UN Human Rights office (OHCHR) In the Field

Briefing to Member States
Palais des Nations 5/11 May 2017
Pablo Espiniella
OHCHR in figures

Staff: 1,179 (at 31 Dec. 2016) including staff in 62 countries

- Geneva headquarters: 623 (53%)
- In field presences: 517 (44%) (including 25 HRAs)
- New York Office: 39 (3%)
- Support to some 800 human rights officers serving in 14 UN peace missions or political offices around the globe (in 2017 Cote D’Ivoire closes).

Budget – annual

- Regular budget 2016: US$ 105.1 million
- Extra budgetary 2016: US$ 129.6 million
- 51% of XB expenditures in 2016 in field related work
What we do

- Promote and protect all human rights
- Help empower people
- Assist governments including through technical cooperation and advisory services
- Inject a human rights perspective into all UN programmes
Forms of OHCHR Field Deployment

- Regional Offices
- Country Offices
- Human Rights Components UN Peace Missions
- Human Rights Advisors in UN Country Teams
As of May 2017, OHCHR has 59 field presences in all regions:

15 country / stand-alone offices;

12 regional offices/centres; human rights components in 13 peace missions; and

19 human rights advisers in UNCTs.
UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC)

- Established by the Commission of Human Rights 1987 - is the second largest trust fund administered by OHCHR.

- It receives voluntary contributions mostly from States and organisations and provides financial support for international technical cooperation in the field, with a view to building and strengthening national capacities.

- Board of Trustees - assist the S-G and HC in streamlining and rationalising the working methods and procedures of the UN technical cooperation programme – provides policy guidance – visits to Field Presences/ Reports HR Council
FIELD PRESENCES VFTC FUNDED 2016
Expenditures - 13.1 million USD

Human Rights Components
- Peace Mission

Human Rights Advisers

Country Offices

Haiti
Afghanistan
Cote D’Ivoire
Liberia
Somalia
Kosovo * (SC res. 1244)

Darfur
South S
Guinea B
CAR
Libya

Russia F
Georgia
Moldova
Somalia
Kosovo

Rwanda
PNG
Kenya
Sri Lanka
Niger
Chad
Timor Leste
Madagascar
Paraguay
Serbia

Mauritania
Mexico
Palestine
Bolivia
VFTC 2017 – FIGURES (according to cost-plans)

Total of Staff:

HRAs – 13 = 3,978,182 USD
HRC Peace Missions – 10 = 61,126 USD
Country Offices – 4 = 4,588,396 USD

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Total: 8,627,704

Activities

HRAs – 2, 442,663 USD
HRC Peace Missions – 1,224,839 USD
Country Offices – 2,134,049 USD

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Total: 5,801,551
VFTC Funding Evolution 2008 - 2016

OHCHR - V.F. Technical Cooperation (AHA) - 2008-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Fund balance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>13,844,212</td>
<td>13,573,336</td>
<td>12,108,096</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>20,434,056</td>
<td>14,110,939</td>
<td>19,331,601</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>15,860,966</td>
<td>17,748,020</td>
<td>20,481,489</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>16,405,775</td>
<td>19,553,739</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>18,466,271</td>
<td>24,171,702</td>
<td>14,683,315</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>18,938,242</td>
<td>20,296,620</td>
<td>13,437,027</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>17,729,934</td>
<td>20,365,358</td>
<td>13,037,163</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>13,179,221</td>
<td>17,223,853</td>
<td>9,061,486</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>12,075,018</td>
<td>13,179,139</td>
<td>8,747,896</td>
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Country/Regional presences ....

- Understanding the situation in the ground through monitoring
- Design and provision of Technical cooperation and advice
Implementation through partnerships

- Government, including local administration
- Judiciary and parliament
- Law enforcement: police and prisons
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Civil society
- Media
- Academic institutions
- UN agencies
- Regional human rights protection mechanisms
Samples of type of results through technical cooperation: Country/Stand Alone Offices

**Mauritania:** Following the creation of three special courts on slavery in the capital (established with the support of OHCHR), the Office provided training to judges, prosecutors, police and gendarmerie on handling of cases in line with international standards.

**Honduras:** Criminal Code Bill drafted with revised definition of certain crime in line with int. standards. Support also on the implementation of the National Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and recruitment of personnel. In the 12 months of existence it has received 60 requests for protection and 29 protective measures have been granted.
Samples of type of results through technical cooperation: Country/Stand Alone Offices

**Bolivia**: SIPLUS web mechanisms to access to recommendations from the HR mechanisms for follow-up

**Palestine**: Provision of advice on the alignment of the National Policy Agenda and sector strategies with human rights treaty obligations and SDGs. The Draft National Policy Agenda includes overarching commitments on human rights treaty obligations. The Government is currently working on translating the overall priorities in the Agenda into national sector strategies where specific interventions on human rights implementation can be incorporated.
Samples of type of results through technical cooperation: Regional Offices

Regional Office South America: support for the development of national mechanisms for reporting and the follow-up to recommendations issued by international human rights bodies.

- **Argentina**, provision of technical assistance to the Federal Human Rights Council to strengthen a mechanism that is in place to monitor reporting to the HRs mechanisms.

- **Chile**, support in establishing a mechanism to follow up on recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- **Ecuador**, provision of technical advice to the Government in relation to implementing its online platform, SIDERECHOS, which is being used to draft the State report for the UPR.

- **Uruguay**, implementation of SIMORE, the follow-up database developed in **Paraguay** with the assistance of OHCHR.

Support is also being provided to UNCTs in **Brazil** and **Peru** in aligning their respective UNDAFS for 2017-2021 with the SDGs.
Samples of type of results through technical cooperation: Regional Offices

Regional Office for South-East Asia: Thailand - following the support provided for the ratification of CAT in Thailand; the Regional Office continue providing technical advice and providing training on the importance of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The Thai Government agreed to ratify the OP-CAT by 2017.
Samples of type of results through technical cooperation: Human Rights Advisers

Kenya: part of the Steering Committee established by the Government for the development of an Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. It has been advising and supporting the development of the plan, which aims at customizing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and will require a baseline assessment and consultations across ministries and the private sector.

Serbia: a new Roma inclusion was adopted for the period 2016-2025 covering housing, health, employment, education and social protection with inputs from the HRA as well as a new law on Prevention of Domestic Violence.
Georgia: support on amendments in its internal charter to strengthen country’s implementation of UN and COE conventions and the UPR recommendations. The Parliament will now consider periodically the status of implementation.

Sri Lanka: technical support has been provided to MOFA and the Secretariat of the Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms in the design and implementation of the consultation processes for transitional justice.

FYR Macedonia: the Government adopted a new strategy on addressing discrimination (2016-2020) prioritizing the alignment of the 2010 Anti-Discrimination law with international standards with technical support of the office.
DRC: Provision of financial and technical assistance to six mobile court hearings for grave human rights violations. Furthermore 1405 victims of sexual violence were assisted through 23 NGOs-run clinics with the support of the Office which provide the victims with legal assistance and information. As a result, 174 perpetrators have been convicted.
**Libya:** Constitutional Draft Assembly finalized the Draft Constitution which included many inputs from the Office including prohibition or torture and ill-treatment as well as discrimination on the base of ethnicity, language, sex, birth, disability or opinion. Other proposed provisions for the full equality between men and women and the abolition of death penalty were not retained in the draft.
Q&As

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