



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

15th Anniversary
(2007 – 2022)



UPR Voluntary Fund for Implementation

SUPPORTING STATES, REALIZING RIGHTS



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



The Office of the High Commissioner, Palais Wilson in Geneva © OHCHR/L. Konstad



“We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (2017) (A/72/1, para. 98)

Mandate



The **Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review** was established in 2007 by Human Rights Council

resolution [6/17](#) and further strengthened by resolutions [16/21](#) and [51/30](#).

The fund provides financial and technical assistance to support countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to implement recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with, and with the consent of, the country concerned.

A Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary General and composed of human rights experts from all regions, provides advice and guidance on policy orientation and strategy in the operationalization of the Fund.



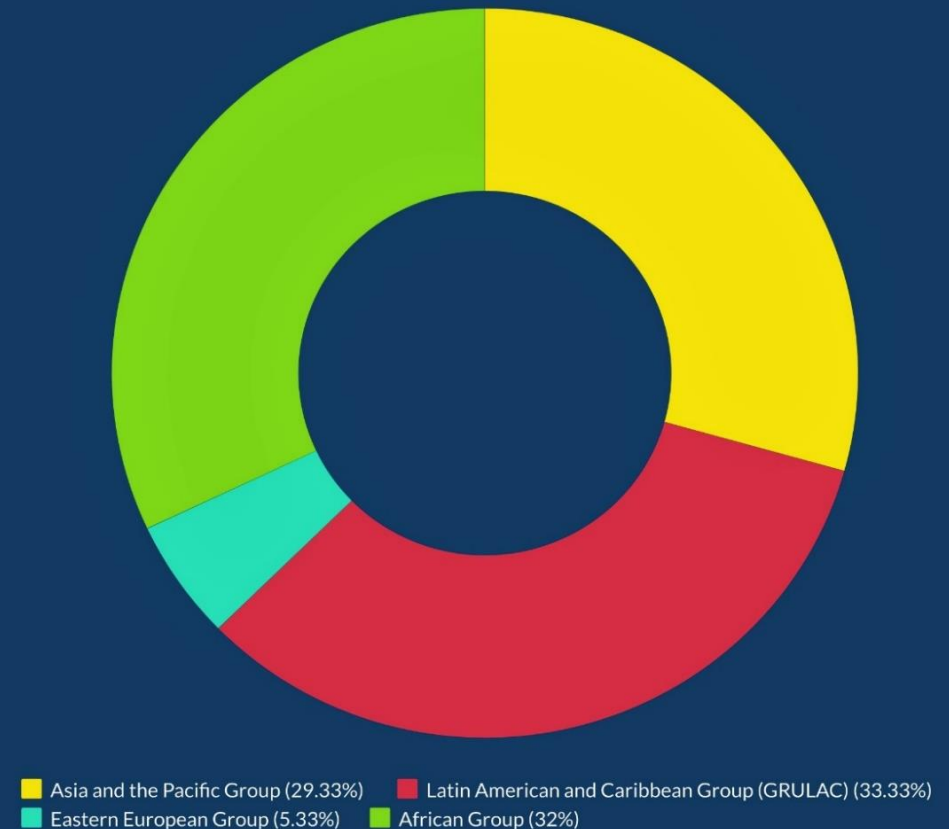
Facts and figures

The Voluntary Fund provides seed funding aimed at enhancing national capacities in one or more of its established focus areas, creating synergies between the **implementation of key universal periodic review recommendations**, the **strengthening of Governments' institutional capacity** to ensure a comprehensive follow up and reporting on the progresses achieved, the **enhancement of the role of Parliaments**, and the **strengthening of the United Nations country teams** to support national efforts to implement human rights mechanisms recommendations and integrate them with initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has disbursed over **USD 6,000,000**, providing support to activities in **87** countries and allowing the organization of **8** regional workshops to promote the sharing of good practices.

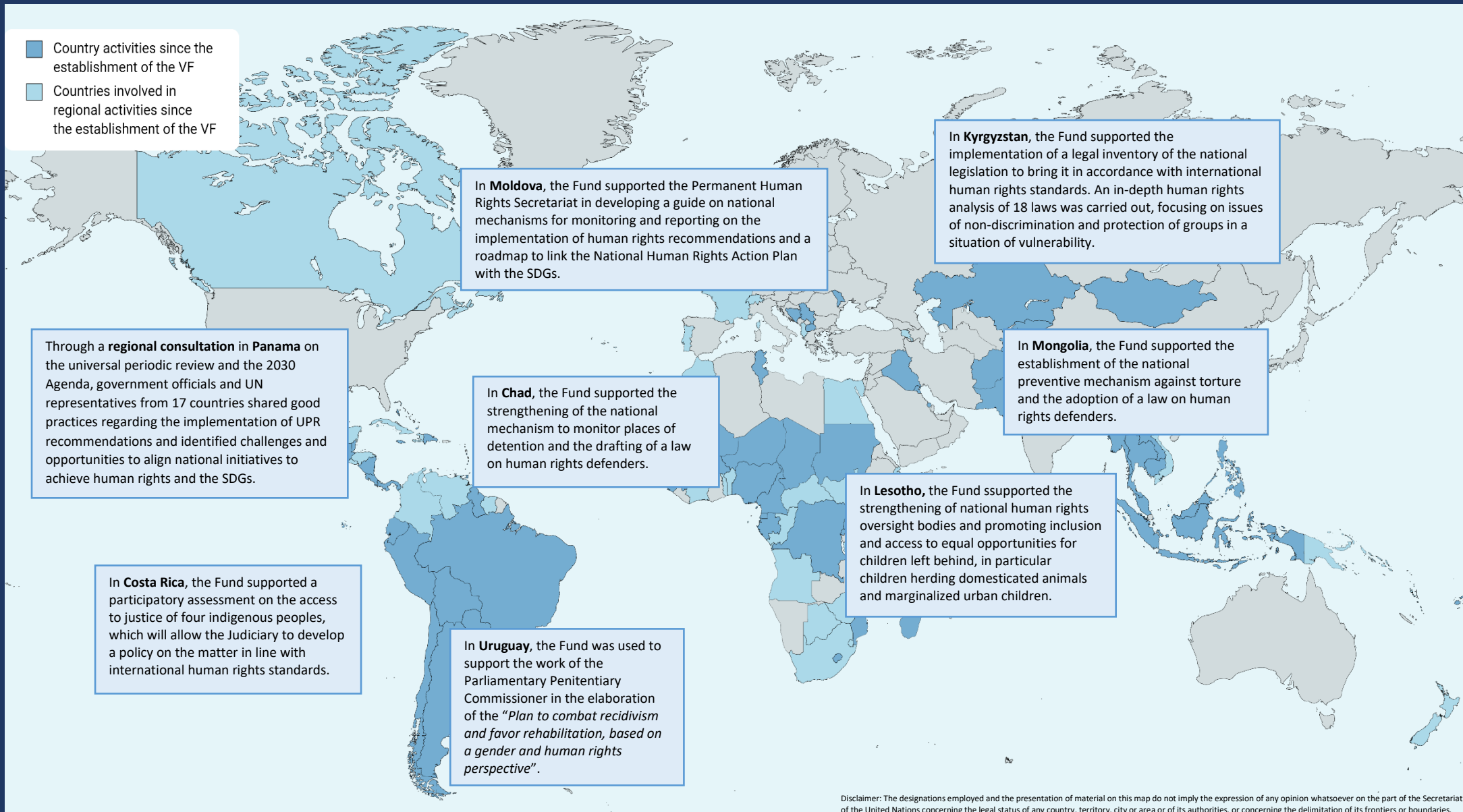
As a result of the enhanced focus on implementation of recommendations during the third UPR cycle, the fund has progressively increased annual funding of projects and, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in various regions, reached an annual implementation of about USD 1,000,000 by the end of 2022.

Voluntary Fund Country Projects by UN Regional Groups





Facts and figures





Facts and figures

Accepted universal periodic review recommendations have proven to be an **important entry point for creating nationally led and nationally owned processes** to implement the recommendations made by all international human rights mechanisms and integrate them with the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Such recommendations can also highlight areas in which early action is needed to address risks of human rights violations, therefore contributing to the United Nations agenda on prevention.

The **good practices** collected by OHCHR and other United Nations entities show that the universal periodic review has advanced the promotion and protection of human rights – in line with the Secretary General’s **Call to Action for Human Rights** and the resulting **UPR Practical Guidance** - and secured greater compliance, in law and in practice, with international human rights norms and with the commitments made by States in all regions of the world.



How to apply

Support by the Voluntary Fund can be requested by States in Geneva via a **Note Verbale** addressed to OHCHR or, at country level, via an **official communication** to the Head of the OHCHR field presence or the United Nations Resident Coordinator.



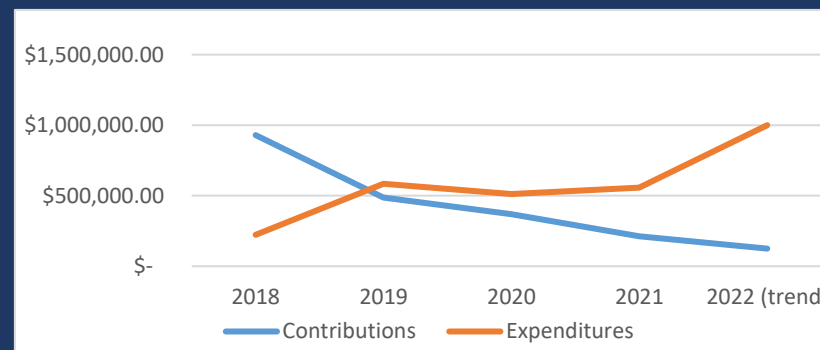
Support the Fund

Since its establishment, the Fund has received contributions for a total amount of **USD 7,604,168** from the following countries:

Norway	(USD 2,283,483)
Germany	(USD 1,326,665)
Russian Federation	(USD 850,000)
Morocco	(USD 500,000)
Australia	(USD 387,580)
France	(USD 349,919)
Saudi Arabia	(USD 320,000)
India	(USD 300,000)
Republic of Korea	(USD 250,000)
United Arab Emirates	(USD 200,000)
Spain	(USD 195,655)
United Kingdom	(USD 179,033)
Kazakhstan	(USD 128,865)
Philippines	(USD 75,000)
Belgium	(USD 51,706)
Singapore	(USD 45,000)
Romania	(USD 47,790)
Colombia	(USD 40,000)
Netherlands	(USD 30,000)
Pakistan	(USD 20,492)
Oman	(USD 10,000)
Brazil	(USD 9,980)
Paraguay	(USD 3,000)

Contributions to the Voluntary Fund can be made by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or private institutions and individuals.

While requests for support have increased during the last years, contributions have decreased.



“In view of the start of the fourth cycle in November 2022, the strengthening of the financial basis of the Voluntary Fund will be crucial to show the increasing importance that States attach to the implementation of recommendations arising from the universal periodic review”

Report on the Operations of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (2022) (A/HRC/50/18)



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www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/trust-fund-implementation