



Human Rights  
Mainstreaming  
Fund



United Nations  
MPTF Office

# BUILDING RIGHTS-BASED FOUNDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Consolidated Annual Report of the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund

2022



#HUMANRIGHTS4SDG

## Report of the Administrative Agent of the UNSDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund (HRM Fund)

1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

**Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**  
Bureau of Management Services  
United Nations Development Programme GATEWAY:  
<https://mptf.undp.org>

This annual report on the activities implemented under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund (the HRM Fund) is submitted to donors by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the HRM Fund in fulfilment of the reporting provisions of the Standard Administrative Arrangement. The information presented in this Progress Report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022. This report is consolidated based on information contained in the individual programme narrative reports and financial information provided by the HRM Fund Secretariat and Participating UN Organizations.

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



United Nations Development Programme



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

United Nations System Staff College



United Nations Population Fund



United Nations Children's Fund



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



International Labour Organisation

## CONTRIBUTORS



DENMARK,  
Government of



FINLAND,  
Government of



GERMANY,  
Government of



IRISH AID



NORWAY,  
Government of



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION AGENCY





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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***“We at the United Nations are changing the way we work, recognizing that human rights are central to everything we do. We are prioritizing the connections between human rights and the prevention of conflicts and crises of all kinds.”***

**António Guterres,  
UN Secretary-General, 52nd session  
of the Human Rights Council, 27 February 2023**

The socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the war in Ukraine, growing political instability, humanitarian crises, and climate change have exposed critical human rights concerns, deep structural inequalities and systemic discrimination in societies across the globe. In recognition of this, the United Nations development system assists countries in their efforts to implement people-centered, gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches to inclusive recovery that help to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund (the HRM Fund) supports the UN Development System’s (UNDS) efforts to respond to the call by Member States for UNDS entities to assist countries in their efforts to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments, and to help to operationalize the 2030 Agenda’s pledge to leave no one behind (LNOB). Leveraging the opportunities presented by the UNDS repositioning, the Fund enables the empowered, independent UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and new generation UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to advance the values of the UN Charter and to ensure that human rights are at the heart of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through coherent, system-wide policies and coordinated inter-agency action at all levels. UNCTs are called upon by the Secretary-General to support States in renewing the social contract, building foundations of trust, inclusion, protection, and participation, and measuring what matters, anchoring these efforts in human rights. As such, the HRM Fund is helping to bring about the changes in multilateralism that the Common Agenda envisages.

To these ends, the Fund provided support in 2022 to the joint efforts of the UNDS to integrate human rights in development at the country, regional and global levels, and to maximize opportunities for transformative and sustainable development results. The results of Fund-supported initiatives show that with coordinated efforts guided by coherent policies and frameworks, the UNDS can support structural changes at the country level despite the many obstacles. These changes are improving people's lives and enhancing the enjoyment of human rights, while strengthening government capacities to implement human rights obligations and development commitments.

Building on the gains and achievements of the past 11 years of operations, seizing on the opportunities created by Member States in mandates to the UN, leveraging the vision of the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights (Call to Action) and Our Common Agenda and drawing from new partnerships and other funding sources, the HRM Fund's strategic vision became a centre of gravity in 2022 for coherent inter-agency support to UNDS capacities for integrating human rights in development.

The HRM Fund contributed to the following key results in 2022 under the multi-year results framework outputs:

- Improved **policy coherence, thought leadership, and knowledge creation and management** on human rights in development:
  - Compilation of good practices on the use of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to advance sustainable development featured in online repository for UNDS, and publication of [UN Good Practices: How The Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development](#), with 18 curated examples from UNCTs;
  - Integration of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE into the new [UNSDG Guidance Note on a New Generation of Joint Programmes](#), and strengthened data collection features and

technical support for UNCTs relating to LNOB and human rights in [UN Info](#);

- Ongoing management and updating of key knowledge-sharing platforms to put system-wide guidance, tools and good practices in the hands of UNDS staff, including the UNSDG knowledge platform on Human Rights and LNOB, and the Yammer Group on Human Rights, LNOB and Gender.
- Quarterly Surge Initiative newsletters presenting highlights of Surge Initiative work across its various areas of engagement. These newsletters are semi-public documents that are distributed to close partners from within CSOs, UN agencies, donors and partner member states.
- A comprehensive ECOSOC report outlining examples of Surge Initiative-supported in-country work (ECOSOC report 2022 E/2022/65).
- Information about the Surge Initiative, relevant statements, publications and other resources, including on a human rights economy, are now also available and featured on [OHCHR's website](#).
- RCs and UNCTs increasingly have the **capacities, knowledge, skills, guidance and tools to apply HRBA** putting human rights at the core of analysis, programming and advocacy, and implementing the Call to Action for Human Rights:
  - RC and UNCT capacities to lead on human rights at the country level were supported through the deployment of Human Rights Advisers for in-country expertise;
  - Launch of the online, self-paced course on the application of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) Guiding Principles of human rights-based approach (HRBA), gender equality and women's empowerment

- (GEWE) and leave no one behind (LNOB), a key resource for all UNDS staff and partners; and ongoing collaboration with the UN Staff System College on development of a deeper, moderated course for UNCTs;
- The remote specialized – ESC rights, human rights-based development and human rights-based macroeconomist – support from the Surge Initiative supported UNCTs to advise States and collaborate with CSOs, international financial institutions and other stakeholders on a more systematic integration of economic, social and cultural rights (ESC rights) into economic and development analysis, strategies and planning instruments, contributing to policy frameworks including financing strategies and budgets that are anchored in human rights to create more equitable and resilient communities. Focus was directed in 2022 at providing in-depth and comprehensive human rights analysis and operational options to address the vast socio-economic consequences – exacerbated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic – of the war in Ukraine, the food, fuel and energy crises as well as the triple planetary crisis. These efforts also included various training and capacity-building initiatives delivered to RCOs and UNCTs across the regions.
  - At least 20 countries strengthened the integration of human rights into SDG processes (e.g. Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes, statistical offices and NHRI platforms) and received critical methodological and technical advice in Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks.
- Human rights more at the centre of UNCTs' support to the 2030 Agenda through the deployment of **Human Rights Advisers (HRAs)**:
    - HRAs enabled RCs and UNCTs to engage in a more active, joined-up and strategic manner on human rights issues in the context of development and, where relevant, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. HRAs provided daily support to RCs and UNCTs to use international norms and standards as the basis for strategic decision-making, programming, advocacy and engagements with partners (including integrating human rights standards and indicators into Cooperation Frameworks);
    - In 2022, HRAs supported RCs and UNCTs to assist governments, including in development of new laws (eg. on rights of persons with disabilities, compensation for victims of violent crime and GBV, and abolition of the death penalty), human rights action plans, safer elections, implementation of UPR recommendations, and the establishment and strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and national mechanisms for reporting and follow up (NMRFs);
    - HRAs supported UNCTs to deepen engagements and partnerships with civil society and human rights defenders in line with the human rights-based approach (HRBA), to protect/expand civic space, and to use their convening power to support spaces for meaningful participation of civil society in dialogues with governments in policymaking processes;
    - Despite increasing requests from UNCTs for deployment of HRAs, the total number of UNCTs with HRAs secured at the end of 2022 was 43, down from 54 at the start of the year, due to lack of resources to meet the demands.
  - With the support of RCs and UNCTs, **governments and NHRIs** have stronger capacities to engage with UN human rights mechanisms and to integrate human rights in development, and **human rights defenders, civil society and communities** have strengthened capacity and platforms for meaningful participation and advocacy:

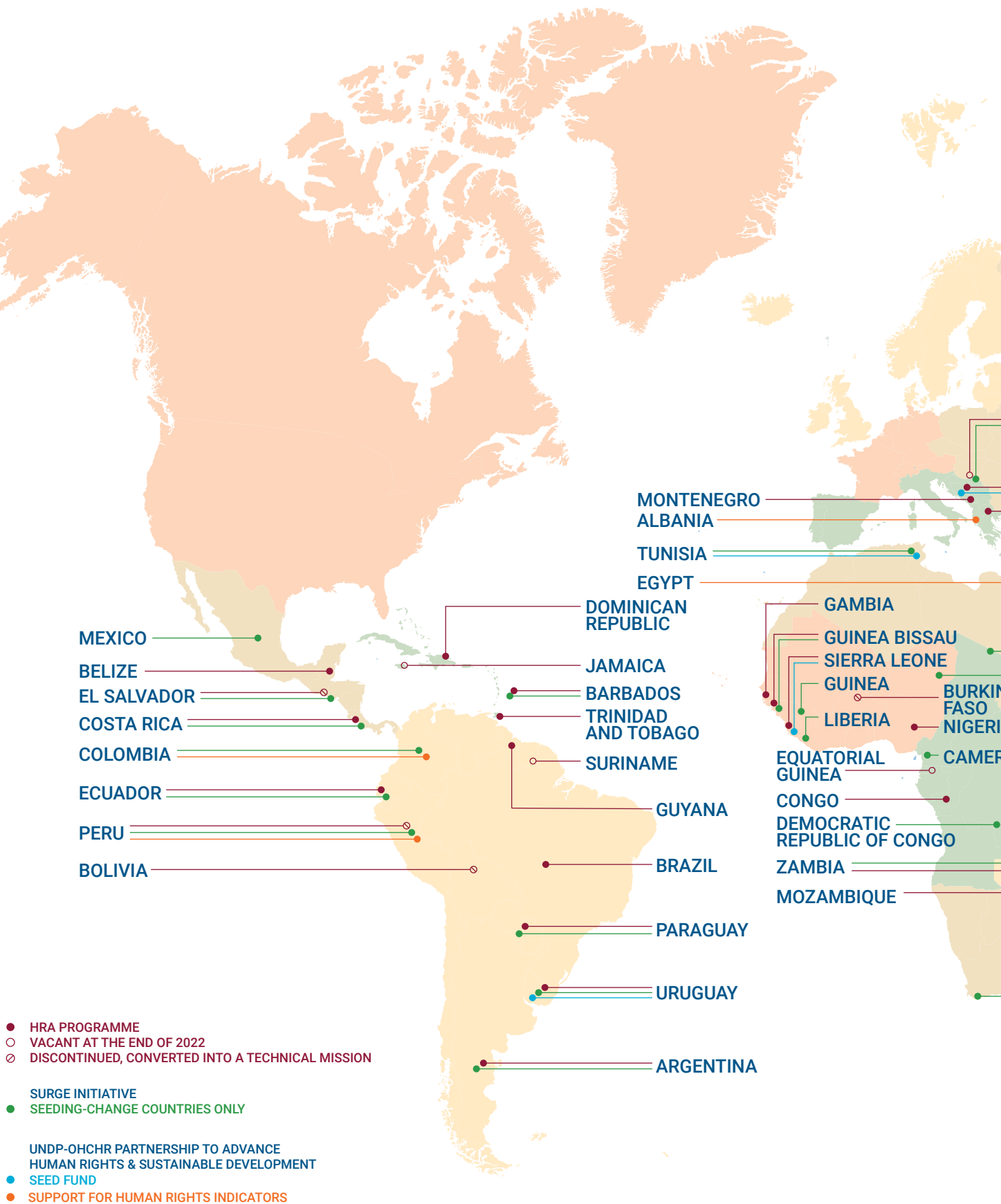


- Partnerships between NHRIs and national statistical offices (NSOs) established and operationalized in 12 countries, to improve availability of data to support sustainable development and efforts to leave no one behind, including 1 new MOU in 2022 and implementation support to 6 MOUs signed in 2021;
- Mapping of good practices of NHRIs and NSOs in operationalizing human rights indicators and HRBA to data, with a repository of capacity building materials and data collection tools created;
- 8 countries with strengthened capacities at national and sub-national/provincial levels to incorporate UN human rights recommendations into SDG-based development processes, including through creation of synergies between NMRFs and SDG coordination bodies and strengthened integration of human rights in VNRs;
- Increased awareness of human rights and SDG linkages in Central Asia states through subregional mapping and consultations with national stakeholders held in partnership with the Danish Institute of Human Rights.

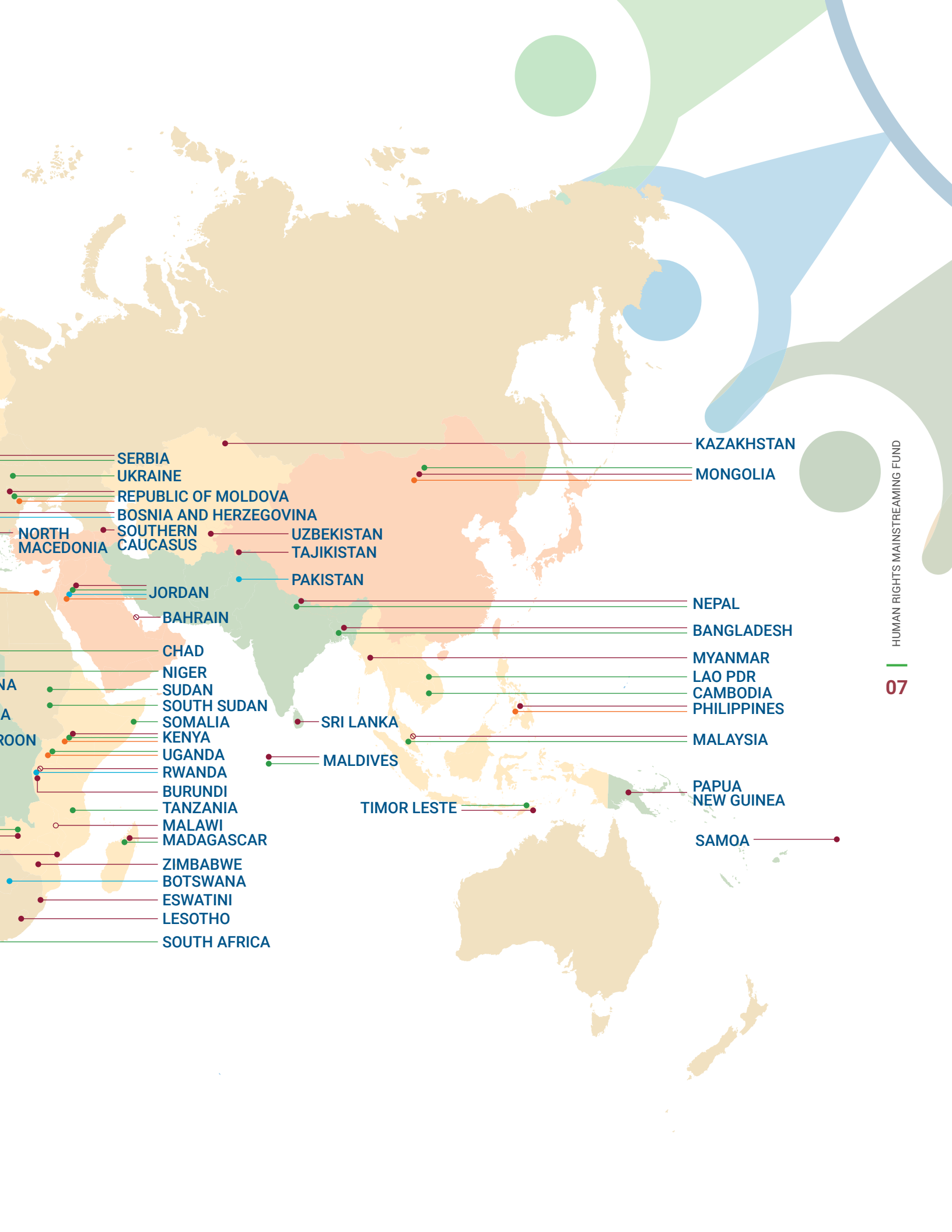
These results contribute to the Fund’s overall outcome for 2022-2025, that human rights are more at the core of UNDS work at all levels, and that RCs and UNCTs build the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligations and empower rights-holders as active agents in development to ensure no one is left behind. These initiatives build on the investments of the HRM Fund from previous years, as well as the investments of Member States in the entities and structures of the UN development system, leveraging the UN’s mandate and normative authority in advocacy and programming, and advancing country level actions on thematic areas under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action and Our Common Agenda.

As of 31 December 2022, the cumulative amount transferred (net) to Participating UN Organizations (7) from the HRM Fund was US\$ **33,466,169** with a balance of US\$ **1,877,645** remaining in the Fund account for 2023 programming. The Fund and its support structures demonstrated adaptability during the year to maximize delivery and results including through expanded partnerships and co-funding of some programmes in light of HRM Fund resource constraints. The overall Fund expenditure delivery rate is **98.67%**, which demonstrates the readiness of Participating UN Organizations to take forward initiatives supported by the Fund.

# HRM FUND DIRECT AND IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT IN 2022







- SERBIA
- UKRAINE
- REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- NORTH MACEDONIA
- SOUTHERN CAUCASUS
- JORDAN
- BAHRAIN
- CHAD
- NIGER
- SUDAN
- SOUTH SUDAN
- SOMALIA
- KENYA
- UGANDA
- RWANDA
- BURUNDI
- TANZANIA
- MALAWI
- MADAGASCAR
- ZIMBABWE
- BOTSWANA
- ESWATINI
- LESOTHO
- SOUTH AFRICA
- UZBEKISTAN
- TAJIKISTAN
- PAKISTAN
- SRI LANKA
- MALDIVES
- TIMOR LESTE
- KAZAKHSTAN
- MONGOLIA
- NEPAL
- BANGLADESH
- MYANMAR
- LAO PDR
- CAMBODIA
- PHILIPPINES
- MALAYSIA
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- SAMOA



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## SDG ACHIEVEMENTS

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*“The Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund is a critical resource for the UN development system. The impact of its investments on UN capacities, approaches and coherence, aligned to national development priorities and anchored in human rights, speak for themselves. The Fund enables Resident Coordinators and UN country teams to access vital expertise to support countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.”*

**Oscar Fernández-Taranco,  
Assistant Secretary-General  
for Development Coordination**

In 2022, as the world struggled to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our progress as a global community towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) faced dire challenges, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine and consequent global food crisis and the multi-faceted impacts of the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda represented an inspiring and truly universal call to action. And yet, as highlighted in the 2023 SDG Progress Report (Special Edition), progress has stalled

or gone backwards on more than 30 percent of SDGs. This regression and lack of progress is a development and human rights crisis — including increased numbers in extreme poverty, skyrocketing inequalities, and debt distress limiting the ability of States to deliver on health, education and social protection, amongst other economic, social and cultural rights. 2022 also marked further pushback on gender issues, on civic space, on respect for human life in conflict. Getting back on track and breaking through to a better future for all requires that we harness all our resources, including people, institutions, policies, and financing, as well as human rights standards and commitments, to lift hundreds of millions out of poverty, advance gender equality, end the cycle of conflict and crisis, and secure human rights for all.

The HRM Fund is a critical shared asset of the UN development system (UNDS), providing catalytic and cost-effective support to UN country teams (UNCTs) to meet the expectations of Member States for assistance in implementing human rights to achieve sustainable development and translate the pledge to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first into reality. In the face of deepening polycrises, a human rights-based approach to sustainable development provides a comprehensive and coherent framework for action, focused on addressing the root causes of instability,

## UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (2020)



vulnerability and structural inequality that are critical to addressing and preventing poverty, crisis and conflict. The HRM Fund provides targeted support to the inter-agency efforts of the UNDS to put human rights at the core of its support to countries on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and across all SDGs.

With the UN Charter and the full spectrum of human rights as the anchors, the Fund is building on the key milestones over the past decades and leveraging the opportunities provided by the 2030 Agenda, UN reform and strategic vision of Member States and

the Secretary-General to drive concrete impact and change for the benefit of all, and particularly those left behind. Through relatively modest contributions provided by generous partners of the HRM Fund, and with the collaborative engagement of UN entities, Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UNCTs were enabled in 2022 to apply the full breadth of the UN's mandate and normative authority on human rights to strengthen their support to Member States to implement their human rights responsibilities and the 2030 Agenda "in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, para 18.

Investments of the HRM Fund have provided catalytic support to realize Our Common Agenda's vision of renewed social contracts anchored in human rights, through inter-agency initiatives to anchor UN policies, systems, guidance and support in human rights, that enable UNCTs to build a strategic, rights-based value proposition to countries.

The HRM Fund has also provided catalytic support to staff at the country level to implement the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights (Call to Action). The Call to Action seeks transformative change and emphasizes that human rights underpin the work of the UN across the 3 pillars of development, peace and security, and human rights. It includes a specific focus area on putting human rights at the core of sustainable development, for which support to Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators and UNCTs is essential. It also specifically identifies the deployment of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) as an intervention to strengthen UN efforts on integrating human rights in our work in times of crisis.

The Call to Action identifies seven areas where concerted effort can achieve significant impact for the enjoyment of human rights on the ground. Some of the results in this report provide an indication of the HRM Fund's support to concerted and collective efforts across the UN system in ensuring human rights are at the core of our work at all levels. The Fund's support to concerted and collective efforts across the UN system in ensuring human rights are the core of our work at all levels have contributed to the implementation of the Call to Action at country level in various ways. For example:

#### Advisory capacities for RCs and UNCTs

- HRA deployments were a valuable resource for RCs and UNCTs in advancing **rights at the core of sustainable development** and **gender equality and the rights of women**, providing in-country advisory capacity to RCs, UNCTs and Member States to ensure that human rights principles inform the implementation of

the 2030 Agenda, including through advice on integration of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and leaving no one behind (LNOB) in UN analysis, programming and advocacy, and strengthening strategic engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other human rights mechanisms.

- HRA deployments also contributed to UN actions **in times of crisis**, including through their contributions to early warning, human rights and prevention analysis and strategic planning (eg. in the context of elections, land issues and the operations of security forces), hate speech action plans, and rights-based advocacy. In humanitarian contexts including climate-related emergencies, HRAs provided valuable support to RC/HCs and country teams in the integration of human rights in situation analyses and humanitarian responses.
- HRAs' expertise enabled RCs and UNCTs to expand **public participation and civic space** by advocating and programming more effectively on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association. Many HRAs were nominated to serve as UNCT Civil Society Focal Points, a new global network established to advance UN efforts in this area under Our Common Agenda. HRAs contributed to the development of partnerships with CSOs, including through creation of community-led data and monitoring systems, inclusive decision-making mechanisms and strengthening CSOs' capacity to engage effectively on rights issues and with the human rights mechanisms.
- The provision of specialized expertise and technical support to advise UNCTs on reinforcing ESC rights outcomes, including as relevant to a [human rights economy](#) – through the Surge Initiative – contributed to **human rights at the core of sustainable development, rights in times of crisis and human rights at the**



**heart of collective action.** In 2022<sup>2</sup>, this included advisory support to 34 Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks; 19 strategic discussions and engagements with RCO economists and national authorities on various aspects of human rights-based budgeting; financial and technical support to 11 seeding-change country projects to advance the implementation of the Call to Action through strengthened human rights-based (including from a macroeconomic perspective) analysis – to reinforce analysis on groups left behind, build disaggregated datasets and evidence to advise UNCTs and governments on human-rights-based socio-economic responses; engagement on 3 Regional Monthly Reviews and 7 briefings and trainings on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and the UNSDCF Guiding Principles of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE, as part of the Cooperation Framework processes.

### Guidance and capacity building tools

- The [Operational Common Approach Guidance Note on Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews](#) (VNRs) is a new inter-agency resource to support Member States to undertake VNR processes from a human rights perspective, contributing to **rights at the core of sustainable development** as well as **public participation and civic space**.
- The compilation and codification of knowledge on good practices at country level in use of the UPR to support sustainable development was launched as a key resource for UNCTs to catalyse progress towards the 2030 Agenda and advance implementation of several areas under the Call to Action including **rights at the core of sustainable development**, as well as Our Common Agenda.
- Guidance and capacity building tools for UNCTs on the application of the HRBA, LNOB and GEWE reinforces the importance of addressing root causes of discrimination against women

<sup>2</sup> Figures provided are for results of the Surge Initiative in the first half of 2022, which was the period during which HRM Fund resources were contributing to the programme.

and of ensuring meaningful participation of women across all stages of the UNCT programming cycle, contributing to **rights at the core of sustainable development** and **gender equality and equal rights of women**. In 2022, this included the launch of the UNSDG online foundational course on Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles on HRBA, LNOB and GEWE, in partnership with the UN System Staff College and checklists on the integration of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks.

- Other knowledge products supported by the Fund, including on the HRBA and operationalization of LNOB, informed the development of new UN Guidance on Joint Programmes, as well as improved data and reporting systems in UN Info, which shape the work of UNCTs together with partners to put **rights at the core of sustainable development** and to track our efforts and investments as a system in these key areas.

### Catalytic support for RCs and UNCTs

- Integrated country support initiatives to strengthen coherence between human rights and sustainable development systems and approaches at the country level (eg. NMRFs and SDG coordination bodies) and capturing the experiences and needed know-how to advance human rights and sustainable development, including through human rights-based macroeconomic analysis, as well as supporting engagement of UNCTs with NHRIs and NSOs on compiling human rights indicators and data to inform development efforts, has helped the UNDS to put human **rights at the core of sustainable development**, including as relevant to transforming economies.

Detailed examples of the support provided through the Fund which are relevant to specific thematic areas of the Call to Action as well as Our Common Agenda can be found in the Achievements section of this report.

Member States have recognized the need for increased support to countries to put people and human rights at the centre of development. The

2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) explicitly calls upon all entities of the UN development system to assist Governments, upon their request and in consultation with them, in their efforts to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments under international law, as a critical tool to operationalize the pledge to leave no one behind” (A/RES/75/233). The additional, catalytic resources provided by the Fund respond to key support needs of UNCTs to strengthen our efforts to raise awareness amongst national partners of the problem-solving benefits of human rights for development and to provide high-quality, joined-up responses to requests for support in this area, as demonstrated in the detailed examples provided in this report.

In 2022, the Fund was recognized in UN reports to the Human Rights Council as playing an indispensable role in the provision of tailored technical and capacity-building support to countries, UNCTs and other stakeholders for the promotion of human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda (A/HRC/51/9). The Fund was also recognized for its role in supporting the work of United Nations agencies and country teams in mainstreaming human rights and strengthening coherence and coordinated responses to national technical assistance and capacity building needs of States, which contribute towards building national resilience to crisis and the prevention of human rights violations (A/HRC/49/68).

***“The establishment in 2011 of the human rights mainstreaming multi-donor trust fund (now Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund) constituted a critical step in strengthening operational synergies between the human rights and development pillars.”***

(A/HRC/49/68)

**Report of the UN Secretary-General to the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council**

## KEY STRATEGIC PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING FUND



In 2021, the Terms of Reference of the HRM Fund were revised and updated, including a recalibrated overall goal, vision and mission for the Fund, newly elaborated theory of change and a multi-year results framework to guide the Fund's appeal and investments for 2022-2025. These revisions were informed by the independent evaluation of the Fund (finalized in 2021) and extensive consultations. The new Terms of Reference maximize the Fund's added value in supporting RCs and UNCTs to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, the implementation of the UNDS repositioning and related mandates as set out in the 2020 QCPR, as well as the priorities of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

The HRM Fund's expected **outcome** is that by 2025, **human rights** are more at the core of **UNDS work at**

**all levels**, and that RCs and UNCTs build the capacity of duty bearers and strive to empower rights-holders as active agents in development and uphold their inherent dignity and rights to ensure no one is left behind.

If this is achieved, it will support our goal that the UNDS contributes to a society where all people enjoy their human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development without discrimination and are empowered to be active partners in development (**impact**). This in turn will contribute to the **Sustainable Development Goals**. While it is understood that the 17 SDGs reflect human rights standards, and 92% of the associated 169 targets are linked to international human rights instruments<sup>3</sup>, the HRM Fund is more directly contributing to SDGs 16, 5 and 10.

The HRM Fund will achieve the planned outcome to put human rights more at the core of UNDS work at all levels by delivering **four specific outputs** from 2022 to 2025.



### OVERALL GOAL

The UNDS contributes to a society where all people enjoy their human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the right to development and right to a healthy environment without discrimination and are empowered to be active partners in development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind.



### MISSION

To support the UNDS, particularly the country level, to fully integrate human rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, putting people at the centre of development and systematically applying a human rights-based approach, including through the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.



### VISION

Human rights are at the core of UNDS work at all levels, RCs and UNCTs build the capacities of duty bearers and strive to empower rights holders as active agents in development and will uphold their inherent dignity and rights to ensure no one is left behind.

<sup>3</sup> see e.g., [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG\\_Indicators\\_Tables.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf)

## KEY RESULT AREAS 2022-2025

The HRM Fund contributes towards the achievements of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights (Call to Action), which seeks transformative change and emphasizes that human rights underpins the work of the UN across the 3 pillars of development, peace and security, and human rights. One of the 7 areas where concerted effort can achieve significant impact for the enjoyment of human rights on the ground is Human Rights at the Core of Sustainable Development, for which support to RCs/HCs and UNCTs is essential. The HRM Fund supports the implementation of this thematic area for action, as well as other areas as relevant to the mission of the Fund and its results framework (eg. gender equality and equal rights for women, rights in times of crisis, rights of future generations and public participation and civic space). The HRM Fund's objectives and focus areas also enable UNCTs to take forward concrete actions to support States to establish a new social contract anchored in human rights, particularly focusing on trust, addressing discrimination and exclusion, and measuring what matters — in line with the vision set out in Our Common Agenda.

From the HRM Fund's Terms of Reference, the results areas are:

### OUTPUT 1: POLICY COHERENCE, THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT (THEMATIC AREA: GLOBAL LEVEL)

The Fund will strategically support inter-agency efforts to generate and share **human rights thought leadership and initiatives to support system-wide policy coherence** on human rights mainstreaming in development for a coordinated approach to the integration of human rights into the UN efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda. It will also support enhanced information exchange and learning through **knowledge management and peer-to-peer support on human rights mainstreaming** across the UN development system to build the capacity of UN staff

and leverage learning from across the system for increased impact and efficiency.

### OUTPUT 2: RCs AND UNCTs APPLY HRBA AT THE CORE OF THEIR WORK INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (THEMATIC AREA: UNCT)

The Fund will provide the following indicative support, among others: Expert advice on applying the HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in country-level work and leveraging regional processes through **regional level human rights advisory capacities**; convening **RC peer exchange fora to strengthen human rights leadership and diplomacy capacities**; **fostering integration of economic and social rights into CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks through the Surge Initiative**; and providing operational advice and capacity building for the field through the **rollout of the updated Common Learning Package on HRBA, LNOB and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**. The Fund will also provide tailored and timely support to UNCTs for **enhanced reporting capacities and data for human rights in development**, and to **address urgent or emerging human rights priorities** including in Cooperation Framework development and early warning and preventive action.

### OUTPUT 3: INCREASED NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS (HRAs) SUPPORTING RCs AND UNCTs TO PUT HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CENTRE OF THEIR WORK (THEMATIC AREA: HRA)

The Fund will continue to scale up in-country support to RCs and UNCTs with dedicated advice, capacities, information and tools on positioning human rights strategically through **Human Rights Advisers**. The support provided by HRAs will be further strengthened through periodic capacity building (eg. thematic), **knowledge management and knowledge sharing** between HRAs and UNCTs, UN agencies, funds and programmes and other UN system partners.



**OUTPUT 4:  
WITH SUPPORT OF RCs AND UNCTs,  
GOVERNMENTS AND NHRIs HAVE  
STRONGER CAPACITIES TO ENGAGE WITH  
HUMAN RIGHTS (HR) MECHANISMS AND  
INTEGRATE HR IN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, CIVIL SOCIETY  
AND COMMUNITIES HAVE STRENGTHENED  
CAPACITY AND PLATFORMS  
(THEMATIC AREA: UNCT PARTNERS)**

The Fund will provide direct funding and catalytic support in various modalities to **strengthen the joint work of UNCTs to support governments and other institutions** in engaging and follow up on the recommendations of human rights mechanisms and integrating human rights into SDG responses including Voluntary National Reviews and for **strengthened UNCT engagement with NHRIs** on SDG planning and programming. The Fund will also support **UNCTs to jointly engage and build capacities of human rights defenders, civil society and communities**, including platforms for inclusion, meaningful participation and advocacy.

**OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS  
(FUND GOVERNANCE)**

The Fund will support the activities of the Fund governance mechanisms, the technical secretariat work including support to functions of the Steering Committee, support to Participating UN Organizations for high-quality and well-coordinated activities with maximum impact, Fund M&E and reporting, strategic dialogues with donors and formal engagements with potential donors and partners. Gender equality markers were rolled out for all projects in 2022

With contributions in 2022 amounting to 17% of the Fund's appeal for 2022, the Fund was able to support a number of key initiatives that contributed towards these four substantive outputs in the first year of implementation of the new strategic plan. While it was not possible to implement activities at the scale and scope planned due to lack of resources, the results in this report demonstrate the potential for impact and achievement of the Fund's results targets if fully funded. The results also demonstrate the commitment of the Participating UN Organizations and partners to the programmes envisaged by the Fund, with several entities making contributions towards those programmes from their own core and extra-budgetary resources given the limited resources of the HRM Fund. Annex 2 provides details of the progress of the UNDS with the Fund's support with reference to agreed indicators against baselines and targets.



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## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING FUND

In 2022, the Steering Committee strategically managed the resources of the HRM Fund to maximize the stability of ongoing initiatives offered to RCs and UNCTs in a context of reduced funding due – in part – to the impacts of the war in Ukraine, and simultaneously increasing demands for support to assist countries in the strategic use of human rights to advance sustainable development.

*The demand for human rights support for sustainable development was strong in 2022. 87 per cent of resident coordinators confirmed that host government requested human rights policy support in 2022. This compares with 79 per cent in 2021.*

Para 144, 2023 Secretary General's Report on the implementation of the QCPR  
(advance unedited version  
<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/47917947>)



*85 UNCTs received direct (in-country or remote) assistance on human rights and LNOB with support from the HRM."*

# 1. IMPROVED POLICY COHERENCE, THOUGHT LEADERSHIP, AND KNOWLEDGE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT



In 2022, the HRM Fund supported the RCs and UNCTs in integrating human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment and the principle of leaving no one behind in analysis, programming and advocacy through enhanced integration of the guiding principles in policies, guidance and system-wide knowledge products on human rights in development.

In support of stronger cross fertilisation and operationalization of these principles in development work, Fund-supported initiatives developed or contributed to several key knowledge products for the whole of the UN development system. For example:

- Through the Surge Initiative, the [Comparative Note on Social Protection and Fiscal Policies](#) that analyses and shares experiences in the Latin American and Caribbean region was developed. The Note highlighted the relationship between low coverage of social protection and low levels of taxation, examples of taxation policies in the region that led to higher social protection coverage and recommendations on human rights-based fiscal policies, including progressive taxation. Another practical guidance being developed to support countries move towards an **HRBA to Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** which includes an information sheet and a policy brief based on good practice country examples.

**UN Good Practices:  
How the Universal  
Periodic Review Process  
Supports Sustainable  
Development**



- Through the UNDP-OHCHR partnership, new knowledge tools and resources for UNCTs were produced, including the repository of over 60 good practices in supporting strategic engagement with the UPR for development, the publication of curated country examples under the [UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process supports Sustainable Development](#), the [Operational Common Appeal Guidance Note on Human Rights and VNRs](#), and the mapping of good practices of NHRIs and NSOs in operationalizing human rights indicators and HRBA to data, with a repository of capacity building materials and data collection tools..
- Ongoing management and updating of key knowledge-sharing platforms to put system-wide guidance, tools and good practices in the hands of UNDS staff, including the UNSDG knowledge platform on Human Rights and LNOB, and the Yammer Group on Human Rights, LNOB and Gender.
- Quarterly Surge Initiative newsletters presenting highlights of Surge Initiative work across its various areas of engagement. These newsletters are semi-public documents that are distributed to close partners from within CSOs, UN agencies, donors and partner member states.
- A comprehensive ECOSOC report outlining examples of Surge Initiative-supported in-country work (ECOSOC report 2022 E/2022/65).
- Information about the Surge Initiative, relevant statements, publications and other resources, including on a human rights economy, are now also available and featured on [OHCHR's website](#)

## 2. RCs AND UNCTs HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITIES, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, GUIDANCE AND TOOLS TO APPLY HRBA PUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CORE OF ANALYSIS, PROGRAMMING AND ADVOCACY, INCLUDING TO FURTHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



Evidence shows that gaps remain in the capacities, knowledge, skills and access to guidance and tools by RCs and UNCTs to enable them to put human rights at the centre of development work. In 2022, the HRM Fund supported key inter-agency initiatives to address some of these gaps, drawing on the expertise, mandates and capacities of UNDS entities to deliver coherent and integrated support to UN teams on the ground.

In 2022, UN Women in close collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF and OHCHR and inputs from UNESCO, UNDP, ILO and DCO, finalized and launched the online foundational course on the Cooperation Framework guiding principles of HRBA, GEWE and LNOB. The UN System Staff College (UNSSC) prepared the course based on the inputs of the UN agencies and UN Women's leadership. In 2022, 665 people registered for the self-paced course from the UNSSC website. The course is available free of charge for UN staff and external partners to use.

As part of this interagency initiative, a moderated in-depth online course to support the Cooperation Framework rollout countries, developed in 2022, was launched in April 2023.

Surge Initiative experts provided inputs to the initiative of the inter-agency network of human rights which supports the Call to Action's strategic interventions on sustainable development. Their support to UNCTs to systematically integrate the

UNSDG guiding principles in Cooperation Framework processes included the promotion of the findings and recommendations from the interagency review of integration of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in new generation CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks to regional Peer Support Groups to strengthen their quality assurance role in review of these critically important documents. Surge Initiative experts also contributed to the inter-agency initiative under the Call to Action to develop online, annotated checklists for UNCTs in integration of the HRBA, LNOB and GEWE into CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks. The human rights-based analyses provided contributed to creating more inclusive development trajectories and economies, by addressing economic and other inequalities including through thorough LNOB analysis and advocacy for use of or for the development of disaggregated data, and human rights indicators, to inform development and economic results frameworks.

Human Rights Advisers are of course an invaluable source of capacity, knowledge and skills for the RCs and UNCTs in which they are deployed. The work of HRAs in this regard is detailed further in the following section.

### **More systematic operationalization of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and interlinkages with the 2030 Agenda, to curb economic and other inequalities**

The Surge Initiative implemented by OHCHR focuses on prioritising engagement on linking human rights with economics and development practice with emphasis on curbing economic and other inequalities, joining forces with UNCTs, RCs, RCOs and other UN economists, OHCHR field presences, and UN development partners including civil society and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), amongst others. The overall objective is to underpin and anchor economic and development policy and operational advice to Member States in the international human rights framework and States' obligations, including as informed by the UN's human rights mechanisms. Aside from the HRM Fund, the Surge Initiative received additional support from Ireland, Switzerland, the VFTC and OHCHR in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The HRM Fund resources covered 12% of the total budget of the Surge Initiative in 2022, with funding ending in May 2022.

[Foundational course on the Cooperation Framework guiding principles of HRBA, GEWE and LNOB](#)



In 2022, the Surge contributed to key global [advocacy](#) processes, for example through direct advocacy by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and engaging in outreach, constituency building and developing partnerships, including by engaging in strategic dialogues with eminent economists, academics and other stakeholders<sup>5</sup> including the IFIs<sup>6</sup> – with a view to conceptualize and operationalize human rights-anchored transformations in today’s economic policies and analysis for sustainable, fairer, and more inclusive development.

The Surge Team also collaborated with DCO, including the DCO Regional Office for Europe and Centra Asia to run a refresher course on human rights and HRBA in programming for staff of the RCOs in the region. The course brought together staff from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan for joint learning and exchange on field practices. The course focused on (1) an introduction to human rights and the work of and engagement with human rights mechanisms and (2) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights with emphasis on human rights economy.

Some of the key results of the Surge Initiative’s support to UNCTs in 2022 during the period of the Fund’s support were:

*Specialized analytical and operational inputs to CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks* to anchor UNCT development and economic analysis (e.g. on LNOB, debt, austerity, fiscal space, transparency and accountability, and linkages with social spending) in relevant ESC rights obligations, for example, of AAAQ requirements,<sup>7</sup> non-retrogression, maximum available resources and minimum core obligations. For example:

- **MONGOLIA Cooperation Framework** – in contributing to the CF, the Surge Initiative placed emphasis on how to ensure a greater focus on inequalities and LNOB, including in the outcome areas relating to the economy and meaningful participation. The advice provided covered analysis of budget allocations and expenditures, including for social and economic sectors, building back better and fairer, addressing corruption and tax reform (for progressive taxation on income and wealth), and identified the need for human rights impact assessments linked to economic policies and activities, including mining, and human rights budgeting linked to programme design.

<sup>5</sup> For example in May 2022, the Surge Team’s lead economist participated in a two-day workshop on “Human Rights Economics” organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Institute in Morges, Switzerland. Over the course of this two-day conversation, participants explored issues and ways to “strengthen the human rights community’s contribution to economics.” There was agreement that the current moment calls into question many of our current economic concepts and policies. In addition, it challenges us to forge new ideas and a course of action to ensure that economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCR) are respected, protected and fulfilled

<sup>6</sup> Including substantive inputs to the IMF’s strategy to mainstream gender, noting that from a human rights point of view, gender inequality is macro-critical because “it affects and has the potential to erode the core contents of rights, economic stability and/or social stability.”

<sup>7</sup> ESC rights core requirements for availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of ESC rights.

- **MYANMAR CCA updating**, in collaboration with the HRA, the Issue-Based Coalition on Human Rights and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the UNCT in Myanmar, the Surge Team built the capacity of the UNCT staff in Myanmar to operationalize HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in multidimensional risk analysis and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus through a joint training.

**Seeding change country projects, in support of UNCTs, State and other country efforts for human rights-based COVID-19 recovery and beyond.** By May 2022, the Team had provided support to 51 of these projects. Drawing on [Our Common Agenda](#), the specific objectives of these projects are to support system-wide efforts to place human rights at the centre of socio-economic recovery and build-back better, including by advocating for economic and development policy shifts that counter rising inequalities, putting a spotlight on disadvantaged groups and advance investment in ESC rights, building a renewed social contract anchored in human rights and enabling an [economy that enhances human rights](#). For example:

- **JORDAN followed up relevant human rights recommendations of the UPR, CEDAW, and CRPD related to budget allocations and financing for inclusive education, work and social protection among others, engaging state and non-state stakeholders to advance rights-based finance policies:** in collaboration with the HRA, the UNCT and the Jordan Economic and Social Council (JESC), the Surge Initiative contributed to discussions to place people at the centre of public finance policies through engagement with various state and non-state stakeholders and development of a policy brief on "[Domestic Resource Mobilization – A human rights-based approach to tackling inequalities](#)". The policy brief highlights the importance of mobilizing the necessary resources to invest in economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights, and to reposition public expenditure to prioritize people's needs and rights. The policy brief responds to four key questions: (i) whether Jordan is raising enough revenue to cover SDG financing needs in

pace with economic growth, (ii) to what extent the tax system is non-discriminatory and addresses inequalities; (iii) to what extent the tax system provides for transparency, participation and accountability; and (iv) whether Jordan is investing adequately in the realization of human rights.

- **GUINEA BISSAU commitment to LNOB approach in its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report:** Under the overall coordination of the HRA to the RC and UNCT, and with the technical and financial support of the Surge Initiative, support was provided to the Government in the organization of regional LNOB consultations. The stakeholder consultations included representatives of most disadvantaged groups and collectively identified priority SDGs and suggestions to accelerate progress, such as mechanisms related to agriculture to accelerate gender equality. The views of those consulted were reflected in the State's VNR report, with a summary of the consultations and some of the principal findings attached as an annex. The initiative is being complemented by a HRB-budgetary analysis undertaken jointly by the Surge Initiative and the RCO economist, which will examine public spending on health and education – as a means for undertaking advocacy with the Parliament, amongst other stakeholders.
- **LAO PDR increased attention to impact of infrastructure projects on ESC rights and groups at risk of being left behind:** in collaboration with the RCO, the Surge Team provided support to the OHCHR Regional Office in South East Asia on an analysis that focused on an assessment of large-scale hydropower and transport infrastructure projects and their impact on the environment, ESC rights and the most vulnerable. Preliminary findings of the assessment were presented to the UNCT and initial discussions held with the World Bank. Given the possible deterioration of the economic and fiscal situation, and a potential debt renegotiation in the horizon, OHCHR and the RCO are committed to following-up on this work in 2023.

- URUGUAY enhanced data systems to monitor enjoyment of ESC rights by Afro-descendants:** A project led by the HRA with the financial and technical support of the Surge Initiative and OHCHR technical expertise on human rights and data, contributed to monitoring ESC rights for Afro-descendant populations by developing and adding indicators and relevant data on these rights to the [MIRADOR DESCA](#) platform. This platform was established jointly by the NHRI, the Universidad de la República and OHCHR to monitor human rights in Uruguay.
- SERBIA integrating actions needed to fulfill the 2030 Agenda's LNOB promise in Government's policy- and decision-making:** In response to a request from the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, the HRA in Serbia, supported by the Surge Initiative, led the publication of a [guidance tool](#) on LNOB through a highly inclusive and participatory drafting and validation process. The line ministry, the Public Policy Secretariat, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, members of the National Convention on the European Union (over 200 CSOs) and academia contributed to the drafting of the tool, tailored specifically to the Serbian policymaking environment. The tool includes a tailor-made step-by-step approach to applying LNOB in the various stages of policymaking as well as a set of checklists that can support the identification of vulnerable groups, applying the LNOB principle when forming relevant working groups and conducting consultations and when collecting and analyzing data. The tool has been included in the Action Plan for the implementation of the new Antidiscrimination Strategy and will inform the development of the National Human Rights Strategy.
- SOUTH AFRICA advancing disaggregated data to understand the relationship between ESC rights and the SDGs from an LNOB perspective:** The OHCHR South Africa Regional Office developed — with the financial support of the Surge Initiative — an advocacy brief, entitled 'An intersectional approach to socio-economic data in Southern Africa: Leveraging data to

Leave No One Behind'. The brief — informed by the results of surveys administered to National Statistical Offices — is anchored in the premise that to properly understand the relationship between ESC rights and the SDGs from a LNOB perspective, disaggregated data is essential. The brief focused on Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa with a view to: (i) understand the existing socio-economic data landscapes in the three countries; (ii) illustrate some of the gaps in existing socio-economic data which have been identified by the Committee on ESC rights (CESCR); (iii) outline a HRBA to data for the countries in focus; and (iv) provide recommendations targeting NSOs, NHRIs, CSO, NMRFs, UN and international organizations as to how existing socio-economic data can be analyzed in a manner which reveals the extent of intersectional forms of disadvantage and discrimination.

**Advising on joint UN policy positions, including as relevant to the IFIs** — in close collaboration with UNCTs, RCOs and RCO and other economists, IFI and other partners — to inform strategic national-level legal, budgetary and policy processes.

- The Surge Team accompanied the OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa in providing support to the efforts of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum in developing a Model Law on Public Financial Management for **SOUTH AFRICA**. These efforts aimed to ensure that SADC national parliaments are enabled to conduct their legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions for public financial management in a way that is transparent, efficient, and responsive to the needs of SADC citizens. Written inputs reinforced the importance of ensuring that investment in social sectors is in line with human rights obligations and the agreed international and regional human rights benchmarks for national budgets. OHCHR recommended that the law considers that SADC States explore domestic resource mobilization options as a means of increasing fiscal space, including through progressive taxation that can be used for social spending.

## SURGE INITIATIVE IN 2022 BY NUMBERS



34

Surge Team supported UN in-country presences with analytical contents and operational advice for **34 CCA and Cooperation Framework processes**



7

Surge Team delivered **7 briefings and trainings to UNCTs and other partners** on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNSDCF Guiding Principles of a Human Rights-Based Approach and Leave No One Behind



19

Surge Team held strategic discussions and engagements with **19 RCO Economists** and took part in several discussions with national authorities on various aspects of human rights-based budgeting



3

Surge Team participated and provided inputs and recommendations to **3 UN Regional Monthly Reviews**



11

Surge Team provided technical and financial support to **11 seeding-change country projects launched/ or ongoing in 2022** (total 51 since 2020)

Note: Figures reflect Surge Initiative achievements in 2022 during the period of HRM Fund support, Jan - May 2022.



- In **TUNISIA**, in the context of ongoing negotiations of a future support programme with the IMF, the OHCHR's South Africa Regional Office – with the support of the Surge Initiative – provided support to the RCO on a UNCT position paper for engagement with the IMF. The paper provides suggestions on how to support a HRBA in future economic reforms, including by expanding the coverage of the social safety floor vertically by targeting the poor and the “missing middle” most likely to fall into poverty, and through meaningful public participation of all relevant stakeholders – including trade unions, employers, human rights, transparency and anti-corruption organizations – in the design and the regular review of reforms.

### 3. HUMAN RIGHTS MORE AT THE CENTRE OF UNCTs' SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS (HRAs)



***“Sustainable development and respect for all human rights – economic, social, cultural, civil, and political – are the only reliable tools that can break through cycles of instability, address the underlying drivers of fragility and humanitarian need, and try in the best of ways to tackle the root causes of conflict.”***

**Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General,  
24 February 2023**

As countries struggle to respond to the impacts of deepening global polycrises, the value of human rights as a problem-solving and preventative tool is becoming even more evident. The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated all-too starkly the costs of failing to consider human rights in development progress. In the context of crisis, development setbacks and increasing instability and inequality, the unique skill-set and expertise of HRAs is invaluable to RCs and UNCTs in supporting national efforts to achieve the SDGs. Demand for HRAs continues to outstrip available resources. While 54 UNCTs had HRA support secured at the beginning of 2022, with insufficient resources in the Fund it was necessary to freeze recruitment against vacant posts during the year, resulting in a total of 43 UNCTs<sup>8</sup> benefitting from HRAs at the end of 2022.<sup>9</sup> Due to lack of resources in the HRM Fund (which covered 27% of the HRA programme in 2022), OHCHR covered the remaining 73% of the cost of the HRA programme in 2022 to meet the gap and sustain this critical joint resource.

HRAs are highly valued resources, providing critical human rights support to enhance coherence through stronger integration of human rights into advocacy, analysis, programmes and policy support to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda and leave no one behind. HRAs also increase strategic engagement with the UPR and other international and regional human rights mechanisms by UNCTs, governments, CSOs and human rights defenders, NHRIs and other national stakeholders. HRAs also supported UNCTs' engagement with other pooled funds – such as the Peacebuilding Fund and the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – to leverage additional resources for interventions to address

<sup>8</sup> Kenya (1), Mozambique (2), Zimbabwe (3), Lesotho (4), Madagascar (5), Eswatini (6), Zambia (7), Burundi (8), Nigeria (9), Guinea Bissau (10), Sierra Leone (11), Gambia (12), Rep. of Congo (13), Rwanda (14), Bangladesh (15), Sri Lanka (16), Nepal (17), Myanmar (based in Bangkok) (18), Maldives (19), Timor Leste (20), Samoa (21), Papua New Guinea (22), Philippines [2 HRAs] (23), Mongolia (24), Jordan (25), North Macedonia (26), Montenegro (27), Moldova (28), South Caucasus (29), Bosnia I Herzegovina (30), Kazakhstan (31), Tajikistan (32), Barbados (33), Guyana (34), Dominican Rep. (35), Trinidad and Tobago (36), Brazil (37), Argentina (38), Uruguay (39), Ecuador (40), Paraguay (41), Costa Rica (42), Belize (43).

<sup>9</sup> HRM Fund resources only covered these posts partially in 2022 due to a lack of available resources; OHCHR covered the remainder of the costs from other funds. Rwanda was fully funded by OHCHR in 2022. In the Philippines, the HRM Fund resources cover 2 HRAs. (7) Non-incumbent HRA positions in Malawi, Equatorial Guinea, Malaysia, Bahrain, Serbia, Jamaica, and Suriname remained vacant for most of 2022 because of lack of funding from the HRM Fund. Likewise, requests by Resident Coordinators in 2022 for the deployment of (8) new HRAs to Angola, Tanzania, Gabon, Ghana, Micronesia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Albania were also not possible because of lack of resources in the HRM Fund. (4) Former HRA positions in Bolivia, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, and Peru were not continued as OHCHR established other field presences there.

structural causes of complex development and human rights challenges. HRAs' expertise also contributed to more coherent and joined up action on human rights under UN system-wide strategies and action plans on gender equality, youth, disability inclusion, and indigenous persons, as well as the efforts to strengthen our engagement with civil society and listening under Our Common Agenda.

### Overview of the HRA programme in 2022

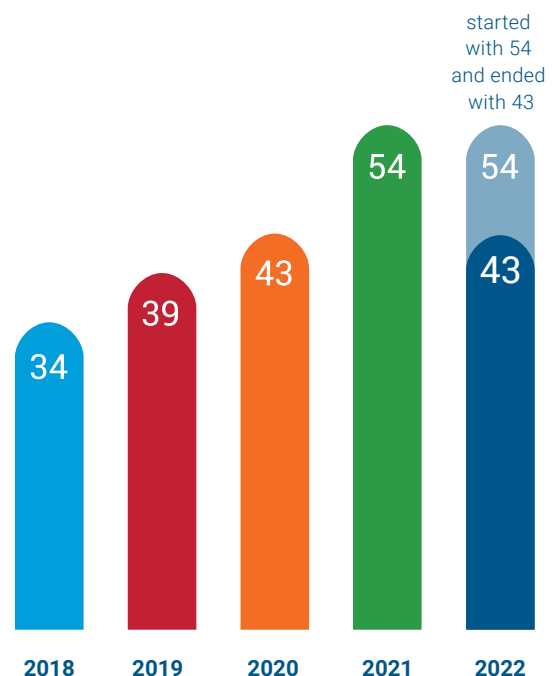
Scaling up and strengthening the HRA programme is a key part of the Fund's envisaged support to RCs and UNCTs to embody the vision of the UNDS repositioning and work with national stakeholders to strengthen their capacities for implementing human rights and ensuring that no one is left behind in development efforts. The Call to Action underlined the need to ensure that the work of RCs and UNCTs is informed by a human rights risk and opportunity analysis, and refers specifically to the expansion of the presence of HRAs in UNCTs. The expansion of the programme in recent years reflects the value placed on these capacities by RCs and UNCTs, as well as the increasing recognition and support from host governments. This important role of HRAs, which was confirmed in the independent evaluation of the HRM Fund, has once again been stressed by all RCs and partners benefiting from these deployments. HRAs' critical support to RCs from countries with double and triple-hatted RCs (those also acting as Humanitarian Coordinators, and those acting as Deputy SRSGs in Peace Missions) was specifically highlighted in a meeting of those RCs convened by DCO and OHCHR in October 2022, where the RCs requested OHCHR and DCO to redouble efforts to retain these posts in light of the funding crisis.

The sustainability of existing deployments and the availability of funding to strategically continue expanding the programme where is most needed and relevant, was the most challenging issue for the programme in 2022. Despite the increasing demand for HRAs, the HRM Fund was not able to support the implementation of the HRA programme in 2022 at the planned scale (56 HRAs) due to resource constraints. Instead of the substantive expansion of the human rights capacity to UNCTs from the 12 deployments in 2012 to 60 in 2024 – as envisaged

in the Project Document, OHCHR has had to freeze the recruitment of HRAs for vacant posts, transfer the HRA capacities to other forms of field presences like regional offices and technical missions, and explain to eight RCs that had officially requested the deployment of new HRAs to their UNCTs (most of which had already been approved by the Fund's Steering Committee), that it would not be able to fulfil their request until new funds are secured in the HRM Fund. This situation is concerning to OHCHR, the HRM Fund, and the UN Development System, as HRAs were already identified as evidence of the UN's commitment to promoting a human rights vision that is transformative, provides solutions and speaks directly to each and every human being as the UN Secretary-General states in Our Common Agenda and his Call to Action; and as Member States mandated to UN Development System to do in the 2030 Agenda, and more recently, in the 2020 QCPR.

In May 2022, the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the QCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/77/69 – E/2022/47), cited the deployment of

### HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISER (HRA) DEPLOYMENTS SECURED



HRAs to UNCTs as an example of the support being provided to Member States in response to their call for additional technical resources to support compliance of their international human rights obligations and commitments. In June 2022, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTRC), which provides expert advice on enhancing the technical cooperation to countries, and is administered by OHCHR, included a recommendation

in its report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/49/93) for the deployment of additional HRAs to UNCTs, recognizing that these had become a key resource for RCs.

OHCHR, as the overall manager of the HRA programme, provides valuable institutional and policy support, linkages to the thematic expertise of OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms, and in some cases additional resources to work with

## KEY HRA RESULTS AREAS



the HRA to further expand the support to the RC, UNCT and national partners. OHCHR also funded the management of the programme in 2022 due to HRM Fund resource constraints. As in previous years, OHCHR ensured ongoing strategic coordination for complimentary funding support from the VFTC and advice/expertise from the five high level experts of its Board of Trustees. This coordination is critical for the stability of the programme due to the need to bridge the gap between HRM Fund replenishments.

As advisory capacity sitting within the RC Offices, HRAs tailor their engagements and actions with the UNCT to the specific development challenges and opportunities within the country. Results in all of the 5 areas (see diagram above) are routinely seen in all countries of deployment.

OHCHR in partnership with DCO and other HRM Fund Steering Committee members continued joint efforts in 2022 to strength HRA capacities. OHCHR carried out a needs assessment with HRAs to inform future support initiatives. In November, all HRAs met in Geneva for OHCHR's Global Meeting of Human Rights Representatives. This meeting provided a forum for HRAs to share and learn from other experiences in promoting civic space, inclusion and participation; prevention, protection from human rights violations, and crisis response; scaling up

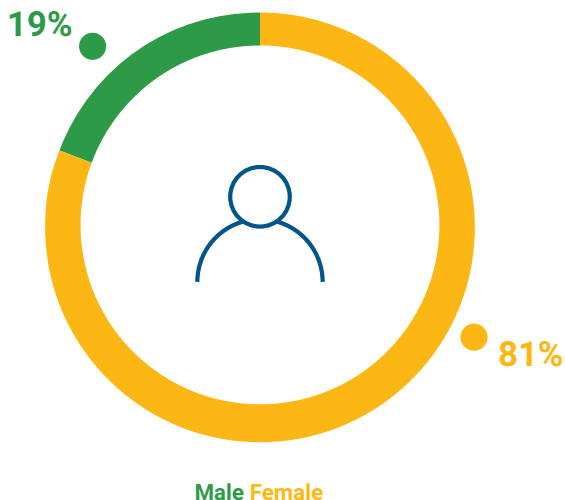
action on economic, social and cultural rights and on new thematic frontier issues; using strategic foresight as a tool for planning and advocacy; helping UNCTs take advantage of pooled funds available; better leveraging partnerships on the ground with the rest of the UN system; and strategically leverage the work of UN human rights mechanisms in their engagement with national stakeholders. HRAs also participated regularly in UNSDG and DCO-led informational webinars and communities of practice, deepening their knowledge on thematic development issues and sharing good practices and lessons learned from their work with UNCTs to integrate human rights into development.

**(i) Support in promoting human rights as a common UN value and upholding international norms and standards through advocacy and awareness-raising**

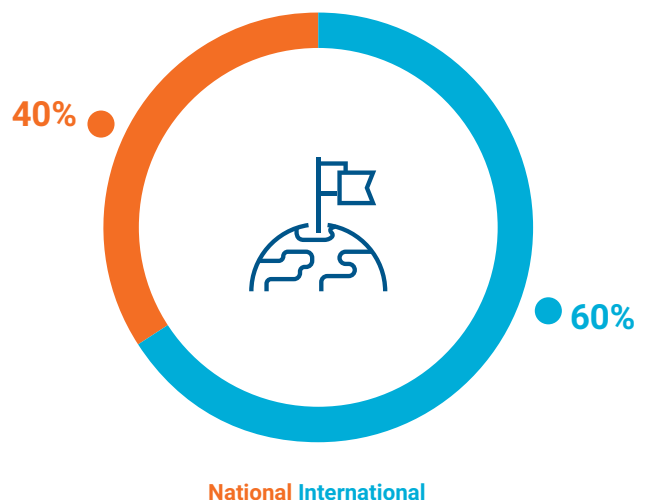
*"As we are supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the country, it is my role to ensure that the Government has access to all of the UN's capacities to protect human rights. The Human Rights Adviser is the "hub" for both government and civil society and is a key tool in the RC toolbox as we unlock development challenges."*

RC in Kazakhstan

**2022 HRA PROFILE BY SEX**



**2022 HRA PROFILE BY CATEGORY**



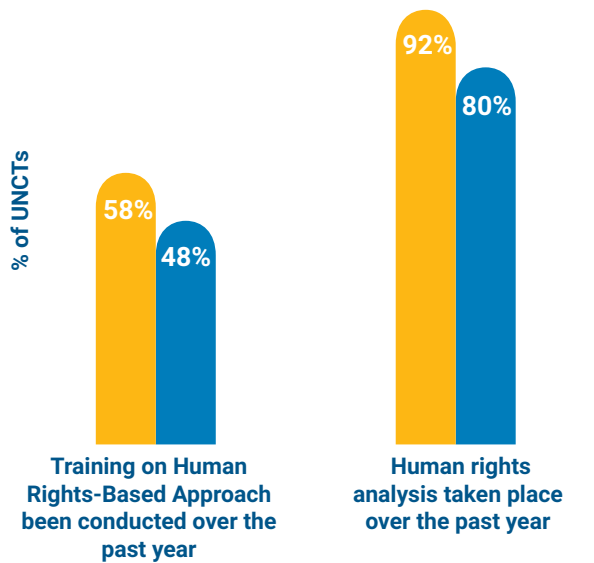
*“In my work as RC, I am guided by the three pillars which guide the work of the UN: peace and security, development and human rights. A Human Rights Adviser is a valuable tool to help guide me in the consideration of sensitive human rights issues that might not be easy to approach, and that might also have an impact on the other two pillars.”*

RC in Timor Leste

HRAs’ deep understanding of human rights norms and standards as well as the activities and outputs of human rights mechanisms led to effective efforts by RCs and UNCTs to increase awareness and leadership around critical human rights issues and concerns. HRAs also helped to open cooperation avenues for UNCTs with key State institutions including ministries to address some of the identified

challenges, including issues related to civic space, freedom of expression and participation, hate speech, gender equality and gender-based violence, rights of indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities, human rights dimensions of the triple planetary crisis, corruption, and the death penalty. Awareness-raising and support for the implementation of the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy was also an important area of work for many HRAs, including in **Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Sri Lanka.**

**FIGURE 1.**  
**IN 2022 UNCTs WITH HRAs**  
**DEMONSTRATE STRONGER RESULTS**  
**ON KEY HRBA INDICATORS**



With HRA No HRA and no OHCHR in-country presence

Source: Development Coordination Office.

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, enhancing and protecting civic space and public participation was a priority for the HRA and UNCT due to increased polarization and the general elections that took place in 2022. The HRA conducted monitoring in the context of deteriorating political crises and the general elections, providing timely analysis to the RC, while also supporting the RC’s advocacy on civic space through events, media and bilateral engagement. The HRA organized multiple activities to promote civic space and fundamental freedoms, including: several awareness-raising and capacity building consultations on hate speech, safety of journalists and access to information – with CSOs, journalists, and human rights defenders, and a 2-day conference on civic space with participants from civil society, human rights defenders, the NHRI, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, a parliamentarian and a representative of the SDG Council, as well as representatives of Embassies, international organizations and the UNCT. The conference resulted in the development of a roadmap focused on recommendations to strengthen participation of civil society.

**#civic space**

*“The Human Rights Adviser capacity in Bosnia and Herzegovina has allowed the United Nations in the country to step up its bilateral and public advocacy on sensitive human rights issues, such as civic space and transitional justice.”*

RC in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In **Moldova**, the HRA supported the UNCT to forge new partnerships with academia and the media to promote human rights and equality in and through the media. The HRA increased the knowledge and capacity of journalists and media professionals to promote diversity and equality in their work through providing technical content that was integrated into the teaching materials of eight disciplines to promote the mainstreaming of human rights and an HRBA to journalism at the Journalism and Communication Sciences Faculty of Moldova State University. The HRA developed a terminology guide on communication with and about groups vulnerable to discrimination for staff of public and private institutions, including media professionals, public relations and communication specialists, in line with the United Nations Global Communications Strategy. Further, the HRA organized an awareness-raising session for media professionals, journalists and bloggers on the human rights situation of Roma refugees and the multiple vulnerabilities they face. The HRA also organized a human rights capacity-building session focused on the history and consequences of the Holocaust and the prevention of hate speech, xenophobia and racism for students and lecturers from the Faculty of Journalism of Tiraspol State University in the Transnistrian region.

#LNOB

HRAs supported UNCTs in the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) through awareness raising and training for relevant national counterparts on the policy in several countries. For example, in **Sri Lanka**, with assistance from the HRA, the UNCT consistently applied the HRDDP in all activities involving the security forces or entities with security components (i.e. civilian bodies under the Ministry

of Defence or directed by acting/former military personnel). Support was also provided to the Human Rights Committee of Sri Lanka in screening candidates for peacekeeping operations. In **Burkina Faso**, the HRA contributed to UNCT progress on the implementation of the HRDDP through the establishment of the HRDDP Working Group within the UNCT. The HRA organized three training sessions and two briefings for heads and deputy heads of UN entities to facilitate engagement with authorities on the HRDDP. At the request of the RC, four line ministries appointed departmental focal points on the HRDDP, and a training on the HRDDP for military engineers and an awareness-raising session for on-commissioned officers were held. In **Nigeria**, the HRA supported the organization of a workshop on integrating human rights into the early warning systems of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Regional Economic Commissions. The workshop was hosted by the ECOWAS Commission, in partnership with the AUC and the World Bank. Further, a training on the HRDDP was held for the UN agencies that provide support to security forces in Nigeria to inform participants about fundamental issues and good practices in the implementation of the HRDDP to promote human rights and prevent violations.

#HRDDP

In **Lesotho**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Law and Justice, the UNCT and civil society, the HRA conducted advocacy with parliamentarians to fast-track the establishment of an NHRI. As a result, a draft law to create a Human Rights Commission for Lesotho is now before the Parliament.

#NHRI

In **Madagascar**, the HRA team helped to guide the UN, the Government and civil society in responding to the dramatic increase in attacks against persons with albinism in the south of the country, including to ensure that a HRBA was applied. Following UN efforts, local and national authorities committed to work together on the issue under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the Government agreed to host an official visit of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism, which



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took place in September with support of the HRA. Further, the first national NGO representing the rights of persons with albinism was created. The HRA also worked with the RC to develop an action plan for the UNCT's Disability Inclusion Strategy through the Gender Human Rights Thematic Working Group.

[#Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

***“Over the past year Madagascar has become the country with the highest rate of attacks against persons with albinism in the world. This is a topic on which the UN can make a big difference. By drawing on international experience and the multi-sectoral expertise of each UN agency and programme, we can change the lives of these persons, who have effectively been left behind. The approach taken by the HRA to address the issue has ensured the effective and accountable engagement of all sectors of the state as well as civil society – a truly One-UN approach, grounded in human rights principles.”***

RC in Madagascar

In **Guyana**, the HRA led an assessment on the vulnerability of the coastal populations through discussions between relevant stakeholders regarding the threats of rising sea levels and intense flooding caused by heavy rainfall. An overwhelming majority of Guyana's population resides on the coast and in the exclusive economic zone, putting several populations at risk.

[#LNOB](#)

[#climate and environment](#)

In **Jamaica**, the HRA collaborated with the UNCT Gender and Human Rights Theme Group and the leadership of the RC to advocate for the entry into force of the Disabilities Act (2014). The Act came into force in February 2022, marking a milestone in the lives of persons with disabilities. The Act includes provisions to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, prohibit all forms of discrimination and safeguard and enhance their welfare. The HRA also conducted capacity building initiatives for stakeholders, including government officials, in relation to the implementation and reporting under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

[#maximising the use of treaty bodies](#)

[#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

In **Bangladesh**, the HRA provided a platform for the UNCT and national partners to discuss critical issues through the organization of regular events, such as CSO consultations on freedom of the media and human rights. The HRA also consistently engaged with the Government regarding the review of the Digital Security Act and submitted written recommendations for improving the alignment of the law with human rights. In addition, the Government invited the HRA to participate in a consultation on the draft data protection act. The HRA worked with key interlocutors and submitted written recommendations. Decisions are pending regarding the recommendations on the Digital Security Act and draft data protection act.

[#participation](#)

[#civic space](#)

The promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples has been a priority for the UNCT and HRA in **Brazil**, especially in the context of advances in mining on indigenous lands, invasions and territorial disputes, environmental degradation, and the stalling of demarcations. After an official mission together with parliamentarians to Roraima, specifically about the Yanomami people, the HRA supported the RC regarding the interagency response in Brazil. As a follow-up to this action, within 48 hours of the outbreak of the Yanomami crisis in January 2023, which exposed the extreme hunger and suffering affecting the Yanomami people in a context of violence and severe environmental degradation, the UN established, with the support of the HRA, immediate dialogue with the federal government at the ministerial level. An interagency proposal to support the government response was developed, and a task force of 13 agencies was created to coordinate the actions.

[#rights of indigenous peoples](#)

***“UN Zambia would benefit from a continued and expanded human rights presence and thus, the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund needs continuous and sustained contributions.”***

RC in Zambia

## TIMOR LESTE

In **Timor Leste**, the HRA advocated for the ratification of the CRPD, which led the Government to approve a resolution for the country to become a State Party to CRPD and its Optional Protocol. The Government has not yet deposited the instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General. During preparations for the 2022 Housing and Population Census, the HRA and UNFPA advocated for the use of methodologies, such as the Washington Group Questions, to collect more accurate and disaggregated data to enhance efforts to strengthen data on groups left behind. Emphasis was placed on collecting information on persons with disabilities, including the total number and types of disabilities. To this end, the census questionnaire included the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability.

[#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

[#maximizing the use of the treaty bodies](#)

In **Azerbaijan**, the HRA supporting the South Caucasus organized a meeting between the RC and national human rights defenders and CSOs to discuss challenges to civic space and the role of the UN in expanding civic space. Concerns were raised with national authorities regarding restrictions on freedom of association, such as registration of CSOs and financial resources, as well as challenges in seeking authorization to hold events. The RC underlined the importance of continuing these meetings and indicated her willingness to facilitate dialogue between CSOs and national authorities.

[#participation](#)

[#civic space](#)

[#human rights defenders](#)





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**(ii) Integration of human rights into UN programmes and activities, Cooperation Frameworks and other key strategic planning tools and application of the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)**

*“Having a HRA in the Multi-Country Office of Barbados and Eastern Caribbean has enhanced our work on LNOB, especially by bringing to the fore the importance of protection, participation, and inclusion of persons with disabilities and LGBTI+ people. Her inputs have provided opportunities within the UNCT, with Governments and with other stakeholders to focus more attention on intersectionality as a way forward to achieve inclusion.”*

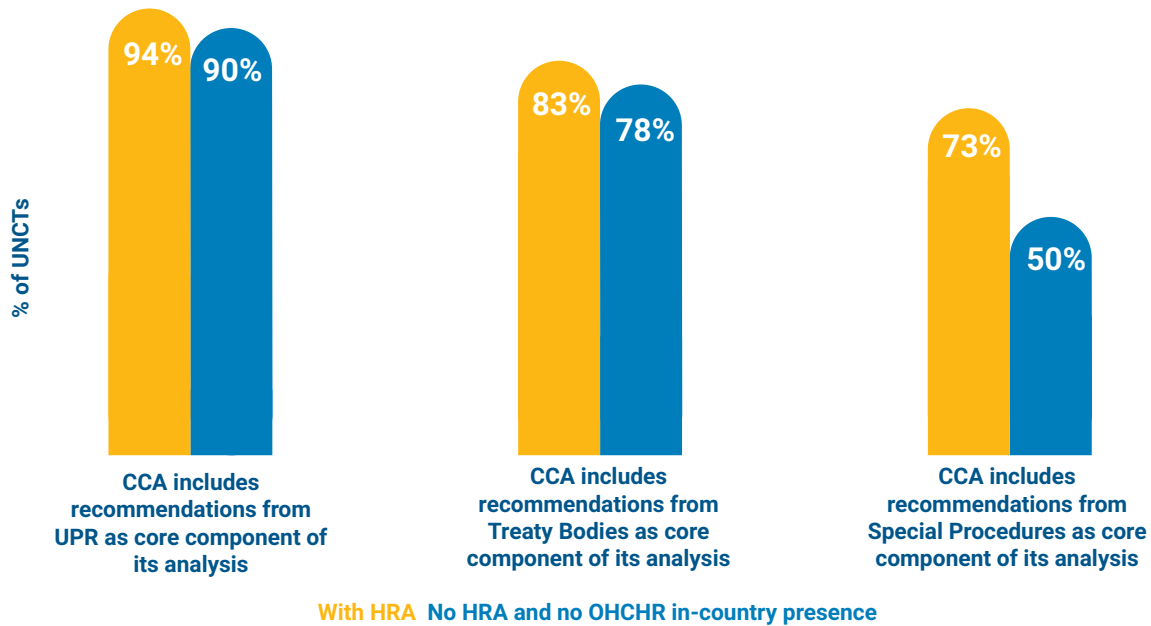
**RC in Barbados and Eastern Caribbean**

HRAs’ support to RCs and UNCTs to the integration of human rights and the recommendations of human rights mechanisms in the CCA and Cooperation Framework – in line with the UNSDG Guidance on Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks – was critical in operationalizing the pivots expected under the UNDS reform and

the Secretary-General’s Call to Action. Advice and capacity development for UNCTs in applying the guiding principles of HRBA and LNOB in CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks (and their implementation) continued to be a common area of work for all HRAs, in particular for strengthened use of the outcomes of human rights mechanisms, analyzing development challenges with human rights implications and supporting prioritization of strategic, norms-based support and assistance from the UN to countries. Throughout the year, with additional support from the Fund-supported OHCHR Surge Initiative Team and OHCHR-UNDP partnership in many cases, HRAs supported analytical contents and operational advice for strengthened CCAs and/or Cooperation Frameworks in countries undertaking work on these critical processes. HRAs also contributed analysis and advice on rights-based approaches to other UNCT frameworks for action, including joint programmes. HRAs in many countries led inter-agency coordination groups on human rights and LNOB, which have been found in independent evaluations to contribute to more effective mainstreaming and results.<sup>10</sup> HRAs also spearheaded processes to facilitate ongoing consultation and, where appropriate, institutionalize stakeholder (including civil society) participation in UN coordination mechanisms.

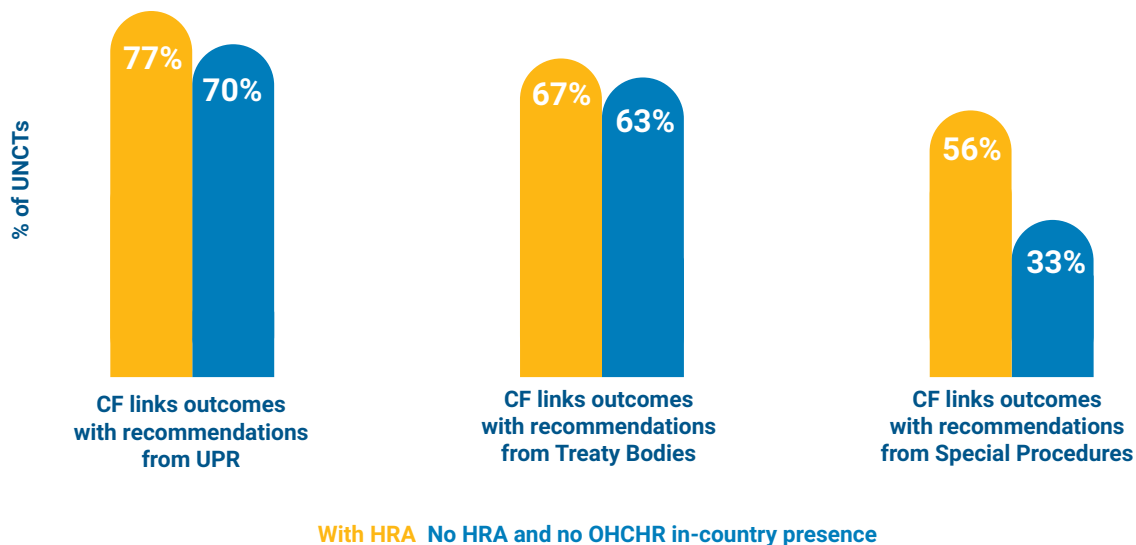
<sup>10</sup> System-wide Evaluation of the UNDS Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 (2022). Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/download/5456/74335>

FIGURE 2.  
**UNCTs WITH HRAS REPORTED MORE USE OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
 MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS IN CCAs**



Source: Development Coordination Office.

FIGURE 3.  
**UNCTs WITH HRAs REPORTED STRONGER USE OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
 MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS IN UNDAFs/COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS**



Source: Development Coordination Office.

*“The presence of a HRA in my office has helped improve the capacities of the UNCT when it comes to interacting with the UN human rights system and mainstreaming human rights in Cooperation Framework implementation. Without her support, ensuring the implementation of the LNOB approach would be impossible.”*

RC in Uruguay

*“During the design of the new Cooperation Framework, the HRA helped to bring a much-needed focus on rights based approach and LNOB principle in development of the new UNSDCF for Nigeria 2023–2027 as well as integrated human rights issues into thematic areas.”*

RC a.i. in Nigeria

HRAs support to UNCTs in undertaking CCAs (including in **Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Uruguay**) included foundational or refresher trainings on the guiding principles of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE, conducting data collection, literature reviews on relevant issues including on the situations of specific communities at risk of being left behind due to unequal enjoyment of human rights, and identification and integration of relevant data and recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms. Through their involvement in these processes, human rights perspectives were more fully integrated into the UN’s collective analysis, feeding into the identification of strategic priorities for the UN’s support to the country.

In **Guinea Bissau**, the HRA built the capacity of UN staff, including members of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group, on the application of an HRBA and the integration of the guiding principles on LNOB and GEWE into the Cooperation Framework, including specifically on the linkages between these principles and the SDGs and between human rights indicators and the application of an HRBA to data.

#CCA/CF

In **Mozambique**, following a series of briefings by the HRA to the UNCT, the Programme Management Team and the Donor Coordination Platform on the UPR process and outcome of the third UPR cycle, the UNCT adopted the UPR as a guiding framework for UN planning and programming, with a view to implementing the Cooperation Framework 2022–2025. The HRA supported the UNCT to analyze recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to the Cooperation Framework outcomes, outputs, and indicators to inform the development of joint action plans by results groups. The UNCT established a cross-pillar UN Human Rights Network, which was chaired by the HRA and composed of focal points

## KENYA

In **Kenya**, the HRA played a key role in ensuring that human rights analysis informed the preparation of outcomes, outputs, and indicators of the 2022–2026 Cooperation Framework. She also provided capacity-building support to the UNCT on human rights indicators and markers. As Chair of Outcome 1, the HRA coordinated the reporting of key results. These include: the launch of the methodology report for monitoring SDG 16.10.1 and the designation of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights as the primary data collector; the development and adoption of standard and discrimination modules for data collection; engagement with Members of Parliament to identify SDGs and human rights priorities as the basis for collaboration; a human rights analysis of the national budget focusing on social sector spending and the LNOB principle and engagement with various stakeholders, including with the Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business on human rights budgeting and training for civil society on rights-based budget analysis and advocacy (with support from the Surge initiative).

#participation

#CF

from development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding entities. The Network meets regularly to discuss human rights issues, such as civic space, disability inclusion and business and human rights to strengthen the UNCTs' efforts in these areas.

[#maximising the use of UPR](#)

[#CF](#)

In **Rwanda**, the HRA chaired the One UN Rwanda Human Rights Taskforce and delivered training on the HRBA and VNRs to ensure that human rights principles and a HRBA guide the implementation of the Cooperation Framework in Rwanda. The training also equipped the UNCT to assist the Government in implementing the SDGs and other development efforts. The HRA also organized regular meetings with the network of human rights defenders (HRDs) and ensured their participation at the UNCT's Human Rights Working Group. CSOs are also involved in the planning process from the UN, including through sharing of information on attacks against journalists and HRDs, which are monitored by the UNCT and translated into actions proposed to RC for advocacy and engagement with the national authorities.

[#participation](#)

[#Human Rights Defenders](#)

*"The Human Rights Adviser in Jordan has been instrumental in facilitating a new partnership between the UN and the Economic and Social Council of Jordan in conducting joint analysis on matters that could advance the 2030 Agenda. She has also created an innovative collaboration with our Senior Economist in the conduct of economic and fiscal policy research and is a leading supporter of Government and other partners' preparations for the UPR."*

RC in Jordan

In **Uruguay**, the HRA supported the RC, the UNCT and inter-agency groups to mainstream human rights into environmental and climate change actions, including efforts to implement multilateral environmental agreements (Escazú), and on

migrants and border territories. Informed by support provided by the Surge Initiative, the HRA also advised on Cooperation Framework indicators to cover data gaps on people of African descent, with a focus on women, older persons and other groups at risk of being left behind.

[#climate and environment](#)

[#LNOB](#)

In the **Philippines**, the HRA coordinated meetings of the inter-agency Leave No One Behind Thematic Working Group, which provided inputs to the CCA including integrating inputs from the UNCT report to the UPR. In addition, the HRA facilitated consultation meetings between CCA drafters and indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and CSO networks. As a result, the CCA contains stronger human rights references than previous versions. [#maximising the use of UPR](#)

[#LNOB](#)

*"Thank you for opening the doors for us to be heard. The UN Philippines can play a big part in bridging the gap between the Indigenous Peoples Communities and the Philippine Government. We hope this will continue and that we will find a common ground to promote the rights of those who are most vulnerable and marginalized in our country."*

Participant of Indigenous Peoples Dialogue, Philippines

In **Azerbaijan**, the HRA continued leading the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group and spearheaded a new partnership through an MoU between the Theme Group and the Ombudsperson to establish a joint working group with the aim of advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by promoting the universal values of human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and strengthening human rights education at all levels. The Theme Group's action plan for 2022 focused on monitoring and following up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, institutional capacity-building and

activities to support the implementation of the Cooperation Framework.

#partnership

#maximising use of UPR

*“The UN country team in Burundi relied on the HRA for the establishment of the Gender and Human Rights Thematic Group to champion and streamline efforts on human rights, gender equality and women empowerment. Expanding the scope of the pre-existing Gender Thematic Group, the new framework brings together the two complementary and mutually reinforcing topics for more coherence and impact”.*

Clara Anyangwe, UN Women Representative, Burundi

### **(iii) Support to the building and strengthening of national capacities and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights**

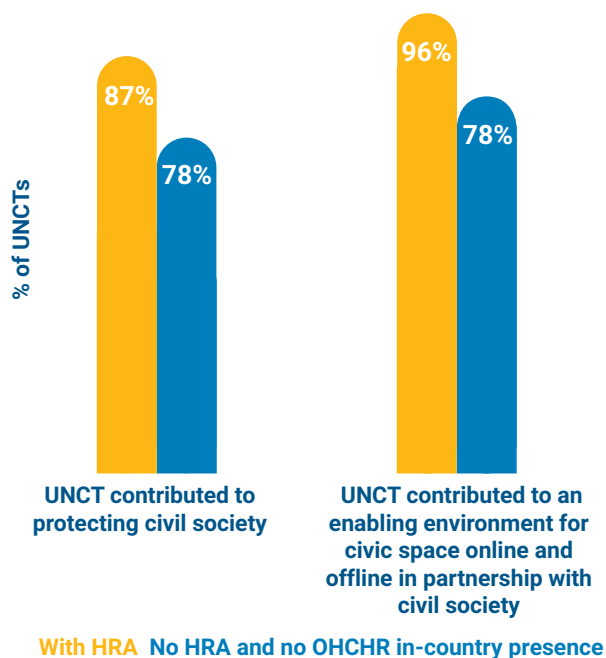
*“The Human Rights Adviser is playing an invaluable role in supporting the work of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). She has rallied financial and technical support from the UN Country Team, the wider UN Family and other partners to support ongoing projects on Police Reforms, Human Rights Monitoring and Investigations, Elections and Hate Speech. The profile of the NHRC has continued to rise due to these efforts”*

Mr. Anthony Okechukwu Ojukwu, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN)



HRAs' role in convening and supporting UNCTs' technical assistance and capacity building for state institutions has direct impact on the alignment between international human rights standards and development efforts. In 2022, HRAs were engaged in a wide range of initiatives with RCs and UNCTs that strengthened national capacities and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and leveraged the links between human rights and the 2030 Agenda for more transformational results. Supporting civil society to engage strategically on the rights-related aspects of development, including states' pledge to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first is also a critical part of HRAs' work, as is the protection and expansion of civic space as a critical component of strong national protection systems, accountability and a social contract anchored in human rights.

**FIGURE 4.**  
**UNCTs WITH HRAs REPORTED MORE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVIC SPACE AND PROTECTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN 2022**



Source: Development Coordination Office.

HRAs in **Argentina, Barbados, Burundi, the Gambia, Georgia, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Maldives, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Timor Leste** and **Zimbabwe**, engaged in a range of initiatives that strengthened the implementation of the CRPD and UNCTs' implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. Through enhanced partnerships with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, results included new national census data and protective laws, strategic engagement with the relevant human rights mechanisms, and enhanced capacities of duty bearers.

[#rights of persons with disabilities](#)  
[#participation](#)

In **The Gambia**, the HRA linked global and regional human rights mechanisms with national stakeholders for increased integration of human rights and sustainable development, including through a resolution on collaboration between national and regional institutions for mainstreaming of human rights into the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA). HRA support to this outcome included assisting the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) with the organization of two sessions of the ACHPR, the Biannual Conference of NANHRI and the NGO Forum, where the impact of the AfCTA on the enjoyment of human rights was discussed.

[#human rights economy](#)

In **Burundi**, after years of damaging tensions coupled with sanctions by development partners due to allegations of human rights violations and abuses, the UNCT together with development partners, designed a Joint Human Rights Programme under the coordination of the HRA, in support of constructive discussions and actions on human rights with the Government and other stakeholders. The programme aims to give momentum to the ongoing political dynamic in the country by creating room for constructive dialogue on the human rights agenda in Burundi while serving as the basis for critical actions

for strengthening human rights and the rule of law. Relying on the expertise of the HRA, the Programme provides an opportunity to address critical human rights issues that have deeply affected all the segments of the society.

#joint programmes  
#agenda for protection

## MADAGASCAR

In **Madagascar**, the HRA supported the establishment of nine regional human rights observatories in the country, data from which now contributes to more evidence-informed and strategic responses to human rights issues. This was achieved in the context of the HRA's work with the Rary Aro Mada Project, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), which includes engagement with youth human rights defenders (HRDs), peacebuilders and civil society networks to facilitate information-sharing on human rights activism and protection of HRDs. The observatories are fully functioning and the youth HRDs are active participants in civic space, empowered by their skills, networks and support from the HRA. The HRA regularly collected quantitative data on human rights violations to increase awareness about human rights trends in Madagascar. Data collected by the youth observatories addressed a gap in the collection of regular and reliable data on human rights violations in the country. Reports are shared through social media and with the Ministry of Justice, UN and national partners.

#youth  
#human rights defenders

In **Equatorial Guinea**, following the HRA's strategic advocacy and technical support for the UN to promote the abolition of the death penalty in compliance with international human rights law and UPR recommendations, the death penalty was abolished for civil offences. The new Penal Code was adopted took effect in December. The HRA also provided human rights training for senators, including on the role of parliamentarians in protecting and upholding human rights. Based on the positive experience, the Senate requested further trainings in 2023.

#Abolition of the death penalty  
#maximising the use of the UPR

In the **Kingdom of Eswatini**, the HRA worked with a UN interagency team and provided technical support to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in the development of the second VNR. The support ensured that human rights cross-cutting issues were fully integrated in the VNR and UPR recommendations reported on. In addition, the impact of COVID-19, the civil unrest and the cyclone Eloise on vulnerable and marginalized groups was reflected in the VNR.

#maximising use of the UPR  
#LNOB

*"The technical assistance offered to the Brazilian government by the Human Rights Adviser was indispensable during the transition period, when the elected government faced great difficulty in accessing information and data concerning the area of human rights. This partnership proved even more valuable during the planning phase of the activities of the newly configured Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship for the prevention of human rights violations and promotion of human rights in Brazil".*

Mr Silvio Almeida,  
Minister of Human Rights and Citizenship  
(translated from official letter in Spanish into English)

In **Mozambique**, following years of strong advocacy by the HRA, an Inter-ministerial Commission on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, chaired by the Prime Minister, was established by presidential decree. The Commission is mandated to serve as a coordination body for the preparation of reports and other communications to the regional and international human rights mechanisms and to follow up on and support the implementation of their recommendations. The HRA also assisted the Ministry of Justice in building the technical and operational capacities of the Commission and support the effective implementation of its mandate.

[#maximising use of human rights mechanisms](#)

*“Argentina has a longstanding human rights state policy and has an active role in connecting human rights and sustainable development. Argentina is firmly committed with the UN human rights mechanisms. In this regard, the Human Rights Adviser has contributed to support the UPR 4th cycle, special procedures’ visits to Argentina and the follow-up and implementation of human rights recommendations. As a federal country, the HRM Fund could continue to provide support to strengthen the implementation of human rights obligations and standards at national and provincial level. Additionally, Argentina is currently drafting its Business & Human Rights Action Plan. The UN System’s cooperation support will be key. In this context, the HRA’s role is important to ensure a comprehensive UN interagency support”.*

Cecilia Meirovich,  
Human Rights Directorate Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, Argentina

HRAs in several countries including **Belize, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Kenya,** and **Georgia** partnered with other UN entities (eg. UNODC) and relevant institutions to improve compliance with human rights by law enforcement, including through trainings to increase awareness about the human rights principles that are applicable to law enforcement, such as on the use of force, freedom from torture and ill-treatment, human rights in detention, and ways to better protect the rights of vulnerable groups. For example, in **Belize**, the HRA provided advisory support to the development of the Belize Police Department, particularly in relation to the integration of human rights into the standard training of law enforcement officers and police recruits. As a result, the Police Training Academy now includes a curriculum on human rights that accompanies the training on the Policy on the Use of Force. The HRA also supported the Police Department with the development and dissemination of public communication materials on the responsibilities of law enforcement officers and the rights of citizens when engaging with the police.

[#LN0B](#)

[#agenda for protection](#)

In **Costa Rica**, the HRA was instrumental in getting support from the UPR Trust Fund to support the UNCT’s work with the judiciary in Costa Rica improve access to justice for indigenous people. The HRA provided technical assistance to the judiciary in implementing an assessment on access to justice in 11 indigenous territories. More than 300 indigenous leaders participated, including women, in the elaboration of the assessment which is the basis for co-constructing the Judiciary’s policy on access to justice for indigenous peoples. The process used participatory and intercultural methodologies to address challenges, improve communication, and generate spaces for strengthening indigenous leaders’ abilities and the judiciary’s capacities to engage in intercultural dialogue.

[#Participation](#)

[#rights of indigenous peoples](#)





***“The Human Rights Adviser in Costa Rica has been instrumental in accelerating UNCT action on the prevention of human rights violations and promotion of human rights for all. The HRA developed an early action response system to alerts on possible human rights violations and promoted the approach of ‘protection by presence’ which resulted in our ability to afford concrete protection to indigenous peoples at risk.”***

RC in Costa Rica

In **Ecuador**, the National Assembly adopted legislation on the use of force. The HRA led the UNCT advocacy before the National Assembly on the draft law and provided technical assistance to better align the legislation with human rights standards on a range of topics, such as the use of lethal force during demonstrations; legal definitions of peaceful and violent assemblies; dispersal of demonstrations; legal definitions of illegitimate and excessive use of force and consequential investigations and sanctions; use of force in prisons, and accountability. To promote full implementation of the new legislation, the HRA and OHCHR worked with UNODC to provide specialized training on the use of force to senior police officers and technicians.

[#maximising use of human rights mechanisms](#)  
[#agenda for protection](#)

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the HRA in **Guyana** supported the development and roll out of a National Advocacy Plan for the LGBTIQ+ community, as well as an initiative of the Caribbean Development Bank and Guyana’s Ministry of Home Affairs to develop a gender inclusive and socially inclusive training manual on trafficking in persons and the LGBTIQ+ community.

[#non-discrimination](#)  
[#LGBTIQ+](#)

***“The technical and capacity building support provided through the HRA to our nascent National Human Rights Commission which only became operational in 2019 has boosted our capability to effectively implement our promotional and protection mandate and thus putting human rights as a priority of the government agenda in a country that is going through transition”.***

Mr Emmanuel D. Joof, Chairperson of The Gambia National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

In **Uruguay** the HRA engaged with the newly created Penitentiary Council (composed of representatives from the Executive Branch, the judiciary and the Office of the Prosecutor) to promote a new policy on alternatives to incarceration. Together with UNDP, the HRA mapped alternative measures in Uruguay and carried out an investigation on the issue of maternity in prisons. The results were presented to the Penitentiary Council and served as the basis for organizing a [high-level seminar in the Parliament on alternatives to incarceration](#). Furthermore, in partnership with the Parliamentary Commissioner on Penitentiary Issues, The HRA produced two documents on alternative measures: one on access to health services for vulnerable groups of sentenced women and another on the HRBA that was requested by the Penitentiary Authority to train staff who are working on alternative measures. It also prepared draft guidelines on structuring an intervention model to improve the quantity and quality of alternatives to incarceration for women prosecuted for minor drug-related offenses.

#LNOB

#accountability

In **Paraguay**, technical support was provided for the implementation of the Ministry of Justice's Observatory on people deprived of their liberty. The HRA and the Director General of Human Rights

of the Ministry of Justice developed a Protocol for Monitoring Visits to Penitentiary Centres. The objective of the Protocol is to monitor the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, particularly those who are most vulnerable (persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, older persons and mothers living with their children), and to ensure that measures are undertaken that have a positive impact on their quality of life. The HRA also provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Defence for the implementation of the Observatory on access to justice that strengthened its capacity to monitor the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

#LNOB

#accountability

In the **Maldives**, the RC and UNCT with technical support from the HRA and OHCHR delivered a series of workshops on the right to participate in public affairs. Participants included representatives from Government ministries, the Human Rights Commission, Electoral Commission, civil society and the media. The workshops enhanced the capacities of rights holders to claim their right to participate and increased the understanding of duty bearers about their roles and responsibilities in respecting this right and of practical measures to guarantee effective participation in public decision-making.

#participation

#civic space



In **Kazakhstan**, long-term joint advocacy efforts by the HRA, the RC, the UNCT and OHCHR resulted in the adoption of a Constitutional Law on the Ombudsperson, thereby strengthening the legal basis for the NHRI, as well as its impact at the local level. Following the long-awaited establishment of the NHRI presence at the subnational level, OHCHR and UNDP jointly conducted an introductory training for newly recruited NHRI staff members at the regional and central level, including on the role of NHRIs, which was founded on international standards. The success of this effort demonstrates the catalytic role a HRA can play by leveraging the capacities of the RC, the UNCT and OHCHR towards a common goal, and the need for persistence in the advocacy for these efforts to bear fruit.

[#accountability](#)

[#NHRI](#)

In **Serbia**, the HRA initiated discussions regarding monitoring and reporting on attacks against journalists, with a particular focus on female journalists. The discussions were held with journalists, media representatives, media associations and CSOs working in the area of media freedom, with the aim of assessing capacity-building needs and raising the awareness of media workers on the role of the international human rights mechanisms. Within the context of the Global Drive for Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists, implemented jointly with UNESCO, the HRA organized a two-day regional meeting with journalists, media workers, media freedom activists and civil society representatives from **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia** to exchange experiences on protecting media freedom in the region. During the meeting, the participants mapped areas that require further support for capacity-building.

[#participation](#)

[#civil society](#)

In **Georgia**, the HRA organized a series of trainings for duty bearers to strengthen the implementation of human rights including the right to life, the prohibition of torture, the rights of persons with disabilities and the prohibition of discrimination. For example, the HRA in conjunction with UNDP conducted several Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions on the

rights of persons with disabilities, for police, for investigators and instructors of the police academy and for senior officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Members of the Consultative Council of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee of the Government of Georgia also participated in a training led by UNDP and the HRA on the rights of persons with disabilities and highlighted relevant jurisprudence of the CRPD Committee and case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

[#non-discrimination](#)

[#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

## NORTH MACEDONIA

In **North Macedonia**, the HRA contributed to enhancing the legal framework for gender equality and the rights of women. The HRA provided technical advice on drafting the Gender Equality Law, which recognizes diverse gender identities for the first time and envisions a robust gender equality machinery. More specifically, the HRA and several UN agencies produced a comprehensive assessment of the draft law, which is in the final stage of review by the Government. In addition, the HRA provided technical expertise and advice to the Ministry of Justice regarding the revision of the Criminal Code, including a detailed assessment of the definition of rape in accordance with the framework for legislation on rape (Model Rape Law), CEDAW recommendations and the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention. The Criminal Code revisions were enacted in February 2023. The HRA also supported the development of the new National Strategy on Equality and Non-Discrimination by engaging national consultations and alignment with international standards.

[#non-discrimination](#)

[#GEWE -discriminatory laws](#)

In **Tajikistan**, the HRA collaborated with civil society to develop training modules for lawyers on the right to adequate housing. The HRA reached an agreement with the Union of Lawyers to incorporate the training modules into the curricula of the Training Centre of Tajikistan's Union of Lawyers. Further to this agreement, the HRA organized two trainings for lawyers on the right to adequate housing, and also conducted a training for judges on the right to adequate housing in light of the new Housing Code.

[#accountability](#)

In **Brazil**, the HRA provided technical analyses on legislative bills to the House of Representatives after receiving requests for information from the Commission of Human Rights and Minorities on: ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples; the economic exploitation of mineral and water natural resources on indigenous lands; a time frame thesis for demarcating indigenous lands; and a National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights. The HRA also provided expert advice to the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM) and local mechanisms for strengthening their capacity to monitor places of detention.

[#accountability](#)

[#rights of indigenous peoples](#)

In **Sierra Leone**, through the advocacy and technical assistance of the HRA and utilizing the good offices of the RC, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has been better resourced by the Government, including ongoing revision of the HRCSL establishment Act to better position it to implement its mandate. And in collaboration with IOM, the HRA supported the Parliament of Sierra Leone to strengthen the legal framework for the prosecution of the offence of human trafficking through the adoption of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling Act 2022.

[#accountability](#)

[#agenda for protection](#)

In the **Republic of Congo**, under the leadership of the RC, the HRA initiated awareness raising activities on "evaluating public policies through the lens of human rights". The sessions involved the two constitutional bodies – the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and the Consultative Council for Women, and the High authority on fight against corruption and tackled the negative impacts of corruption on human rights and how they can meaningfully fight corruption and evaluate public policies using HRBA and making sure to leave no one behind.

[#accountability](#)

In **Samoa**, the HRA facilitated a session on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment at the Youth and Children's Human Rights Forum organized by the National Human Rights Institution of Samoa and the Pacific Community. The Youth and Children's Human Rights Forum has been established since the extraordinary session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child held in Samoa in March 2020 to provide a platform for youth and children to exercise their right to be heard and to participate in decision-making processes. The consultation enabled children and youth to better understand the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on their rights, and provided a safe space for them to provide feedback on a range of issues that affect them, from abuse and violence in homes and schools; street vending; discrimination in schools on the basis of disability, sexual orientation and ethnic background; impact of COVID-19 on education; and mental health issues. The final report by the children and youth will be used to inform the National Human Rights Institution's annual "State of the Human Rights" report, which will be submitted to Parliament in June 2023.

[#right to a healthy environment](#)

[#children](#)

**(iv) Advice on prevention and on integrating human rights in humanitarian responses and post-crisis recovery under the direction of the RC/ Humanitarian Coordinator**

*“Myanmar is arguably one of the most complex and challenging contexts for the UN today. However, precisely because it is difficult, the situation requires for the UN to be resolutely committed to the spirit of the UN Secretary-General’s Call to Action, to collectively protect and promote human rights as a common UN value. With the additional human rights capacity supporting my office, and the scaled-up coordination with other parts of the UN system, we have ensured the centrality of human rights and protection in all we do, a commitment that was embodied in the UNCT’s renewed Human Rights Strategy adopted in September 2022. We have also been able to facilitate the ongoing convergence of the UNCT Human Rights Strategy and the HCT Protection Strategy.”*

RC a.i. in Myanmar

HRAs deployed in countries with humanitarian situations and/or post-crisis recovery enhanced cross-pillar coherence and strengthened results of the UN teams through the integration of human rights standards and principles in humanitarian responses and post-crisis recovery under the direction of the RC/Humanitarian Coordinator. HRAs’ expertise was also highly valued in supporting UN teams to advance the prevention agenda and the Call to Action, including through provision of regular early warning and human rights-based analyses to inform coordinated and timely UN action to prevent atrocities and serious rights violations. Prevention work and more specifically, addressing hate speech, was put more prominently on the map of UNCTs in several countries in 2022, with a key role played by HRAs. HRAs often worked in close partnership with country and regional Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) (including in **Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Guyana, Kenya, PNG and Timor Leste**), helping to cement the linkages between human rights capacity building and UNCTs’ prevention analysis and response.



## MOLDOVA

In **Moldova**, the HRA contributed to the inter-agency response to the influx of refugees from the conflict in Ukraine by engaging closely with UN agencies, international NGOs, civil society and governmental stakeholders. The HRA actively promoted best practices related to the inclusion of human rights principles and the application of a human-rights-based approach in the response, providing advice on issues related to inequality, discrimination, and marginalization, and participating in joint assessments and monitoring missions at the Ukrainian/Moldovan border and in Refugee Accommodation Centres, giving meaning to the principle of leaving no one behind. Through participation in coordination platforms; inputs to written policy documents and action plans; and trainings, the HRA paved the way for a more inclusive response, which places at the centre the groups more at risk of vulnerability and discrimination, and which looks at the entire spectrum of human rights.

#refugees  
#LNOB

***“The Human Rights Adviser was a key actor from the very moment refugees began to cross the border from Ukraine. Having had her present in the country, she was able to support in orienting all duty-bearers in their commitments towards the protection of the rights of all human beings.”***

RC in Moldova

Following the adoption of the UN **Kenya** hate speech strategy, the HRA and PDA supported the conceptualisation and implementation of a PBF-funded project to take forward short-term

priorities in electoral context, including social media monitoring and analysis, online and offline preventive counter-messaging, and dialogue with social media platforms. The project was designed to strengthen the national early warning and response system to analyse and counter hate speech and mis/disinformation online ahead of the August 2022 elections, with a focus on prevention. The project – in partnership with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) – brought together a consortium of Kenya and Africa-based actors to monitor, analyse and counter online hate speech and mis/disinformation, utilising artificial intelligence tools and technology. Informed by analysis, the consortium developed peace messaging to counter and respond to trends, narratives and mis/disinformation identified online, through micro and nano influencers and youth-focused campaigns. Regular virtual roundtable meetings were held with social media platforms, including META, TikTok and Twitter, to share analysis and incidents identified by the consortium. This direct engagement led to improved collaboration with and response by the platforms to address harmful content identified online. In the post-election environment, the HRA and PDA are exploring ways to take forward the long-term priorities identified in the Action Plan to ensure continued, collaborative and innovative work to counter hate speech and mis/disinformation in Kenya.

#Agenda for protection  
#Hate speech

In **Nepal**, the Human Rights Adviser worked extensively with conflict victims and Nepali civil society organizations on transitional justice related issues. During the process of amending the transitional justice related legislation by the Government, technical support was provided to conflict victims to ensure a holistic approach to transitional justice. With support from the HRA, the government also conducted consultations with the survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), providing recognition to the survivors for the first time since the end of the conflict. This represents a significant development for rights holders as the Government did not previously recognize CRSV survivors as victims of the armed conflict. The

survivors were heavily engaged in the legislation amendment process to provide inputs to the Government on making the legislation victims and survivor centric. Alongside, with continuous advocacy from the HRA together with other UN Agencies, the Government also endorsed the long pending National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (Phase-II) in September 2022 that specifically focuses on the CRSV survivors.

#Agenda for Protection  
#GEWE

In **Montenegro**, under HRA leadership, the UNCT adopted an action plan on hate speech, the first in the Western Balkans region, and started implementation in 2022. The plan resulted in more consistent RC and UNCT advocacy in bilateral meetings at the highest levels and in the media to draw attention to the impact of hate speech on social cohesion, and to call for comprehensive action to tackle the issue. Led by the HRA, the UN stepped up its work to support victims of hate speech, including through providing them with space to speak about their experiences with decision-makers on Human Rights Day at a joint UN event under the title "Silencing Hate".

#hate speech

In the **Dominican Republic**, the HRA provided strategic and technical advice to the RC and the UNCT in the formulation and coordination of the implementation of an OHCHR-driven initiative of the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities to strengthen UNCT programming to prevent and combat discrimination and advance the rights and protection of minorities. As a result, 11 members of the UNCT and the OHCHR Senior Fellow on intersectionality collaborated for the elaboration of social listening studies on hate speech and the incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence, which informed the UNCT decision to elaborate in 2023 a UNCT Plan of Action to implement the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech with the technical assistance of the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide.

#rights of minorities  
#hate speech

In **Sri Lanka**, the HRA continued to monitor land issues in recognition of their potential to trigger conflicts. Land issues were reflected in the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the HRC and in the UNCT's early warning and prevention tools. Local partners were supported in their monitoring of land conflict at the district level, particularly in the districts of Mannar and Batticaloa.

#agenda for protection  
#prevention

*"It was critical to maintain a human rights lens and a rights-based approach to the UN's understanding and analysis of the situation during the electoral period. This had a high relevance to the issues of inclusion and leaving no one behind, including women, persons with disabilities, and others, in terms of right to political participation, as well as due to the linkages between realisation of human rights on the one hand, and peace and development on the other hand. As the result of the Human Rights Adviser's work, the UNCT had an increased focus not only on issues of electoral-related violence, but also on associated human rights concerns and concrete recommendations on potential approaches to be taken."*

RC in Papua New Guinea

In **Zimbabwe**, the HRA collaborated with the PDA and relevant UN entities to develop a multifaceted prevention strategy, which was adopted by the UNCT. The strategy informed the concept note that was submitted to the Peacebuilding Fund in relation to preventing violence and sustaining peace in Zimbabwe during the 2023 harmonized elections and beyond. In collaboration with the PDA and UNDP, the HRA also provided technical advice on the information management system that provides regular updated political, human rights and protection analysis/risk assessments.

#prevention

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the HRA coordinated the development of the UNCT plan of action of to counter hate speech. The HRA published a factsheet on hate speech that was developed in consultation with and in support of four State institutions with a mandate to address hate speech: the Human Rights Ombudsman Institution, the Gender Equality Agency of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the Central Election Commission, and the Communications Regulatory Agency. On the first international day to counter hate speech, under the auspices of the RC, the four agencies signed a pledge reaffirming their commitment to counter hate speech and all forms of discrimination as per their respective mandates, including ahead of the general elections.

[#hate speech](#)

## BELIZE

In **Belize**, in the wake of the damage suffered after Hurricane Julia, which hit in October, the HRA advocated for the application of a HRBA to protection assessments and recommendations to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment. Further, an assessment of the vulnerability of coastal populations to climate change, including people of African descent, was concluded. The HRA undertook data collection and a literature review in relation to specific communities and populations, which will inform the CCA update in 2023.

[#climate and environment](#)

[#LNOB](#)

## (v) Support to the UN and national partners in their engagement with international human rights mechanisms and the use of the mechanisms' recommendations in the development of national human rights and development plans

*"The presence of a Human Rights Adviser helps the RC and the UNCT engage with the Government on various issues based on its national and international human rights commitments. With the support of the HRA, the UNCT has engaged through processes such as the Universal Periodic Review, visits of Special Rapporteurs, and treaty body reviews. This in turn helps the UNCT advocate for legal and policy reform that promote human rights and support the Government's efforts to implement these."*

RC in Philippines

HRAs are a key tool for RCs, UNCTs and national partners including line ministries and government bodies, parliamentarians, NHRIs and CSOs to strengthen their engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other human rights mechanisms and support national efforts to ensure consideration and integration of the work of these mechanisms and recommendations in national processes including those linked with the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the expertise of HRAs enabled support to countries' efforts to establish national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up on the recommendations of human rights mechanisms (NMRFs), and increased interest and strategic engagement of both national partners and UN teams in the work of the human rights mechanisms and their value to sustainable development. HRAs also provided valuable capacity support to CSOs and human rights defenders to engage strategically with human rights mechanisms and to use their outputs to strengthen civil society advocacy and dialogue with duty bearers.





HRAs' advisory and technical cooperation work in this area was facilitated by additional resources from other sources, including the Treaty Bodies Capacity Strengthening Programme, the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the UPR, and through joint programmes with UNDP.

In **Malawi**, as a result of the HRA's advocacy, the Minister of Justice requested the UN's assistance in strengthening the capacities of stakeholders to implement the recommendations issued by the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms. It also requested technical support for the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC). To this end, the HRA made the preparations for a training on the international human rights mechanisms co-organized by OHCHR and UNDP with the MHRC that was held in October. Participants included representatives from the Government, the MHRC, the Parliament and civil society. Discussions were held on Malawi's preparations for its fourth UPR cycle review in 2025, its mid-term reporting in 2022 and its pending reports to the human rights treaty bodies. In addition, a road map was created for the implementation of UPR recommendations with precise timelines. Following the training, the Parliament requested a briefing to enable all its members to better understand and engage with the UPR process. The Legal Affairs Committee committed to integrate human rights into

its standing orders and adding human rights to its name. The Government committed to nominating focal points on human rights in each entity, with a view to establishing an NMRF.

[#maximising use of UPR](#)

In **Rwanda** the HRA supported the Government in developing its action plan to respond to 160 recommendations issued by the UPR, and coordinated the drafting of the One UN Rwanda Road Map to support the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The HRA also contributed to a training workshop for members and staff of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on international and regional human rights mechanisms, including on UPR mechanisms. In addition, support was provided to build the capacities of CSOs on monitoring and reporting human rights violations, the use of the regional and international human rights mechanisms and submission of alternative reports. Further, the HRA held meetings with the Ministry of Justice, the NHRC and the Legal Aid Forum to discuss the programme for training judges and security forces on the international human rights mechanisms and international human rights law. Activities identified were integrated into the 2023 annual workplan for implementation.

[#participation](#)

[#maximising use of UPR](#)

In **Zambia**, the HRA and UNCT are supporting the Government to take steps to implement the provisions of the 9 human rights treaties it is party to. For instance, the Eighth National Development Plan establishes targets to strengthen the Constitution, human rights and the rule of law, including through constitutional reform and human rights protection. With advocacy from the HRA, the Government committed to ending the statutory death penalty and undertook actions to review, amend and enact ordinary laws, including the Penal Code and the Public Order Act. Following advocacy by the RC, supported by the HRA, in August the Cabinet approved the establishment, TORs and membership of the NMRF. As a result, Zambia is better prepared to follow up on the recommendations that will emanate from the country's fourth UPR cycle in early 2023.

[#maximising use of UPR](#)  
[#accountability](#)

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the HRA coordinated UNCT inputs and drafted an alternative report for the follow-up assessment of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). Together with the EU, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and CSOs, the HRA advocated for the implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) in relation to civilian victims of war and its decision concerning reparation for a survivor of conflict-related sexual violence. The HRA also provided substantive preparatory

support for the visit of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) and for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. [#maximising use of treaty bodies and special procedures](#)

HRAs contributed to UNCT assistance to governments and partners for the establishment or strengthening of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up on recommendations from human rights mechanisms (NMRFs) in many of countries of deployment, including in **Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Eswatini, Madagascar, Zambia, Ecuador, Guyana.**

Leveraging assistance from the UPR Trust Fund, the HRA in **Madagascar** worked with the Ministry of Justice to ensure the effective functioning of the NMRF. Support was provided to strengthen the knowledge of new members and facilitate the development of a detailed workplan for each member's area of responsibility. The HRA proposed the creation of a database for keeping track of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and their implementation as a primary tool for reporting and follow-up. The NMRF is in the process of establishing the database. Moreover, the National Action Plan to implement the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR, prepared in 2021, has now been jointly distributed by the HRA and the Ministry of Justice, including through



meetings with individual ministers, to ensure their commitment to the process.

#maximising use of human rights mechanisms

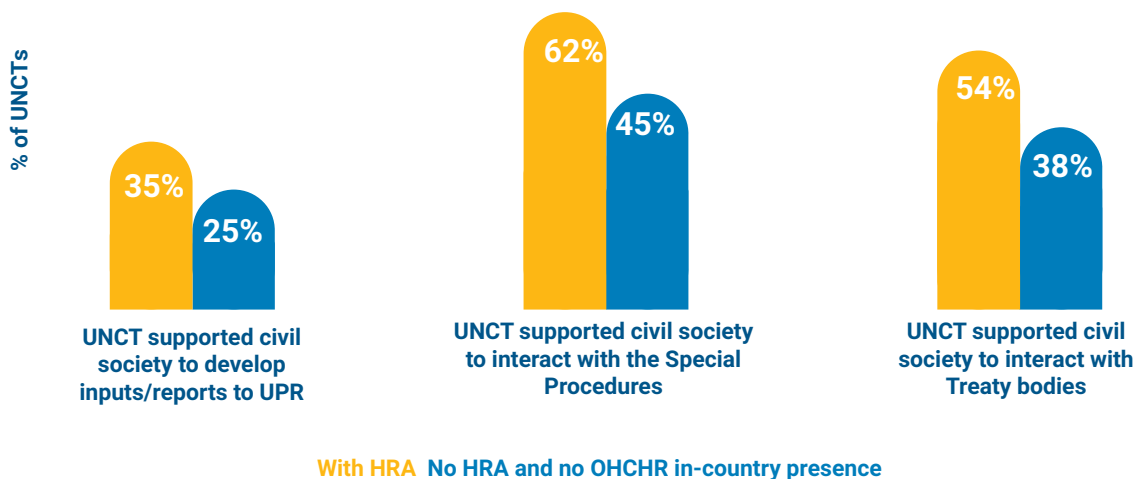
In **Ecuador** the HRA provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to draft an Executive Decree that established the primary features and functions of the NMRF which is expected to be approved in early 2023. In anticipation of Ecuador’s fourth UPR cycle, the HRA engaged with the Government, the UNCT and civil society and provided technical assistance for the drafting of the national report. The process was financed by the UPR Trust Fund, which enabled the Government to improve the quality and scope of the report. In addition, the HRA supported the strengthening of SIDERECHOS by extending assistance to update and improve the platform’s software and provide training and education processes for State focal points on international and regional human rights mechanisms. The HRA also contributed to the development of the UNCT’s UPR report on Ecuador, integrating relevant information from UN agencies on priority issues defined during CCA inter-agency discussions,

including chronic childhood malnutrition, social protection, climate change and the environment, the penitentiary crisis, education, migration and gender violence.

#maximising use of human rights mechanisms

HRAs’ technical support to civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms generated clear results in terms of increased reporting to mechanisms and interaction with special procedures. As we strive towards a whole of society engagement for a renewed social contract anchored in human rights, empowering civil society to contribute directly to human rights mechanisms is a critical entry point for UNCTs to advance this vision.

**FIGURE 5.**  
**UNCTs WITH HRAs REPORTED MORE SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS IN 2022**



Source: Development Coordination Office.



**Zimbabwe** underwent its third UPR cycle in January 2022. In anticipation of the review, the HRA coordinated UN entities to assist the Government with drafting its State report and provided technical support to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and CSOs in preparing their submissions. The number of joint submissions increased from eight in the second cycle to 23 in the third cycle and the number of individual submissions increased from eight to 16. The joint CSO submission was translated into two major languages spoken in the country.

In August, the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered the combined fifth to eleventh periodic reports of Zimbabwe. For the first time, CSOs participated in the process by submitting a joint parallel submission. Zimbabwe also submitted its overdue reports to CRPD and CESCR. Plans are now underway to facilitate the engagement of CSOs in the treaty body reporting processes, including through the preparation of alternative reports. To this end, the HRA collaborated with UNDP and the CRPD Secretariat to conduct a training for Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and their role in the process. OPDs subsequently undertook consultations with their constituencies and began drafting an alternative report in anticipation of the Committee's review of Zimbabwe's initial report. The HRA collaborated with UNDP to organize another two workshops on the international human rights system, which covered the reporting processes and the submission of alternative reports.

#participation

#maximising use of human rights mechanisms

In **Barbados**, with the HRA's support and leadership, the UNCT prepared a comprehensive contribution for the country's fourth UPR cycle. It underlined several areas of progress, as well as challenges that were faced in the 2018-2022 period. It also offered information and analyses from various UN agencies,

funds and programmes in relation to economic and social rights and environmental issues. With assistance and support from the HRA, a group of CSOs also submitted inputs to the UPR with regard to children, food and non-communicable diseases. These inputs were particularly useful given that the country does not have an NHRI, has not submitted reports to the human rights treaty bodies in the last several years and has not received visits from any special procedures mandate holders.

#maximising the use of UPR

#participation

## MOZAMBIQUE

The HRA in **Mozambique** supported regional consultations in the provinces of on the development of an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued in Mozambique's third UPR cycle. In partnership with UNDP and the EU, the HRA supported the Ministry of Justice to develop a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, which is a key recommendation of the third UPR cycle. To build national capacities on business and human rights and promote the uptake, the HRA delivered several training sessions to the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), other national institutions and civil society, including the Network of Human Rights Defenders in Cabo Delgado. This work culminated in December, with a "Dialogue on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights in the Southern Africa Region," jointly organized by OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, AU, NANHRI and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, to support the development of National Action Plans by countries in the region. The event was held as a first step towards enhanced implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and provided an opportunity to generate interest in National Action Plans among relevant stakeholders.

#maximising the use of UPR

#civil society

#business and human rights

## **4. WITH SUPPORT OF RCs AND UNCTs, GOVERNMENTS AND NHRIs HAVE STRONGER CAPACITIES TO ENGAGE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND INTEGRATE HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITIES HAVE STRENGTHENED CAPACITY AND PLATFORMS FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION AND ADVOCACY.**



### **UNDP-OHCHR Partnership to Advance Human Rights and Sustainable Development**

Promoting and protecting human rights is essential for ensuring sustainable development outcomes. At the same time, progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also advances human rights. To harness synergies across these agendas and improve the effectiveness of the international communities' efforts, UNDP and the OHCHR, in close cooperation with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), completed the implementation of a pilot joint initiative — launched under the Fund in 2021 — to support UN systemwide strategic engagement with human rights mechanisms to achieve the SDGs. Through this programme, the partnership provided integrated support in eight countries in 2021-2022 in close coordination with the UNCTs. Country support provided responded to the demands and needs of each context across four focus areas: Human rights and SDG systems coherence and integration, Rights-based data platforms for the SDGs, Targeted efforts on specific human rights and SDG issues, and Enhanced NHRI engagement in VNR processes. The programme also enabled direct support to UNCTs in engagement with NHRIs and NSOs on compiling human rights indicators and data. Outcomes include stronger capacities and structures in place for governments and NHRIs to engage with human rights mechanisms, as well

as strengthened capacities and platforms for the meaningful participation of and advocacy by civil society, human rights defenders and communities.

### **Overall programme achievements and reflections at completion:**

The integrated approach taken through the UNDP-OHCHR partnership yielded impactful results and generated strong demand for more and longer-term support on human rights and SDG integration. The pilot efforts delivered jointly in eight countries serve as a proof of concept that strengthening coherence between human rights and SDG systems helps to boost efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to advance human rights and sustainable development.

The programme also served the UN system and the commitment to deliver as one UN by intentionally engaging broader UN partners in various activities at all levels, responding to system-wide needs, and creating opportunities for learning and exchange. The initiative has also played a key role in supporting the implementation of the Call to Action.

In addition, the programme has demonstrated the significant potential of human rights mechanisms to be problem-solving tools for development challenges and how they offer important data to measure progress on the SDGs. Identifying and promoting good practices is key to improving implementation of human rights recommendations, in particular UPR accepted recommendations, highlighting positive human rights actions and engendering related collaboration. There is also great potential to maximize synergies between human rights and 2030 Agenda follow-up and review processes to improve not only the quality of reporting but also the effectiveness of implementation efforts.

Knowledge products development for the UN development system produced under this programme in 2022 are also referenced above (see: Improved policy coherence, thought leadership, and knowledge creation and management on human rights in development). Building on work undertaken and results achieved through this programme in 2021, specific achievements in 2022, include:



### INCREASED AWARENESS AND CAPACITIES TO FOLLOW UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS AND INCORPORATE THEM INTO SDG-BASED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES IN CENTRAL ASIA

To address system incoherence and promote synergies between human rights and SDGs coordination bodies in Central Asia, UNDP and OHCHR collaborated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to bring together over 70 representatives of governments, NHRIs, NMRFs, civil society and other institutions responsible for monitoring and reporting on SDGs and human rights in five **Central Asian** countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in April 2022 for a two-day consultation. Participants shared experiences and discussed opportunities for strengthening the links between human rights recommendations and SDGs and their integration into national monitoring, implementation and follow-up processes. The consultation was informed by the stocktaking exercise (completed under this programme in 2021) to map relevant national stakeholders and monitoring and reporting mechanisms that make up the human rights and SDG systems in these countries as well as document good practices for integration. Some of the key recommendations agreed by the meeting participants include: build institutional capacities to work in an integrated manner; strengthen partnerships and coordination between stakeholders; and identify targeted support available to overcome challenges around data disaggregation and digitalization.



### STRENGTHENED INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS AND APPROACHES IN SIX COUNTRIES

#### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, national partners were supported by UNDP and OHCHR to identify entry points to improve reporting on the 2030 Agenda and human rights and to better link human rights obligations with SDGs implementation. Informed by a 2021 gap analysis of human rights and sustainable development data collection and reporting, capacity building workshops were held in 2022 which brought together representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the SDG Council, the NHRI, and civil society organizations as well as UN partners. Through these efforts stakeholders developed key recommendations to improve human rights and SDG data collection and reporting in the country.

As a result of this support, national partners now have a common and clear understanding of the country's human rights and sustainable development commitments, including through UPR and VNR reporting processes. An important partnership was also initiated between the SDG Council, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the NHRI, and civil society organizations, notably on exchange and refinement of SDG progress indicators in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prior to this support, there was no interaction among these stakeholders as well as limited exposure to human rights obligations and reporting within the SDG Council and to the SDGs within the human rights community.

## BOTSWANA

To raise awareness and understanding of the connections between human rights and the SDGs in **Botswana**, an e-learning course on human rights and the SDGs for national partners and UN staff was developed in 2022 under the leadership of UNDP and OHCHR in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. The [e-learning course](#) outlines the concepts of human rights and the SDGs, the role of key stakeholders (including the United Nations, Government, the private sector and civil society), the institutional arrangements, and key issues in Botswana. The course was developed in close coordination with the National Committee on Human Rights, which brings together government and civil society representatives in Botswana, as well as the UNCT in Botswana. This process has strengthened partnerships and engagement between the National Coordinating Committee on Human Rights and UNDP, OHCHR, and the broader UNCT.

Civil society stakeholder review of the course: *“The human rights course is interesting and very informative. It captures the Botswana value-concept of Botho which is important in human rights protection. I believe the course will be helpful in ensuring that people are aware of human rights and their linkage to development and hence result in the government designing intervention programs using the Human Rights Based Approach.”*

To improve coordination between civil society and the government on reporting on the SDGs and human rights, technical support was also provided to the Botswana Council of Non-governmental Organizations to develop and launch the Civil Society Portal in June of 2022. The portal was developed in collaboration with the UPR working group, a coalition of NGOs in Botswana that work on UPR implementation and reporting, to

serve as a platform for increased civil society engagement in important national development processes including on the SDGs, national development planning, and implementation of human rights recommendations. The portal enables civil society organizations to link their work with relevant human rights treaties and recommendations, SDG goals, targets and indicators, Vision 2036, and National Development Plan indicators. It is envisioned that the portal will be linked with the government-led national human rights recommendations tracking database that is currently being established.

## PAKISTAN

Programme support in **Pakistan** by UNDP and OHCHR in 2022 helped to strengthen collaboration across government entities, national and provincial human rights institutions, civil society organizations, and UN partners working on human rights and the SDGs as well as reinforce the key role of national human rights institutions and civil society in the implementation of the National Strategic Framework. Following the development of the National Strategic Framework for Coherence and Harmonization of Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms in 2021, the rollout and implementation of the Framework was supported in 2022 through a series of consultations and capacity building workshops at provincial and federal levels with over 20 government line departments, human rights institutions and civil society organizations represented by over 200 participants.

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in Pakistan in particular is mandated to protect and promote human rights and is expected to streamline, verify, and address key human rights issues among stakeholders including other NHRIs, civil society, and the state

at the federal and provincial levels. The NCHR was supported to organize its Biennial Planning Retreat to reflect on progress achieved by the commission and develop a workplan to take forward priority areas together with key partners. In addition, the capacity of NCHR to perform its functions in reviewing the state of human rights in Pakistan was improved. UNDP and OHCHR accompanied the NCHR in the development of its report for the fourth cycle of the UPR in July 2022 and trained NCHR staff on the process in order to complete future reports.

In preparation for the 4th cycle of the UPR, extensive civil society consultations were conducted to discuss key human rights concerns, provide recommendations for the UNCT's UPR submission, and share relevant resources. A presentation of the submission was also provided to the Embassies and donor community in May 2022.

The Federal Ministry of Human Rights received support to develop Terms of Reference for the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) Secretariat, which serves as a foundational document to establish this important mechanism that will support the implementation of the National Strategic Framework on Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms.

### SIERRA LEONE

To strengthen integration of human rights and sustainable development efforts in **Sierra Leone**, national institutions with the support of UNDP and OHCHR launched an Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy for the UPR, SDGs, and the Medium-Term National Development Plan (Strategy developed under this programme in 2021). The national institutions engaged in this process include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of

Development SDG Planning Unit, Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary, Ministry of Gender, and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the Police, and the NMRF.

The Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy articulates Sierra Leone's accepted UPR recommendations, SDG commitments, as well as national development plans in a coherent framework for integrated monitoring and reporting. The Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy also contains a dedicated UPR action plan which provides a blueprint for UPR implementation by national institutions with outcomes and indicators aligned with the various SDGs. Importantly, the Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy positions the National Reporting Mechanism to track progress in the implementation of not only the UPR but also the SDGs and national development plans.

### TUNISIA

Despite significant challenges associated with the political crisis in **Tunisia**, national coordination, coherence and data collection in support of human rights and SDG reporting was further strengthened through a series of initiatives in 2022.

To promote the role of civil society in the monitoring and reporting of human rights in connection with the 2030 agenda, UNDP and OHCHR also supported civil society to develop a Spotlight Report on the status of SDG16. Around fifteen representatives of civil society in Medenine benefited from a training session on how to develop a spotlight report. These civil society groups then worked together to conduct a perception survey, using a survey tool developed by UNDP OHCHR and UNODC to inform the SDG16 Spotlight Report. The SDG16



Spotlight Report was further socialized with local stakeholders through a 'Theatre of Trust' performance in July 2022.

*Key finding from the SDG16 Spotlight Report: "88% of citizens are unaware of their rights and how the justice system process works."*

To jointly analyze the findings of the SDG 16 Progress Report and the SDG16 Spotlight Report (developed with the support of this programme in 2021 and expected to be launched in 2023), a policy dialogue between public authorities and civil society was held. Through this dialogue, policy briefs on the various themes and targets of SDG16 were developed, providing concrete recommendations to advance implementation of SDG16 in Medeine. In addition, a national policy brief was also developed with the participation of key national civil society associations. Two of the recommendations from the national policy brief (on education and health) were later included in the Regional Triannual Development Plan (2023-25) adopted by the Tunisian Government.

As a result of the above efforts, key government and civil society stakeholders improved their knowledge of the human rights dimensions of SDG 16 and public perceptions. Moreover, the implementation of SDG 16 and human rights recommendations was advanced through strengthened partnerships and policy commitments.

## URUGUAY

Recognizing the inextricable links between human rights and sustainable development, national partners in **Uruguay** were supported to strengthen the alignment of the Uruguay System for Monitoring Recommendations (SIMORE) with the 2030 Agenda.

As a first step, strategic dialogues between the different departments in charge of implementing and reporting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda were held to discuss challenges and opportunities for further alignment. UNDP and OHCHR supported the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation of the Presidency of the Republic and the Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize the dialogues with the Office of the Presidency of the Republic and the National Institute of Statistics. Through the dialogues, a joint action plan was agreed to improve the management and alignment of SIMORE with the 2030 Agenda.

A key component of the agreed action plan was providing capacity building opportunities for SIMORE focal points. Following this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation of the Presidency of the Republic were supported to organize a three-day training on human rights and SDG commitments and reporting processes for over 100 civil servants, including SIMORE focal points. The participants rated the training as excellent and noted that the training increased their understanding of the links between their daily work, human rights, and the 2030 Agenda.

In the context of supporting integrating human rights into the achievement of SDG 16, UNDP and OHCHR supported the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Prisons through the elaboration of diagnostic documents and recommendations for public policy on alternative measures to imprisonment. These recommendations were informed by a quantitative and qualitative study on public opinion and perceptions about justice and human rights in Uruguay. More than 2,000 people with a representative population of adults throughout the country participated in the surveys and three extensive reports were produced. The main findings of the reports were presented at a public seminar and were

used to inform Uruguay's engagement with the UPR and VNR processes and essential follow-up between March – April 2022. These reports have helped the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Prisons in Uruguay in particular to better understand the challenges associated with implementing their UPR recommendations regarding prison conditions and how to address them.

To support Uruguay's efforts to implement their UPR recommendations and make progress on SDG16, two South-South cooperation exchanges between Uruguay and Argentina on innovative restorative justice and mediation approaches were held. A delegation of civil society representatives from Uruguay travelled to Argentina to learn first-hand about the experiences of Sites of Memory, former clandestine detention centers during the military dictatorships in the Southern Cone, in order to strengthen national initiatives for the recovery of memory and restorative justice in Uruguay. In addition, a mission of experts from the National Penitentiary Prosecutor's Office of Argentina travelled to Uruguay to present mediation methodologies in contexts of confinement to the main authorities of the penitentiary systems in Uruguay. These South-South cooperation exchanges greatly increased knowledge within the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Prison, the National Rehabilitation Institute, and the Institute for Adolescent Social Inclusion on how to improve prison conditions and promote alternatives to detention. The exchanges also served to improve coordination and collaboration on these important issues moving forward amongst state representatives and civil society in Uruguay.



## INCREASED UNDERSTANDING AND DOCUMENTATION OF HOW UPR PROCESSES ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, over 60 experiences from across the UN system on how the UPR process and recommendations, which advance the promotion and protection of human rights, have had an impact on sustainable development at country level were shared in an online platform by UNDP, OHCHR and DCO for UNSDG staff. This repository provides concrete examples of how UPR recommendations are being integrated and aligned with UN efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in national plans on sustainable development and in UN programming and planning. It also captures how UNCTs and UN entities are supporting governments, parliaments, NHRIs as well as civil society in their engagement with the UPR process. Eighteen of these examples were selected and curated into a flagship publication (February 2022), [UN Good Practices: How The Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development](#). The publication demonstrates how the UPR can be utilized as an essential and practical problem-solving tool to address priority human rights and development challenges.

The repository and publication were disseminated and rolled out widely in 2022 including through internal UNSDG and UN webinars and learning events, as well as at two events organized by Member States on the UPR: the 6th Francophone Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review and at the 15th Anniversary of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the UPR event on Supporting States, Realizing Rights: the 4th cycle of the UPR and. The publication was also mentioned as a key tool in a letter (November 2022) sent by the President of the Human Rights Council to Member States in view of the 4th cycle of the UPR.



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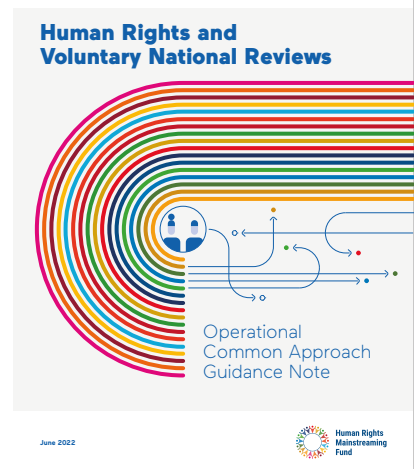


### INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIMENSIONS OF VNR PROCESSES

Through the interagency Call to Action working group on putting rights at the core of sustainable development, UNDP and OHCHR in close consultation with the ILO, DESA, UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA developed the [Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews Operational Common Approach Guidance Note](#) to support Member States to undertake VNR processes from a human rights perspective. Comments and review were also gratefully received from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Transparency Accountability and Participation for the 2030 Agenda Network.

The guidance supports Member States to undertake VNR processes from a human rights perspective and demonstrates how systematic and strategic engagement with human rights mechanisms can result in recommendations and tools to help integrate and position critical human rights issues in VNR processes. This responds to a key strategic

priority identified under the Call to Action and to a gap identified for further guidance in this area after related updates to the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews in 2020 and 2021. The guidance was launched during a VNR Lab at HLPF 2022 and was further disseminated through an [Integrated Policy and Practitioners Network Knowledge Café](#) in September 2022.



**Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews Operational Common Approach Guidance Note**





**INCREASED SUPPORT TO NHRI'S EFFORTS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA, INCLUDING THROUGH IMPROVED AVAILABILITY OF DATA FOR UNCTs AND GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND AND FOR COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSES**

OHCHR in coordination with RC Offices and UNCTs facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the NHRI and NSO in Ghana (adding to MOUs signed with the support of the Fund in 2021 in Albania, Jordan, Moldova, Mongolia, and the Philippines) with the aim of catalyzing the production of human rights indicators, including in the SDGs, and their different uses. MOUs in Colombia, Egypt and Peru are in advanced stages of discussion. In support of these outcomes, webinars and in-person workshops on a HRBA to data operationalization were organized for NHRIs, NSOs, RCOs, and other stakeholders in those countries, as well as in/for Algeria, Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria, and Pacific countries covered by the three multi-country offices (MCOs).

As part of the implementation of the MOU between the National Statistics Bureau, Office of the People's Advocate and the Equality Council in **Moldova**, a national process for contextualizing human rights and SDG indicators on health was launched at a 3-day workshop. This was a critical element of a joint action plan developed in 2021 after the signing of the MOU. A preliminary mapping of official statistical indicators that can be used for reporting to international human rights mechanisms on the right to health was completed. A similar mapping exercise of human rights-related official statistics was also conducted, as part of the MOU implementation, in Albania in close coordination with the RCO, UNFPA, OHCHR, Albania's statistical office and the NHRI.

In **Jordan**, the Department of Statistics, the NHRI, Ministry of Planning, and several UN agencies (OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, UNODC and ILO), government, and civil society participants engaged in the ongoing VNR process. As a result, several UNCT members agreed to support further

data collection around SDG 16 (possibly through use of SDG 16 Survey Initiative) and the integration of human rights data in a UNDP/ Department of Statistics SDG Jordan data portal.

**Egypt's** National Human Rights Commission co-organized with OHCHR a workshop aimed at establishing a stronger institutional collaboration with the Central Agency for Planning, Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Both institutions, as well as the Ministry of Planning and the Supreme Council on Human Rights (Egypt's NMRF) saw the value of this collaboration, especially in terms of aligning Egypt's development and human rights policies using the SDGs as a framework. This process is still ongoing and has also elicited strong support from the RC's office and funding from Netherlands and the European Union. A similar process was initiated in Ghana which resulted in the signing of an MOU between the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Statistical Service, with encouragement from the RC and UNCT members.

Through the programme activities in **Nigeria**, and with additional support from the Human Rights Adviser, an HRBA to Data partnership framework between the National Bureau of Statistics, Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Office, and the National Commission on Human Rights was developed. As described by the CEO of the NCHR, this work was revolutionary in bringing together for the first time to discuss and work together towards ensuring official statistics on human rights issues, violations and challenges are collected systematically. In addition, the creation of such a national data partnership helped jumpstart the strengthening of the UNCT's capacity, specifically of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group, with a view to anchoring on human rights standards the implementation of the new Cooperation Framework (2023-2027), including on use of indicators and collection of data. According to the Office of the Senior Adviser to the President on the SDGs, the process initiated in Nigeria through this work served as a milestone towards strengthening the national statistical system to serve better the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda.



**Other results of this component include:**

- Draft global survey instruments on discrimination and participation have been produced by the Praia Group on Governance and Human Rights Statistics’ Task Teams on Non-Discrimination and Participation, with technical expertise and other assistance provided by OHCHR and UNDP.
- Human rights indicators, including those in the SDGs, have been identified and integrated in the results frameworks of Cooperation Framework<sup>11</sup> – with additional support from OHCHR or the Human Rights Adviser in the country – in the Caribbean, Pacific Island countries, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Moldova, Bangladesh, Peru, Zimbabwe, Albania, and Tanzania.
- A mapping of good practices of NHRIs and NSOs in operationalizing human rights indicators and a HRBA, with a repository of capacity building materials and data collection tools have been completed.



**STRONGER NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORKS TO PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDG INDICATORS IN PLACE**

The programme contributed strengthening the capabilities of States’ and UNCTs’ to apply the UN’s methodological framework and tools on human rights indicators and data, and in ensuring coherence in the use of data to advance human rights and sustainable development at the country level. OHCHR, in coordination with RCOs and UNCTs, facilitated the work of national collaborative platforms between NHRIs, NSOs and other national stakeholders. These have resulted in innovative practices in 2022 including:

- **Standardization of demographic questions for censuses and household surveys to disaggregate official statistics and assess discrimination (Kenya)** – Working with the National Commission on Human Rights and

<sup>11</sup> These Cooperation Frameworks cover countries such as Albania, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jordan, Kenya, Moldova, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Zimbabwe.

the National Bureau of Statistics of Kenya, demographic questions in the SDG 16 Survey (jointly developed by OHCHR, UNDP and UNODC) were further contextualized, resulting in a proposed set of national standard questions for censuses and household surveys. These questions cover new demographic characteristics such as sexual orientation and gender identity, and migration status. Other UN agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF contributed to this process led by OHCHR. Expected to be officially adopted by the National Bureau of Statistics in mid-2023, these new standard demographic questions will be among the first ones to be adopted by national statistical offices under the principle of leaving no one behind in data collection.

- Operationalization of national mechanisms to implement the SDG indicators tracking killings and other attacks against human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists (Kenya) and conflict-related deaths (Philippines)** – Kenya and the Philippines received technical assistance to establish national mechanisms to collect, process and disseminate data under SDG indicators 16.10.1 (killings and other attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists) and 16.1.2 (conflict-related deaths). These processes were led by the NHRIs and NSOs of those countries, in furtherance of priority actions identified under their respective national collaborative platforms or MOUs. In Kenya, the national mechanism for SDG indicator 16.10.1 was launched in November 2022. In the Philippines, the national metadata for SDG indicator 16.1.2 was endorsed by the Inter-Agency Committee on Security, Peace, and Justice Statistics to the board of the Philippine Statistics Authority.
- Leveraging official statistics to monitor the implementation of the Child Rights Convention (Palestine)** – monitoring targets for Child Rights Convention

indicators were developed through a hybrid workshop with participants from the Human Rights Commission, Central Bureau of Statistics and other ministries.

- Development of national methodology for contextualizing and implementing human rights indicators using official statistics (Moldova)** – After establishing a collaborative platform in 2021, the People's Advocate (NHRI), Bureau of Statistics (NSO) and the Equality Council of Moldova adopted an action plan focusing on the contextualization of human rights indicators for the country in 2022. Mindful of the challenges faced by Moldova in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, they focused on right to health indicators. A methodological guidance was drafted and validated by national stakeholders. This approach has had high impact and sustainability due to strong support from the Office of the Prime Minister.

At least 20 countries were provided critical bilateral methodological and technical advice on mainstreaming the application of human rights and SDG indicators, in UN common country analysis and sustainable development cooperation frameworks. 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-country technical assistance and capacity building efforts have generated momentum towards formalizing tripartite partnerships between NHRI, NSO and government agencies involved in SDG implementation. Through this Fund-supported initiative, the notion that data and statistics are crucial and valuable elements of rights-based development programming is stronger than ever.



## ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT OF NHRIs IN VNR PROCESSES IN TWO COUNTRIES

### JORDAN

Recognizing the potential of reporting processes to influence development outcomes, stakeholders in **Jordan** were supported by UNDP and OHCHR to prepare the 2022 [Voluntary National Review Report](#) through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach with particular attention paid to human rights and gender. The National Center for Human Rights (NCHR) played a key role in the development of the report by chairing the Task Force on SDG16 and participating in several other SDG working groups promoting the use of human rights data and approaches throughout the VNR process. The NCHR was also a part of the core team supporting the drafting and review of the 2022 VNR. Civil society also played an active role in the SDG 16 task force and as participants in the two national workshops held to launch and validate the VNR. Cross-linkages between the VNR and the Voluntary Local Review in Amman were also ensured through continuous close coordination with UN Habitat and ESCWA.

Through this consultative process, knowledge and skills of a wide range of national partners were enhanced on human rights-based data collection. Moreover, additional national sources for SDG indicators were validated, including from human rights mechanisms, increasing data availability to monitor the 2030 Agenda in Jordan. Priority gender-specific SDG indicators for Jordan were also developed. These new sources and indicators have been integrated with existing data in a new public dashboard developed by the Department of Statistics to monitor SDG progress, the [Jordan Development Portal](#). The portal not only improves the sustainability of monitoring and reporting efforts on the 2030 Agenda in Jordan but also

helps to strengthen evidence- and rights-based decision making for implementation of the SDGs.

In addition to contributing to a stronger human rights analysis in the 2022 VNR, these efforts significantly strengthened collaboration on SDG monitoring and implementation between the central government, particularly the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation and a variety of stakeholders, like the SDG Unit, Department of Statistics, local governments, the National Center for Human Rights, civil society actors, the private sector, as well as the UN in Jordan.

### RWANDA

To better inform national development planning in **Rwanda**, the Ministry of Justice, the NHRI, and other key national partners were supported by UNDP and OHCHR to conduct a comprehensive review of the 2019 VNR and 2020 UPR recommendations. The review identifies areas of synergies, complementarities, and gaps between the VNR and UPR processes. The review also provides recommendations on how the UPR and VNR processes can reinforce one another to accelerate progress on human rights and the SDGs in Rwanda.

The review findings were utilized in the design of trainings on UPR and VNR processes for the National Treaty Body Task Force, the SDGs Task Force, and the UN Human Rights Task Force. The trainings took place in March and May 2022, benefitting a total of 38 members of the task forces, representing the government, the NHRI, civil society, the private sector and UN partners. The

trainings helped to improve the coordination and collaboration between the different task forces as well as increase understanding of a HRBA amongst the participants.

To further understand opportunities and obstacles related to peace, justice, and inclusion in Rwanda, assessment of the status of domestication of SDG 16 was completed. The assessment was the first of its kind in Rwanda and provides in-depth analysis of the progress made in implementing SDG 16 targets and indicators. The assessment found that despite the strong alignment between SDG16 and the current national development programs, a number of gaps must be addressed to effectively domesticate SDG 16. The assessment report includes concrete recommendations to overcome these challenges, including around improving data availability, capacities, coordination, and reporting.

Both the review of the VNR and UPR and the SDG16 assessment will be utilized to inform the midterm review of the national development plan, the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and the subsequent VNR and UPR processes that the country engages in. These efforts, as well as the trainings conducted, resulted in strengthened partnerships and institutional capacities on monitoring and reporting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda and provided state and non-state actors as well as development partners with increased data and information to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda and human rights.

## LESSONS LEARNED



The achievements supported by the HRM Fund in 2022 reflect the high relevance of the Fund in supporting well-coordinated and concerted system-wide efforts to integrate human rights in the work of the UNDS and its support to countries in the urgent efforts to get back on track to deliver the 2030 Agenda. The Fund's achievements show that, following the operational challenges in 2021 posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, UN entities gained momentum in the implementation of Fund-supported programmes in 2022. Results also demonstrate strong cross-fertilization of capacities and tools across the programmes, highlighting the added-value of the inter-agency platform and strategic vision of the HRM Fund.

Continued under-investment in the HRM Fund will have a negative impact on the integration of the HRBA, GEWE and LNOB in Cooperation Frameworks and UNCT advocacy. Participating UN Organizations, including OHCHR and UNDP, contributed some of their own resources in 2022 to continue key Fund-supported programmes given the limited resources in the Fund. While this demonstrates the high commitment of the entities to the Fund's programming, it is not a sustainable or efficient approach in the medium-term.

***"I would very much encourage other Member States to join the Fund with financial resources so that we together can make sure that the Fund can continue the critical role that it's playing, the demand for support is increasing as we heard. And we need to step up our joint efforts in defending and advancing human rights. I believe it's our duty to do so and through the Trust Fund, we have an excellent mechanism at hand."***

**Staffan Smedby, SIDA Head of Unit for Democracy and Human Rights, during the Briefing on Human Rights for Sustainable Development co-hosted by OHCHR and the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund Secretariat, 24 October 2022**



**Some key lessons learned from 2022 in terms of achievements and challenges for the HRM Fund:**

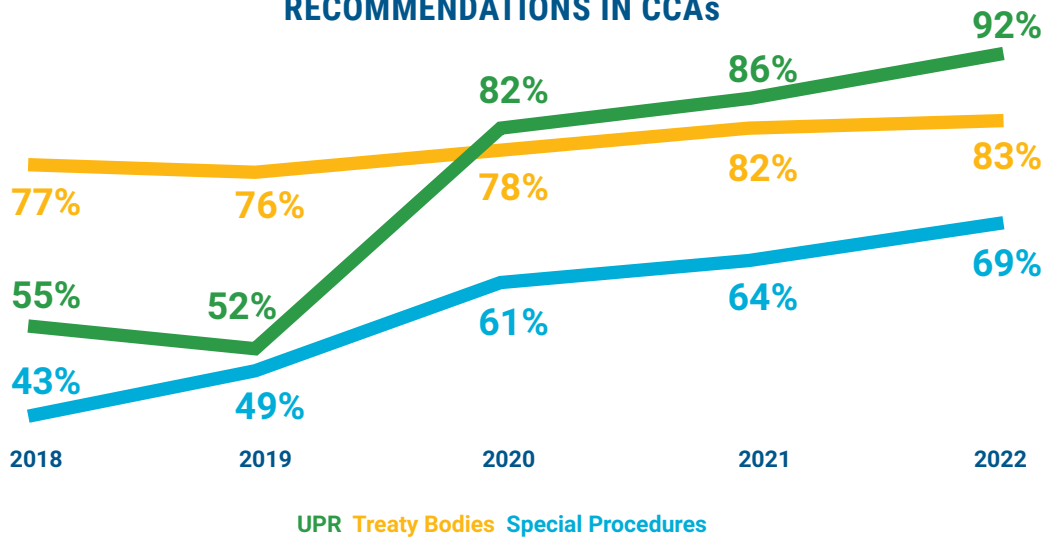
- **Sustained investments are required for comprehensive and complementary inter-agency support initiatives to fully integrate human rights in the UN’s assistance to countries to get back on track for the 2030 Agenda**

As the returns of the repositioned UNDS become clearer, the historical investments and ongoing catalytic support provided through the HRM Fund correlate with increased efforts by RCs and UNCTs to integrate human rights into their development support to countries. For example, 2022 UN Info data reflects an increase in the use of human rights mechanisms’ recommendations in CCAs (see Figure 6), and an increase in the percentage of country-level joint programmes addressing human rights – 22% in 2022, up from 11% in 2021. However, there was also a slight decrease in 2022 in UNCTs reporting support to governments in mainstreaming human rights into national development policies

and programmes (88% in 2022, down from 90% in 2021) and also on the number of UNCTs reporting Cooperation Framework outcomes linked to the recommendations of human rights mechanisms’ recommendations (see Figure 7). This may reflect the need for more work with government partners on the benefits of aligning development planning with the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

Deep institutional change in line with the urgency of the 2030 Agenda and the vision of UN 2.0 requires expertise, skills, strong partnerships and vertical as well as horizontal coordination. RCs and UNCTs need coherent guidance, support and capacities to integrate human rights effectively across development work and respond to emerging priorities, including opportunities and risks in the area of human rights for sustainable development. The findings of the inter-agency analysis of CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks and other 2022 UNCT reporting on key indicators on human rights in development under the QCPR monitoring framework<sup>12</sup> show continuing gaps, illustrating the

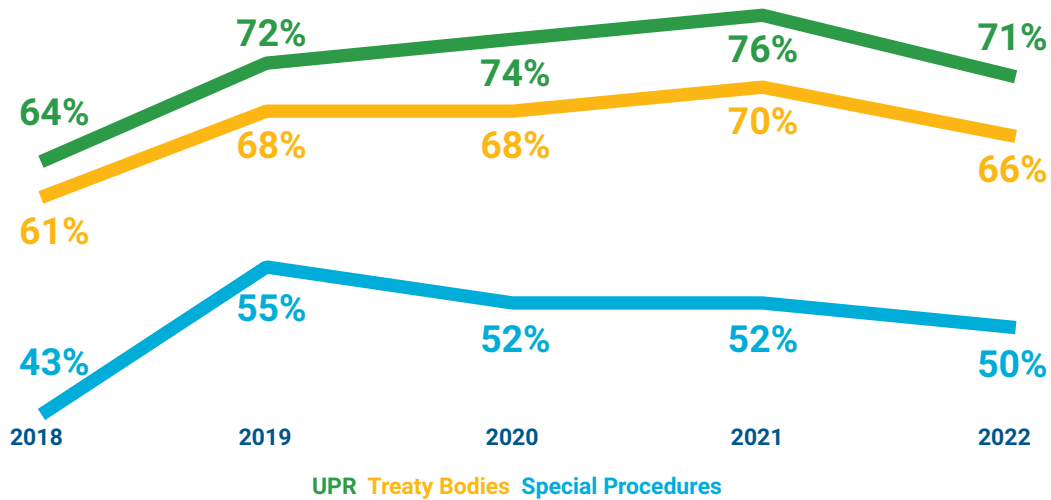
**FIGURE 6.**  
**INCREASED USE OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS’ RECOMMENDATIONS IN CCAs**



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS)

<sup>12</sup> See: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/documents/2023/sgr2023-qcpr-mf-8may2023.xlsx>

**FIGURE 7.**  
**DECREASE IN NUMBER OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS WITH OUTCOMES LINKED TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS**



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS)

need to continue to expand and systematize the integration of human rights, GEWE and LNOB in inter-agency planning and implementation to meet the expectations of member states.

The new UNSDG e-learning on application of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE through the UN Staff System College is intended to ensure that all field staff have a minimum level of understanding on how to apply the guiding principles, thereby increasing the demand and support for routine integration. Ensuring strong uptake of the self-paced course, and continued efforts to offer deeper learning opportunities will be key to achieving change. Systematic leadership support for RCs on human rights will continue to be essential in helping UNCTs and national partners to prioritize actions that will build more equal and resilient societies and establish a renewed social contract anchored in human rights. In-country and remote advisory capacities remain absolutely key in building the capacity of UNCTs to generate and respond to requests for assistance from Member States and to strengthen partnerships and entry points for rights-holders' engagement in development.

The benefits of cross-fertilization of capacities and synergies between HRM Fund investments and other initiatives were clearly demonstrated in 2022. Collaborations between HRAs, the Surge Initiative, and the UNDP-OHCHR partnership to strengthen human rights and SDG linkages enabled a greater reach to UNCTs and impact on their work with partners. HRA and PDA teamwork led to joint monitoring and analysis, UNCT action plans and joint advocacy addressing human rights, development and prevention priorities. HRAs' contributions to the design and implementation of UNCT joint programmes on a wide range of topics further strengthened the human rights elements and impact of investments from the UNPRPD, PBF, UPR Trust Fund and VFTC, as well as bilaterally funded initiatives at the local level. The efficiencies of system-wide support are also clear; for example, HRAs have demonstrated their ability to advise UNCT entities on integrating human rights into a diverse range of development issues and themes. If HRA capacity at the country level is lost, we could expect to see a proliferation of sector-specific human rights capacities at country and regional levels.



The increasing demand for support underscores the value that RCs and UNCTs place in the system-wide guidance, tools and advisory capacities that the Fund aims to deliver at scale. 2022 also highlights the risks to the UN development system of under-investment in this area, with the Fund winding up its support to the Surge Initiative, the UNDP-OHCHR initiative on strengthened linkages between human rights and SDGs, and the UN Women-led support to training tools and opportunities on HRBA, LNOB and GEWE due to lack of funds.

***The world faces complex, interlinked crises across climate, energy, pollution, biodiversity, gender equality, human rights, finance, and costs of living. Old conflicts are lingering, new conflicts are emerging, and development deficits are worsening. At a time when we need development progress more than ever, the SDGs are issuing an “SOS”.... Official development assistance is irreplaceable in addressing multidimensional vulnerability and the rights of the most vulnerable.”***

**Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General,  
message on the occasion of the  
2023 Development Cooperation Forum,  
14 March 2023**

- **Improving the quality of data collected to measure progress on UNCTs’ actions and outcomes on the integration of human rights, LNOB and GEWE in development**

The UN development system has invested significantly in recent years to develop and improve its data systems (eg. UNInfo) and enhance the quality of data collected at country level based on clear indicators to measure progress in support to the SDGs provided by the RC system and UNCTs. In 2022, the Secretariat of the HRM Fund contributed directly to these efforts, providing inputs on the elaboration of human rights, gender and LNOB elements in tags in UNInfo and the UNSDG’s Common Output Indicator Framework, reviewing and improving the quality of indicators, as well as supporting the validation of UNCT annual reporting under the Normative Survey in UNInfo. OHCHR also led inter-agency efforts to review CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks developed in 2022 to help identify trends, good practices and areas of common weakness in terms of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE. However, quantitative data does not tell the whole story, and more systematic efforts are required to understand data as well as the successes and challenges that underlie trends. For example, UNInfo data shows that while UNCTs reported increased support to governments in preparing for the visits of special procedures in 2022 compared to the two previous years, support

to governments for developing reports for the UPR and treaty bodies decreased. This might reflect a lack of capacity on the part of UNCTs to respond to such requests, or accumulated experience of governments leading to fewer requests for support. Additionally, more attention is required to further improve data systems to reduce the scope for different interpretations or misunderstanding of indicators by staff during reporting.

- **UNCT human rights capacities critical to the Our Common Agenda call for enhanced engagement with civil society in context of shrinking civic space**

2022 saw the continuation of the concerning global trend of significant reductions in civic space and threats to civil society actors, including human rights defenders, journalists and members of marginalized groups. In 2022, UNCT analysis and advocacy was enriched by outreach to marginalized and discriminated groups, often facilitated by the HRAs, to better understand which groups are being left

behind and why and work together on addressing root causes. With the support of the Fund, concrete policy gains were achieved in some countries, including for indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, refugees, people in closed settings, and victims of violent crime and GBV.

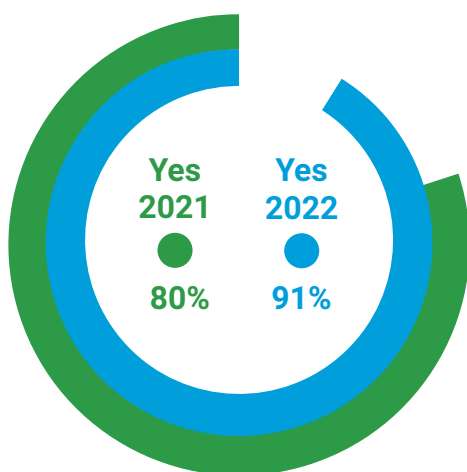
Overall trends in UNCTs illustrate increased contributions to online and offline civic space and civil society partnerships in 2022 (see figure 8). Advancing this agenda is often sensitive and requires attention to participation, protection and promotion of inclusive participation channels and fundamental freedoms. Understanding the relevant human rights standards and principles is critical in navigating complex environments, particularly where the language of rights may be instrumentalized for political purposes.

With the renewed call for more effective and systematic engagement with diverse civil society, including creating the space necessary for civil society actors to contribute to development processes and expanded efforts to listen to, consult with and engage with people, the achievements of the HRM Fund in 2022 demonstrate the key role that a HRBA, and in particular the engagement with international human rights mechanisms and national-level institutions (eg. NHRIs, NMRFs) can play in providing platforms for civil society to meaningfully contribute to development processes. As demand for support for expanding these partnerships remains high, there are positive signs that UNCTs see opportunities to do more in this area with the right expertise and advice despite the challenging environment. These opportunities should be seized while they are open.

- **Strengthening the understanding on the value of investing in human rights in development for peace-building and improved prevention, resilience, social cohesion**

In 2022, the world was facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945. Prevention is more vital than ever. The international human rights framework, in particular Member States' obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, provides

**FIGURE 8.**  
**IN 2022, MORE UNCTs CONTRIBUTING TO CIVIC SPACE ONLINE AND OFFLINE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS)

a critical foundation for sustaining peace. The UN Secretary-General has underscored that prevention must be based on better links between peace and security, human rights, climate and development work, focusing on factors that exacerbate grievances and drive conflict and violence. Building the human rights capacities of RCs and UNCTs is critical to peace and conflict prevention work on the ground.

The role of the HRM Fund in supporting the work of UNCTs in mainstreaming human rights and strengthening coordinated responses to technical assistance and capacity building needs of States, which contribute towards building national resilience to crisis and the prevention of human rights violations, was recognized in a 2022 report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/49/68). HRAs' support to UNCTs on early warning and hate speech are obvious examples. Yet we also know that a rights-based approach

to development has much broader benefits in preventing violent conflict. For example, rights-based and participatory approaches to decision-making and policy discussions help to forge a positive dynamic relationship between people and their governments, where peaceful protests and grievances can be addressed and settled by responsive and accountable administrations: this significantly reduces the risk of fragility, crisis and violence, thereby making societies safer and more resilient and policymaking more effective and legitimate. Improving the data and understanding of how rights-based development programming and advocacy contributes to prevention and peace-building will strengthen cross-pillar coherence for a greater positive impact on people's lives. It may also help to address some of the resourcing challenges faced by the HRM Fund – which is primarily seen by Member States as part of their support to human rights.





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## OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE 2022

*"...the continuation of fragmented and heavily earmarked funding to the UN development system presents a major hurdle to full implementation of the reform. We've known from the start of the reform that without a significant shift in the funding of the UN development system, our progress towards integrated, policy-focused work at country level would be at risk."*

ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment 2022,  
17 May 2022

In 2022, the Steering Committee, with the support of the HRM Fund Secretariat, completed the Fund's implementation of its key commitments under the Management Response plan to the independent evaluation of the Fund's decade long operations. In terms of Fund management, key actions completed in 2022 included the Steering Committee endorsement of a new Operations Manual, Resource Mobilization Strategy, Communications Plan, and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. To further engage the UNSDG senior leadership, the Steering Committee Chair, with the support of the HRM Fund Secretariat, presented an update on the Fund's accomplishments and resource needs in August 2022. The UNSDG leadership re-affirmed its commitment of support for the Fund's operations and requested the Steering Committee Chair to keep the UNSDG informed including through an annual presentation to the UNSDG. In December, the Steering Committee held its [second annual dialogue](#) with current donors as part of its strengthened governance framework. The exchange covered several important strategic issues

including the increasing demand for support from UNCTs and host governments and the limitations imposed by the funding gaps.

The Steering Committee, with the support of the HRM Fund Secretariat, reviewed and approved funding proposals through virtual meetings and electronic endorsements, and continued its oversight of the programme/project workplans and provided guidance to lead implementing organizations on recalibration of some plans due to the evolving pandemic and fragility contexts of some partner countries. The Fund Secretariat also assisted Participating UN Organizations in the amendment of project documents and prepared financial and other information for the Steering Committee to perform its oversight functions.

With continued strong engagement of the Fund's partners in 2022, the Steering Committee, Sweden and Norway convened a high-level partner event in April with High Commissioner Bachelet and senior leaders of UNDP, UN Women and DCO. Messages from RCs, NHRIs and civil society supporting the Fund's expansion and highlighting impactful partnerships with UNCTs in different contexts were showcased. The HRM Fund Secretariat

supported implementing entities' presentations in UN Human Rights Mechanisms special meetings and briefings for partners on human rights mainstreaming and the achievements of the Fund at the Norway-hosted meeting with Geneva-based missions, and at the [Oslo+2 partners](#) meeting in June in Montreux. The HRM Fund Secretariat also supported the Steering Committee in implementing other actions under the resource mobilization strategy to support its multiyear results framework and funding appeal. The HRM Fund Secretariat, in coordination with the resource mobilization and thematic experts of entities, conducted 14 technical briefings to representatives of Member States in New York and Geneva, responded to queries and supported follow up communications to Member States expressing interest in the Fund, and liaised regularly with the Fund's current donors. The Secretariat also liaised with Member States to facilitate completion of documentation for new agreements and contributions.

To sustain the positive contribution to coherence of the HRM Fund's work within the UN system, the Fund Secretariat continued to work closely with the Participating UN Organizations of the HRM Fund, the UNSDG Human Rights Network, Call to Action



Task Teams, DCO, and other UN entities to ensure institutional linkages and information sharing. The work supported by the Fund remained aligned with the vision of the UNSDG inter-agency groups and Call to Action Task Teams, with lead implementing entities engaging the relevant interagency mechanisms for enhanced knowledge management and leveraging of Fund-supported knowledge products and processes. As one of the two DCO-hosted Fund secretariats, the Fund Secretariat continue to provide advice to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat on further integration of human rights and LNOB in Joint SDG Fund processes, which expanded the HRM Fund's impact across other development-related pooled funds.

The Fund Secretariat also played a key role in the coordination between DCO and OHCHR on the HRA programme, contributing to regular information exchanges, strategic discussions, and engagement with the HRA community to further strengthen this programme as one of the key assets supporting RCs and UNCTs to make progress on human rights for sustainable development. The Fund Secretariat also met with the Board of the VFTC, to exchange on the impact of the key programmes supported by the HRM Fund, on future priorities for institutionalizing the mainstreaming of human rights in the UNDS, and on opportunities for more collaboration and joint resource mobilization.

The HRM Fund Secretariat broadened knowledge management, continued support to UNCTs to apply a HRBA to development through knowledge exchange, including management of the online UNSDG Community of Practice on Human Rights and LNOB (Yammer platform and others), the Resident Coordinator Office Inclusion Focal Points Network and through sharing HRBA-related updates, activities, tools and publications through the UNSDG network including through RCs and RCOs, and the HRAs Community of Practice platform. The Fund Secretariat co-manages the [UNSDG Knowledge Portal on Human Rights and Leaving No One Behind](#) and periodically updated the HRM Fund toolbox to feature key knowledge products and information related to Fund-supported initiatives aligned with key UNSDG policies and human rights themes. The Fund Secretariat maintained its quality assurance support to the DCO annual reporting by UNCTs (UN Info) to ensure the collection and analysis of data on the capacities, actions and results on human rights mainstreaming at country level. UN Info data is used for QCPR reporting and progress tracking for the Fund's multiyear results framework, and to strengthen the policy-practice feedback loop at country and interagency levels.







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## CONCLUSION

2022 was the first year of implementation of the HRM Fund's ambitious new strategic vision to meet the support needs of RCs and UNCTs in putting human rights at the centre of development and responding to governments' requests for assistance in this regard. However, it was also a year marked by significantly increased and complex global crises and conflict, which impacted on the ability of Member States to make voluntary contributions to reinforce the UN development system including to this critical pooled fund. In light of declining contributions and uncertainty regarding future funding, the HRM Fund Steering Committee and Participating UN Organizations put many of the initiatives planned to deliver on results under the new framework on hold, and focused efforts on strong implementation of approved programmes. Resources available were prioritized for the Fund's flagship programme – HRAs – and maintaining the small Secretariat. Significant efforts were undertaken by the implementing entities to maximize Fund investments and to expand partnerships for the implementation of joint initiatives in line with the HRM Fund's Theory of Change and strategic vision, and to stabilize the HRA programme as a critical in-country resource for RCs and UNCTs.

Despite the limited resources against the Fund's appeal, the HRM Fund continued to play a key role in providing direct advisory support in 2022, responding to the continued demand from RCs and UNCTs to help them to better respond to developments in their work with partners, and to fulfil the expectations of the UNDS reform and the vision of the Secretary-

General. The Fund also continued to support policy coherence and the institutionalization of the HRBA through a variety of inter-agency initiatives at global level, drawing on emerging thought leadership, UN system policy priorities, UNDSG data and analytics, as well as expertise and good practices from global, regional and country levels. Through these initiatives, the HRM Fund contributed to stronger integration of human rights, LNOB and GEWE into UNDS guidance for UNCTs' support to 2030 Agenda implementation that is underpinned by human rights and strengthened RC and UNCT capacity to leverage the UN's mandate and normative authority for sustainable development, including relevant thematic areas under the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

As the only pooled funding mechanism dedicated to enhancing the capacities of RCs and UNCTs in their efforts to integrate human rights into their work, the contributions of the Fund are critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda and meeting Member States' request for support under the QCPR. UN entities engaged with the Fund have demonstrated their readiness to jointly implement coherent, multi-year strategic programmes to achieve the system-wide targets set. To catalyse efforts to further institutionalize interagency collaboration on human rights for development, to implement the Call to Action and to support the realization of the vision of Our Common Agenda amid growing challenges greater investment is required.

# ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1



### HRM Fund Governance

This section outlines the roles and processes and describes how they contributed to the overall governance and accountability of the HRM Fund since the 2021 update of the Terms of Reference.

#### Steering Committee

The HRM Fund is managed by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives at senior, decision-making level from up to six Participating Organizations which have signed the MOU, with OHCHR to serve as the Chair. The Steering Committee sets the strategic direction of the Fund, reviews funding proposals and approves allocations.

#### Technical Secretariat

The Secretariat provides operational coordination and technical support to the HRM Fund. It will be hosted by the UN Development Coordination Office to facilitate the Secretariat's support to inter-agency coordination, institutional linkages between the Fund and the UNSDG and its working mechanisms, and the coordination of, support to, and communication with, RCs and UNCTs and

Regional UNSDG structures as required to achieve the Fund's objectives. The Secretariat provides overall coordination and facilitation support to the Steering Committee, Participating UN Organizations, and the Administrative Agent.

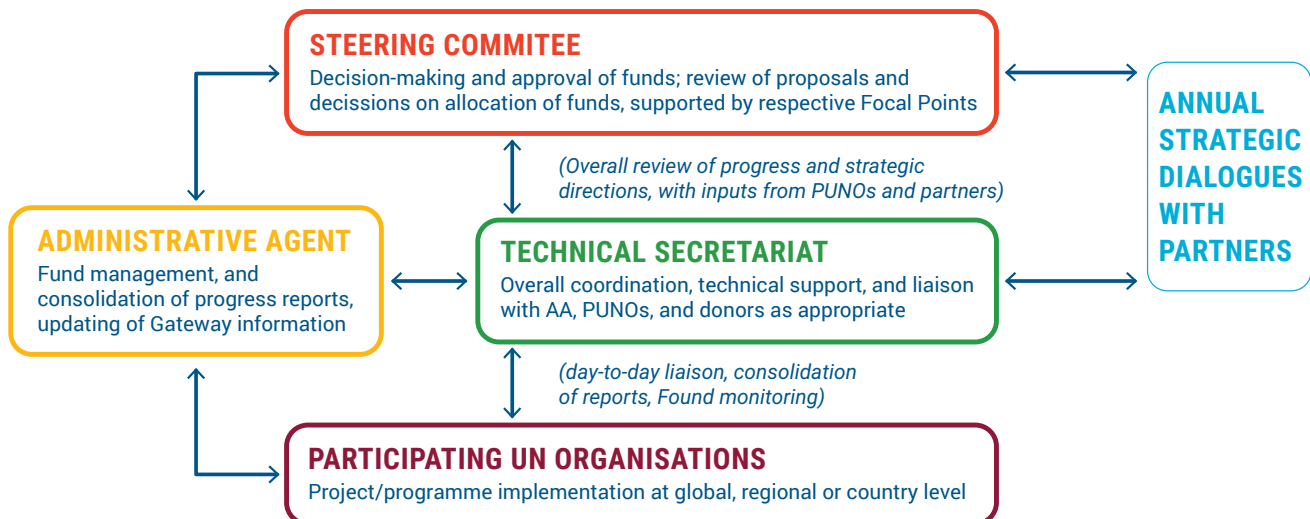
#### Administrative Agent

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office is the Administrative Agent for the HRM Fund. It is responsible for the receipt, administration and management of contributions from donors, disbursement of funds to Participating Organizations, and consolidation and dissemination of progress reports to the donors.

#### Participating United Nations Organizations

UN Organizations that participate in the Fund sign a standard memorandum of understanding with the Administrative Agent. Operating under their own financial regulations, rules and policies, each organization assumes full financial and programmatic accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent and for the implementation of the project. Participating Organizations provide financial and narrative progress reports to the Administrative Agent on their activities, as described in the memorandum of understanding.

### HRM FUND GOVERNANCE



## ANNEX 2: MULTI-YEAR RESULTS MATRIX 2022-2025



### Impact:

The UN development system contributes to a society where all people enjoy their human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development and the right to a healthy environment without discrimination and are empowered to be active partners in development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind<sup>13</sup>

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	SOURCE
% of countries with <b>independent Human Rights institutions</b> in compliance with the Paris Principles ( <i>SDG target indicator 16.a.1.a.</i> )	41.6% (2020)	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>
Number of cases of enforced <b>disappearance of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists</b> ( <i>SDG target indicator 16.10.1.a</i> )	19 (2020)	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>
Number of cases of <b>killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists</b> ( <i>SDG target indicator 16.10.1.b.</i> )	393 (2020)	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>
% of countries with <b>legal frameworks</b> in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of <b>sex</b> – Area 1: overarching legal frameworks and public life ( <i>SDG target indicator 5.1.1.a.</i> )	70.9% (2020)	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>
Conflict-related <b>death rate (civilians)</b> per 100,000 population ( <i>SDG target indicator 16.1.2.b.</i> )	5.0 (2020)	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>
% of population reporting having personally <b>felt discriminated against or harassed</b> in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law ( <i>SDG target indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1</i> )	20% (2020) <sup>14</sup>	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>
% of women reporting having personally <b>felt discriminated against or harassed</b> in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law ( <i>SDG target indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1</i> )	No data available yet	n/a	<a href="#">UN Global SDG Database</a>

<sup>13</sup> While it is understood that the 17 SDGs reflect human rights standards, and 92% of the associated 169 targets are linked to international human rights instruments (see e.g. [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG\\_Indicators\\_Tables.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf)), the result matrix includes only a selected set of SDG target indicators that are most relevant to the intended impact of the Fund. It includes SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship for which data is available for a baseline year (16.a.1, 16.10.1.a., 16.10.1.b., and 16.1.2.b; see [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/SDGIndicators.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/SDGIndicators.aspx) for details). In addition, the matrix includes an SDG target indicator on legal frameworks on equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (5.1.1.a.).

<sup>14</sup> This is an approximate value for 2020 based on data from only 34 states. No precise global data is available yet. See Report of the Secretary General on Progress towards the SDGs (E/2021/58).

### Outcome:

By 2026, human rights are more at the core of UNDS work at all levels, RCs and UNCTs build the capacity of duty bearers and strive to empower rights-holders as active agents in development and uphold their inherent dignity and rights to ensure no one is left behind.

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	2022 STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting governments and duty bearers</li> </ul>			
% of UNCTs that have in the past year facilitated follow-up of the <b>UPR</b> recommendations by the Government	59% (2020) <sup>15</sup>	95% (2025)	72.5% (95/131)
% of UNCTs that have in the past year facilitated follow-up of the <b>treaty bodies recommendations</b> by the government	72% (2020) <sup>16</sup>	80% (2025)	71.7% (94/131)
% of UNCTs that have in the past year facilitated follow-up of the recommendations of <b>special procedures mandate holders</b> by Government	48% (2020) <sup>17</sup>	55% (2025)	48% (63/131)
% of programme country Governments that <b>agree</b> that the UN contributes substantially to <b>identify</b> the situation of the <b>poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind</b>	90% (2021 baseline published in 2022)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	96%
% of programme country Governments that <b>agree</b> that the UN contributes substantially to <b>address</b> the development needs of the <b>poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind</b>	84% (2021 baseline published in 2022)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	87%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowering right holders</li> </ul>			
% of UNCTs that have structured <b>engagement</b> with <b>civil society groups</b> throughout the programming cycle	75.17% (2021 baseline published in 2022) <sup>18</sup>	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	83%

<sup>15</sup> 2020 data from DCO UN Info

<sup>16</sup> 2020 data from DCO UN Info

<sup>17</sup> 2020 data from DCO UN Info

<sup>18</sup> QCPR indicator, unweighted average from 5 subset indicators

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	2022 STATUS
<b>UN analysis</b>			
% of <b>CCAs</b> conducted in the past year that thoroughly <b>maps relevant international human rights obligations and commitments</b> made by the country	60% (2021 baseline published in 2022)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	56% (from OHCHR)
% of RCs that confirm receiving adequate <b>support</b> on human rights by the UNDS in delivering on the promise to <b>leave no one behind</b> through a <b>human rights lens</b> in <b>prevention, response and recovery plans</b> <b>** QCPR monitoring framework revised. 2022 revised indicator and data is from new 1.4.11 (unweighted average)</b>	97% (2021 baseline published in 2022; unweighted average)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	97%
% of current <b>CCAs</b> that include recommendations from UPR, treaty bodies, and special procedures as a core component of its analysis ( <i>unweighted average</i> ) <sup>19</sup>	72% (2020)	80% <sup>20</sup> (2025)	72% (2022: UPR 92%, TB 83%, SP 69%)
<b>UN Cooperation Frameworks</b>			
% of <b>CFs</b> developed in the past year that addresses programme countries' <b>capacities gap</b> in meeting their human rights obligations	78% (2021 baseline published in 2022)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	78%
% of current UNDAFs/CFs that link <b>outcomes</b> with specific recommendations from the <b>UPR</b>	80% (2020)	100% (2025)	71% (91/131)
% of current UNDAFs/CFs that link <b>outcomes</b> with specific recommendations from the <b>Treaty Bodies</b>	76% (2020)	80% (2025)	66% (87/131)
% of current UNDAFs/CFs that link <b>outcomes</b> with specific recommendations from the <b>Special Procedures</b>	52% (2020)	70% (2025)	50% (66/131)
% of UNCTs that have carried out <b>joint</b> <sup>21</sup> <b>advocacy initiatives</b> focused on ensuring respect for and protection of human rights <sup>22</sup> in the past year	91% (2021, UN Info)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	95% (125/131)

<sup>19</sup> The indicator should be also disaggregated and reported on by the % for UPR, treaty bodies, and special procedures. For the baseline in 2020, this is 80% (UPR), 76% (treaty bodies), and 58% (special procedures)

<sup>20</sup> Based on 100% UPR; 80% treaty bodies and 60% special procedures

<sup>21</sup> defined as with participation of at least 2 UN entities

<sup>22</sup> This includes a) an engagement with human rights mechanisms (ratification of human rights instruments, invitations to special procedures, participation in country reviews), b) alignment of national laws, policies and practices with international human rights norms and standards, protection of human rights defenders and of civic space (including the participation of civil society in policy-making), d) respect for the rights of specific groups and/or awareness-raising of their contribution to the country's development, e) enhancing national institutional capacities to promote and protect human rights (including NHRIs, NHRAPs and National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up)

### Output 1.

By 2025, the UNDS has advanced policy coherence, thought leadership, and knowledge creation and management on HR in development [thematic area: global level work]

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2022 STATUS
Number of <b>inter-agency engagements</b> <sup>23</sup> to generate <b>thought leadership, knowledge or policy messaging</b> convened with the support of the Fund ( <i>cumulative</i> )	0 (2020)	2 (2022), 4 (2023), 6 (2024), 6 (2025)	Annual reports of HR Mainstreaming Trust Fund	5
Number of <b>joint, inter-agency knowledge products</b> on human rights in development <sup>24</sup> supported by the Fund ( <i>cumulative</i> )	1 (2020)	3 (2022), 5 (2023), 7 (2024), 9 (2025)	Annual reports of HR Mainstreaming Trust Fund	173
Extent of knowledge sharing as measured by the number of page views of the <b>UNSDG Knowledge Portal on HR and LNOB</b> per year	0 <sup>25</sup> (2020)	1,000 (2022), 1,500 (2023), 2,000 (2024), 2,200 (2025)	UNSDG Knowledge Portal web analytics	1,956
Number of peer-to-peer engagements with an explicit knowledge sharing objective supported by the Fund, at global and regional levels <sup>26</sup> ( <i>cumulative</i> )	0 (2020)	3 (2022), 5 (2023), 7 (2024), 9 (2025)	Annual reports of HR Mainstreaming Trust Fund	5

#### Indicative pipeline proposals

1.1 To generate HR **thought leadership** and promote **system-wide policy coherence** on human rights mainstreaming in development<sup>27</sup>

1.2 To ensure effective information exchange and learning through **knowledge management** and **peer-to-peer support** on human rights mainstreaming across the UNDS

<sup>23</sup> Such as global or regional meetings, consultations, workshops, policy research/papers; for example, under the *Call to Action*

<sup>24</sup> Such as common messages, publications, audio-visual products.

<sup>25</sup> The portal had a soft launch only in March 2021. For the first two quarters, it had 801 page views.]

<sup>26</sup> Includes engagements that may be convened under other Outputs.

<sup>27</sup> through strategic-level inter-agency workshops and policy retreats, Frontier Dialogues and other fora

## Output 2.

By 2025, RCs and UNCTs have necessary capacities, knowledge, skills, guidance and tools to apply HRBA, putting HR at the core of analysis, programming and advocacy, including to further the implementation of the C2A [thematic area: UNCTs]

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2022 STATUS
% of RCs that confirm receiving adequate <b>support</b> on human rights by the UNDS in elaborating or updating their <b>CCA</b>	<i>TBD (2021)</i>	<i>Pending- baseline 2021</i>	QCPR 1.4.11.a; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey)	For revision. Question removed from 2022 DESA RC/ UNCT survey
% of RCs that confirm receiving adequate <b>support</b> on human rights by the UNDS in developing or reviewing their <b>CF</b>	<i>TBD (2021)</i>	<i>Pending- baseline 2021</i>	QCPR 1.4.11.b; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey)	For revision. Question removed from 2022 DESA RC/ UNCT survey
% of RCs that have indicated that UNCT members <b>consult</b> with them on <b>exceptional and sensitive cases</b> related to their normative agenda	83% (2019)	90% (2022), 92% (2023), 94% (2024), 96% (2025)	QCPR 3.2.8; DESA (RC/UNCT survey)	97%
% of UNCTs that have been <b>trained on HRBA</b> per year	37% <sup>28</sup> (2020)	50% (2022), 60% (2023), 70% (2024), 75% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.2	64%

### Indicative pipeline proposals

2.1 To provide expert advice on integrating human rights, LNOB and GEWE in **country-level work and leverage regional processes and capacities** through HR advisory support at the regional level

2.2 To strengthen RCs with HR **leadership and diplomacy** capacities through peer-to-peer exchange

2.3 To support RCs/UNCTs in **integrating economic and social rights** into CCAs and CFs through the **Surge Initiative**

2.4 To strengthen knowledge and skills of the UNDS on **HRBA, LNOB and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** including through roll out of the updated HRBA Common Learning Package

2.5 To provide UNCTs with tailored and timely support<sup>29</sup> on enhancing **reporting capacities and data** for HR in development

2.6 To provide RCs/HCs and UNCTs with tailored and timely support to address **urgent or emerging HR priorities**, including for CF development and early warning and preventive action

<sup>28</sup> 75% in 2018; 45% in 2019

<sup>29</sup> E.g., short-term capacities, funding, peer exchange

### Output 3.

By 2025, an increased number of Human Rights Advisers have provided RCs and UNCTs with capacities to put HR at the centre of their work **[thematic area: HRAs]**

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2022 STATUS
No. of RCs/UNCTs that have the support of a <b>Human Rights Adviser</b>	43 (2020) <sup>30</sup>	54 (2022), 60 (2023), 66 (2024), 72 (2025)	OHCHR	54 (43 at end of 2022)
% of UNCTs that have in the past year completed a <b>human rights analysis</b>	77% (2020) <sup>31</sup>	85% (2022), 90% (2023), 90% (2024), 90% (2025)	QCPR 1.4.7.i;	88% (115/131)
% of UNCTs that have developed a <b>strategy</b> to address the issues identified in the human rights analysis <sup>32</sup> and taken <b>subsequent action</b> to address the issues set out in the human rights analysis	66% (2020) <sup>33</sup>	75% (2022), 77% (2023), 80% (2024), 83% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.3	64% (74/115)
% of UNCTs with an HRA that have <b>supported the government in mainstreaming human rights</b> into national development policies and programmes	91% (2020)	93% (2022), 95% (2023), 95% (2024), 95% (2025)	QCPR 1.4.7.ii;	88%
% of <b>UNCTs with an HRA</b> reporting that current <b>CCAs</b> include recommendations from UPR, treaty bodies, and special procedures as a core component of its analysis ( <i>unweighted average</i> )	84% (2020)	90% (2022), 92% (2023), 95% (2024), 97% (2025)	D.1.1.3	83% (UPR 94%, TB 83%, SP 73%)
% of <b>UNCTs with an HRA</b> reporting that UNDAFs/CFs link outcomes with recommendations from UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures ( <i>unweighted average</i> ) <sup>34</sup>	74% (2020)	80% (2022); 83% (2023); 86% (2024), 89% (2025)	DCO data and IMS D1.1.4	67% (UPR 77%, TB 67%, SP 56%)

<sup>30</sup> 34 (2018), 39 (2019)

<sup>31</sup> 2020 data from DCO IMS; 55% (2019); 47% (2015)

<sup>32</sup> Refers to a HR analysis in the CCA, a Human Rights Up Front Analysis, a Human rights due diligence policy analysis, a Thematic Human rights issue analysis, or UNCT input into the UPR, Treaty bodies, and/or Special Procedures reporting (see DCO IMS Q 04.01.01.03.)

<sup>33</sup> 2020 data from DCO IMS; 55% in 2018; 50% in 2019

<sup>34</sup> The indicator should be also disaggregated and reported on by the % for UPR, treaty bodies, and special procedures. For the baseline in 2020, this is 93% (UPR), 91% (treaty bodies), and 67% (special procedures)



INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2022 STATUS
<b>Indicative pipeline proposals</b>				
3.1 To provide RCs and UNCTs with advice, information and tools on positioning human rights strategically at country level through <b>Human Rights Advisers</b>				
3.2 To strengthen the support provided by HRAs through capacity building (eg. thematic), knowledge management and knowledge sharing between HRAs and UNCTs, UN agencies, funds and programmes and other UN system partners.				

#### Output 4.

By 2025, with support of RCs/UNCTs, national & local governments and NHRIs have stronger capacities to engage with HR mechanisms and integrate HR in development, and human rights defenders, civil society and communities have strengthened capacity and platforms for meaningful participation and advocacy [thematic area: UNCT partners]

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2022 STATUS
<b>• Governments</b>				
% of <b>RCs</b> that confirm receiving adequate support on human rights by the UNDS in assisting the <b>country</b> in their engagement with <b>international human rights mechanisms</b> (UPR, treaty bodies, special procedures) and the use of their recommendations;	98% (2021)	Pending baseline 2021	QCPR 1.4.11.iii; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey) <b>*Now 1.4.11.i</b>	97%
% of <b>RCs</b> that confirm receiving adequate support on human rights by the UNDS in building and strengthening of <b>national capacities and institutions</b> for the promotion and protection of human rights	97% (2021)	Pending baseline 2021	QCPR 1.4.11.vi; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey) <b>*Now 1.4.11.iv</b>	96%
% of <b>RCs</b> that confirm receiving adequate support on human rights by the UNDS in support to <b>national partners</b> on the <b>domestication and ratification</b> of international treaties and alignment of laws, policies and practices with standards	97% (2021)	Pending baseline 2021	QCPR 1.4.11.v; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey) <b>*Now 1.4.11.iii</b>	95%
% UNCTs that have <b>supported the government</b> in <b>mainstreaming</b> human rights into national development policies and programmes in the past year	85% (2020)	89% (2022), 90% (2024), 91% (2025) <sup>35</sup>	DCO IMS D1.1.4	88%
<b>• NHRI</b>				
% of UNCTs in countries with a NHRI that have engaged with the NHRI as a <b>partner</b> in the past year	96% (2020) <sup>36</sup>	98% (2022), 99% (2023), 100% (2024), 100% (2025)	DCO IMS D1.1.20.1	94%

<sup>35</sup> TBC based on funding request

<sup>36</sup> 101 out of 105 countries that have a NHRI

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2022 STATUS
<b>• Civil society</b>				
% of UNCTs that have reported supporting <b>civil society</b> to develop inputs or reports for the <b>UPR or treaty bodies</b> , or supporting civil society to interact with the <b>Special Procedures</b> per year	54% (2020)	72% (2022), 74% (2023), 76% (2024), 78% (2025)	DCO IMS D1.1.8	45% (29%,48%, 57%)
% of UNCTs that regularly <b>assess risks and threats</b> to <b>civil society actors</b> from different groups and backgrounds, including human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists	51% (52/101, 2021)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	DCO IMS D1.1.22	53% (57/108)
% of UNCTs that have contributed to an <b>enabling</b> environment for <b>civic space</b> online and offline in partnership with civil society, in the past year	80% (2021)	<i>Pending baseline 2021</i>	DCO IMS D1.1.21	91%
% of dedicated catalytic activities that includes building the <b>capacity</b> of <b>human rights defenders</b> as a priority, per year	n/a (2020) <sup>37</sup>	25% (2022), 35% (2023), 40% (2024), 45% (2025)	Annual analysis of project proposal forms by the Secretariat <sup>38</sup>	No call for programmes in this area in 2022

### Indicative pipeline proposals

4.1 To provide direct funding and catalytic support to UNCTs for engaging and follow-up on the recommendations of human rights mechanisms, and integrating human rights into **SDG responses**<sup>39</sup> and **SDG planning and programming**

4.2 To provide direct funding and catalytic support for strengthened UNCT engagement with **NHRIs** on **SDG** planning and programming

4.3 To provide direct funding and support to UNCTs to jointly engage and build capacities of **civil society and communities**, including platforms for their meaningful participation and advocacy<sup>40</sup>

<sup>37</sup> The HRM Fund has not yet started to fund dedicated catalytic activities in 2021.

<sup>38</sup> The Secretariat will use a simple checklist to determine if project proposals include building the capacity of human rights defenders as a priority

<sup>39</sup> including VNRs

<sup>40</sup> Funding may be linked to thematic priorities, such as under Call to Action areas – eg. right to a healthy environment, civic space, etc.

## Fund's Operational Effectiveness

WORK STREAM	INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGETS <sup>41</sup>	2022 STATUS
Use of Resources	Cumulative delivery rate as at 31 December	68% <sup>42</sup> (2020)	70% (2025)	98.67%
	<b>Number of UN organizations</b> that received funds transferred (accumulative)	2 (2020)	6 (2025)	3
	<b>Number of dedicated catalytic activities<sup>43</sup></b> supporting integrated approaches by UNCTs that have been funded (accumulative)	26 (2020)	100 (2025)	34 (and partial contributions to 51 under Surge Seeding Change country projects)
	<b>% of HRAs deployed</b> that are female (yearly)	59% (2020)	50% or more (2025)	81%
Resource Mobilization and Communication	Volume of resource mobilized annually (in USD)	3,045,493 (2020)	99,660,000 (2025)	3,775,203
	Number of HRM Fund contributors	6 (2020)	10 (2025)	7
	Number of formal strategic dialogues of Steering Committee with donors/ partners (cumulative)	0 (2020)	4 (2025)	2
	Number formal <b>engagements</b> of the Steering Committee with <b>donors or potential donors/partners<sup>44</sup></b> (cumulative)	0 (2020)	8 (2025)	2
	<b>Communications strategy</b> tracked annually	No <sup>45</sup> (2020)	Yes (2022-2025)	Approved in 2022

<sup>41</sup> Will depend on available resources and will be adjusted accordingly

<sup>42</sup> HRM Fund delivery rate and targets reflect the planned transfer of significant funds to OHCHR in the 4th quarter to cover HRA Programme costs in the coming year. This reduces the overall Fund delivery rate as at 31 December each year.

<sup>43</sup> Defined as funding that has been transferred to country level, including sub-elements of global and regional programmes and seed funds.

<sup>44</sup> Fund reports, Fund communications materials, formal events or engagements (outside of annual strategic dialogues with current donors)

<sup>45</sup> No communication strategy existed for the Fund in 2020

WORK STREAM	INDICATORS	BASELINE	TARGETS <sup>41</sup>	2022 STATUS
Monitoring & Evaluation	M&E framework updated annually	No <sup>46</sup> (2020)	Yes (2022-2025)	Approved in 2022
	Annual % financial delivery <sup>47</sup>	68% (2020)	70% (2022-2025)	N/A
	% of projects operationally closed within 6 months of end date	48% (2020)	67% (2022-2025)	TBA
	% of approved project proposals that apply the gender equality marker <sup>48</sup>	0 (2020)	100% (2022-2025)	100%

<sup>46</sup> No M&E framework existed for the Fund in 2020.

<sup>47</sup> Due to the nature of Output 3, significant funds are transferred near the end of one calendar year for salaries for the following year. Annual financial delivery targets are accordingly set lower to accommodate this.

<sup>48</sup> Subject to MPTFO fund management platform including this functionality (refer: <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/UNCT%20GEM%20UN%20INFO%20final%20draft%20June%202019.pdf>)

## ANNEX 3



### Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis	<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>CEDAW</b>	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>CERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	<b>MPTFO</b>	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office UNDP
<b>CF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	<b>NMRF</b>	National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow up
<b>CRC</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institutions
<b>CRPD</b>	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	<b>NSO</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>DCO</b>	Development Coordination Office	<b>PDA</b>	Peace and Development Adviser
<b>DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	<b>PBF</b>	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
<b>ECOSOC</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council	<b>QCPR</b>	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
<b>ESC</b>	Economic Social and Cultural (rights)	<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>HDP</b>	Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>HRA</b>	Human Rights Adviser	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>HRBA</b>	Human Rights-Based Approach	<b>UNDS</b>	United Nations Development System
<b>HRD</b>	Human Rights Defender	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>HRDDP</b>	Human Rights Due Diligence Policy	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institutions	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>IMS</b>	Information Management System	<b>UNSDG</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
<b>LGBTIQ+</b>	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer and plus sign representing persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression	<b>UNSSC</b>	United Nations System Staff College
		<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
		<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
		<b>VFTC</b>	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights
		<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
		<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization











**Human Rights  
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**Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**  
Bureau of Management Services  
United Nations Development Programme GATEWAY:  
<https://mptf.undp.org>