



United Nations Human Rights Appeal 2023



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**United Nations
Human Rights
Appeal 2023**

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UN Human Rights organization chart

Abbreviations and acronyms

Foreword by the High Commissioner



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In 2023, we commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This was and remains a miraculous text. For 75 years the core ambition of the Declaration has been to infuse societies with equality, fundamental freedoms and justice. To represent the common language of our shared humanity, a unifying force at the heart of which lies human dignity and the consequent duty of care for another human being, regardless of circumstance.

Since the adoption of the Declaration, there have been profound gains in human advancement, with steadily increasing respect for human rights – at the individual, community and global levels – as a central feature. An ecosystem of laws and structures has been created to promote and protect human rights, including the nine core international human rights instruments.

But at this turbulent moment full of global uncertainties, reality continues to fall short of these promises.

We are facing widening economic and social gaps between and within countries, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, rampant impunity, rising cost of living, and the triple planetary crisis, the urgency of which words can no longer contain.

The flourishing of echo chambers, misinformation and disinformation – both online and off – social unrest and the silencing of dissent are also alarming trends.

For 75 years, the core ambition of the Declaration has been to infuse societies with equality, fundamental freedoms and justice.

It has never been more important to reawaken the impulse and energy that led to the Declaration.

To lift the words off the page and make human rights a reality for all.

In 2023, my Office will lead the UDHR 75 initiative to rejuvenate a worldwide consensus on human rights – one that unifies us at a time when we need urgently to come together to confront the existential challenges humanity faces. This initiative will ground and shape the activities of my Office, together with other parts of the UN system and partners, for the year ahead.

The year 2023 also marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which paved the way for the creation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since 1993, the work of my Office has been key to advancing the promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to building a broader human rights consensus, and to supporting States, communities and individuals to uphold the values – and obligations – at the heart of human rights.

To this end, in 2023, my Office will continue to defend civic space – including for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals - the fundamental ingredient of free and open societies. We will step up work to enhance equality and counter discrimination, and to respond preventatively, before tensions and violations can escalate.

Our commitment persists to pursue accountability and respect for the rule of law, essential to the renewal of the social contract anchored in human rights.

With the global socio-economic crisis deepening inequalities, we will continue to promote human rights-enhancing economies and support States to implement economic, social, and cultural rights. We will bolster our efforts to imbue human rights in the work of the United Nations and beyond – such as in international financial institutions – and we will continue to prioritise human rights in sustainable development.

Throughout, we will work to better leverage digital technologies to ensure promotion and protection of human rights; while also working to ensure that human rights are respected online. And we will promote decisive action to uphold climate justice and the universal human right to a healthy environment.

Strengthening our operations at country and regional levels will enable us to improve our analysis, responses and results. It is vital that the standard-setting

work of the human rights regime move closer to the field, and that it become more operational and meaningful in the lives of individuals and communities.

Our efforts depend on broad partnerships and meaningful cooperation, as only through stronger government and whole-of-society ownership of the realization of human rights can real, transformative change come about. We will continue to draw on the crucial work of the international human rights mechanisms in our contributions at all levels.

The financial assistance of our donors continues to be vital to our ability to carry out this work, and to achieve results and impact for people on the ground. I wish to thank the 84 donors who demonstrated their commitment to human rights and their confidence in the Office, by donating US\$222.4 million* last year.

Despite this generosity, human rights work remains drastically underfunded, undermining progress on peace and development. I hope that we can count on your increased support as we take on the challenging, but fundamental, task of keeping human rights at the centre of our efforts and of living up to the promises and potential of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Volker Türk
United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

* Figures are estimated as of 9 December 2022 and will be adjusted and confirmed upon the final closure of the 2022 accounts.

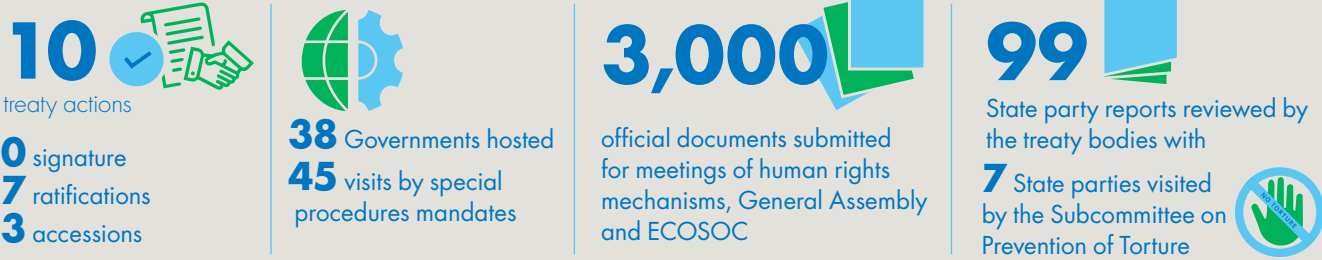
UN Human Rights in 2022

Mandate

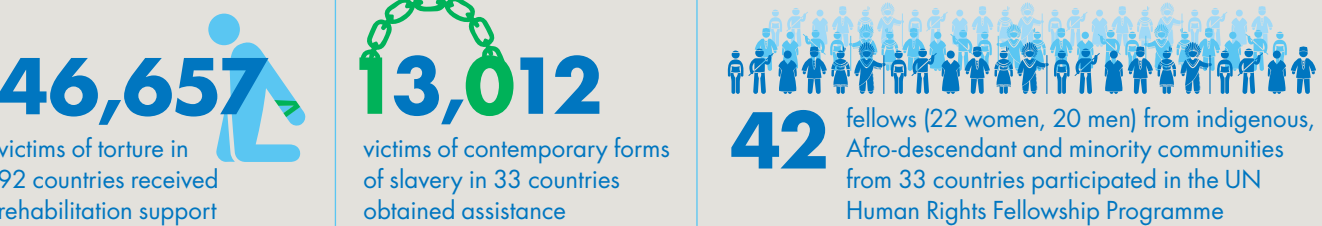


2022 Facts and figures

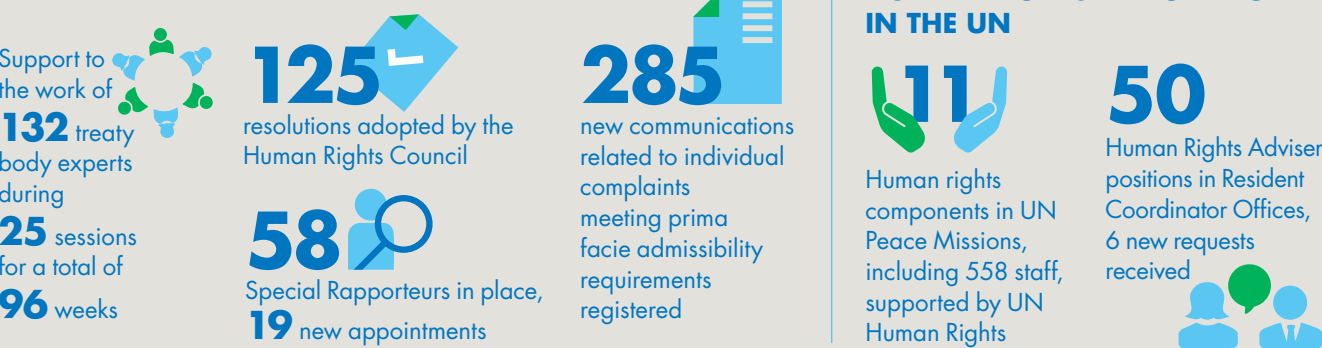
MEMBER STATE COOPERATION



PEOPLE-CENTERED



HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS SUPPORT



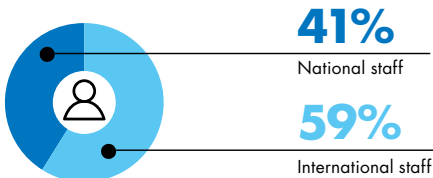
CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT



Global presence in 2022

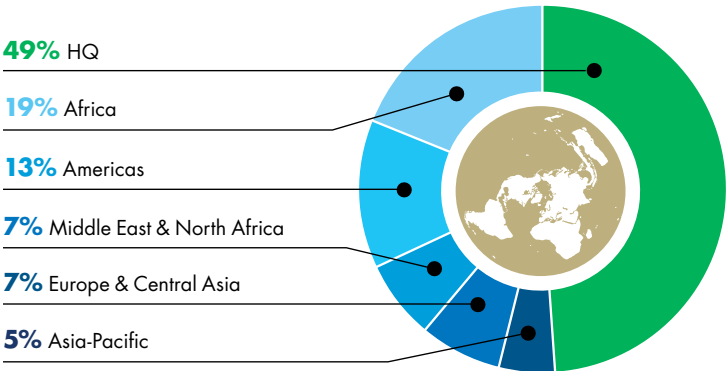


Staff distribution by category

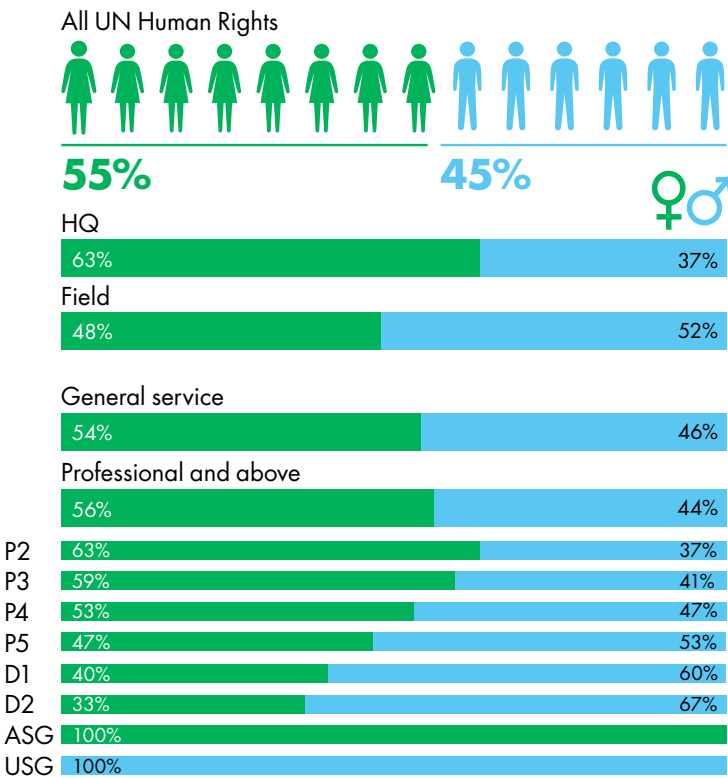


Notes: Data available as of 30 September 2022. Data include all UN Human Rights and UNDP-administered staff in the General Service, National Officer, Professional and higher categories on temporary, permanent, continuing and fixed-term appointments. Locally recruited staff in the General Service category are considered as national staff. HQ includes staff at the Geneva and New York locations.

Staff distribution by location at HQ and in the field

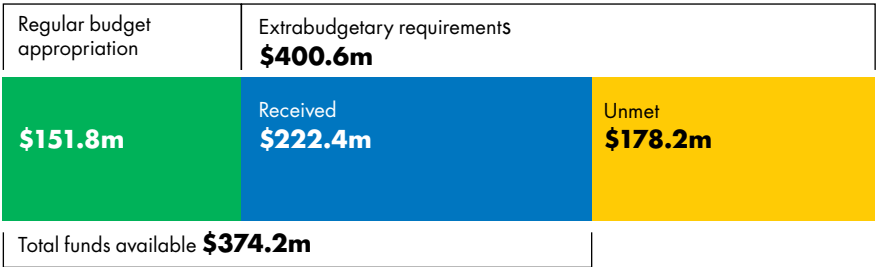


Staff distribution by gender

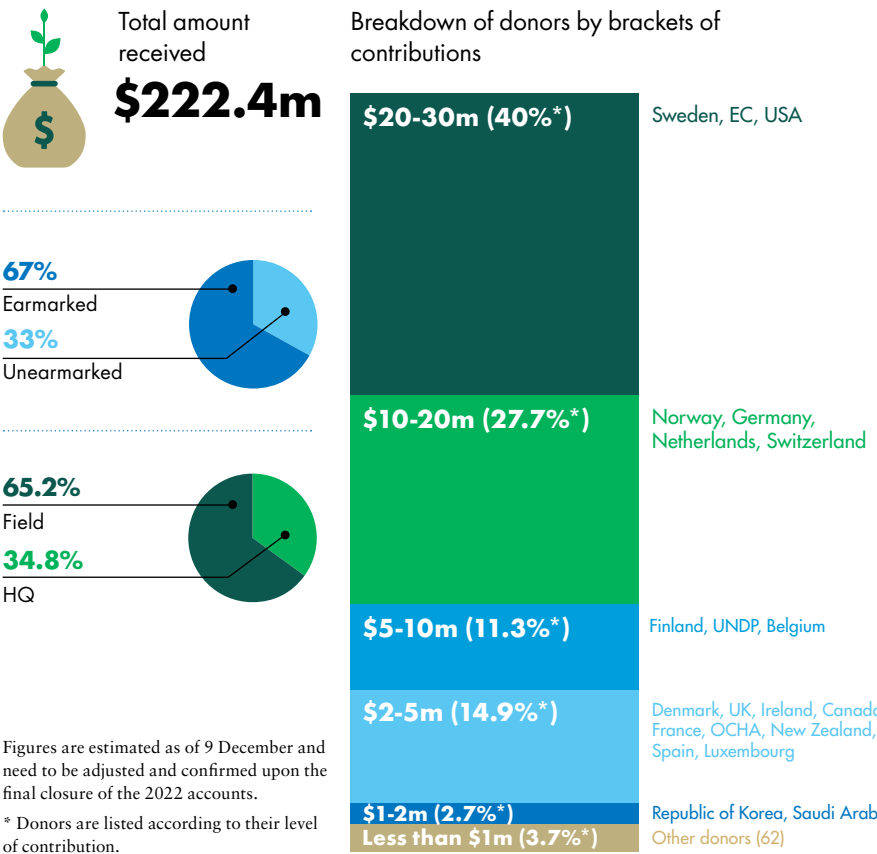


Funding overview in 2022

Income



Voluntary contributions

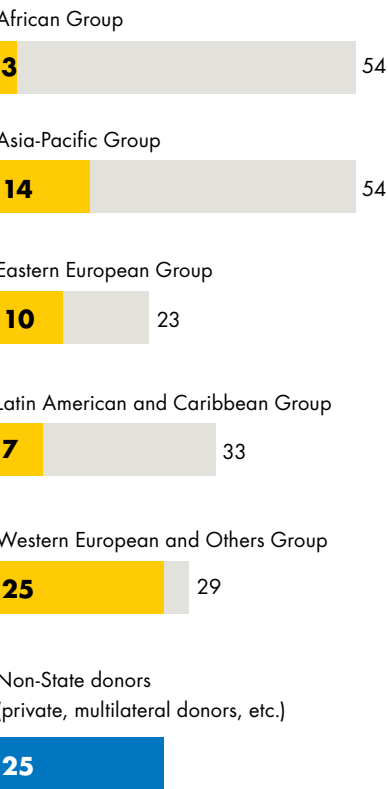


Figures are estimated as of 9 December and need to be adjusted and confirmed upon the final closure of the 2022 accounts.
* Donors are listed according to their level of contribution.

Donors



Breakdown of donors by geographic group



Roadmap to 2023

This Annual Appeal presents the financial requirements for our work in 2023, under the Secretary-General’s Strategic Framework and as guided by the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP).

Our OMP combines the High Commissioner’s vision for the Office with a strong results framework. It details our priorities, expected results and strategies, and is a tool to hold ourselves accountable to the people we serve, and to Member States.

Our Management Plan usually covers a four-year period, but the 2018-2021 OMP was extended through 2022 and 2023. The OMP aligns an ambitious vision for promoting and protecting human rights with a proven results-based programming framework. It extends and updates the priorities, results and strategies that have guided UN Human Rights over the previous four years. In so doing, it sustains the six thematic pillars that undergird UN Human Rights’ global efforts to advance the enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

In addition to extending the OMP, we updated it to recalibrate, renew and introduce work areas to sharpen our engagement on immediate opportunities and challenges. Building on the foundation established by the six pillars, we have defined six shifts, along with specific spotlight populations. While we will continue combatting all forms of discrimination, these spotlight populations allow us to focus on specific groups, bolstering our contribution to

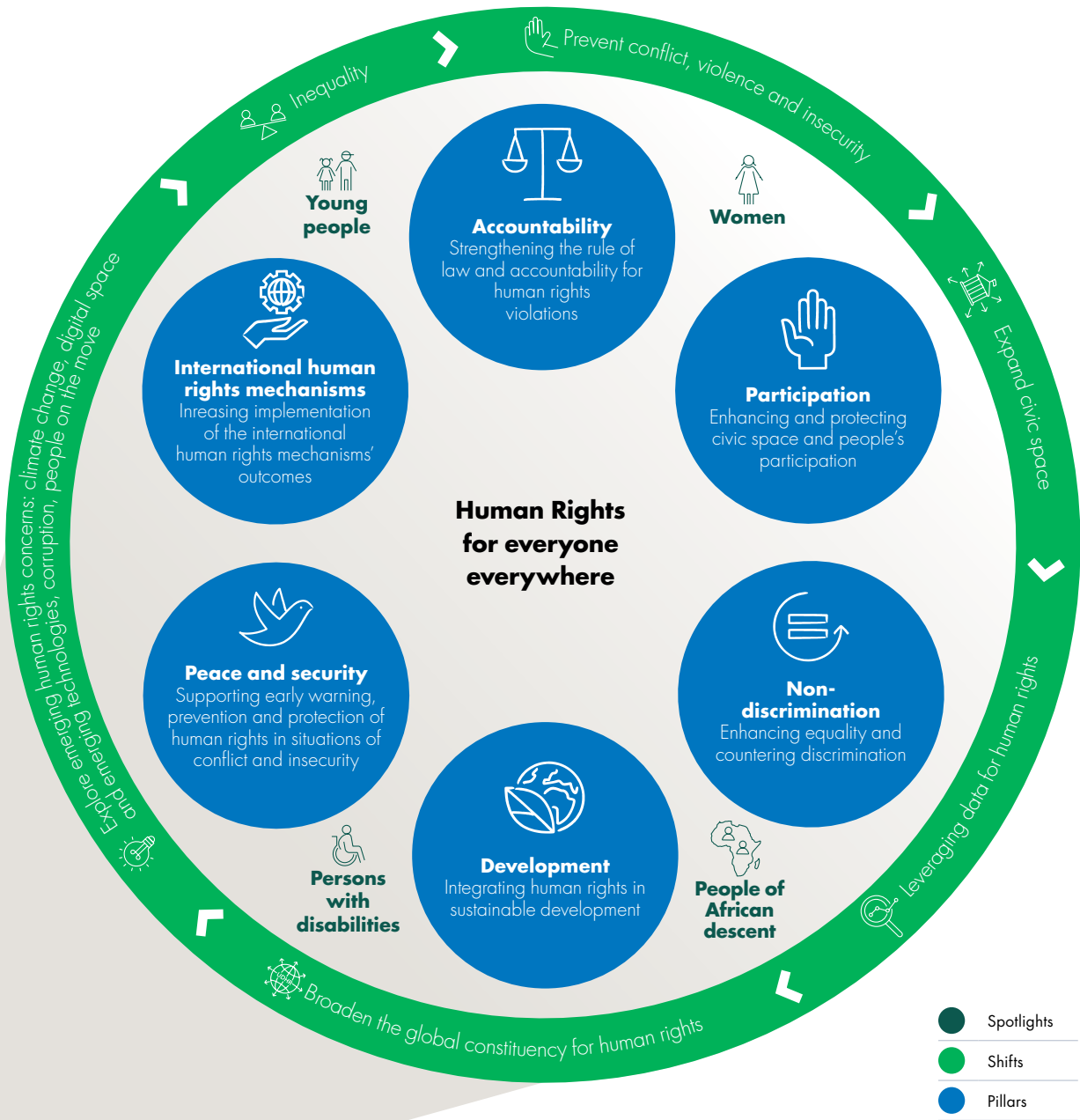
the 2030 Agenda’s guiding principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB).

Within this framework, in 2022 and 2023, we will confront today’s most compelling human rights challenges by giving more prominence to three areas of work:

- **Inequality** – The global pandemic has brought extraordinary challenges to our world. It has exposed a generation of underinvestment in public health systems, with devastating results for humanity, and has uncovered the many negative human rights impacts that result from growing inequality.
- **The situation of people of African descent** The discrimination that accompanies inequalities affects all marginalised groups, and people of African descent have long borne the harmful effects of heightened discrimination and violence. Transformative change for racial justice and equality is set out in the High Commissioner’s four-point agenda to end systemic racism and human rights violations by law enforcement agencies against Africans and people of African descent.
- **Leveraging data for human rights** – The focus on leveraging data will improve analysis and decision-making along the full spectrum of human rights. This expansion responds to the

Secretary-General’s vision for the United Nations to be a data-driven innovative and results oriented organization that uses strategic foresight and behavioural science to deliver optimal value for people and planet.

OMP at a glance



UDHR 75

Commemorating seventy-five years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and thirty years of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 2023.



In 2023, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), which paved the way for the creation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: two milestones on the path to larger human dignity.

In honour of these important anniversaries, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will convene a year-long **UDHR 75 initiative** in 2023. An opportunity to recall the consensus envisaged by the UDHR and to reset, strengthen and further develop the remarkable human rights infrastructure we have constructed, the initiative will focus on three tracks, pursued simultaneously, centred on the following goals:

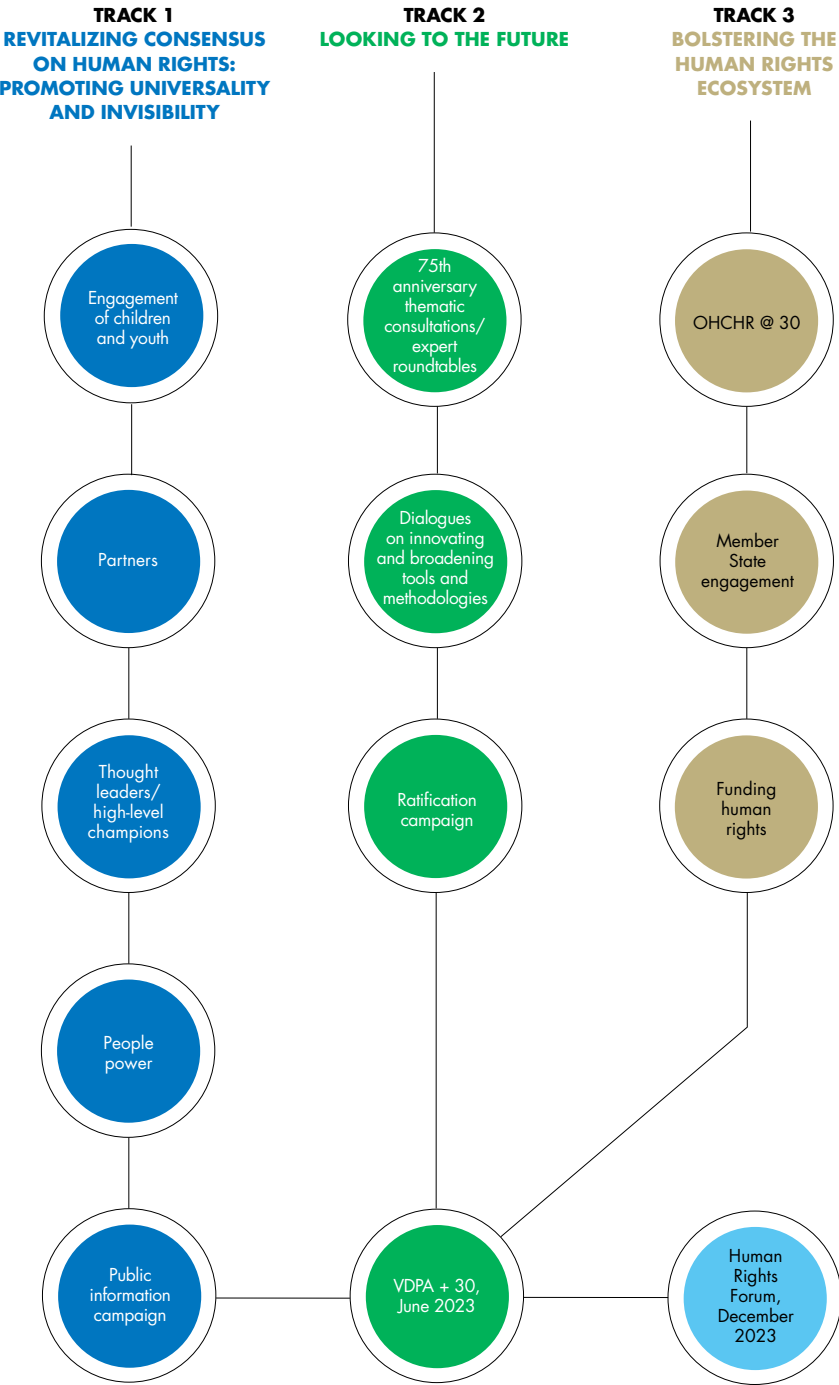


- 1. **Revitalizing consensus on human rights: promoting universality and indivisibility.** Elements will include engagement with children and youth, partners, thought leaders, a "people's petition", and a public information campaign.
- 2. **Looking to the future.** Elements will include a series of 75th anniversary thematic consultations and expert roundtables on future human rights challenges and opportunities, dialogues on broadening and innovating tools and methodologies for implementation of human rights, and a ratification campaign for the nine core human rights treaties.
- 3. **Bolstering the human rights ecosystem.** Elements will include defining the vision for the future of the Office, bolstering Member State and public trust in the human rights architecture, as well as renewed consideration of funding.

The outcomes of the UDHR 75 initiative will include a proposed **Forum on Human Rights**, to be convened by the High Commissioner in December 2023, bringing together governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to dialogue and pledge to promote and protect human rights.

Information available at the time of finalizing this Appeal

Tracks UDHR 75 will involve three tracks, pursued simultaneously, centred on the goals above.





South Sudanese refugee at the border with Sudan, January 2021. ©Dustin Okazaki

While we continue our work around the six pillars of the OMP, in this Annual Appeal, we are zooming in on the contribution of UN Human Rights to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Secretary-General's vision, in Our Common Agenda, of a new social contract anchored in human rights.

Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

The 2030 Agenda sets out a vision for sustainable development that is firmly grounded in human rights,¹ with equality and non-discrimination, leaving no one behind, and reaching those furthest behind first at the centre of its efforts. With its transformative ambition and universal applicability, the 2030 Agenda challenges all to remain steadfast in ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are implemented in accordance with international human rights law. As the mid-point for the target date to achieve the 2030 Agenda draws near, UN Human Rights is stepping up its work to ensure human rights are at the core of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while investing in partnerships within and outside the UN system.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, some progress had been made on key SDG indicators. However, advances in such

life-changing areas as reducing inequality, lowering carbon emissions and tackling hunger had either stalled or regressed.² COVID-19 aggravated these delays, setting back the fight against poverty by nearly a decade. The pandemic undermined already fragile marginalised groups, increasing inequalities dramatically and exposing decades of underinvestment in public health, social protection and other services.

Multiple acute crises – climate, health, energy, food, financial – have in recent years deepened the socioeconomic plight of people worldwide, with the most disadvantaged groups experiencing the greatest suffering. High food prices and staggering inflation are squeezing household incomes, resulting in increased hunger, fewer children in education, erosion of living standards, and social instability. Threats against fundamental freedoms, democratic institutions and civic space are multiplying. Trust between States and their people is crumbling. Today, two thirds of the world's population

“Human rights are vital problem-solving tools that safeguard lives and livelihoods and can prevent grievances from arising.”

António Guterres,
UN Secretary-General

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1, paras. 10, 18, 19, 67 and 74. Further, over 90 per cent of the 169 targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect the content of corresponding international human rights and labour standards: see https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Development/SR/AddisAbaba/SDG_HR_Table.pdf and <http://sdg.humanrights.dk>.

² See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>.

live in countries where income inequality and wealth disparities have widened. The poorest half of the global population now represents only 2 per cent of total wealth, while the richest 10 per cent own 76 per cent.³

These escalating crises are having severe effects on the poorest countries and small island developing states. While soaring debt is crowding out critical social spending and investments in our planet, those who contribute the least to the triple planetary crisis – climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss – are suffering the most. At the same time, geopolitical tensions and high, pervasive, and growing inequalities between and within countries are steering us towards an increasingly polarized world.

In the face of these multiple challenges, the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights (C2A) and his report "Our Common Agenda" set out a vision to rescue the SDGs and build forward fairer. The C2A recognizes that when we take a human rights-based approach to development, the outcomes are more sustainable, powerful and effective. Building on this, Our Common Agenda calls for renewed solidarity between peoples and with generations to come, a renewed social contract anchored in human rights, better management of critical global commons, and global public goods that deliver equitably and sustainably for all. Echoing the C2A's vision for human rights, Our Common Agenda calls for a renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation, essential if we are to address the most pressing challenges of our time.

³ See <https://wir2022.wid.world>

With only eight years to go, we stand at a juncture. If we are to put the SDGs back on track and deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030, we must place human rights front and centre of these efforts. Human rights serve as a lever to accelerate implementation of the SDGs. They help detect and resolve development bottlenecks and can, by empowering people as active agents of sustainable development, facilitate the transition to more equitable, greener, safer and more peaceful societies.

Anchoring human rights in SDG implementation strategies draws attention to those who have benefited the least from development and to the dismantling of structural drivers of exclusion. Human rights create an obligation to deliver essential levels of health, social protection and other basic services at all times. They also provide a normative underpinning to mobilize the maximum available resources towards economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). More broadly, integrating human rights into SDG strategies closes the gap between human rights and economic policymaking.

By identifying concrete actions that address the most critical human rights issues, UN Human Rights ensures that UN leadership and others on the ground are adequately supported and equipped to follow through on the SDGs and the development related portions of the C2A. In Phase II of the C2A, our focus has shifted to country-level implementation and impact.

UN Human Rights has made it a priority to reinforce human rights in sustainable development policy and practice, with decisive results. In 2022, Human Rights Advisers were deployed to 50 countries, providing essential advice on UN analysis and programming and supporting Resi-

dent Coordinators in leading the human rights agenda on the ground. The Surge Initiative – composed of economists, development and economic and social rights experts – has provided essential specialized advice on issues such as budgeting for human rights, enhancing fiscal transparency, leaving no one behind in the design of social and economic rights measures, and empowering grassroots organizations to monitor national development plans.

The reform of the UN Development System has major potential to open new spaces for human rights. To rise to the challenge, we must further strengthen both human rights discourse and action with a strong focus on equality, non-discrimination and indivisibility of rights. UN Human Rights has a pivotal role to play in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda and delivering a comprehensive response to our global, interlinked crises. We will feed actively into the preparatory process of the SDG Summit in September 2023 to ensure the centrality of human rights in the way forward.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda: UN Human Rights leads by action



Rohingya refugee children walk along the road at Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, November 16, 2018. ©REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain

To this end, UN Human Rights can use the common frameworks of the Call to Action – with its thematic priority of Rights at the Core of Sustainable Development – and Our Common Agenda to engage with internal and external partners.

Within the UN System, our participation in the Deputies and Executive Committee as well as in the Chief Executives Board serve as critical avenues to ensure human rights remain central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to peace and security. These linkages have been repeatedly reaffirmed in resolutions of the United Nations' principal organs, including the 2016 and 2020 twin resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council on sustaining peace and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions 38/18 and 45/31 on the HRC's contribution to the prevention of human rights violations.

Accordingly, the Office engages with intergovernmental bodies, in particular the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC to ensure human rights are integrated into their deliberations and outcomes and that collective efforts to prevent and respond to global crises and challenges remain coherent. This involves the participation and strategic engagement of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General, as well as human rights bodies and mechanisms based in Geneva, along with a more systematic integration of their recommendations and analyses.

PARTNERING WITHIN AND BEYOND THE UN SYSTEM

Our central tenet holds that the collective responsibility of the UN System to protect and promote human rights is vital to advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This has become increasingly relevant and urgent in light of the international community's evolving challenges: recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity, climate change, and asymmetric conflicts have once again brought to the forefront the role of human rights as both cause and effect of these challenges. This underscores the urgent need for multidimensional and holistic United Nations system-wide approaches and actions that are anchored in human rights.

To address the rapidly deteriorating global context, we have expanded our efforts to promote and protect ESCR for all without discrimination and deepened our work to address the root causes of inequalities and discrimination. This builds on strong partnerships at the global policy level with other UN entities, such as with ILO on human rights-enhancing economies and universal social protection, with WHO on rights-based universal health coverage, and with UNEP on the right to a clean and healthy environment. The UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and UN Country Teams (UNCT) are critical partners in the field, translating global policies into tangible actions at the country level. We will therefore leverage the opportunities presented by the UN Development System Reform and actively contribute to implementing Our Common Agenda, ensuring a focus on human rights in both the SDG Summit in 2023 and the Summit for the Future in 2024.

We will work towards greener and more inclusive economies, reinforce the connection between human rights and SDG country implementation strategies, and broaden our stakeholder engagement. We are expanding our global constituency with academia and civil society, for example through our partnership with the New School's Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, with grassroots organizations, and with those who are the most marginalised. We are also deepening our engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs) both at global and country levels.

Our country-level work, in turn, generates the evidence that underpins our global policies and partnerships. This evidence is used for normative advice and to shape policy solutions in the field. The Surge Initiative has played a key role at the country

level, providing increased analysis, policy support and new partnerships that advance ESCR, a focus on inequalities and non-discrimination, and contribution to rights-based implementation of the SDGs. LNOB is a growing priority both in national sustainable development plans and in the new generation of Common Country Analyses (CCA) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF). A recent United Nations interagency review – involving 12 entities and coordinated by UN Human Rights under the auspices of the Call to Action for Human Rights – indicated a need to step up ambition and reinforce human rights integration into UN development analyses and programming. In 2023, UN Human Rights will support UNCTs in several ways. We will launch a practical interagency tool that further operationalizes the integration of human rights into the United Nations system's development work. We will work with the rest of the UN system to roll out a recently finalized human rights-based approach (HRBA) training package for UNCTs. We will also increase our support to better integrate human rights mechanisms' analyses and recommendations into United Nations programming documents.

Galvanizing the UN system to put human rights and leaving no one behind front and centre of UN support to SDG implementation is critical to translating the UN's vision into action that have people at its heart. Our work will ensure that planetary action and economies work for people and with people. The UN system action will be mobilized towards inclusive economics that prioritize a fairer distribution of resources, invests in people through quality basic services for the most disadvantaged, as well as in our global common goods. Through our work for meaningful participation, we will ensure all parts of society

have a seat at the table, including those who are invisible in public policy and in data. By connecting our work at the policy level with system-wide support to country implementation, people will have a say in the design and implementation of public policies and be able to hold decision-makers accountable for a greener, sustainable and just society.

DATA AS A CATALYST FOR SDG AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS

UN Human Rights has stepped up its work on data as a catalyst for SDG and human rights progress. This has improved the availability of quality human rights data to guide Member States and UN work, the effectiveness of its advocacy and analysis, and the capacity of States to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups. UN Human Rights has made significant strides in promoting disaggregated SDG and human rights indicators as well as statistical techniques that measure human rights issues. As a result, a variety of stakeholders and processes across development, peace and security and humanitarian work are now using these data.

Its work on the SDG indicators has built the Office's capacity to produce regular, reliable and authoritative data on discrimination, civilian deaths in conflict, killings and disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists, and progress of national human rights institutions. For example, UN Human Rights data on human rights defenders are now being used in country reports and for advocacy and policymaking, while data on civilian deaths during ten years of conflict in Syria are helping support the work of accountability and justice mechanisms for historical and other purposes.

This work has enabled the Office to nurture and consolidate data partnerships at global and national levels with UN entities, including UNESCO, ILO, UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, and UNMAS, as well as with civil society organizations, the private sector, National Human Rights Institutions and National Statistics Offices. These partnerships help broaden access to quality data relevant to human rights, including internet shutdowns, eco-



Alexandrino Gerardo Perez, President of the local committee for the defense of water in San Matías Chilazao, Mexico, June 16, 2022. UN Human Rights accompanied a group of 16 indigenous Zapotec communities to win a court case that led to a consultation and a presidential decree guaranteeing its rights to water on its land. ©Consuelo Pagaza/OHCHR

conomic data, or other datasets useful in early warning and prevention analyses. UN Human Rights has also introduced new tools that improve access to open sources, especially relevant where access is limited, and is using machine learning to filter through online sources and extract relevant information.

UN Human Rights has also strengthened the assessment and management of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and data protection risks, the development of data-sharing protocols, and the use of data and tech partnerships. Under the SG's Data Strategy and the System-wide Road Map for Innovating UN Data and Statistics, work has begun to improve data governance, privacy and protection at the UN system level, to develop a human rights due diligence methodology for the responsible use of data and new technology, and to strengthen technical assistance to national institutions and systems.

The Office also increased its visibility in various statistical and data oversight bodies, thereby strengthening the commitment of the statistical community to apply international human rights standards and principles relevant to data collection and disaggregation. This has also paved the way for unprecedented initiatives such as the Office's first-ever joint survey programmes on the impact of [COVID-19 in West Africa](#) and the [SDG 16 Survey Initiative](#), which collects data on discrimination disaggregated by numerous grounds.

These efforts have created a data-rich environment whose impact is felt among States and communities and within the UN system. However, much of these data are fragmented and are not systematically shared or fully optimized for effective communications, analysis, or human rights impact.

In 2023, we will focus on evolving these capabilities. This will advance our vision of harnessing the power of data for human rights and strengthen collaboration with partners within and outside the UN by capitalizing on the UN system's data-driven transformation and partnerships with UN entities.

We will support regional and national statistical and data ecosystems in data collection, implementing a human rights-based approach to data (HRBAD), and human rights and SDG indicators. Our increased assistance to regional and national statistical and data ecosystems, including RCOs and UNCTs, will help them advance LNOB-sensitive SDGs implementation, collect disaggregated data, and implement the HRBAD.

We will broaden and leverage data partnerships, including with the private sector, through the UN Data Strategy secretariat to access a wider variety of datasets, including big and high-frequency data.

Driven by Our Common Agenda, we will also actively work on embedding the UN 2.0 transformation in all aspects of our work. OHCHR will play a key role in collecting, analysing and communicating human rights data. We will continue our digital transformation and innovation, engage in strategic foresight and leverage behavioural science to ensure decision-makers within the UN and beyond are equipped to design effective and forward-looking policies. We will ensure that data inform OHCHR's decisions and use data to prove our work's effectiveness, resilience and sustainability.

“Human rights are humanity’s common language.”

Volker Türk,
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Implementing the 2030 Agenda: A national approach



A shop owner in the streets of New Andong village, a relocation site established by the Municipality of Phnom Penh. Thanks to OHCHR and CSOs’ advocacy, improvements in terms of housing and sanitation were made to original plans. Phnom Penh, Cambodia, November 14, 2018. ©OHCHR

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS: ENABLING UN SYSTEM ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2017, the Secretary-General presented Member States with a bold plan for the UN Development System (UNDS): a new generation of UNCTs, guided by a strategic Cooperation Framework, and led by independent and empowered Resident Coordinators (RC). Three years into the reform, the United Nations is in a better position to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that anchors it. In 2020, Member States echoed the vision laid out by the Secretary-General in his Call to Action for Human Rights, giving

the UN system a mandate to place human rights at the centre of sustainable development. At the country level, the presence of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) demonstrates that Member States recognize the contribution of human rights to sustainable development and the need for all UNDS entities to assist countries in meeting their human rights commitments.

UN Human Rights and DCO have joined forces with other UNDS partners to translate this mandate into tangible action at the country level. Today, as a result of the expertise of HRAs, RCs and UNCTs are better equipped to integrate human rights into their work and make them central to their support to countries. HRAs identify those pockets of society not benefiting from development and determine how to address these gaps, an added capacity that allows UNCTs to respond quickly to threats against development gains. In Kenya, for example, HRA support to the UNCT helped establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Human Rights Institution and the National Statistical Office – one of the first countries to do so. As a result, a human rights-based approach was applied to data collection and analysis to support SDG implementation, including policy and programming that target those most left behind.

The presence of HRAs has proven critical for countries, both in addressing the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 and in striving to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda. Their timely and targeted advice has helped RCs and UN entities identify specific challenges

faced by marginalised groups during the pandemic and advocate for solutions that improved access to basic social services and enjoyment of rights. In the **Republic of Moldova**, for example, the HRA helped integrate human rights into the CCA and UNSDCF, the socio-economic response plan to COVID-19, and the response to the massive refugee influx in early 2022. The HRA also ensured recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and from treaty bodies were integrated into government efforts to meet human rights obligations and achieve the SDGs. Finally, the HRA supported groups representing civil society and marginalised communities in engaging more effectively with the Government.

Deploying HRAs also strengthens UNCTs’ capacities to expand public participation and civic space, helping RCs and UNCTs engage meaningfully with civil society organisations, particularly those representing the most marginalised groups. HRAs also help open new avenues for cooperation between UNCTs and key State institutions. This improves their ability to address key challenges, including by reviewing and reforming laws that are not in accordance with international human rights standards; establishing a statistical basis to increase the visibility of patterns of discrimination and exclusion; drafting economic and social policies that expand opportunities for disadvantaged groups; establishing institutions and programmes that provide redress for victims of human rights abuses; and improving mechanisms that track and report on the country’s progress in meeting its human rights obligations.

HRAs have also become central to independent and empowered RCs seeking to translate the UNCT’s work into plans and programmes that are anchored in

human rights and meet the ambition and urgent timeline of the 2030 Agenda. This is particularly important when developing Cooperation Frameworks that guide the entire programme cycle, driving planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the SDGs. As a result of HRA support to RCs and UNCTs in developing the CCAs and UNSDCFs, 81 per cent of the countries where they are deployed undertook a human rights analysis in 2021, compared with only 27 per cent of UNCTs without an HRA. Where UNCTs have an HRA, 70 per cent of Cooperation Frameworks link outcomes with recommendations from the UPR, as opposed to 25 per cent for UNCTs without an HRA or another type of UN Human Rights field presence. HRAs have also strengthened the ability of UNCTs to influence other UN planning processes, such as the Joint SDG Fund and UN system-wide strategies on gender equality, youth and disability inclusion.

The UNDS reform has accelerated demand from RCs for deployment of HRAs to UNCTs. HRAs are now UN Human Rights’ largest field presence. In 2017, 24 HRAs were in the field. By 2022, that number had more than doubled to 50, with six more RCs requesting an HRA for their UNCT. Without additional funding, however, the Office will be forced to reduce that number to 43 in 2023.



A couple prepares bunches of flowers in the Roma village of Schinoasa, Republic of Moldova, July 2018. ©OHCHR

**HUMAN RIGHTS
MAINSTREAMING: THE ROLE
OF REGIONAL AND COUNTRY
OFFICES**

The UN reform has multiplied opportunities for collaboration between UN Human Rights and other UN entities to advance human rights on the ground and support Member States and partners in their endeavour.

UN Human Rights Regional and Country Offices are at the heart of this effort: they bring human rights into the work of Regional Collaborative Platforms and respond to the needs of RCs and UNCTs, particularly where the UNCT has no HRA. In **Honduras**, for instance, the Country Office has increased its engagement with the UN system and promoted the integration of HRBA into UN-led strategies, communication initiatives and response plans to the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian crisis and recovery measures as well as into the Honduras UNSDCF (2022-2026). As a result, the UNSDCF integrated HRBA with emphasis on vulnerable groups such as indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples. In the **Pacific region**, UN Human Rights has prioritized human rights mainstreaming for sustainable development in the UNSDCF cycle 2023-2027, leading to visible mainstreaming and accountability for strengthened collective action on human rights for 14 Small Islands Developing States and territories (SIDS). The use of human rights indicators in its results framework has strengthened the UNSDCF’s accountability for results. In **Samoa**, the HRA, with the Regional Office’s support, will help promote collective engagement on the human rights dimensions of UNSDCF indicators, as well as an HRBA to data.

Regional Offices are key to analysing and understanding emerging human rights challenges, including cross-border challenges that require the combined efforts of several UNCTs, such as migration and climate change. In **South Africa**, for example, UN Human Rights’ Regional Office played a key role through a UN Joint Programme on social cohesion by developing tools and strategies to track and counter online hate speech and xenophobia, furthering the Office’s work on changing the migration narrative. The project helped develop key insights and best practice examples that can be used in the region where similar migration and anti-migrant issues exist when assisting UNCTs with CCAs, as well as with comments on legislation or legislative amendments.

Regional Offices are also critical when working with partners beyond the UN system. They contribute to collective strategies that include regional organisations and human rights mechanisms, and foster dialogue with regional networks of State institutions and civil society. For example in **Southeast Asia**, UN Human Rights’ Regional Office supported representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on issues of climate change and the environment, the human rights of migrants, implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, criminal justice, freedom of religion and belief, and an assessment of AICHR progress and terms of reference.

To be fit for purpose, UN Human Rights is adding thematic capacities to its Regional Offices. This includes regional Human Rights in Sustainable Development Advisers, who will strategically position UN Human Rights within the regional quality control mechanisms of the CCAs



UN Human Rights staff members in Honduras visit a community in Simpinula, April 2022. ©OHCHR

and UNSDCF, developed by UNCTs as part of the UN reform process. To better deliver on our collective mandate, these specialised advisers will be complemented by experts on such human rights mechanisms as the UPR. Investing in additional thematic capacity will better prepare the UN System to respond to global and regional challenges in a number of ways, including through human rights-informed support, whether by combating hate speech or the rise in gender-based violence; greater protection of migrants as they travel across countries; and cross-border solutions that lessen the impact of pandemics and other crises on communities.

Going forward, UN Human Rights will further integrate human rights into the work of SRSGs, RCs, HCs and other UN leaders on the ground. We will increase our systematic collaboration with other norm-based agencies, such as ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women at regional levels, as well as with DCO, DPO, DPPA, OCHA and key regional actors in development, peace and security, and humanitarian affairs.

The world's increasing fragility compels UN Human Rights to act more quickly before, during and after crises. We do so by increasing our capacity for fast interventions and early warning, by investing more heavily in programmes for the protection of human rights defenders, and by strengthening the

prevention aspect in advocacy and technical cooperation. Rights-based prevention provides solutions and addresses vulnerabilities, building robust partnerships for resilience both within and outside the UN system. Our strategies include fully operationalising regional capacities for data analysis, media monitoring, and operational support in sudden onset crises. We will also expand our Contingency Fund and rapid deployment mechanisms, to be on par with UN Human Rights' risk and early alert systems, furthering our work in protection, and increasing collaboration with the Peacebuilding Fund to address human rights in countries through joint programmes.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION: HQ AND REGIONAL OFFICE SUPPORT

Surge Initiative

The Surge Initiative was launched in 2019 to accelerate the realization of ESCR. It creates conditions to build back better, leave no one behind, and reduce inequalities, contributing to the rights-based implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Surge Initiative focuses on engagement at the country level, working closely with UN Country Teams and in the context of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analyses. It brings together economists and human rights experts to provide specialized advice on issues such as budgeting for human rights, greater fiscal transparency, leaving no one behind in the design of social and economic rights measures, SDG implementation strategies, and enhancing the monitoring of national development plans by grassroots organizations. The Surge Initiative has empowered UN Human Rights field presences, especially Human Rights Advisers and Regional Offices, to engage in areas where country-level capacity has traditionally been insufficient. With the support of the Surge Initiative, we are increasingly working in step with economists in Resident Coordinator Offices, as well as drawing upon our longstanding relationship with civil society, national human rights institutions and grassroots movements. Since its inception, the Surge Initiative has provided financial and technical assistance to 52 country seeding projects around the world to collect evidence, develop research and policy suggestions, and build partnerships for joint policy advice at the country level.

The Surge Initiative supports UN Human Rights field presences in their collaboration with UNCTs. In **Paraguay**, for example, UN Human Rights undertook a human rights analysis of the social protection system. The UNCT is using this analysis to engage with counterparts in extending the new government programme "Vamos!" to segments of society excluded from social protection, such as youth, indigenous peoples, women, older persons, children and persons with disabilities.

The Surge Initiative is also scaling up UN Human Rights' technical capacity for in-country operational support. For example, work undertaken in **Serbia** in 2020 revealed structural and long-lasting inequalities. As a result, in September 2022, UN Human Rights in Serbia and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue jointly launched the Tool for the Introduction of the LNOB principle into legislative and strategic acts of the Republic of Serbia. This project aims to strengthen UN investment in a new social contract by guiding long-term policy commitments for sustainable development based on fuller participation, inclusion and human rights.

Since the beginning of 2022, UN Human Rights has supported human rights budget analyses, with a focus on LNOB, in more than 10 countries. These begin by analysing country human rights commitments, including accepted recommendations of human rights mechanisms, to ensure no one is left behind. The Surge Initiative worked, for instance, with the Senior Human Rights Adviser in **Kenya** to help the UNCT undertake a second human rights-based analysis of the national budget, pointing to chronic underinvestment in social sectors, with serious impacts on the

core obligations of ESCR. This analysis now serves as the basis for dialogue with national partners on how to implement UPR recommendations to increase budget allocations for ESCR.

In 2023, UN Human Rights will continue to support countries’ efforts, through the Surge Initiative and in close cooperation with field presences and RCO economists, to align their budgets with the SDGs and with human rights priorities. We will provide advice on opportunities for repositioning of budgets to better promote ESCR and reduce inequalities, and on increasing fiscal transparency.

By injecting a human rights perspective into the work of IFIs, UN Human Rights contributes to the UN development system’s effort to align key IFI instruments with the 2030 Agenda and with the UN’s strategic priorities to leave no one behind, gender equality and human rights. For example, in **Tunisia**, UN Human Rights and the RCO collaborated on a UNCT position paper for engagement with the International Monetary Fund in a support programme now under negotiation. The paper provides suggestions on how to support a human rights-based approach in future economic reforms, given the global crises on food, fuel and fertilizer prices, and outlines challenges the State may face in meeting its international human rights obligations.

The Surge Initiative has also strengthened UN Human Rights’ capacity to engage in the new generation of CCAs and UNSDCFs, with a particular emphasis on ESCR, inequalities and rights-based economic transformation. In the first three quarters of 2022, the Surge Initiative, together with UN Human Rights field presences, provided technical support for CCAs or UNSDCFs in 44 countries. This technical support, which varied in depth,



Local official explains the SDGs in Creole during a consultation in Buba, Guinea-Bissau, March 20, 2022. ©NL da Luz

in several countries led to the inclusion in the CCA of an in-depth analysis of structural inequalities and groups that risk being left behind, for instance in the **Republic of Moldova**, **Mongolia** and in **Mauritania**. In UNSDCFs, the support of the Surge since its inception has also translated into UNCT interventions that will assist countries to implement the recommendations from the UN human rights mechanisms, to counter inequalities and discrimination and UNCT support to improve access to affordable quality health care, social protection, and education.

In 2022, the Surge Initiative, in collaboration with our field presences, made further strides in integrating human rights into Voluntary Nationals Reviews (VNRs). In **Guinea Bissau**, as part of the

country’s preparations for its first VNR, the Surge Initiative provided funding and technical advice that allowed the Senior Human Rights Adviser to support government-led consultations in each of the eight administrative regions of the country and the autonomous sector of Bissau. A wide range of stakeholders, including groups left behind, collectively identified priority SDGs, in light of Guinea Bissau’s human rights obligations. This informed the VNR, and the summary of the discussions will be complemented by a human rights budgetary analysis undertaken jointly with the RCO economist. Both initiatives aim to inform the upcoming National Development Plan, the State’s first report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN’s Common Country Analysis.

The work of the Surge Initiative has gained considerable traction and an increasing number of governments and UNCTs are seeking its support. Additional funding would be needed to further strengthen the Surge Initiative’s capacity to provide essential tailored support to countries.

Emergency Response Teams

The Emergency Response Teams (ERTs), created in 2017 and located within UN Human Rights Regional Offices, produce human rights risk analyses for UN Field Presences (FP) and Headquarters. These analyses identify trends that could lead to conflict or serious violations and establish the basis for timely, targeted, preventive action; work with humanitarian actors to ensure that their responses are informed by a human rights-based analysis; and provide capacity to help the Office offer a swift response to potential, emerging or actual human rights crises.

The teams are made up of a Human Rights Officer acting as focal point on early warning analysis, emergency response and humanitarian action, and an Information Management Officer whose role is to leverage information management best practices, geospatial data, and digital technology to complement analytical data. ERTs have been established in the ROs in Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, West Africa, Central Africa Sub-regional Centre, Central America, South America and the Pacific.

ERTs strengthen the capacity of UN Human Rights ROs and FPs and of the wider UN system to both anticipate and respond to human rights crises in ways that are extremely relevant to their work. For example, in 2021 in **Zambia**, the ERT in the Southern Africa RO – in collaboration with the Surge Initiative’s team of macroeconomists – prepared an analysis of risks to economic stability and access to social services. This was designed to ensure the country’s COVID-19 recovery included a strong focus on the protection of human rights and LNOB. In **Paraguay**, in 2022, the ERT intervened to document and map an emerging pattern of widespread forced evictions, bringing the situation to governmental authorities.

ERTs are an innovative development within the work of UN Human Rights, providing an important tool to promote reform within the broader UN system. By identifying trends, assessed risks and prevention efforts, they help promote both situational awareness and Early Warning, Early Action within the Office. They also encourage greater UN inter-entity cooperation around the Prevention Agenda at the field level, based on the recognized expertise of UN Human Rights as the world’s leading entity on the promotion and protection of international human rights law.

“It is imperative that we adopt policies grounded in human rights to get back on track towards realizing the 2030 Agenda and to achieving a renewed social contract anchored in human rights.”

Nada Al-Nashif,
UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN Human Rights aims to equip all its ROs with the capacity to provide RCs and UNCTs with human rights early warning analyses that inform UN planning and response, including in the development of CCAs and UNSDCFs; to operationalize prevention in the field through interagency early warning systems for UNCTs; to contribute LNOB analyses for CCAs or inter-agency risk assessments; to monitor (remotely or through deployments) fast evolving or deteriorating situations to inform the UN leadership on the ground as well as in headquarters; to contribute human rights information and analysis to global processes (Deputies' meetings, Regional Monthly Reviews, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Human Rights Council or Security Council meetings); and to support national partners, including CSOs, NHRIs and early warning networks.

Using the Universal Periodic Review to promote human rights

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is an essential practical problem-solving tool whose recommendations increasingly contribute to UN efforts to achieve Agenda 2030. The UPR's effectiveness at delivering concrete results is visible in several areas. In close partnership and cooperation with States and other stakeholders, it helps support dialogues and advocacy efforts by UNCTs and UN entities, addresses sensitive and priority development challenges, acts as a source of information for technical cooperation, and contributes to the full integration of human rights into programmes and to the achievement of the SDGs.

For example in **Jordan**, UPR recommendations issued during all three cycles helped the UNCT identify

and provide tailored support to some of the country's most marginalised and vulnerable individuals – refugees, migrant workers, vulnerable children, women and girls, and individuals who depend on the informal sector for their livelihoods. As a result, during the COVID-19 crisis, the UN found itself well-positioned to generate rapid data on emerging risks and vulnerabilities and to work with the Government to alleviate the worst effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable individuals.

UPR recommendations broaden public participation and engage with national parliaments, empower civil society, and strengthen or establish NHRIs. In addition, they are often used as entry points for sensitive or neglected issues, helping include them in the country's CCA and UNSDCF. For example, in **Colombia**, UPR recommendations on inclusion, equal rights and social protection for marginalised and vulnerable groups helped shape the CCA of the UNCT. In **Malaysia**, the outcome and recommendations that emerged from the 3rd UPR cycle were key to the development of the CCA and of the first UNSDCF for 2021-2025. The UNSDCF, vetted by over 80 Government ministries and agencies, has the human rights-based approach to development at its core. Or, in **Serbia**, the HRA mainstreamed the outcomes of the UPR review into the CCA, planning and programming of the UNCT in the previous UN Development Assistance Framework and the new UNSDCF (2021-2025). The HRA also developed tools that cross-reference the recommendations from the UPR and other human rights mechanisms, the EU accession chapters, and SDGs.

“The international human rights framework provides the strongest basis on which to rebuild the social contract, address the deepening inequalities at global and national levels, and get us back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda.”

Ilze Brands Kehris,
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights



An enumerator uses a census laptop to record details of a woman and her children with albinism participating in the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census at the Kawangware slum in Nairobi, Kenya, August 24, 2019. ©REUTERS/Njeri Mwangi

Human rights indicators: bridging human rights and sustainable development

UN Human Rights has intensified support for Member States' efforts to put rights at the core of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The application of the UN's methodological framework and tools to human rights indicators and data has strengthened coherence between human rights and sustainable development at the country level. This has strengthened the Office's role as custodian of four SDG indicators and prime advocate for a human rights-based approach to data. This approach would boost the capacity of national data ecosystems to produce, use and disseminate disaggregated statistics and indicators that measure SDGs and human rights implementation, and correct course as necessary.

At the country level, UN Human Rights engages with national actors and with the UN System to promote the signing of memoranda of understanding (MoU) between NHRIs and NSOs. We aim to catalyse the production of human rights indicators, including those in the SDGs, and use them to inform human rights analyses, development programming, and reporting to international human rights mechanisms. Since 2017, 11 such MoU have been signed in **Albania, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo,⁴ Liberia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Palestine,⁵ the Philippines, and Uganda**. These national collaborative

⁴ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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

platforms have given rise to innovative good practices that apply the principle of "leave no one behind", such as the inclusion of people with albinism, intersex persons and previously unrecognized tribes in the national census (**Kenya**); the operationalization of national mechanisms to implement the SDG indicators that track conflict-related deaths (**Philippines**); leveraging official statistics to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (**Palestine**); and the right to health in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery (the **Republic of Moldova**).

UN Human Rights also provides critical methodological and technical advice to mainstream human rights indicators in the SDGs that are under the Office's custodianship in the UN's sustainable development cooperation frameworks in over 20 countries. Some key achievements in this area include setting clear programmatic targets, linked to both the SDGs and the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, to address attacks against human rights defenders, discrimination, and threats against the independence of NHRIs in **Ethiopia** and **Peru**. In addition, human rights indicators continue to inform the UN's joint human rights programme in the **Philippines**.

In 2023, UN Human Rights will seek to expand its support to Member States and other national stakeholders through effective and novel uses of indicators and data and by deploying specialized capacity to regional offices.

“Our voices are being heard”

"When I was a kid, I believed the United Nations was like some kind of unreachable other planet," said Cristhian González Gómez. "But now I am working with them, indigenous peoples in my country are speaking at the table, and our voices are being heard."

González Gómez is an indigenous leader from Costa Rica's southern Boruca territory. He has been with the UN since 2018, working to protect and promote the rights of his peoples.

Costa Rica has eight groups of indigenous peoples, which make up 2.4 per cent of the population, or some 114,000 people. While laws recognize their right to their lands and territories, in practice those rights are often ignored. Some indigenous communities are attacked because of conflict over their land, and indigenous leaders in the south of the country have been threatened.

Against this backdrop of land takeovers and increasing conflict, threats against indigenous peoples' rights defenders and leaders are common in this region. The brutal murders of prominent rights defenders Sergio Rojas in 2019 and Jherry Rivera in 2020 shocked González Gómez and moved him to fight for indigenous rights.

"Most indigenous leaders, women and children in particular, have at some point felt fear and anguish over such threats," explained González Gómez. "Yet we have no choice but to get up and move on."

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

An initiative by the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Central America – in partnership with the Resident Coordinator's Office and other UN agencies – is putting the rights of indigenous peoples first. It involves a comprehensive prevention strategy, which analyses risks faced by indigenous peoples, and forms part of the Surge Initiative, launched by UN Human Rights in 2019 to address inequalities and strengthen economic, social and cultural rights.

Focusing on access to land in four affected territories in the south of the country, the initiative has brought together indigenous leaders, including women, local and national authorities.

"This is helping to build bridges of communication between indigenous peoples, including women leaders, and the State," said Ana Maria Upegui Cuartas, Human Rights Adviser, UN Human Rights. "We have been able to take indigenous rights issues to the highest powers in the country, including the Judiciary, the implementation of the UPR project, and to support the Judiciary in the co-creation of the institutional policy on access to justice for indigenous peoples based on international human rights standards."

The issue has also caught the attention of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, she said, due to precautionary measures taken in 2015 to protect

the Terraba and Salitre peoples. This has helped to put indigenous rights on the map not only in Costa Rica, but throughout the Americas region.

For González Gómez, the impacts of the initiative have been far-reaching. Indigenous peoples and communities are finally being heard, and UN agencies and the Government are responding positively to their demands.

In December 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Francisco Cali Tzay, visited Costa Rica to assess and advise on priority issues and concerns.

"Accountability is improving," he said. "Government officials are listening to our recommendations and making more concerted efforts to visit our communities. The space to speak has opened, and we are taking these visits as opportunities to demand our rights."

Although González Gómez is pleased with the progress of the initiative, he recognises there is a long way to go before Costa Rica's indigenous peoples achieve equality.

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS EQUALITY

The Government needs to continue its dialogue with indigenous peoples, he explained, and to keep on placing indigenous rights within policy action and legislation change. He also encouraged wider employment of indigenous peoples in national and international institutions, to ensure meaningful and concrete participation in decisions that affect their rights.

"Indigenous youth have inherited the strength and hope that our grandparents had. We must continue to

protect our rights and not give up if the struggle continues."

The other important step is to have a stronger focus on young people and women.

"We will arrive at a much better place when young people feel they have the tools to stand up for their own rights, and those of their communities," González Gómez said. "Indigenous women also require a dedicated space to express their needs and concerns, and to have their voices heard at the policy table."

"That is how I see a future with equality."

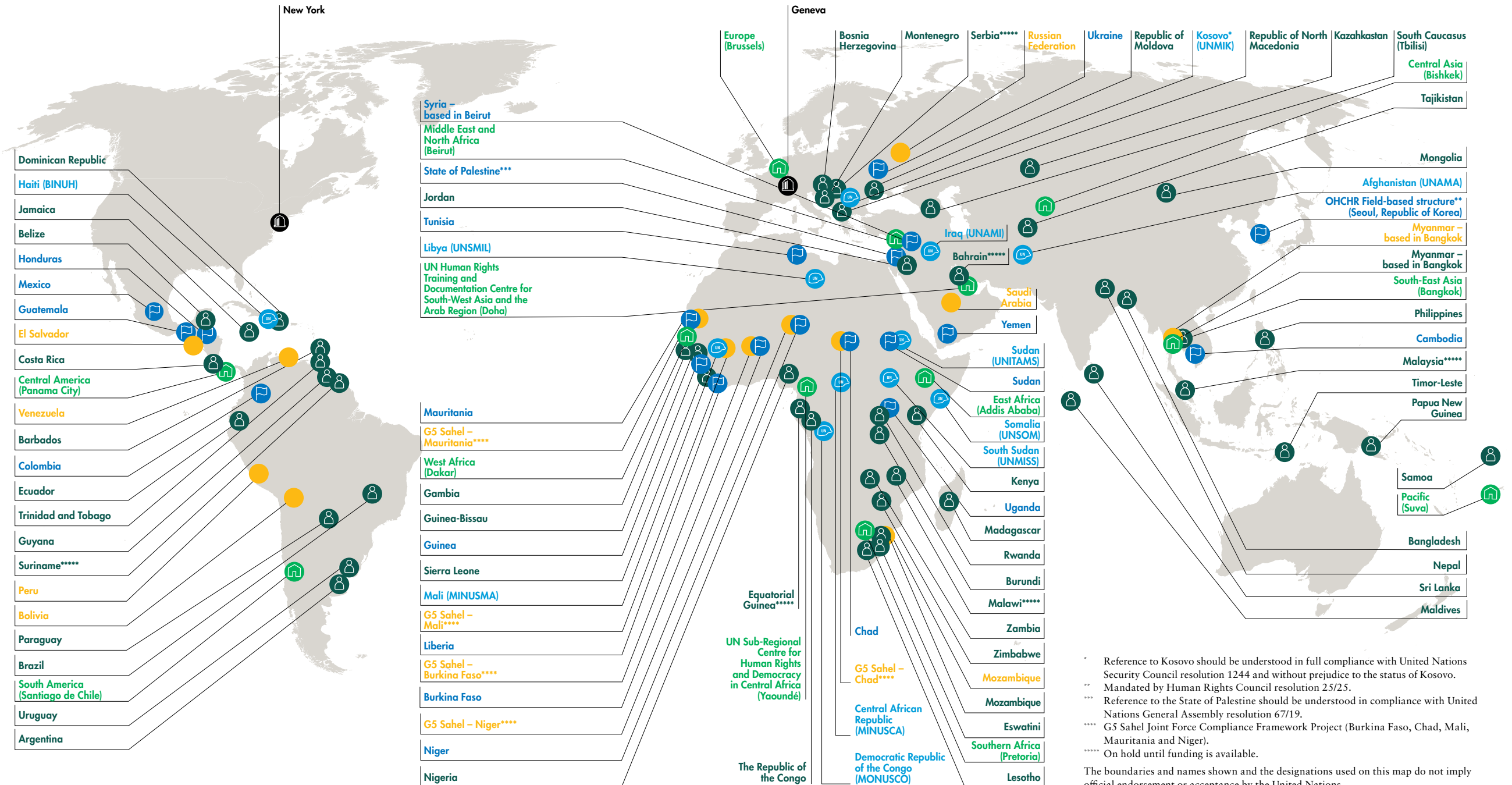


Human Rights Officer shows where the indigenous territory of Boruca is located. ©OHCHR

UN Human Rights around the world in 2023

2 + **101**
HQ locations field presences

-  **2** Headquarters
-  **19** Country/Stand-alone Offices/
Human Rights Missions
-  **12** Regional Offices/Centres
-  **11** Human rights components
of UN Peace/Political Missions
-  **50** Human Rights Advisers
deployed under the
framework of the UNSDG
-  **9** Other types of field presences



Funding and budget

FUNDING

Almost two thirds of UN Human Rights' income comes from voluntary contributions from Member States and other donors. The remainder is covered by the UN regular budget.

The **UN regular budget**, approved by the General Assembly, is funded by "assessed contributions" from each Member State. These are determined by a formula that takes into account the size and strength of their respective national economies.

The 2023 regular budget is the fourth annual budget prepared in accordance with the UN management reform agenda. The UN regular budget should finance all activities mandated by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, including the Human Rights Council. Human rights are Charter responsibilities, recognized as one of the three pillars of the UN system, the other two being development, and peace and security. While the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights clearly underscores the centrality of human rights to the work of the entire UN Secretariat, the regular budget allocated to human rights is highly limited. The regular budget submission for the Office for 2023 is US\$ 144.3 million, which continues to represent less than four per cent of the total UN regular budget.

As in previous years, the 2023 regular budget reflects "zero growth", as well as a number of across-the-board reductions from previous years decided by the General Assembly. In reality, this means resources allocated to human rights are in decline: official human rights man-

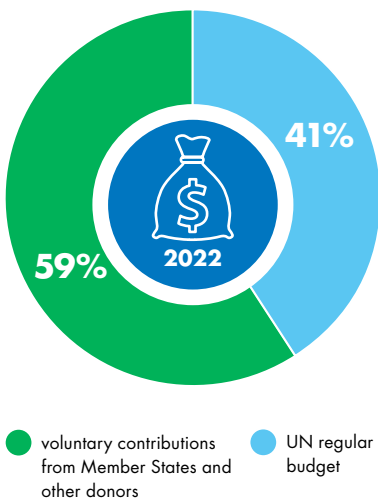
dates continue to grow in number and scope, and Member States have formally requested consideration of an increase in the budget share for human rights. As a result, UN Human Rights continues to rely heavily on voluntary contributions to finance at least 20 per cent of the mandated activities that should be financed by the regular budget, primarily treaty body and special procedures work.

In 2022, **voluntary contributions**, or extra-budgetary resources, represented around 59 per cent of our overall budget and were insufficient to respond to all requests for assistance or needs identified by UN Human Rights. Meeting all the demands will require greater financial support from a diverse funding base including Member States and non-traditional donors.

At the time of finalization of this Appeal (9 December 2022), the Office had received US\$222.4 million⁶ in extra-budgetary contributions and was expecting a total amount of US\$230 million by the end of the year, which is slightly higher than the sum received in 2021. Of these contributions, 33 per cent are expected to be unearmarked, a decrease of 4 per cent compared to 2021. While all contributions are gratefully appreciated, the high level of earmarking limits the Office's capacity to allocate resources where they are most urgently required and demands constant budgetary adjustments over the year.

⁶ Figures are estimated as of 9 December 2022 and need to be adjusted and confirmed upon the final closure of the 2022 accounts.

Total extrabudgetary resources needed for 2023 amount to **US\$452 million**



2023 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Total extra-budgetary resources needed for 2023 amount to US\$452 million. These are the funds the Office would require, in addition to the regular budget allocation, if it were to address all assistance needs, both requests received or those identified by UN Human Rights. Ideally, contributions should be flexible

and provided through multi-year agreements to help increase the predictability and sustainability of our work. Early payment is also critical as it helps to mitigate cash flow constraints during the year.

Rather than limiting ourselves to operating budgets, this Appeal represents the full extent of our financial requirements and their justification. At the same time, this

overall budget remains limited to what can realistically be implemented within a single year. For this reason, some increases, notably in the field, remain modest. Expanding the reach of field presences requires a steady build-up of human resources and predictable budgets over time that allow for sustained growth and effective operational critical mass.



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk meets with civil society representatives and human rights defenders in Khartoum, November 13, 2022. ©OHCHR/Anthony Headley

Overview

Regular budget allocation and extrabudgetary requirements for 2023

OPERATING RESOURCES

All figures in US\$

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Programme of Work			
Subprogramme 1 Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis*	21,278,000	59,960,000	81,238,000
Subprogramme 2 Supporting the Human Rights Treaties Bodies	16,919,000	3,867,000	20,786,000
Subprogramme 3 Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation*	57,929,000	29,828,000	87,757,000
Subprogramme 4 Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures*	26,213,000	29,826,000	56,039,000
Headquarters			
Executive Direction and Management and New York Office	7,995,000	30,830,000	38,825,000
Policymaking Organs	10,369,000	-	10,369,000
Other			
UDHR 75	-	10,000,000	10,000,000
Support to the Programmes	4,790,000	12,131,000	16,921,000
Subtotal Headquarters	145,493,000	176,443,000	321,936,000

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Field Presences			
Africa	4,715,000	112,532,000	117,247,000
Americas	2,100,000	59,410,000	61,510,000
Asia and the Pacific	4,809,000	24,503,000	29,312,000
Europe and Central Asia	1,058,000	27,257,000	28,315,000
Middle East and North Africa	4,617,000	33,268,000	37,885,000
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation	2,524,000	-	2,524,000
Subtotal Field Presences	19,822,000	256,969,000	276,791,000
Total Operating Resources (HQ + Field Presences)	165,315,000	433,412,000	598,727,000

OTHER TRUST FUNDS

Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	-	13,393,000	13,393,000
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	-	1,034,000	1,034,000
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	-	2,499,000	2,499,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	-	213,000	213,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	-	520,000	520,000
Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC's work	-	753,000	753,000
Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture	-	565,000	565,000
Total Other Trust Funds	0	18,977,000	18,977,000
Grand total	165,315,000	452,390,000	617,705,000

*Includes all regular budget allotments for the Human Rights Council, before recosting and before the 5th Committee's approval.

Headquarters

Regular budget allocation and extrabudgetary requirements for 2023

SUBPROGRAMME 1 - HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING, RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS All figures in US\$

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Coordination and Management	393,000	16,249,000	16,642,000
Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch	6,858,000	14,611,000	21,469,000
Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch	5,660,000	29,099,000	34,759,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	8,367,000	-	8,367,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 1	21,278,000	59,960,000	81,238,000

SUBPROGRAMME 2 - SUPPORTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES BODIES

Coordination and Management	16,463,000	484,000	16,947,000
Human Rights Treaties Branch	456,000	3,382,000	3,838,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 2	16,919,000	3,867,000	20,786,000

SUBPROGRAMME 3 - ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

Coordination and Management	3,193,000	12,665,000	15,858,000
Africa Branch	2,126,000	3,292,000	5,418,000
Americas, Europe and Central Asia Branch	2,251,000	4,727,000	6,978,000
Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa	5,978,000	6,546,000	12,524,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	44,382,000	-	44,382,000
Investigation Capacity	-	2,598,000	2,598,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 3	57,929,000	29,828,000	87,757,000

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

	REGULAR BUDGET	EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL (PLANNING FIGURES)
Coordination and Management	393,000	4,108,000	4,501,000
Human Rights Council Branch	2,735,000	3,108,000	5,843,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	430,000	-	430,000
Universal Periodic Review Branch	4,252,000	1,167,000	5,419,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	1,353,000	-	1,353,000
Special Procedures Branch	10,126,000	16,878,000	27,004,000
Special Procedures Branch - Earmarked/Specific Funding	-	4,565,000	4,565,000
Human Rights Council Mandates	6,925,000	-	6,925,000
Subtotal Subprogramme 4	26,213,000	29,826,000	56,039,000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND NEW YORK OFFICE	7,995,000	30,830,000	38,825,000
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POLICYMAKING ORGANS	10,369,000	-	10,369,000
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OTHER			
UDHR 75	-	10,000,000	10,000,000
Support to the Programmes	4,790,000	12,131,000	16,921,000
Subtotal Other	23,154,000	52,962,000	76,116,000
Subtotal Headquarters	145,493,000	176,443,000	321,936,000

OTHER TRUST FUNDS			
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	-	13,393,000	13,393,000
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	-	1,034,000	1,034,000
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	-	2,499,000	2,499,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	-	213,000	213,000
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	-	520,000	520,000
Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC's work	-	753,000	753,000
Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture	-	565,000	565,000
Total Other Trust Funds	0	18,977,000	18,977,000
Total Headquarters and Trust Funds	145,493,000	195,420,000	340,913,000

Field

Extrabudgetary requirements for 2023

AFRICA		All figures in US\$
EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS		
Country Offices		
Burkina Faso		4,624,000
Chad		7,625,000
Guinea		5,305,000
Liberia		3,024,000
Mauritania		5,486,000
Niger		3,773,000
Sudan		10,521,000
Uganda		5,958,000
Regional Offices		
Central Africa, Yaoundé - Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy		2,124,000
East Africa, Addis Ababa		9,271,000
Southern Africa, Pretoria		3,419,000
West Africa, Dakar		8,061,000
Human Rights Advisers		
Burundi		2,406,000
Equatorial Guinea		300,000
Eswatini		300,000
Gambia		547,000
Guinea-Bissau		613,000
Kenya		3,149,000
Lesotho		642,000
Madagascar		1,606,000
Malawi		350,000
Mozambique		539,000
Nigeria		948,000
Republic of Congo		307,000
Rwanda		1,499,000
Sierra Leone		333,000
Zambia		408,000
Zimbabwe		317,000

EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	
Human Rights Components in Peace Mission	
Central African Republic	85,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	10,257,000
Mali	513,000
Somalia	364,000
South Sudan	160,000
Other	
Ethiopia	5,310,000
Mozambique	2,000,000
Sahel G5	10,389,000
Subtotal Africa	112,532,000
AMERICAS	
Country Offices	
Colombia	14,792,000
Guatemala	6,221,000
Honduras	6,494,000
Mexico	3,686,000
Regional Offices	
Central America, Panama City	4,229,000
South America, Santiago	4,702,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Argentina	151,000
Barbados	511,000
Belize	102,000
Brazil	131,000
Costa Rica	484,000
Dominican Republic	270,000
Ecuador	134,000
El Salvador	1,289,000
Guyana	73,000
Jamaica	400,000
Paraguay	301,000
Peru	1,640,000
Suriname	11,000
Trinidad and Tobago	185,000
Uruguay	194,000
Human Rights Components in Peace Missions	
Haiti	5,731,000

EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	
Other	
Bolivia	2,027,000
Nicaragua	439,000
Venezuela	4,733,000
Caribbean	481,000
Subtotal Americas	59,410,000
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	
Country Offices	
Cambodia	2,106,000
Republic of Korea - Field-based structure	527,000
Regional Offices	
South-East Asia, Bangkok	8,335,000
Pacific, Suva	4,370,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Bangladesh	461,000
Malaysia	40,000
Maldives	415,000
Mongolia	96,000
Myanmar	331,000
Nepal	87,000
Papua New Guinea	676,000
Philippines	2,023,000
Samoa	241,000
Sri Lanka	1,455,000
Timor-Leste	545,000
Human Rights Components in Peace Missions	
Afghanistan	213,000
Other	
Myanmar	2,583,000
Subtotal Asia and the Pacific	24,503,000
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	
Regional Offices	
Central Asia, Bishkek	3,211,000
Europe, Brussels	786,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Bosnia Herzegovina	459,000
Georgia, South Caucasus	1,332,000

EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS	
Kazakhstan	207,000
Montenegro	310,000
Republic of Moldova	4,507,000
Republic of North Macedonia	104,000
Serbia	593,000
Tajikistan	241,000
Human Rights Mission	
Ukraine	13,289,000
Other	
Azerbaijan	891,000
Georgia	450,000
Russian Federation	876,000
Subtotal Europe and Central Asia	27,256,000
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	
Country Offices	
State of Palestine*	5,581,000
Syria	3,930,000
Tunisia	2,549,000
Yemen	7,415,000
Regional Offices	
Middle East and North Africa, Beirut	5,783,000
South-West Asia and the Arab Region, Doha - Training and Documentation Centre	2,815,000
Human Rights Advisers	
Bahrain	248,000
Jordan	301,000
Human Rights Components in Peace Missions	
Iraq	1,128,000
Libya	163,000
Other	
Egypt	681,000
Iran	1,078,000
Saudi Arabia	1,595,000
Subtotal Middle East and North Africa	33,267,000
Total Field	256,969,000

*Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with UN General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Trust funds

Voluntary contributions to support UN Human Rights’ activities are channelled and managed through nine United Nations trust funds, as well as three special funds. In addition, the Office receives contributions from United Nations multi-partner trust funds. While UN Human Rights encourages funding to be unearmarked whenever possible, contributions to some of these Funds must be specifically earmarked in order to be attributed.

UN TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

UN Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	Established in 1993 to supplement regular budget resources, it is the largest fund administered by UN Human Rights and is used to manage approximately 75 per cent of all extra-budgetary funds received (especially unearmarked funds).
UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment	Established in 1981, it awards grants to organizations working to alleviate the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The types of assistance provided by Fund-supported organizations range from psychological, medical and social assistance to legal aid and financial support.
UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	Established in 1985, it provides indigenous peoples with the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities at the international level and participate in the development and implementation of international standards and national legislation for the protection of their rights. Funds are distributed in the form of travel grants that enable indigenous peoples to participate in UN meetings and events.
UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights	Established in 1987, it supports national efforts to build human rights protection frameworks, including strong legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, independent judiciaries and vibrant civil society organizations.
UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	Established in 1991, it distributes small grants to grassroots projects that provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund primarily focuses on projects that assist individuals who are suffering from the most severe forms of human rights violations occurring in the context of contemporary forms of slavery and other forms of exploitation.
UN Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia	Established in 1992, its aim is to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme in Cambodia to promote the understanding of and respect for human rights.
UN Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism	Established in 2008, it facilitates the participation of official representatives from developing and least developed countries in the UPR process and to provide training for the preparation of national reports.
UN Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review	Established in 2008, it provides financial and technical support to implement recommendations issued under the UPR review process, at the request of and in consultation with the country concerned.
Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council	Established in 2013 through Human Rights Council resolution 19/26, it enhances the institutional and human rights capacity of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States by providing targeted training courses, travel assistance for delegates attending Council sessions and fellowship programmes.

SPECIAL FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

Contingency Fund	Established in 2006, this Contingency Fund enables the Office to respond to human rights emergencies in a timely and adequate manner. The revolving Fund is maintained through voluntary contributions to facilitate, implement or carry out activities within the priorities, overall strategies and policies of the Office, in particular in the context of the establishment of a rapid response capacity. The Fund has greatly increased the capacity of UN Human Rights’ headquarters to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations that require a rapid response.
Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture	Established in 2006 through article 26 of OP-CAT, this Fund helps finance the implementation of recommendations issued by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), following a visit of the Subcommittee to a State Party, as well as education programmes of national preventive mechanisms (NPMs). Recommendations have to be contained in a report made public upon request of the State Party. Applications may be submitted by State Parties and NPMs, by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and NGOs, provided that the proposed projects are implemented in cooperation with State Parties or NPMs.
Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights	Established in 2013 by Human Rights Council’s decision 24/118, it facilitates the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders. It also aims to give priority to the participation of local or national-level non-governmental organizations active in relevant fields, with particular attention to participants from Least Developed Countries, in the annual meetings of the three forums. The Special Fund became operational soon after the receipt of the first contributions in 2014.

MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND (NOT ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS)

Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund	Established in 2011 and administered by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO), it provides support to the work of UN agencies and UN Country Teams in mainstreaming human rights and strengthening coherent and coordinated responses to national needs. Over the last decade, there has been significant progress in mainstreaming human rights into the work of the UN system. An increasing number of UN agencies are not only integrating human rights into their internal policies but are also actively advocating for human rights through their mandated work. The Trust Fund is used to support the placement of Human Rights Advisers in Resident Coordinator Offices to support UN Country Teams. Since 2019, it has also supported, through the Surge Initiative, a more systematic integration of economic, social and cultural rights into development analysis, strategies and planning instruments.
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UN Human Rights Officers interview a man from Kharkiv who had to relocate to Uzhhorod due to intensive shelling of the city center of Kharkiv, where he lived. Uzhhorod, Ukraine, 25 March 2022. ©OHCHR

You can make a difference

The opportunities for advancing the impact of human rights are many and we need your support! We rely on voluntary donations from governments, as well as private donors and businesses. To carry out our mission, maintaining our independence is vital – and so is diversifying our funding mix.

MEMBER STATES

In 2022, 59 of the 193 UN Member States provided a voluntary contribution to UN Human Rights, with donations ranging from US\$2,000 to US\$30 million.⁷ Some contributions were entirely free of earmarking, while others were partially or fully earmarked for specific themes and areas of work as set out in our Management Plan.

We highly encourage Member States to explore the various modalities for funding which exist within their national structures and to discuss available options with the Office. While the most common budget lines used for UN Human Rights are those that correspond to human rights, there is also wide scope for the Office to receive money from other budget lines, such as development, humanitarian, as well as peace and security.

FOUNDATIONS

The Office has partnered with a number of foundations on country-specific and thematic programmes around the world. We welcome opportunities to expand and strengthen our co-operation with foundations in the future.

CORPORATE SECTOR

A world in which human rights are respected is more prosperous, more stable and, ultimately, better for business. We invite companies to demonstrate their commitment to human rights through greater engagement. Support can come in many forms:

- Making human rights central to all corporate strategic decisions and practices, taking into account the effect of its operations on supply chains, employees and customers.
- Working with us to develop policies that make your company’s commitment to human rights a reality.
- Engaging in strategic discussions to improve human rights wherever your company has business interests.
- Developing a genuine partnership with UN Human Rights where your skills, experience and resources are used to promote and improve respect for human rights.
- Providing pro bono or financial support, to help us achieve the goals in our ambitious four-year plan.

INDIVIDUALS

The Office receives donations from individuals through the following website: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/donation>



⁷ As of 9 December 2022

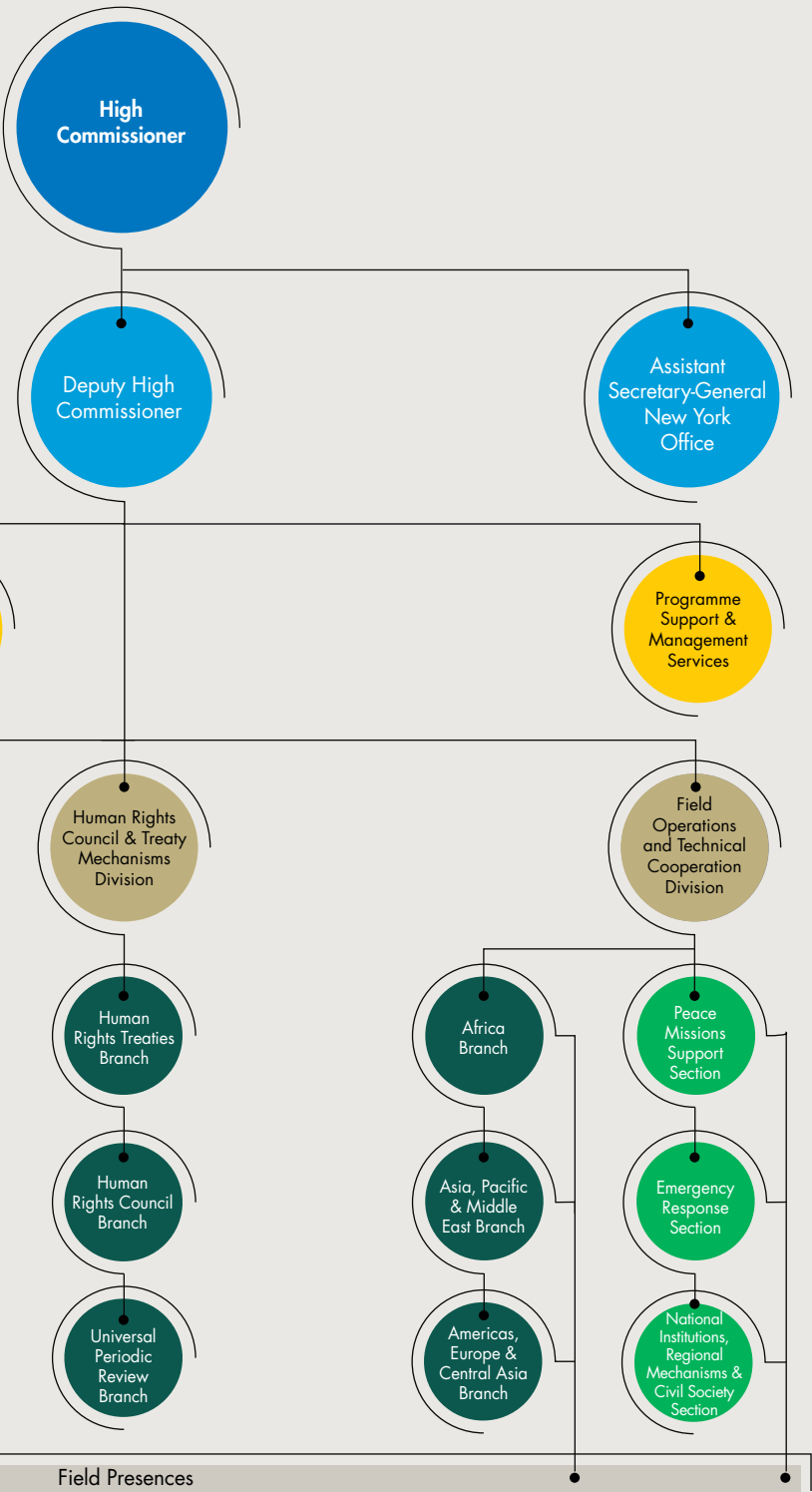


If you, or the organization you represent, would like to make a contribution, please contact UN Human Rights Donor and External Relations Section in Geneva, or go to our website to make an online donation.

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Annexes

UN Human Rights Organization chart



Abbreviations and acronyms

ASG Assistant Secretary-General	HRA Human Rights Adviser	MoU Memorandum of Understanding
BINUH United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	HRBA Human rights-based approach	MPFTFO Multi-partner Trust Fund Office
C2A Call to Action for Human Rights	HRBAD Human rights-based approach to data	NGO Non-governmental organization
CCA Common Country Analysis	HRC Human Rights Council	NHRI National human rights institution
DCO Development Coordination Office	ICT Information communications technology	NPM National Preventive Mechanism
DPO Department of Peace Operations	IFI International financial institution	NSO National Statistical Office
DPPA Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	ILO International Labour Organization	OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
EC European Commission	IMF International Monetary Fund	OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ECOSOC Economic and Social Council	IASC Inter-agency Standing Committee	OMP OHCHR Management Plan
ERT Emergency Response Team	LNOB Leave No One Behind	OP-CAT Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
ESCR Economic, social and cultural rights	MINUSCA United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	RC Resident Coordinator
HQ Headquarters	MINUSMA United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	RCO Resident Coordinator's Office
HC High Commissioner	MONUSCO United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo	RCP Regional collaborative platform
HC Humanitarian Coordinator		

- RMR**
Regional monthly review
- RO**
Regional office
- SDG**
Sustainable Development Goal
- SC**
Security Council
- SG**
Secretary-General
- SPT**
Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- SRSG**
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
- UN**
United Nations
- UNAMA**
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
- UNAMI**
United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
- UNITAMS**
United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan
- UNCT**
United Nations Country Team
- UNDP**
United Nations Development Programme
- UNSD**
United Nations Development System
- UNEP**
United Nations Environment Programme
- UNESCO**
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UNHCR**
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

- UNICEF**
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- UNMAS**
United Nations Mine Action Service
- UNMIK**
United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
- UNMISS**
United Nations Mission in South Sudan
- UNODC**
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOG**
United Nations Office in Geneva
- UNSDCF**
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
- UNSDG**
United Nations Sustainable Development Group
- UNSMIL**
United Nations Support Mission in Libya
- UNSOM**
United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
- UPR**
Universal Periodic Review
- VNR**
Voluntary National Review



A volunteer from the International Association for Relief and Development (ONSUR) entertains internally displaced children, ahead of the Eid al-Fitr Muslim holiday, amid concerns over the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), at an IDP camp in Idlib, Syria May 19, 2020. ©REUTERS/Khalil Ashawi

Cover
A young girl during a gathering against the detention of people arrested during protests in Lebanon. Beirut, Lebanon.
February 10, 2021. ©Florient Zwein/Reuters

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