights and policing; some 2,000 copies were printed and made available to all police stations in the country.
- In July 2000, OHCHR ran the second annual human rights summer school in Dubrovnik, for senior law students from Osijek, Rijeka, Split and Zagreb. The project was designed to lay the groundwork for future judges and lawyers to contribute to the protection of human rights. Over the long term, the aim is to support existing law schools in Croatian universities and ultimately include human rights as a standard course option.
- In September 2000, in cooperation with the Coalition for International Justice, the Croatian Law Centre and the Ministry of Justice, OHCHR conducted a seminar in Osijek for judges, lawyers and prosecutors on the issue of domestic war crimes prosecutions. Its aim was to provide a forum at which legal practitioners could share practical experience and discuss points of law and problems pertinent to past and future war crimes cases.
- The Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre was formally opened by OHCHR in Zagreb on 24 October 2000 to coincide with the worldwide observance of United Nations Day 2000. The inauguration was attended by senior Government officials, heads of international organizations, members of the diplomatic corps and the Croatian media.
- In November 2000, the International Service for Human Rights, the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and OHCHR conducted two regional training courses on the effective application of international human rights law and procedures for local NGOs. Funding was provided by the United Kingdom.
- In addition, the field office participated in the "Assisting Communities Together" (ACT) small grant programme, by sponsoring local human rights initiatives by five Croatian NGOs.



**Assisting and facilitating the work of the special rapporteur** OHCHR supported the work of the special rapporteur throughout the year, by working with him on interventions in individual cases and assisting him in the preparation of reports to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. Missions of the special rapporteur to Croatia in January and April were organized, and meetings arranged with senior officials of the new Government, heads of international organizations, journalists and NGOs.

**Human rights monitoring** OHCHR continued its monitoring activities, focusing on the right to personal security; freedom from discrimination; freedom of expression; women's rights; the independence of the judiciary; the right to return and property-related issues; and socio-economic rights. Activities included the systematic monitoring of war-crimes trials and interceding with relevant Government ministries in a number of individual cases (concerning citizenship, property, eviction, harassment, or war crimes). OHCHR visited prisoners charged with war crimes and referred cases to relevant inter-governmental organizations if they fell outside the mandate of OHCHR.

**Expanded cooperation with the Government and the international community** OHCHR made progress in strengthening cooperation with the Croatian Government and the Zagreb-based international community. A memorandum of understanding which regularizes the status of OHCHR as a diplomatic mission in Croatia was signed on 6 June 2000 in New York by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia.

### Impact and achievements

During the reporting period, OHCHR's technical cooperation activities had a broad impact on several key sectors of Croatian society. For example, the training activities for law enforcement officials achieved significant results including the translation of the manual *Human Rights and Law Enforcement*. The seminar for police officers produced a series of recommendations for improvements in the structure of the police department; these were submitted to the Ministry of the Interior for consideration. The workshop for judges and prosecutors on gender discrimination and violence against women was considered useful by participants. The newly appointed Minister of Justice had an opportunity to listen to first-hand accounts of the problems encountered in efforts to protect women's rights and combat violence against women. The Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre opened in Zagreb, in October 2000, and will serve as a valuable resource for academic researchers, lawyers, journalists, activists and other members of civil society desirous of a more rigorous adherence to international human rights standards in Croatia.

On gender-related issues, OHCHR focused its efforts on increasing cooperation with relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies, especially the State Commission on Equality, which has representatives from various ministries and NGOs on its advisory board. The Commission, which systematically monitors the government's policy on equality, invited OHCHR to serve as observer and informal facilitator.

### Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries included victims of human rights violations. The Office assisted the Government by providing advice on the practical implementation of human rights standards, and disseminating information on human rights to the public at large. Other beneficiaries included Government departments dealing with treaty reporting, national human rights NGOs and academic institutions.

# The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	1,111,938
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	282,033
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	147,183
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	25,985
General operating expenses	78,444
Supplies and acquisitions <sup>1</sup>	(84,492)
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,561,091</b>
Programme support costs	202,942
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,764,033</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjustments to prior period expenditure.

## Background

OHCHR's office in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was established in 1996 with headquarters in Belgrade and sub-offices in Pristina and Podgorica. In November 1998, the Government concluded an agreement with OHCHR which formally recognized the Office's presence in the country under the mandate of the High Commissioner. OHCHR's remit was to monitor, report on, and promote human rights throughout the country. In connection with the Kosovo crisis, OHCHR has supported the mandates of the special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and the High Commissioner's Special Envoy on Persons Deprived of Liberty.

Following the political changes which took place in October 2000, the human rights situation improved markedly in Serbia. The new Government worked on a range of legislative and other measures best described as "rule of law issues" as well as the fate of draft evaders and Kosovo Albanians detained in Serbia. However, minority groups were still under pressure in Serbia and FRY. In Montenegro, the human rights situation was stable, but at year's end political unrest remained a possibility in the run-up to a referendum on the republic's status (scheduled for 2001). The human rights situation in Kosovo was still a cause for considerable concern. In the wake of the victory of moderate political forces in the October administrative elections, the level of political violence increased, especially against moderate Albanian politicians. In general, ethnic tension and conflict remained areas of concern in a region where the rule of law is often distinguished by its absence.

In the south of Serbia, close to the border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, ethnic Albanian-dominated areas were the scene of military confrontations between the "Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac (UCPMB)" and the Yugoslav army. These areas were excluded from the Kumanovo military agreement of July 1999 and remained under the control of Serbian authorities.

In 2000, nine international staff (human rights officers and security personnel), 13 national staff and two members of staff in Geneva (for back-up) were funded by the operation.

## Objectives

The project's objectives were to monitor the human rights situation and improve the implementation of international human rights standards throughout the country through cooperation with national, local and international authorities. OHCHR's main areas of concern were: the fate of prisoners, detainees and missing persons; protection of the rights of minorities; the establishment of an effective and fair judicial system; early warning and conflict prevention; support to civil society and capacity building; and support to the process of reconciliation.

## Implementation

The Office supported the special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and the High Commissioner's Special Envoy on Persons Deprived of Liberty in carrying out their respective mandates. Substantive assistance and logistical support was provided for field missions and in the preparation of

## Human rights mechanisms

reports. OHCHR-FRY also submitted material of relevance to thematic UN mechanisms to the special rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression; the independence of judges and lawyers; and torture; and also to the two Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention, and on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

**Support to civil society**

The Office administered and monitored implementation of the “Assisting Communities Together” (ACT) programme, which awarded 19 small grants for community initiatives in 2000, most of them in Serbia and Montenegro. OHCHR cooperated with several municipalities and a staff member served as liaison to the NGO community.

**Trial monitoring and assistance to the judicial system**

OHCHR attended dozens of legal proceedings in 2000, often in cooperation with local NGOs, and worked in consultation with the Ministry of Justice to facilitate respect for the rule of law, administered in accordance with international standards of human rights. In some cases, OHCHR contributed to the release of illegally detained defendants. Moreover, the office stimulated discussion among the parties involved in judicial cases. Monitoring of trials was often combined with visits to detainees during all phases of the judicial process. OHCHR also provided consultations, analysis and assistance to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR with reference to the administration of justice.

In late 2000, OHCHR and the High Commissioner’s Special Envoy played a key role in early contacts between UNMIK and the Yugoslav authorities in Belgrade regarding the fate of detainees and missing persons from both sides of the Kosovo conflict. The office participated in high-level meetings and helped clarify the situation of dozens of detainees in Serbia, which was a major confidence-building achievement. The office’s role was enhanced by its intensive programme of prison visits, which enabled it to pass first-hand information on to concerned parties.

**Cooperation with international partners**

OHCHR provided support and expertise to other international agencies in FRY, including OCHA, UNHCR, OSCE/ODIHR in Kosovo and Montenegro, and UNMIK. Since the end of the NATO intervention, OHCHR and ICRC have worked together on prisoners, detainees and missing persons. This work was to an extent undertaken in the framework of the Commission on Prisoners and Detainees, established by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Pristina in September 1999, under the chairmanship of OHCHR.

**Impact and achievements**

**Monitoring of criminal proceedings**

During the reporting period, OHCHR monitored numerous judicial proceedings including those against Dr. Flora Brovina, the journalist Miroslav Filipovic and Kosovo-Albanian student Albin Kurti. Other cases monitored included those of ethnic Albanian students based in Belgrade, and three mass trials of detainees, including the so-called Djakovica/Gjakove Group. OHCHR’s monitoring of trials, visits to detention centres in cooperation with local NGOs, and associated activities successfully raised domestic and international awareness of arbitrary detention.

**Prisoners and detainees**

In addition to the activities of the Commission on Prisoners and Detainees, OHCHR visited several detention centres, including some in Kosovo. Many detainees were

interviewed and categorized according to their needs; some were released following OHCHR's intervention. Consultations were regularly held with the ad hoc working group of the Kosovo Transitional Council, the Serbian Ministry of Justice, the UNMIK Department of Judicial Affairs and OSCE judicial monitors. OHCHR also participated in UNMIK's Victim Recovery and Identification Commission.

**Human rights of draft evaders, human rights defenders, legal professionals, journalists and others**

OHCHR conducted on-site investigations (and subsequent interventions) in several cases of assault and other human rights violations. OHCHR spoke out against violations of the right of association at public forums. On these occasions, discussion of the concepts and methodology of human rights protection helped to strengthen community relations and encouraged peaceful public action. An important topic of discussion with FRY authorities was the situation of conscientious objectors and draft evaders.

**Human rights capacity-building**

OHCHR was invited to participate and make presentations at several international, regional and national seminars, workshops and forums, including Working Table I of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the International Day Against Torture. In Montenegro, OHCHR was active on gender issues, including a consultation on the establishment of a ministry for women and protection for victims of domestic violence. A formal assessment of capacity building and technical assistance needs was completed during the year.

**Trafficking in women**

Meetings were regularly organized with local, national and international authorities, in cooperation with other OHCHR offices in the region, to discuss initiatives taken by international agencies, government authorities and NGOs to deal with violence against women and trafficking.

## Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries include members of ethnic and religious minorities, women, children, refugees, IDPs, the elderly, prisoners and detainees, members of NGOs and citizens' associations, draft evaders, media representatives, victims of trafficking and persons associated with the political opposition. Other beneficiaries were local, national and international bodies, including FRY governmental authorities, the Governments of Montenegro and Serbia, UNMIK, KFOR and the Kosovo Transitional Council.

## Constraints

During 2000, OHCHR overcame some of the operational difficulties faced as a result of the 1999 Kosovo conflict. The financial and administrative situations steadily improved. The greatest constraints to OHCHR's programme remained the extremely volatile situation in Kosovo, where staff were often under physical danger, and the political unrest in Serbia which made daily tasks difficult to accomplish. However, it should be recalled that the security situation was much worse in Serbia before the October events.

## Coordination

Inter-agency coordination steadily improved, including coordination with non-UN organizations. Coordination was more complex in Kosovo due to the political situation and the sheer number of organizations working there. Joint activities and



studies were regularly and successfully carried out. OHCHR maintained a constructive relationship with UNMIK's human rights unit. Cooperation included humanitarian and human rights partnerships, analyses of crisis situations and responses as well as field activities. Productive inter-agency relations were the norm for collaborative work on minority rights, the rights of detainees and missing persons, gender rights and strengthening the judicial system.

## Cambodia

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	332,100
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	149,590
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	369,200
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	111,450
General operating expenses	344,600
Supplies and acquisitions	155,400
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,462,340</b>
Programme support costs	190,104
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,652,444</b>

### Background

During the year 2000, OHCHR and the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed concern about human rights in Cambodia. During this period, the Government initiated several plans for reform in key areas such as: governance, poverty reduction, socio-economic development, the law and the judiciary, children, women, trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and HIV/AIDS. However, the implementation of these reform plans has yet to gather momentum.

### Objectives

The objectives of the Cambodian office may be divided into three broad categories which also corresponds with the structure of the office:

#### Monitoring and protection

- Monitor the fulfilment of the State's international human rights obligations and investigate human rights violations;
- Assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia to fulfil his mandate on monitoring and protecting human rights; and
- Assist in the building of local capacity and the empowerment of Government institutions, civil society and human rights NGOs involved in the monitoring and protection of human rights.

#### Strengthening the law-making process and the judicial system

##### Law-making process:

- Participate in the coordination of the law-making process by assisting the legislative and other relevant bodies and actors;
- Facilitate training of those engaged in drafting laws;
- Comment on draft laws to ensure their compatibility with internationally accepted human rights standards; and
- Facilitate the involvement of civil society in the law-making process and facilitate the briefing and training of NGOs and other civil society actors on points of law, legal processes and associated issues.

##### Strengthening the judicial system:

- Work closely with the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Council of Magistracy and courts at all levels to facilitate capacity-building of judges, prosecutors and other court officials in the understanding and application of human rights standards in the administration of justice;



- Facilitate programmes for strengthening the capacity of lawyers, including improved legal education; and
- Provide ongoing training and assistance to judges, prosecutors and court clerks through the Judicial Mentor Programme in six courts in different parts of the country.

### **Strengthening the human rights capacity of Government and non-governmental institutions**

**Education and training:** Enhance the capacity of selected Government institutions in their understanding and application of human rights standards; in particular, provide human rights education and training to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Cambodian National Police, the Royal Gendarmerie and the Labour Inspection Department.

**Support to NGOs and civil society:** Enhance the capacity of Cambodian NGOs and civil society organizations to carry out human rights protection and promotion activities, through the provision of training, and other forms of technical assistance, as well as financial assistance.

**Human rights reporting obligations:** Provide assistance to the Government in meeting its reporting obligations under human rights treaties, through the preparation of reports and the implementation of recommendations by treaty bodies.

### **Implementation**

#### **Monitoring and protection**

During the year 2000, the Monitoring and Protection Unit of the Cambodia office continued to implement its monitoring mandate including providing assistance to the Special Representative. Monitoring and protection activities were an integral part of the office's programme, implemented by a team of investigators, legal advisors, training/education specialists and OHCHR staff in Phnom Penh, in eight provinces and six courts.

By the end of December 2000, the office had received approximately 280 complaints of human rights violations, both in Phnom Penh and at the provincial level. The office took up most cases directly with the concerned authorities with an urgent request for intervention and/or investigation. In addition, approximately 45 written communications regarding other serious allegations of human rights violations were addressed to the authorities at the central level. The office's main partners in its monitoring, investigation and protection work were a group of NGOs working as part of the Human Rights Action Committee, in particular those grouped in the Sub-Action Committees on Investigation and on Trafficking of Women and Children. The Cambodia office actively participated in the periodic meetings of both sub-committees and facilitated advice on the investigation of human rights violations several sensitive cases were jointly investigated by the sub-committees and the office. Some cases were taken up by the Cambodia office separately due to security concerns faced by NGOs.

Legal assistance NGOs such as Legal Aid of Cambodia, the Cambodian Defender's Project and the Cambodian Bar Association were important associates of the Cambodia Office. These organizations provided valuable legal assistance to victims of human rights violations unable to pay for private legal representation. They were the conduit through which OHCHR was able to address persistent problems of excessive pre-trial detention, as well as cases of illegal arrest and detention.

In 2000, OHCHR also strengthened its cooperation with health sector NGOs working in prisons. The office also cooperated with Human Rights Watch, in particular on the investigation of a major case regarding the land rights of indigenous people. This directly affects the human rights of Vietnamese nationals in



**Strengthening the law-making process and the judicial system**

Cambodia, as well as cases regarding the security concerns of human rights defenders.

Through its Legal Assistance Unit, the Office is helping to strengthen the legislative framework and the administration of justice. This includes working to enable NGOs to participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of laws and policies. The Unit regularly provides advice and information on legal matters to members of the Senate and the National Assembly of Cambodia. It developed several initiatives to facilitate coordination in the law-making process including meetings and consultations with the President of the National Assembly, the Deputy First President of the Senate and Chairpersons of various Senate and National Assembly Commissions.

The office conducted a training programme on "Legislative drafting and legislative process" for staff of the National Assembly and Senate, ministry officials and NGO staff. The course included a component designed for policymakers of the same above-mentioned institutions. As part of this component, two seminars for policymakers were conducted in 2000, to introduce them to the idea of strengthening the law-drafting and legislative process. The office continued to work towards establishing a permanent body for coordinating the law-drafting activities carried out by a variety of agencies.

The Judicial Mentor Programme continued to function with judicial mentors providing assistance to judges and prosecutors in six courts. The office conducted quarterly training programmes for public prosecutors to help them to carry out a regular review and generally assist the Public Prosecution Department in its functions.

During the reporting period, the first of a series of workshops on the administration of justice was organized by the Ministry of Justice and OHCHR. The workshop put special emphasis on capacity-building of court clerks and their coordination with the judges and prosecutors. The Legal Assistance Unit is also monitoring court cases involving serious human rights abuses.

Through the Unit, the office continued to participate in the drafting of various laws including the criminal procedure code, the anti-corruption law, the law on NGOs, the magistrates law, the land law, and the law on commune governance and commune elections. In 2000, staff continued discussions with the Ministry of the Interior's Political Affairs Department on issues relating to the draft law on NGOs and associations. The informal working group on the draft penal code, of which the Unit is a member, met regularly and agreed on a number of general comments on the code, which will be presented to the Ministry of Justice. The Unit contributed to discussions on two new draft laws, on arms and on domestic violence.

The office monitored the Senate and National Assembly debates on some important draft laws, such as those on Khmer Rouge Trials, Commune Administration, and Elections. The office provided input on legal and judicial reforms to the Government and to the donor community Master Action Plan (MAP).

The Legal Assistance Unit continued to work towards the establishment of an independent national institution based on the UN Paris Principles (which deal with the status of national human rights institutions), by participating in meetings of the Cambodian Working Group on the National Human Rights Mechanism, chaired by the Chairman of the Senate Commission on Human Rights.

**Strengthening the human rights capacity***Education and training*

Through its Education, Training and Information Unit, the office continued to assist the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Royal Gendarmerie and the

Cambodian National Police by offering training on human rights principles and law throughout the country - in an indirect manner. Rather than directly delivering training, the office is mostly supporting and observing courses conducted by OHCHR-trained instructors (this entails advice on the course contents and methodology).

During 2000, OHCHR-trained instructors trained approximately 3,380 members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), 260 Gendarmerie officers, and 2,350 police officers. In addition, the Unit conducted: a training course for high-ranking officers of the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); a "training-of-trainers" course on human rights and law enforcement, covering training methodology for 23 officers of the Cambodian National Police; and a training course for senior Gendarmerie officers. The knowledge and teaching skills of the OHCHR-trained instructors is being assessed with a view to developing programmes to further strengthen their ability to provide training. In addition, the office started discussing options for the integration of human rights training into the professional training of the RCAF.

An inter-agency project was initiated on the subject of law enforcement against sexual exploitation of children, involving UNICEF, IOM, Redd Barna, World Vision, OHCHR Cambodia and the Cambodian Ministry of the Interior. A manual on *Understanding and Investigating Child Sexual Exploitation* and a *Trainer's Guide* were drafted and reviewed by working groups established within the Ministry of the Interior. An investigative coordination team was established at the Ministry of the Interior with members of various police departments who were trained using the above materials. A ten-day training course was held in October 2000 for police officials, court officials, and representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation (all of which are involved in the prevention or investigation of cases of child sexual exploitation). A hotline was established at the Ministry of the Interior for cases of sexual exploitation against children. This hotline was advertised on Cambodian television and is used by the public. At the same time, on-the-job training is being provided to police officials by an international expert through the investigation and follow-up of cases. Two training videos are being produced.

A working group was established to draft codes of conduct for personnel of the RCAF, the Royal Gendarmerie and the National Police. The working group, co-chaired by the Cambodian Institute on Human Rights and OHCHR, prepared the three drafts. In November 2000, a National Forum was convened to review the drafts and provide comments prior to finalization. This forum brought together the institutions concerned, other Ministries and civil society actors. OHCHR participated as a panellist to discuss the incorporation of relevant international human rights standards. The draft codes were finalized and submitted to the Royal Government for review. They will be produced in pocket format for distribution to all military, gendarme and police personnel in Cambodia.

In agreement with the Ministry of Labour Inspection Department, a training programme on labour rights was completed. A total of 777 participants attended the training. The office also participated in a regional workshop on labour rights and continues to monitor the work of the tripartite Labour Advisory Committee. In cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, seven workshops on the prevention of illegal logging were conducted for forest rangers at the provincial level. The office drafted training materials to be used for an environmental rights advocacy training programme in cooperation with the Ministry and the NGO



Forum's Working Group on the Environment. A training-of-trainers course for environmental NGOs from ten provinces was carried out in December 2000. Participants will provide training to farmers, fishermen, monks, teachers and others on environmental rights advocacy with the assistance of OHCHR Cambodia.

Two training-of-trainers programmes on human rights and democracy and HIV/AIDS were conducted for two Cambodian NGOs. An education programme on trafficking and other human rights issues was conducted for NGO representatives, students and government officials at the provincial and local level.

The Office is a member of the Cambodian National Project Committee Against Trafficking of Women and Children in the Mekong Sub-Region. The Committee is made up of representatives of a number of national ministries, two NGO representatives (OXFAM and CWDA), UNICEF, UNDP, OHCHR and IOM.

#### *Support to NGOs and civil society*

Twelve grants were issued to Cambodian NGOs for the implementation of human rights projects. The grants are funded under the Trust Fund for Human Rights Education in Cambodia. Two NGO projects – one on juvenile litigation, the other on assistance to sex-workers – are also ongoing, funded by grants issued in 1999. Five small grants were provided to five Cambodian NGOs, under the global ACT project, and are being monitored by the office. In addition, the Education, Training and Information Unit assisted the Human Rights Video Production Committee of Cambodia (which represents twelve NGOs) by editing twelve videos on human rights to be broadcast on Cambodian cable television. A workshop on "Access to Justice" was conducted in January 2000; the purpose of the workshop was to clarify the concept of access to justice and develop appropriate strategies for implementation with the involvement of Cambodian NGOs.

The office continued to participate in meetings of the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee, a coalition of 17 NGOs which meets regularly and takes coordinated action on human rights issues. OHCHR also assists provincial branches of the Human Rights Action Committee to strengthen their monitoring and protection work.

Briefings and short training sessions were provided to a variety of groups. In cooperation with UNAIDS, the Office organized a workshop on human rights and HIV/AIDS for staff of OHCHR Cambodia and relevant NGOs. Posters were produced on minority rights, HIV/AIDS and human rights, trafficking and mob killings. Human rights publications, including fundamental texts and training materials, are regularly distributed to NGOs and government departments.

#### *Human rights reporting obligations*

The office helped the Cambodian inter-ministerial committee on reporting obligations to finalise its draft report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture. In May 2000, the Government submitted its report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The office was involved in all stages of the preparation of the report. The office is now working with the Cambodian National Council for Children to organize a national workshop to follow up on the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee continued to receive assistance to draft its report to be submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), through technical advice and the provision of a technical drafter. In collaboration with the Australian National University, OHCHR ran a workshop in June to review the process of preparation of reports under human rights treaties in Cambodia.

## Impact and achievements

The Cambodia office has contributed to an awareness that human rights is central to rebuilding the legal framework and institutions, and that NGO/civil society participation is an essential element of that rebuilding process. The office's work in the area of legal assistance ensured increased participation by civil society in the law-making process as it relates to important human rights issues, including criminal procedure and elections. The office also contributed to the development of the basic legal framework, thereby helping to ensure that it incorporates human rights standards.

A human rights training capacity was established within the Armed Forces, the Gendarmerie and the Police, i.e. core groups of military, gendarmerie and law enforcement officials knowledgeable about human rights standards relevant to their profession; these groups are ensuring ongoing human rights training within their respective forces. Through its education, training and advisory activities, the office generated increased awareness of substantive and procedural human rights norms within the judiciary, the law enforcement agencies and the military.

By facilitating contacts between governmental and non-governmental actors, the office has become a conduit for NGOs seeking access to government authorities (including security forces, courts and legislators). This partnership, at the provincial and local level, also increased the capacity of NGOs to conduct investigations and educational activities, as well as to reach out to secluded and rural communities.

The office also facilitated the creation of human rights institutions, as well as coordination and exchange mechanisms/processes at both governmental and non-governmental levels. This was achieved through the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Preparation of Human Rights Reports to the United Nations, the NGO Human Rights Action Committee, and quarterly meetings of prosecutors.

Through its monitoring and protection activities, and its support to the Special Representative, the office maintained the focus of Government attention on instances of violations and the need for remedial action; as such, it ensured or facilitated the protection of victims.

## Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries were victims of human rights violations, prisoners, officials engaged in the drafting of laws, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, court officials, members of the legal profession, members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Cambodian National Police and the Royal Gendarmerie, labour leaders and human rights NGOs, including those working on land issues, women's rights, the rights of indigenous people and the rights of children.

## Constraints

Staff at the Cambodia office encountered some obstacles to the performance of its monitoring functions. Prison directors and prison staff were on several occasions not authorized to give OHCHR access to prisoners and pre-trial detainees for private interviews (having failed to obtain the necessary written



authorization from the Courts, as provided for in instructions issued by the Ministry of Justice).

In the area of reporting obligations, the Government's report to CEDAW was considerably delayed following changes in the designation of the Ministry in charge of the drafting process.

Financial difficulties often made it impossible to hire replacements for staff temporarily assigned to another mission area. These constituted the main constraint in the following areas: support to NGOs, reporting obligations and legal assistance.

## Coordination

As part of the United Nations team in the country, the Cambodia office participated in the elaboration of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2001-2005, which identified human rights as one of four issues that cut cleanly across all areas of activity.

The Cambodia office began to collaborate with specific UN agencies on the implementation of specific projects. The office also regularly participates in the donors' working groups on governance, and in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Trafficking of Women and Children, which provides an opportunity to exchange information and coordinate the activities of multilateral and bilateral donors.

## Lessons learned

OHCHR's monitoring, investigation and protection work clearly demonstrated the importance of keeping all relevant UN protection agencies informed of human rights developments in the country in order to better protect the people of Cambodia. The office needs to ensure a strong working relationship between local NGOs and special procedures mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights if they are to increase their effectiveness in dealing with human rights abuses.

The office's strategy was redefined to place greater emphasis on the consolidation of past gains and activities, and sustainability. This approach was reflected in the activities of the second part of the year 2000 and is fully integrated in the office's programme for 2001.

The office developed strategy papers to ensure increased coordination between its three units and thereby utilise available human and material resources to best advantage. The office's participation in the UNDAF process revealed that there is a need for much greater agreement between UN agencies on indicators of respect for human rights. OHCHR should therefore engage in discussion on the subject at the highest levels, especially with UNDP, since both agencies are involved in placing respect for human rights at the core of all activities in Cambodia.

The office became well aware of the need to create expertise in new areas in order to address emerging human rights challenges, for example in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. Expertise is needed both within the office and within its national counterparts.

# International human rights conventions

## Support to the treaty bodies

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	691,436
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	57,250
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	25,211
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	18,003
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	178,061
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>969,961</b>
Programme support costs	126,094
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,096,055</b>

### Budget and expenditure

	US\$	US\$
	3,059,656	
Servicing treaty bodies and petitioners procedures		564,382
Convention on the Rights of the Child		358,279
Int. Covenant on ESCR		50,089
Tenth anniversary meeting/ Convention on the Rights of the Child		6,084
Support to the Convention on the Rights of the Child		117,221
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,059,656</b>	<b>1,096,055</b>

### Background

The aims of this project are to reduce the time lag between the submission of reports by States parties and their consideration by the respective committees; to tackle the backlog of complaints awaiting consideration by the Human Rights Committee; to improve follow-up on committee recommendations and observations by States parties; and to facilitate the debate on rationalizing the functioning of the treaty body system. To this effect, plans of action were adopted in 1996 to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Then in 1999 the meeting of chairpersons of treaty bodies adopted a plan of action to support the Human Rights Committee (HRC), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee against Torture (CAT). These plans facilitate the overall implementation of the treaty body mandate by improving the functioning of the relevant treaty body committees. This project of support to the treaty bodies puts these plans into effect.

The implementation of this project, by the Support Services Branch of OHCHR, began in October 2000. Several difficulties and delays were encountered, particularly with respect to the recruitment of technical staff. Nevertheless, some activities commenced in 2000; others will begin later and continue throughout 2001 and part of 2002.

### Objectives

The overall objectives include:

- Strengthening the process by which treaty bodies examine State reports, especially the secretariat's capacity to conduct appropriate research and analysis;
- Strengthening the process by which treaty bodies which have individual complaints procedures examine State reports;
- Making full use of modern information technology to automate routine aspects of research, data management and other administrative tasks;
- Facilitating continued debate on rationalizing the functioning of the treaty body system, with a view to making substantial progress in 2001 on at least one common issue applicable to all the treaty bodies.

## Implementation and achievements

### **Strengthening the capacity of the system to consider State party reports**

**Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** The CRC project involved activities to address the backlog of reports. The support (including research, analysis and drafting of relevant documents) allowed the CRC to increase by 50 per cent the rate at which it examined State reports (nine reports per session as of May 2000). A consultant was hired to provide assistance to the Committee in the drafting of its first General Comment. Two meetings on the subject involved the consultant: one with the Committee, and a second (also involving the NGO community) with the participation of two Committee members and an OHCHR staff member. The General Comment was adopted at the Committee's January 2001 session. In September 2000, a day for general discussions was set aside to address the issue of state violence against children, with the participation of a member of the Committee against Torture and the special rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture. To follow up these discussions, the survey on technical assistance (as agreed under the CRC plan of action) continued to be regularly updated; and a project to stimulate action in Uganda, in line with the Committees recommendations on juvenile justice, was sub-contracted to partners there and implemented in October 2000. In March 2000, a meeting of the Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance in Juvenile Justice was held in New York. The Panel approved OHCHR's suggestion that an expert workshop be convened in 2002, with OHCHR serving as the Panel's secretariat in 2001.

The main lesson learned from the first national-level reporting activity, held in Haiti in December 1999, is that in future, national-level activities which fall within the remit of the CRC should not be conducted independently, but in cooperation with other OHCHR branches and UN agencies. Accordingly, no national-level reporting activities took place in 2000, nor will any occur in 2001. Instead, some adjustments in the area of state reporting will occur during 2001 and it is envisaged that these will be incorporated into the existing training and assistance programmes on reporting provided by OHCHR on a regional basis. Finalization of the proposed special report on the 10th anniversary meeting of the CRC will depend on the availability of additional funding and sufficient staff support.

**Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR):** OHCHR staff have provided support for the reporting process by preparing the required country files, including country profiles, drawing on a wide range of sources to provide relevant and up-to-date information in a concise form. The approval by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council of the two extraordinary sessions of the Committee in 2000 and 2001, will allow the consideration of five and seven additional reports in 2000 and 2001 respectively. The secretariat has facilitated the preparation of two General Comments adopted by the Committee. These comments arose out of discussions during two informal workshops/consultations on the right to health, globalization, international trade, investment and finance, and economic, social and cultural rights; the participation of a wide range of interested parties (including specialized agencies and NGOs) proved beneficial. Several background papers on a variety of subjects were prepared for the Committee and OHCHR agreed to disseminate information and provide expert assistance on economic, social and cultural rights.



Links have also been established and/or strengthened with WHO, ILO, FAO and UNESCO as well as with UNDP.

Certain activities which were not immediate priorities remain outstanding; they include: an analysis of the information concerning the respect of economic, social and cultural rights within the context of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the preparation of research papers as a basis for the elaboration by the Committee of policy positions on key issues. Other outstanding issues concern technical cooperation and activities designed to promote economic, social and cultural rights and follow-up at the national level. These matters need to be dealt with jointly with relevant agencies.

*Human Rights Committee (HRC), Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee against Torture (CAT):* The two members of staff concerned only took up their posts in October and December 2000. One provides support to CERD on a permanent basis, the other provides relevant country analyses/profiles for all three committees. The secretariat provides all committees with country analyses/profiles.

**Enhancing OHCHR's capacity to handle individual complaints of human rights violations within the treaty body system**

In November 2000, a petitions team was created within the Support Services Branch with the primary role of managing the individual communications procedures of HRC, CERD and CAT whilst remaining an integral part of treaty body reporting and other related treaty body functions. The introduction of a new database for petitions has provided the team with an efficient tool to track registered allegations of human rights violations and their status. It is also a means of tracking all correspondence addressed to the treaty bodies and has as such led to a more efficient and immediate response to requests for information coming from both complainants and State parties. The future integration and consolidation of certain information contained in the various OHCHR databases, in particular the link with the thematic database, will enhance OHCHR's capacity to respond and identify any unnecessary overlap between the various mechanisms for handling individual complaints. Within the petitions team, efforts are underway to ensure the flow of information and conformity with the individual communications procedures established by the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The processing of individual communications entails screening and evaluating incoming correspondence, registering cases, preparing draft decisions on the admissibility and the merits of individual cases, providing uniform legal advice to the three committees on communications procedures, and ensuring follow-up to committee decisions. Follow-up may entail sending designated committee members to the countries concerned, and providing technical assistance (e.g. advice on national enabling legislation or amendments to other national laws and regulations).

One of the major objectives of the petitions team was to eliminate the backlog of correspondence before the Human Rights Committee. In order to do this the complaints database was operationalized, allowing for the exact quantification of the backlog and new incoming correspondence. The backlog of the Human Rights Committee which, in 1999, had been estimated at 2,500 items of correspondence, was in fact closer to 4,000. This was due to the number of unattended Russian communications (i.e. 1800 as opposed to the original estimate of 500-600). In 2000 the petitions team received (under all three treaty bodies) some 2,500 pieces of correspondence, of which about 20% related to



registered on-going cases and the rest were new complaints. During 2000 the petitions team in its current composition has dealt with 90% of the correspondence received during the year and with almost 50% of the backlog. By the end of 2000, there remained some 1,300 unattended Russian complaints and 700 in various other languages; of these it is expected that not more than 40-50% will become new cases.

**Automating research, data management and other routine secretariat tasks**

The Support Services Branch has worked on this project component with the Research and Right to Development Branch. The following activities were undertaken:

*Improving the existing treaty body system:* the improvement of electronic information management systems relating to the treaty bodies was identified as a priority area. Consequently, work began in October 2000 on the long list of improvements suggested by an external consulting firm in 1997 and by in-house users over the years.

*Implementing the tracking system for complaints:* a prototype database is currently being tested with the aim of improving the management of communications from and to the treaty bodies. The petitions team now employs newly trained staff, including a data-entry assistant recruited in October 2000 to input the information on all of the registered cases for all three Committees, and all correspondence dating as far back as 1998. The bulk of data entry is complete, as is final testing with a broad sample of potential users (for technical details please refer to the chapter on Information Technology).

**Debate on rationalizing the functioning of the treaty body system**

The plan of action adopted by the chairpersons of treaty bodies (in support of the HRC, CERD and CAT) recommends the organization of several inter-committee meetings on issues of common concern, for the purpose of developing common approaches. The chairpersons decided, at their 12th meeting in June 2000, that the first such meeting should discuss the issue of periodic reporting. In this respect, the role of the secretariat as reported to the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom in March 2000, was to "assist treaty bodies to develop specific proposals for working-level, inter-committee meetings that, inter alia, identify the desired outcome (common reporting guidelines, common general comment, etc.), organize such meetings as requested by treaty bodies, and conduct follow-up to those meetings". Accordingly, since June, all treaty bodies have been informed about the above-mentioned decision and have been requested to provide specific input with regard to the agenda and expected outcome of such a proposed meeting. Notwithstanding the decision of the chairpersons, it remains to be seen how the treaty bodies can harmonize the reporting process given the exhaustive reporting cycles established by the Conventions and bearing in mind that the treaties cannot be amended. At its next sessions, the treaty bodies will select a single topic for discussion. The proposed inter-committee meetings on common approaches cannot be held before the second half of 2001.

**Constraints**

A primary concern is continuity of staff. The aforementioned achievements were made possible by the recruitment of additional staff; however, the difficulties surrounding funding and the renewal of contracts, as well as the recruitment of

staff, could threaten the maintenance of results. It has been difficult to attract qualified candidates for both managerial and information technology posts.

### Lessons learned

In the case of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the 50 per cent increase in the examination of reports is expected to reduce the delay in the consideration of reports to between 18 and 36 months which, although a significant improvement, falls well short of the target of one year. Moreover, there should be a concerted effort to combine OHCHR's missions and consultations at the national-level (e.g. in the field of national human rights institutions).

### Voluntary contributions .....

to treaty bodies

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge	Income
		US\$	US\$
Belgium	CAT/CRC/CERD	47,535	47,465
	TB	110,568	113,328
Czech Republic	TB	0	17,205
Denmark	TB	177,936	445,841
Finland	TB	202,110	203,721
Luxembourg	TB	100,000	100,000
Sweden	TB	229,621	218,146
United Kingdom	TB	734,306	734,306
	CAT	81,967	75,758
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,684,043</b>	<b>1,955,770</b>

# Response to allegations of human rights violations

## Support to the special procedures

### Expenditure breakdown

Staff costs <sup>1</sup>	496,108
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	26,468
Travel:	
OHCR staff	6,130
Commission members	0
Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>528,706</b>
Programmes support costs <sup>1</sup>	68,732
<b>Total</b>	<b>597,438</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure.

### Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure
	US\$	US\$
	3,694,987	
Support to the system on special procedures		557,575
Support to the SR on Religious Intolerance		40,464
Support to the SR on the sale of children <sup>1</sup>		(28,250)
Support to the SR on violence against women <sup>2</sup>		27,649
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,694,987</b>	<b>597,438</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjustment to prior period expenditure.

<sup>2</sup> Includes two projects.

### Background

The Special Procedures of the Commission on Human Rights currently consist of 35 mandates, of which 21 are thematic and 14 are country/territory specific. For each of these mandates, the Commission appoints an independent expert (referred to as a special rapporteur or a special representative) or a working group. The thematic mandate holders analyse a specific violation on a global basis e.g. torture, violence against women, or racism; meanwhile, the experts with a country mandate examine a given geographical area in terms of human rights as a whole. The mandate holder's work involves analysis of information from various sources, correspondence with governments, fact-finding missions, and the drafting of annual reports to the Commission (and in some cases to the General Assembly).

In order to enable these mandate holders to work efficiently and effectively, OHCHR would normally provide them with one full-time assistant each. In 2000, only 14 such assistants could be funded under the regular budget. The 2000 Annual Appeal therefore sought to obtain sufficient contributions to enable the mandate holders to handle their workload and submit thorough annual reports, as expected by the Commission on Human Rights.

### Implementation

The 2000 Annual Appeal was quite ambitious, asking for nearly US\$ 2.5 million purely for the recruitment of 21 members of staff. Voluntary contributions actually received in 2000 were sufficient only for six professionals and two general service staff. The staff provided secretarial support and assistance to mandate holders working on torture, internally displaced persons, violence against women, the sale of children, and human rights in Haiti; they handled correspondence in Spanish regarding torture, freedom of expression and arbitrary detention. Voluntary contributions also enabled special rapporteurs to carry out a dozen fact-finding missions and report back to the Commission. However, contributions were insufficient to finance any of the special rapporteurs' projected analytical studies.

## Quick response team

There was no voluntary funding available in 2000 to finance urgent intervention by mandate-holders. However, the beginnings of a Quick Response Team was set up in 2000 by the Thematic Mechanisms Team (which covers 15 of the thematic mandates of the Commission, often involving civil and political rights, and is therefore relatively attuned to individual cases). The Quick Response Team consisted of several staff members able to pool their language skills, and their already substantial combined experience as assistants to the various mandate holders, so as to respond rapidly to urgent appeals (i.e. requests for urgent intervention by the mandate holder) regarding imminent threats to a person's physical integrity or life. It is hoped that, in the wake of the 2001 Annual Appeal, an additional staff member will be recruited to help strengthen the team.

## Voluntary contributions .....

to special procedures

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge	Income
		US\$	US\$
Belgium	SP	171,537	0
Canada	Sp. Rapp. Sudan	55,172	40,794
	Freedom of expression	68,966	17,008
Denmark	SP	237,249	375,540
Finland <sup>1</sup>	SP	232,947	0
France	SP	36,895	64,888
Ireland	SP	73,624	72,295
	Sp. Rapp. on Indep. Judges/Lawyers	73,624	72,296
Italy <sup>2</sup>	SP	100,000	0
Poland	SP	15,000	15,000
Sweden	SP	229,621	218,145
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,294,635</b>	<b>875,966</b>

<sup>1</sup> The amount of US\$ 227,145 will be reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.

<sup>2</sup> The amount of US\$ 100,000 will be reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.



# Urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner

## Introduction

Implementation of the three projects which fall under this heading were limited, mainly due to the lack of funding. The project on trafficking in persons is presented below as part of Urgent Projects Initiated by the High Commissioner, although it is funded through the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation. The narrative and the expenditure breakdown is presented under this heading, but further financial information is on page 32 – 35 under the section on technical cooperation.

### Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure
	US\$	US\$
Human rights and extreme poverty	167,030	43,494
The protection of minorities	332,220	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>499,250</b>	<b>43,494</b>

### Voluntary contributions.....

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge	Income
		US\$	US\$
Belgium	Extreme Poverty	16,082	0
France	Extreme Poverty	14,757	105,836
Ireland	Minorities	31,903	31,754
Norway	Minorities	80,472	82,375
Poland	Urgent projects*	5,000	5,000
Spain	Urgent projects	83,243	79,823
	Minorities	90,604	88,701
Switzerland	Minorities	0	4,268
<b>Total</b>		<b>322,061</b>	<b>397,757</b>

\* Unearmarked by donor; allocated by OHCHR.

## Human rights and extreme poverty

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	32,408
Experts/consultants' fees and travel <sup>1</sup>	1,003
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	2,527
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	2,552
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>38,490</b>
Programme support costs	5,004
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,494</b>

### Background

The relationship between human rights and poverty alleviation has been at the heart of inter-governmental and inter-agency debate since the review of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, and the Millennium Summit. OHCHR's work focuses on the link between human rights and poverty, and provides practical guidelines on human rights for various organizations working to alleviate poverty.

### Objectives

- Mainstream human rights into UN poverty related activities, (e.g. UN Strategy for Halving Extreme Poverty) by providing comments and specific suggestions and drafting background papers and other relevant documents.
- Support the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty, as requested by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2000/12.
- Organize the Expert Seminar on Poverty (resolution 2000/12).
- Prepare reports for the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

### Implementation

- OHCHR participated in the drafting, by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Working Group on Poverty, of the UN Strategy for Halving Extreme Poverty, and its Options for Action. Special attention was paid to priority area number one, entitled "Promoting rights and responsibilities and empowering the poor to reduce poverty".
- OHCHR drafted a chapter on human rights and extreme poverty to be included in the training module on poverty for UN Country Teams.
- OHCHR advocated a rights-based approach during the inter-agency consultations which shaped *Attacking Poverty*, the 2000/2001 World Development Report.
- OHCHR provided input to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the First UN Decade for the eradication of poverty; and to the Secretary-General's report to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on promotion of the right to development.
- Preparations were undertaken for the Expert Seminar on human rights and extreme poverty, which took place from 7-9 February 2001.

### Impact and achievements

The aforementioned UN Strategy and Options for Action have now been adopted by the entire UN system. One of the key features of the Strategy is the realization of human rights and priority area number one on rights and responsibilities provides for a rights-based approach to poverty reduction. At a conceptual level, work has been undertaken with high-level partners, including experts from Governments, UN agencies, the World Bank, universities and NGOs. These experts have brought their experience in several sectors to bear upon the question of how to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty.

They have all drawn an explicit link between human rights and poverty. At a normative level, these activities have stimulated thinking within OHCHR. In May 2001, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted a statement on poverty.

## Constraints

Unfortunately there were insufficient resources for several anticipated in-depth studies to be carried out; these were to have covered topics such as the feminization of poverty. Likewise, field missions were limited by the funds available under the regular budget. The challenge remains: how best to implement the UN Strategy for combating poverty. OHCHR will serve as a conduit for human rights norms, especially with regard to the work of UN Country Teams.

## Coordination

Activities were implemented in collaboration with various members of UNDG (e.g. UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNOGS, UNOG, ILO, WHO and UNESCO).

# Trafficking in persons

## Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	110,843
Experts/consultants' fees and travel	7,632
Travel:	
- OHCHR staff	12,280
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	4,720
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>135,475</b>
Programme support costs	17,612
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,087</b>

## Background

Since 1998, OHCHR has been working on the problem of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. In 1999, the High Commissioner announced her decision to give priority to the issue of trafficking. The current project was then developed with a two-year timeframe (2000-2001), to enable OHCHR to consolidate and expand its anti-trafficking programme. It was also expected to provide a solid basis of support for the High Commissioner in her efforts to provide leadership and conceptual clarity on this issue. The project supported the creation of a trafficking team comprising a special representative on trafficking (based in Cambodia) and a programme manager (based in Geneva). The project also supported a comprehensive range of activities and interventions organized under four sectors: policy and leadership; internal capacity-building; support to UN agencies and programmes; and support to external organizations and initiatives.

## Objectives

The overall aim of the project was to integrate human rights into international, regional and national anti-trafficking initiatives through legal and policy development. The project's four basic objectives correspond with the four above-mentioned sectors:

**Policy and leadership:** To enhance the High Commissioner's capacity to provide policy guidance and leadership on the issue of trafficking.

**Internal capacity-building:** To strengthen the capacity of OHCHR and the UN human rights system to deal with the human rights dimensions of trafficking.

**Support to UN agencies and programmes:** To ensure the integration of a human rights perspective into the anti-trafficking work of other UN agencies and programmes, in order to help them to develop anti-trafficking initiatives as part of regional and sub-regional strategies; and to raise awareness and knowledge, throughout the UN system, of trafficking as a human rights issue.



**Support to external organizations and initiatives:** To encourage inter-governmental organizations, international and national NGOs and national human rights institutions to take up the issue of trafficking and ensure the integration of a human rights perspective into their anti-trafficking policies and activities.

## Implementation

The first year of the project (2000) was devoted to consolidating OHCHR's expertise; providing input into legal instruments under development; and laying the groundwork for successful policy interventions. Relevant activities undertaken during this period include:

- The creation of an expert team to assist the High Commissioner in the development of human rights guidelines on trafficking as well as to advise her more generally on policy formulation and strategic intervention in the area of trafficking; the first meeting of the expert team was held in Geneva, in July 2000.
- Ongoing participation in the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, particularly in relation to its elaboration of a protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Continuation of regional anti-trafficking activities in Asia (coordinated by OHCHR in Cambodia) including the organization of a seminar for representatives of countries in the Asia-Pacific region (Bangkok, September 2000) on migrants and trafficking in persons with particular reference to women and children (in preparation for the World Conference against Racism).
- Continuation of regional anti-trafficking activities in Central/Eastern Europe including the organization of a seminar (Athens, June 2000) coordinated by OHCHR's Bosnia office and the Council of Europe; the seminar drew together representatives of countries in South Eastern Europe with the aim of developing a sub-regional plan of action against trafficking. In this regard OHCHR was also involved in the establishment of a task force on trafficking under the Stability Pact.
- Strengthening of cooperation, at both field and headquarters level, with organizations and agencies dealing with trafficking including UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO and IOM.

## Impact and achievements

Through the work of the newly established expert team, OHCHR has developed draft guidelines on trafficking which will be finalised in 2001; the guidelines will facilitate the integration of a human rights perspective into national, regional and international anti-trafficking initiatives. The Trafficking Protocol, adopted by the General Assembly in November 2000, incorporates several recommendations made and coordinated by OHCHR. OHCHR's capacity at the regional level has been significantly strengthened through the increasing involvement of its offices in Bosnia and Cambodia on this issue.

## Beneficiaries

OHCHR has made a difference to the lives of individual victims of trafficking by taking active steps to ensure that their rights are respected and protected, particularly in its field operations. On a more general level, OHCHR's legal and policy advocacy has also benefited trafficked persons by highlighting the need for the international community to take their rights and interests into account. International organizations, individuals and governments have also benefited



from OHCHR's acknowledged expertise in this area as they continue to actively seek OHCHR's advice on issues relating to trafficking (on average, fifty requests for advice and/or information are received every month).

### Constraints

During 2000, project implementation was somewhat hampered by staff changes. As a result, several activities envisaged for 2000 did not occur and a number of activities which commenced during this period (e.g. development of the draft guidelines) were not completed as quickly as intended. In view of the growing demand for legal and policy advice, the High Commissioner has decided to concentrate staff resources in Geneva; this decision is expected to free up some funds which will be channelled into strengthening the capacity of OHCHR's field offices to tackle trafficking.

### Lessons learned

- The budget line set up to support UN anti-trafficking activities has proved to be difficult to administer because of the complexity of UN regulations governing inter-agency transfers. In retrospect, it would therefore have been more efficient for OHCHR to plan the disbursement of a few large sums rather than several small ones.
- There is a need for public information activities: both of a general nature and specifically geared towards events such as the World Conference Against Racism. (The project is being revised to address both these points).

### Coordination

OHCHR has established project-specific partnerships with UNDP; it has also developed and strengthened its relations with other UN agencies (especially UNICEF, UNHCR and ILO) and governments, national institutions, human rights institutes, regional inter-governmental organizations and NGOs.

## The Protection of minorities

### Background

In recent years, the international community has become increasingly aware of the need to protect minorities. The United Nations Declaration on Minorities was adopted in 1992 and in 1995 a working group of the Sub-Commission was established. The High Commissioner designated the protection of minorities as an urgent project. In late 2000, this project was approved for a two-year period (2000-2001) to allow sufficient time for the implementation of activities. An evaluation at the end of 2001 will lay the basis for a fully-fledged OHCHR strategy on minority issues.

### Objectives

- Organize seminars to promote awareness of minority situations in different parts of the world, and practical means of addressing the underlying issues;
- Collect and disseminate information (published on the OHCHR website and/or on paper);
- Strengthen support for OHCHR's programme on minorities (especially the employment of an additional member of staff); and

- Facilitate the debate on how best to enhance UN action on the promotion and protection of minority rights.

## Implementation

Despite the limited funds available during the first half of 2000, a regional seminar was held in Arusha, Tanzania (13-15 May 2000) on "Multiculturalism in Africa: Peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples". The seminar was prepared and organized by OHCHR and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, with financial support from the Ford Foundation and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (Colombo, Sri Lanka). This was the first ever UN human rights meeting on minorities and indigenous peoples held in the Africa region. As such, in addition to pursuing further measures for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, the discussions focused on developing cooperation with civil society and international organizations in the region, particularly in East Africa. The seminar produced a report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2000/WP.3) which is available on OHCHR's website. A follow-up seminar held in Kidal, northern Mali (8-13 January 2001), was funded by the UN and includes funds received for minorities following the 2000 Annual Appeal. The seminar focused on: building awareness; understanding minority situations in different African countries, particularly in West Africa; and developing practices to address such issues. The seminar succeeded in developing cooperation between the secretariat of OHCHR and members of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, through recommending the possibility of setting up an African Commission working group on minorities. UNDP's cooperation was instrumental in the success of this meeting. This seminar also produced a report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2001/3).

## Ongoing activities

Consultants were hired to collect information pertaining to minorities, in order to post such information on OHCHR's new website pages. A first demonstration of the new web pages took place on 15 May 2001 during the session of the Working Group on Minorities. The preparation of a publication on minorities is underway and distribution will take place at the World Conference against Racism. At year's end, efforts were being made to employ an additional staff member in 2001, to support OHCHR's activities related to minorities.

## Impact and achievements

The project has facilitated cooperation with regional and international organizations on the handling of minority issues: these organizations are now increasingly aware of minority issues and rights.

## Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries were representatives of minorities, and States which support best practice by enhancing inter-governmental cooperation. The project was also positive for OHCHR because it encouraged inter-branch cooperation, particularly between the indigenous, minorities, non-discrimination and geographical desks.

## Constraints

Country visits were not undertaken due to circumstances beyond the control of OHCHR. Furthermore, minority issues are often very sensitive and must be handled carefully.



# Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR

## Introduction

### Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure
Information technology	1,111,631	16,645
Web site	717,776	0
Reference library and multimedia room	125,248	18,405
Public information	129,950	0
Publications unit	226,791	12,007
Resource mobilization	360,922	325,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,172,318</b>	<b>372,449</b>

### Voluntary contributions

Donor	Pledge	Income
	US\$	US\$
Ireland		
Public information	19,142	19,052
Web site	25,522	25,425
Information technology	63,806	63,506
Resource mobilization	38,284	38,103
Luxembourg		
Publications programme	100,000	100,000
Sweden		
Resource mobilization	114,811	109,072
Revolving fund	57,405	54,537
United Kingdom		
Resource mobilization	684,690	684,690
Management systems	500,742	500,742
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,604,402</b>	<b>1,595,127</b>

In its transition from an essentially service oriented Office to a proactive and operational one, OHCHR must build the necessary structures to support its activities. Although several improvements were made during 2000 in the areas covered under the heading "Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR", they were unevenly distributed, largely due to the lack of funding. Activities related to information technology, website and resource mobilization are reported in detail in the following pages; in other areas, however, implementation was limited.

OHCHR's small public information team continued its work of expanding and maintaining contacts with the media, especially with correspondents and outlets specializing in coverage of human rights issues. Much of this work has been in support of preparations for the World Conference against Racism. Given lack of funding, however, a number of activities – including the commissioning or facilitation of television coverage of the field work done by the Office and the Special Procedures, the provision of media training, support and advice to the Office's field presences, and the installation of equipment to assist the media to produce and broadcast interviews from OHCHR headquarters – were not implemented.

Costs related to publication activities were covered by the regular budget and several items were produced including a training guide; a publication on business and human rights; and a special edition of *Human Rights Quarterly* on women. The development of a publications programme within the framework of a comprehensive public information strategy was one of the main highlights in 2000. In June, a comprehensive external review was carried out, which formulated specific recommendations covering priority areas including, web site development, print publications, language issues, cooperation with external partners, and dissemination. As an initial step, a publications officer was recruited in November 2000 and a complete publications team is expected in 2001 pending the availability of funds.

It was not possible during 2000 to establish a reference library and multimedia room due to lack of funds. Preparatory work was, nonetheless, undertaken and included creating a directory of reference and bibliographic materials which was eventually incorporated into the newly developed database. A librarian and a human rights officer were responsible for preparing documentation for the proposed multi-media room.

The Revolving fund was established to enable OHCHR to respond to emergencies and if necessary to launch activities until donations are received. Only one contribution (US\$ 54,536) was made to the fund in 2000. In the absence of an urgent need in 2000, the total amount was carried over into 2001.

All activities under "Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR" are funded through UNOPS and are included in the overall financial statement on page 109.

## Information technology

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	0
Experts/consultant's fees and travel:	0
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	0
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	14,730
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>14,730</b>
Programme support costs	1,915
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,645</b>

### Background and objectives

In 2000, the information technology (IT) team aimed to enhance information tracking systems and thereby improve communication between OHCHR and external organizations and individuals. This involved the creation of an integrated information management system, to provide staff members with comprehensive data on human rights and allow them to share it efficiently (electronically) with partners. The Annual Appeal 2000 outlined a three-year IT project plan for the period 2000-2002 and requested funds for five activities in the first year: (a) External partners database and fax-server; (b) Lexis-Nexis licenses; (c) Finalization of the communication database; (d) Extranet; and (e) IT equipment, maintenance and programme support costs. Of these, activity (c) was implemented but activities (a) and (b) were not. Activity (d) was substituted by the development of a treaty body database which, although not initially envisaged as an activity for the first year, became a priority during the course of the year.

### Implementation

#### Finalization of the communication database

A prototype database designed to store and manage treaty body communications was developed and tested. New staff were recruited and trained by the petitions team and regularly input information into the database in order to track all communications related to complaints of human rights violations covered by the Optional Protocols. A data-entry assistant was recruited in October 2000. All pending Human Rights Committee cases were entered. At year's end, work was still underway on entering cases under the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, the bulk of data entry work was complete, and final testing (with a sample of potential users) was satisfactory.

The new communications database involved the following tasks:

- Parts of the user interfaces were renamed and re-programmed in order to make the system more user-friendly.
- The database had to be redesigned to suit the needs of all Optional Protocols (due to inconsistencies in the prototype).
- The generation of reports was facilitated by integrating Lotus Notes and Microsoft Word. Microsoft's Object Linking and Embedding library was utilized to facilitate the generation of UN documents related to the Optional Protocols.
- An existing list of names and addresses was incorporated into the system to allow rapid identification of incoming correspondence.
- Key users of the database were trained.

#### Service to treaty bodies

The enhancement and automation of the existing treaty body database was originally planned for 2001, but it was given priority over the establishment of the Extranet due to the urgent need for further automation of the treaty body system. Consequently, work on the treaty body database began in October 2000, concentrating on areas for improvement suggested by in-house users

and an external consultancy firm. This involved: the automatic generation of standard secretariat reports in a word-processing file form (MS Word) for internal users and Portable Document Form (PDF) and Hyper-Text Mark-up Language (HTML) for external users (web format). More specifically, this meant:

- Establishing an infrastructure for passing information from the existing Lotus Notes System to the relational database management system (Oracle) where reports can be generated;
- Installing the reporting toolkit (Oracle Reports) on the internal web server to transfer reports to the external webserver; and
- Programming the report on the Status of State Parties in PDF and a first prototype in Word and HTML formats.

**IT equipment, IT maintenance and programme support costs**

In order to upgrade OHCHR's computing infrastructure, a purchase order was placed with UNOPS for computers, laptops, printers, scanners, as well as software licenses. Although the IT infrastructure is maintained and coordinated by OHCHR's IT team, a programme analyst was contracted for 13 months, to carry out all the technical modifications. The analyst will continue to upgrade the system in 2001. A computer information systems assistant was recruited to install the new equipment.

**Other IT related activities**

In 2000, several other IT activities were implemented. Some were not outlined in the Annual Appeal 2000 although some were funded through other projects mentioned in the Appeal. These included:

- The development of a thematic mandates database;
- The development of the external sources database;
- Ongoing conversion and maintenance of the web page carrying the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (in more than 300 languages) on OHCHR's website; and
- The development of the human rights education database.

The first planned activity concerned the fax-server and the external partners database. It was not put into effect because: i) it became evident towards the end of 2000 that the fax infrastructure would be provided by the central IT services at the United Nations Office in Geneva; and ii) the remaining development of the external partners database (excluding the fax infrastructure) would be covered by the Annual Appeal 2002. The second activity was related to the purchase of licenses for staff to access Lexis-Nexis. It was suspended pending the outcome of the overall negotiations between the UN and the software company.

## Website

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### Objectives

OHCHR's website has played a major role in the dissemination of information and in education over the past four years. The objective has been to enhance OHCHR's use of the Internet for human rights public information and educational purposes.

### Implementation

The Annual Appeal 2000 outlined OHCHR's needs in terms of software, design and content; and a professional web designer was recruited. The general improvements to the design of OHCHR's website include:

- OHCHR's home page was redesigned in three versions (English, French and Spanish):
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch> (English)
  - [http://www.unhchr.ch/french/hchr\\_un\\_fr.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/french/hchr_un_fr.htm) (French)
  - [http://www.unhchr.chspanish/hchr\\_un\\_sp.htm](http://www.unhchr.chspanish/hchr_un_sp.htm) (Spanish)
- Six other web templates (models) were designed for the future development of the web site:
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch/test/home/inner01.htm>
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch/test/home/inner02.htm> (etc.)
- Sub-sites within the OHCHR website were launched:
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/index.htm>, for the World Conference against Racism;
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/56chr/56main.htm>, for the Commission on Human Rights; and
  - <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/2/sc.htm>, for the Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

From January to March 2000, the web designer also provided weekly training in professional tools (Adobe Photoshop) and HTML for general service staff working in web publishing. In addition, the 56th session of the Commission on Human Rights was broadcast live in English and French and audio archives of the meetings were recorded. This service was also available for the first Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism.

### Impact and achievements

The website has facilitated the work of all actors working in the field of human rights. The site averaged 3 million hits a month since April 2000. In 2000, OHCHR significantly changed the look of its website, aiming for a professional appearance and user-friendly structure. At the same time, the Office expanded its audio coverage of UN human rights events (more live coverage, more languages, more audio archives). Activities carried out in 2000 will serve as a basis for OHCHR's future Internet development in the area of human rights promotion.

### Constraints

Although the website is recognized for its content, OHCHR's funding constraints have unfortunately limited its ability to improve its user-friendliness. Most of the planned activities outlined in the Annual Appeal 2000 could not be implemented because funds became available too late in the year.

## Resource mobilization

### Expenditure breakdown

	US\$
Staff costs	210,412
Experts/consultant's fees and travel:	63,158
- OHCHR staff	0
- Commission members	0
- Representatives and other participants	0
Contractual services	14,405
General operating expenses	0
Supplies and acquisitions	0
Grants, contributions, fellowships and seminars	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>288,002</b>
Programme support costs	37,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>325,442</b>

### Background and objectives

OHCHR has become increasingly dependent on voluntary contributions and decided in 1999 to establish a focal point for resource mobilization. A Senior Fund-raising Officer was recruited in 1999, a second professional staff member in 2000 and a third in early 2001. The overall resource mobilization objectives are to:

- Secure adequate funding and support for the activities of the Office;
- Obtain timely and predictable funding, to allow appropriate planning of the Office's activities; and
- Obtain flexible funding with less earmarking and conditions.

### Achievements

During 2000 the resource mobilization team:

- Increased OHCHR's funding by US\$ 15 million (i.e. raised US\$ 42 million in 2000);
- Issued an Annual Appeal for 2001;
- Broadened the donor-base;
- Established itself as the focal point within OHCHR for all issues related to funding;
- Improved the coordination of input to the UN system-wide consolidated appeals;
- Ensured proper follow-up on pledges and contributions;
- Negotiated funding arrangements that have improved the predictability of funding;
- Reviewed funding agreements with major donors and established standard agreements with several; and
- Reduced the backlog of outstanding reports.

In 2000, pledges amounted to US\$ 42 million from some 60 governments, the European Commission, foundations such as the United Nations Foundation and the Ford Foundation, and some other private donors. During the same period, 15 donors contributed more than one million US dollars compared to eight in 1999 and almost all the major donors increased their contributions. Relations with the European Commission were re-established and resulted in pledges amounting to some US\$ 5.1 million; the United Nations Foundation became OHCHR's third largest donor in 2000 with a total contribution of US\$ 3.6 million; the Ford Foundation continued to contribute; and other foundations provided financial support for the first time.

In 2000 OHCHR issued its second Annual Appeal, an improvement on the first in terms of content and presentation. The Annual Appeal is now well established as the main fund-raising tool of the Office and its preparation has inspired better planning and prioritization of activities, and use of funds. The team also prepared numerous other, tailor-made funding submissions to donors who do not base their funding decisions on the Annual Appeal; and coordinated OHCHR's input to the UN system-wide consolidated appeals.

More structured relationships have been established with several major donors. The arrangements vary, but usually include a standard agreement, annual consultations and pledges made as a single annual "package"; this has



improved the predictability of the funding. Some government donors, whose past contributions were highly variable in size and frequency, were approached more systematically and increased their contributions in 2000 as a result. In the past OHCHR did not report to donors in a systematic manner. In 2000 the resulting backlog of outstanding reports was reduced. Discussions on the subject were held with several major donors. The team issued guidelines for reporting and drew up a plan for a uniform system of reporting (which finds expression in this Annual Report). This Annual Report signals the start of a structured approach to reporting which will, it is hoped, meet the reporting requirements of most donors and preclude the need for a multiplicity of reporting formats.

### Constraints

The main constraints are limited staff resources and the lack of an adequate financial tracking system (i.e. much time spent on manual tracking and helping put past records in order). Other constraints are related to limited capacity in other parts of the Office, leading to a difficulty in obtaining prompt, detailed and succinct input for appeals, reports and other submissions.

### Lessons learned

Effective resource mobilization depends on commitment throughout OHCHR to the transparency, accountability and the submission of timely input for reports and appeals which are needed to keep donors adequately apprised of new and existing activities, and financial requirements. OHCHR has a short history of dependency on voluntary contributions and is therefore still in the process of building its capacity in these areas. The resource mobilization team has been successful in narrowing the gap between the donors' expectations and the ability of the Office to meet them, but much remains to be done. The backlog of outstanding reports must be cleared and the flow of information to donors must be improved to keep them abreast of developments on a more regular basis. However, a further increase in dependency on voluntary contributions must be paralleled with an increase in the capacity of the resource mobilization team and the Office as a whole to ensure the necessary follow-up and accountability for the contributions. Oversight and governance are important related issues. There is also the need to obtain pledges earlier in the year. Ideally, annual consultations with donors should take place between November and March followed promptly by pledges prior to the next session of the Commission on Human Rights; this was only partially achieved in 2000.

### Management

The resource mobilization team is part of the Executive Office and reports to the High Commissioner. In 2000, it consisted of two professional staff members and a secretary. A consultant assisted in the preparation of submissions to the European Commission and in clearing the backlog of outstanding reports. A third professional staff member was recruited in early 2001. The editing, lay-out and printing of the Annual Appeal is outsourced and paid from the resource mobilization budget.





# Miscellaneous

## Budget and expenditure

	Budget	Expenditure
	US\$	US\$
Security coordination	0	223,323
Developing the leadership potential	0	900,490
Administrative and financial support to OHCHR	0	461,463
Project review and management	0	117,180
Workshop on civil and political rights indicators <sup>1</sup>	0	(17,511)
Workshop on gender integration <sup>1</sup>	0	(21,675)
Programme on AIDS and human rights	0	85,167
Indigenous people's education	0	51,514
Togo inquiry	0	85,574
Management training programme <sup>1</sup>	0	(36,650)
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,848,875</b>

<sup>1</sup> Adjustment to prior period expenditure.

<sup>2</sup> In addition, total expenditure of US\$ 223,447 were incurred for regional strategies against a contribution/allotment from United Nations Fund/UNFIP.

This section represents a variety of activities undertaken during the year which were not initially budgeted for and did not appear in the Annual Appeal 2000. Some of the projects identified in this section represent adjustments from previous years. These include: the workshop on civil and political rights; the workshop on gender integration; and the management and training programme.

### *Security coordination*

The Security Coordinator provided support to all field activities to ensure the safety of staff, property and information. In addition to providing assessments and advice in the field to OHCHR presences, the Security Coordinator supported and participated in all investigative missions and Commissions of Inquiry. Travel advisories and security clearances were provided for all OHCHR staff as well as experts and special rapporteurs who traveled to security phase locations as identified by the UN security management system. Staff assistance visits were provided to several of the larger field offices covering operational issues in addition to responding to security needs. Notwithstanding, much more needs to be accomplished to provide adequate security coverage for OHCHR staff, especially to meet the security management standards being developed system wide. The provision of training, equipment and professional security staff to facilitate the safe conduct of OHCHR's mandate in the field, remain crucial areas which require further development. An increase in resources has been justified and efforts are underway to obtain the necessary level of funding in future.

### *Developing the leadership potential of OHCHR*

Under this project funds have been used to boost OHCHR's capacity in areas such as public information, speech writing, articles, statements and preparations for the World Conference against Racism. In addition, activities were undertaken to upgrade OHCHR's information technology system, through the development of HURICANE (i.e. the human rights computerized analysis environment), which is a storehouse on human rights information.

### *Administrative and financial support to OHCHR*

The primary function of the administrative section is to provide support to the Office's three substantive Branches, field presences and Executive Office with regard to all administrative matters. This includes handling travel requests of OHCHR staff, special rapporteurs and others traveling on behalf of the High Commissioner; administering the work contracts of OHCHR staff recruited through UNOPS; providing budgetary and financial support to project man-

agers; providing advise on the availability of funds; and preparing financial reports, including for donors. The administrative section was restructured to better reflect the division of responsibility between the various functions as well as to enhance its effectiveness. A number of staff were therefore recruited to boost the administrative section during 2000.

#### *Project Review Committee*

A staff member was recruited to serve as secretary for the Project Review Committee which reviews and approves detailed project documents requiring additional voluntary contributions before the implementation of activities. These documents specify outcomes, achievements, the nature of activities, budgets, timetables as well as managerial and monitoring arrangements.

#### *Programme on HIV-AIDS and human rights*

In line with OHCHR's agreement with UNAIDS, the Office contributed to an effective and sustainable human-rights based response to the HIV-AIDS epidemic at national, regional and international levels by enhancing the integration of HIV/AIDS issues within the human rights machinery. Expenditures related to this project referred essentially to staff costs, which were required to ensure implementation of this mandate.

#### *Indigenous people's education*

A consultant was recruited during 2000 and undertook initiatives to develop a project proposal on cultural and educational activities as they relate to indigenous peoples. However, once finalized the necessary funding required to develop the project further was not forthcoming during the year.

#### *Togo inquiry*

The International Commission of Inquiry for Togo was established in June 2000 by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. Its mandate was to establish the truth with regard to allegations that hundreds of people had been victims of extra-judicial killings in Togo during 1998. The Commission, chaired by Mr. Mahamat Hassan Abakar of Chad, met in Geneva twice before undertaking its work in Togo, Benin and Ghana from 6 November to 14 December 2000. Its report was finalized shortly thereafter and made available to the Commission on Human Rights at its 2001 session.



## Voluntary contributions .....

Donor	Earmarking	Pledge	Income
		US\$	US\$
Belgium	HR Training	274,095	267,575
Burkina Faso	Unearmarked	2,173	2,173
Croatia	Unearmarked	3,000	3,000
Cyprus	Unearmarked	4,000	4,000
Egypt	Unearmarked	5,000	0
France	Prot. of Ind. People	69,867	72,525
	Togo inquiry	67,997	64,630
Germany	Togo inquiry	72,972	67,963
Ireland	Administration	19,142	19,052
	Business and HR	12,761	12,679
	HR of the disabled	50,971	50,050
Italy	Unearmarked	155,440	155,440
Mauritius	Unearmarked	0	100
Monaco	Unearmarked	7,000	7,000
Nepal	Unearmarked	6,988	6,988
Netherlands	HR training/UNDAF	4,500	4,500
Norway	HR Committee	26,419	26,419
	HIV-AIDS	80,472	82,307
	Gender issues	80,472	84,604
Oman	Unearmarked	5,000	5,000
Panama <sup>1</sup>	Unearmarked	2,025	0
Philippines	Unearmarked	0	1,875
Sri Lanka	Unearmarked	10,000	10,000
South Africa	Unearmarked	31,546	38,208
Thailand	Unearmarked	20,000	20,000
United Kingdom	Doc. on torture	25,546	25,546
Erasmus	Unearmarked	0	28,250
United Nations Foundation/UNFIP <sup>2</sup>	Regional strategies	1,740,000	0
	Change management	600,000	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,377,386</b>	<b>1,059,884</b>

<sup>1</sup> Reported in the official UN financial statements for the 2000-2001 biennium.

<sup>2</sup> Allotment for 2000: US\$ 958,553. Total project budget: US\$ 1,291,248, of which US\$ 332,695 was allocated to regional expert seminars in support of the World Conference against Racism (not recorded as income in the official UN statements for the 2000-2001 biennium).



ANNUAL REPORT 2000  
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