Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINALPROGRAMME[1] NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM *January 2021* THROUGH *October 2022*

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[2]
• Programme Title: **Enhanced RC and UNCT strategic engagement with the UPR and other human rights mechanisms (global and regional) and with NMRFs and NHRIs to achieve the SDGs** • Programme Number *(if applicable):* **00126362** • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[3]	*Global*
	Priority area/ strategic results (January 2021-October 2022) **Outcome/ Output 1:** Increased awareness and capacity of UNCTs, governments and other stakeholders to follow-up on human rights recommendations and incorporate them into SDG-based national development processes, including by promoting human rights and SDG systems integration and creating synergies between NMRFs and SDG coordination bodies. ✓ 6 countries with strengthened capacities through joint programming ✓ Increased awareness in Central Asia states through subregional mapping and consultations **Outcome/ Output 2:** Support to the roll-out of the Practical Guidance on the UPR, including the development of integrated processes / platforms linking SDG and human rights at country level and the integration of human rights dimensions in VNR reporting and follow-up and gathering good practices of UN engagement with the UPR process for sustainable development outcomes and developing guidance for Member States on integrating human rights into VNR processes. ✓ Collection of 62 submissions of UN examples on how the UPR supports sustainable development featured in online repository

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[1] The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.
[2] Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g., UNDAF) or project document.
[3] The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

✔ Curation of top 18 UN examples of how the UPR supports sustainable development into a good practices repository and strategic dissemination and roll-out to UNCTs and stakeholders

✔ Development of guidance for Member States on how to integrate a human rights perspective in VNR processes and strategic dissemination

Outcome/ Output 3: Increased support to NHRI's efforts towards the 2030 Agenda, including through:
A) Improved availability of data for UNCTs and governments to support efforts to Leave No One Behind and for CCA analysis.

✔ 6 MOUs (institutional collaborative platforms between NHRIs and NSOs) were established and operationalized, 4 online country workshops, 7 webinars, and 4 in person workshops were delivered

B) Strategic engagement of NHRIs in VNRs and SDG-related processes

✔ 2 NHRIs in countries with stronger engagement in country level SDG processes through joint programming / support

Outcome/ Output 4: Supporting NHRI prevention and liaison functions with UNCTs and civil society in fragile settings and / or early-warning and prevention contexts including in the context of reprisals.

✔ Guidance for UN action in situations of reprisals against NHRIs drafted through consultative process

✔ Comparative analysis of various UN protocols on reprisals against human rights defenders completed

Participating Organization(s)		Implementing Partners
• Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: **UNDP and OHCHR**		• National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations: **Activity and context specific**

Programme/Project Cost (US$)		Programme Duration	
Total approved budget as per project document: **US$1,000,450**		Overall Duration (*21 months*)	

MPTF /JP Contribution[4]: • **UNDP: 749,000** • **OHCHR: 251,450**		Start Date[5] *(28.01.2021)*	
Agency Contribution • *N/A*		Original End Date[6] *(31.01.2022)*	
Government Contribution *(if applicable)* *N/A*		Actual End date[7] *(31.10.2022)* Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? **No**	
Other Contributions (donors) *(if applicable)* *N/A*		Expected Financial Closure date[8]: **31.10.2023**	
TOTAL: US $1,000,450			
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.		**Report Submitted By**	
Evaluation Completed ☐ Yes ☐ **No** Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* Evaluation Report - Attached ☐ Yes ☐ **No** Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*		Chelsea Shelton, Human Rights Programme Specialist, UNDP -chelsea.shelton@undp.org Sarah Rattray, Senior Advisor on Human Rights, UNDP - sarah.rattray@undp.org Maria Soledad Pazo, Senior Human Rights Officer, OHCHR - maria.pazo1@un.org Marc Titus Cebreros, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR- marc.cebreros@un.org	

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[4] The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see MPTF Office GATEWAY

[5] The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[6] As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

[7] If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see MPTF Office Closure Guidelines.

[8] Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the Certified Final Financial Statement and Report.

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in close cooperation with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), launched a partnership to support UN system-wide strategic engagement with human rights mechanisms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2021.

To support UN Member States put rights at the core of sustainable development in line with the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the partnership seeks to strengthen coherence between human rights and sustainable development systems and approaches at the country level and captures the needed know-how to advance human rights and sustainable development around the world.

With support from the UN Human Rights Mainstreaming (HRM) Fund, through the joint UNDP-OHCHR project entitled, *Enhanced Resident Coordinator (RC) and UN Country Team (UNCT) strategic engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other human rights mechanisms (global and regional) and with national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRFs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to achieve the SDGs,* this partnership piloted integrated support in eight countries in 2021-2022: <u>Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Jordan, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and Uruguay.</u>[9] A transparent process was undertaken to select the countries for integrated support, taking into account the limited amount of funding available, the timeline for implementation, and the need to ensure regional balance. The 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 Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes. Some of these country level programmes have also contributed to the realization of important milestones for gender equality and women's empowerment, including in Jordan and Sierra Leone. These programmes were implemented by UNDP and OHCHR in close coordination with the broader UNCTs to promote knowledge sharing and complementarity of efforts. The results of these programmes articulated throughout this final report demonstrate the impact of integrated human rights and SDG approaches and a high demand for more and longer-term support in this area.

In addition, OHCHR also supported engagement of UNCTs with NHRIs and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) on compiling human rights indicators and data, including in the SDGs in 12 countries: Albania, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, and Uganda. With support from the project, the number of countries that have formally established NHRI-NSO collaborative platforms doubled from six in 2020 to 12 in 2022.

Beyond providing country support, the UNDP-OHCHR project also focused on building expertise, codifying knowledge, and sharing resources on human rights and sustainable development systems integration. With support from the HRM Fund through this project, UNDP and OHCHR supported thought leadership in human rights and development policy in the following key areas in 2021 and 2022:
- Building a repository of good practices on how the UPR supports sustainable development through engagement across the UN system and in partnership with DCO, resulting in the launching and roll-out of a flagship publication, <u>UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development;</u>

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[9] This refers to country support being provided through indicator 1.2 and 3.2.b.

- Creating [guidance to support UN Member States to undertake VNR processes from a human rights perspective](), including a section on gender equality considerations and opportunities, within the auspices of the Call to Action;
- Developing draft guidance for UNCTs to support NHRIs facing acts of intimidation or reprisals for their mandated work to protect and promote human rights, alongside a comparative analysis of the various UN protocols on reprisals against human rights defenders;
- Undertaking a mapping of good practices of NHRIs and NSOs in operationalizing human rights indicators and human rights-based approach to data, with a repository of capacity building materials and data collection tools.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the UNDP-OHCHR project was to harness synergies across the efforts of the UN system to promote and protect human rights, and to progress towards the 2030 Agenda and to ensure UN systemwide strategic engagement with human rights systems and mechanisms to achieve the SDGs.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

The UNDP-OHCHR project on *Enhanced RC and UNCT strategic engagement with the UPR and other human rights mechanisms (global and regional) and with NMRFs and NHRIs to achieve the SDGs* is contributed to the following outcome/output level results:[10]

1) Increased awareness and capacity of UNCTs, governments and other stakeholders to follow-up on human rights recommendations and incorporate them into SDG-based national development processes, including by promoting human rights and SDG systems integration and creating synergies between NMRFs and SDG coordination bodies;
2) Support to the roll-out of the Practical Guidance on the UPR, including the development of integrated processes / platforms linking SDG and human rights at country level and the integration of human rights dimensions in VNR reporting and follow-up and gathering good practices of UN engagement with the UPR process for sustainable development outcomes and developing guidance for UN Member States on integrating human rights into VNR processes;
3) 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 Assessment (CCA) analysis and strategic engagement of NHRIs in VNRs and SDG-related processes;
4) Supported NHRI prevention and liaison functions with UNCTs and civil society in fragile settings and / or early-warning and prevention contexts including in the context of reprisals.

Through the achievement of these outputs, the project has played a key role in supporting the implementation of the Call to Action with several activities recognized as key priorities of the initiative.

As demonstrated in the results framework, the project achieved or partially achieved nearly all its indicator targets by the end of the implementation period (31 October 2022), with the modification of a few activities in coordination with the HRM Fund Secretariat/Steering Committee, due to changing priorities and contextual restrictions including related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through identifying savings, some additional interventions in line with the original project outputs were also identified as strategic priorities and were carried out in coordination with the HRM Fund Secretariat/Steering Committee.

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[10] Outcome/outputs were adjusted slightly from the project document to reflect the project's focus more clearly during implementation.

The HRM Fund's Gender Equality Marker was introduced when nearly all the activities of this joint UNDP-OHCHR project were completed. At the time of the second no-cost extension of the project in August of 2022, the joint UNDP-OHCHR project was self-assessed as Score 2 "meets minimum standards"[11] regarding the remaining activities under Output 3.2 a in particular. Following the completion of all activities under the joint project the UNDP-OHCHR project remains self-assessed as Score 2 "meets minimum standards."

i)   Narrative reporting on results:

Key results achieved (2021-2022):

✓ **Increased awareness and capacities to follow-up on human rights recommendations and incorporate them into SDG-based national development processes in Central Asia**. *(Indicator 1.1)*

To address system incoherence and promote synergies between human rights and SDG coordination bodies, 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 a stocktaking exercise that was supported by UNDP and OHCHR 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.

A number of practical recommendations were developed by participants during the consultation in order to further strengthen the integration of human rights into SDG implementation in their countries. Some of the key recommendations were to: 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, Botswana, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and Uruguay)** *(Indicator 1.2)*

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP and OHCHR supported national partners to identify entry points to improve reporting on the 2030 Agenda and human rights and to better link human rights obligations with SDGs implementation. In 2021, a gap analysis of human rights and sustainable development data collection and reporting was conducted in consultation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the NHRI and civil society organizations. A study tour was also organized for 13

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[11] According to the HRM's Gender Equality Marker Guidance Note, Score 2 is described as "Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) is articulated in the outcome, or GEWE is visibly mainstreamed across all output areas in line with SDG priorities including SDG 5, or one program output specifically targets gender equality in line with SDG priorities including SDG 5. The indicative budget for GEWE accounts for over 25% to 70% of the total proposal budget."

representatives of the SDG Council, the body entrusted to coordinate and monitor implementation of the SDGs, and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees to travel to Geneva to learn about good practices in monitoring and reporting on human rights and the SDGs and in connecting reporting and implementation of UPR recommendations with the SDGs. Integrated capacity building workshops on human rights and SDG data collection and reporting were also organized in December 2021 and January 2022 in Bosnia and Herzegovina which brought together 16 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. The recommendations include: 1) Designing and establishing an adequate, centralized information system for human rights reporting and management; 2) Developing strategic partnerships and providing expert support to implement the Human Rights Reporting Methodology; 3) Improving SDG reports with a human rights perspective.

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. In addition, an important partnership has been 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 indicators of progress 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.

<div align="center">BOTSWANA</div>

To raise awareness and understanding of the connections between human rights and the SDGs in Botswana, UNDP and OHCHR[12] supported the development of an e-learning course on human rights and the SDGs for national partners and UN staff in 2022 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, the Government of Botswana, the private sector, and civil society), the institutional arrangements, and key issues in Botswana.

> 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. The course provides a stable foundation regarding the basics of human rights law and aptly informs students what it is and how it is visible and applicable in our everyday lives. The course is well structured and covers the topics clearly well. The explanations are clear, the modules are short which is good to improve concentration of learners."*

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[12] While there is no OHCHR representation in Botswana, UNDP worked closely with the OHCHR representative in South Africa covering Botswana throughout the design and implementation of the project.

The course was developed in close coordination with the National Coordinating 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.

The course will be formally launched in the summer of 2023. The intention is that the course will lead to strengthened institutional arrangements to support the realization of human rights and the achievement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Botswana. Staff of the newly established National Planning Commission in particular will benefit from the course.

To improve coordination between civil society and the government on reporting on the SDGs and human rights, UNDP and OHCHR also supported the Botswana Council of Non-governmental Organisations 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 also envisioned that the portal will be linked with the government-led national human rights recommendations tracking database that is currently being established.

Lastly, UNDP and OHCHR also collaborated with the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) to support the translation of the latest UPR and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women recommendations into Setswana to ensure that rights-holders are aware of the commitments made by the Government of Botswana.

PAKISTAN

Building on previous UNDP support to the Government of Pakistan, UNDP and OHCHR[13] helped to establish a digital platform, the Human Rights Information Management System, in 2021 to strengthen harmonization of data collection and reporting on human rights and the SDGs. The Human Rights Information Management System is operable across all provinces and at the federal level and has increased efficiency, accuracy, and cross-fertilization of knowledge and approaches on human rights and sustainable development.

The Human Rights Information Management System, enables human rights departments in all provinces as well as the Federal Ministry of Human Rights to collect, collate and store human rights information in order to meet Pakistan's national and international human rights reporting commitments including but not limited to the UPR, treaty body reporting, and SDG reporting. The system has also developed linkages with the SDG data platform established at the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives.

Furthermore, UNDP and OHCHR supported the Ministry of Human Rights in the development of a National Strategic Framework for Coherence and Harmonization of Human Rights Data Collection

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[13] While there is no OHCHR representation in Pakistan, UNDP worked closely with the OHCHR representative in Geneva covering Pakistan throughout the design and implementation of the project.

and Reporting Mechanisms through a highly consultative process in 2021. The Strategic Framework sets out the overall vision of policy coherence between human rights and sustainable development across the decentralized governments in Pakistan to accompany the use of the new Human Rights and Information Management System. Following its development, UNDP and OHCHR supported the rollout and implementation of the National Strategic Framework on Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms 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 organisations represented by over 200 participants in 2022. These efforts 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 NHRIs and civil society in the implementation of the National Strategic Framework.

The National Commission for Human Rights 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. UNDP and OHCHR supported the National Commission for Human Rights 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 National Commission for Human Rights to perform its functions in reviewing the state of human rights in Pakistan was improved. UNDP and OHCHR accompanied the commission in the development of its report for the fourth cycle of the UPR in July 2022 and trained staff of the commission on the process in order to complete future reports.

In addition, UNDP and OHCHR supported the UNCT in Pakistan to submit their report for the 4th cycle of the UPR in July 2022. Extensive civil society consultations were conducted to discuss key human rights concerns, provide recommendations for the UNCT UPR submission, and share relevant resources. A presentation of the submission was also provided to the Embassies and donor community in May 2022.

Lastly, UNDP and OHCHR supported the Federal Ministry of Human Rights to develop Terms of Reference for the 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, UNDP and OHCHR supported national institutions to develop (in 2021) and launch (in April 2022) an Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy for the UPR, SDGs, and the Medium-Term National Development Plan. 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 National Reporting Mechanism.

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.

In addition, UNDP and OHCHR supported the reactivation and strengthening of the National Reporting Mechanism in 2021, including through the design of a Standard Operating Procedures and establishment of a Secretariat within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Secretariat is responsible for facilitation of the administration, coordination and implementation of the functions of the National Reporting Mechanism. The Standard Operating Procedures clarify the various roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the national reporting system for enhanced coordination. The Standard Operating Procedures also articulate the relationships between the recommendations and decisions emanating from the international mechanisms and the SDGs, which are thematically clustered to support easy reference, tracking and data collection.

In 2021, progress in implementation of key recommendations tracked by the National Reporting Mechanism was evident, including through the abolishment of the death penalty, the development of the National Strategy for Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and the review of the Child Rights Act 2007 among others. Progress continued in 2022 including through the passing of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act. Moreover, strong collaboration between the UN system and national partners in support of the implementation of the Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy for the UPR, SDGs, and Medium-Term National Development Plan and the functioning of the National Reporting Mechanism has been sustained.

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 strengthened through a series of initiatives supported by UNDP and OHCHR in 2021 and 2022.

Most notably, Tunisia's first SDG 16 Progress Report was developed and is expected to be launched in 2023. To inform the SDG 16 progress report, a survey tool on SDG 16 developed by UNDP, OHCHR, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was piloted in collaboration with the National Statistics Institute at the governorate level in Medenine in September 2021 to provide localized data on the perception of human rights, fundamental freedoms, security and local governance that was previously not available. This survey focused on 10 of the current SDG 16 global indicators on governance, violence, justice, discrimination, corruption, human trafficking and decision making on a national level. Each of the SDG 16 targets were also mapped against relevant human rights recommendations received through the UPR process. More than 500 people responded to the survey, providing key insights into public perception on these topics.

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 SDG 16. Around 15 representatives of civil society in Medenine benefited from a training session held in January 2022 on how to develop a spotlight report. These civil society groups then worked together to conduct a perception survey, using the survey tool developed by UNDP, OHCHR, and UNODC to inform the SDG 16 Spotlight Report. The SDG 16 Spotlight Report was finalized in September 2022 and some of the survey findings utilized to inform the report were socialized with local stakeholders through a 'Theatre of Trust' performance in June 2022.

> *Key finding from the SDG 16 Spotlight Report: "88% of citizens in the Governorate of Medenine 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 SDG 16 Spotlight Report, UNDP and OHCHR supported the organization of a policy dialogue between public authorities and civil society in March 2022. Through this dialogue, policy briefs on the various themes and targets of SDG 16 were developed, providing concrete recommendations to advance implementation of SDG 16 in Medenine. 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 (2023-2025) adopted by the Government of Tunisia.

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, UNDP and OHCHR supported national partners in Uruguay to strengthen the alignment of the Uruguay System for Monitoring Recommendations 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 organized in February 2022 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 Planning and Budget and the Directorate of Management and Evaluation 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 the Uruguay System for Monitoring Recommendations (system) with the 2030 Agenda.

A key component of the agreed action plan was providing capacity building opportunities for focal points of the Uruguay System for Monitoring Recommendations. In April 2022, UNDP and OHCHR supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation of the Presidency of the Republic to organize a three-day training on human rights and SDG commitments and reporting processes for over 100 civil servants, including the system 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 and 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.

UNDP and OHCHR also organized two South-South cooperation exchanges in May 2022 between Uruguay and Argentina on innovative restorative justice and mediation approaches to support Uruguay's efforts to implement their UPR recommendations and make progress on SDG 16. 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 centres 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, including between "La Tablada" Memory Site Commission, Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana, Catholic University of Uruguay, Mizangas, El Abrojo, Nada Crece a la Sombra, Gurises Unidos, Vida y Educación, and Red de Economía Humana.

✓ **Increased understanding and documentation of how UPR processes advance sustainable development** *(Indicator 2.1)*

To support the roll-out of the United Nations Practical Guidance on the UPR, UNDP, OHCHR, and DCO gathered over 60 experiences from across the UN system[14] on how the UPR process and recommendations, which advance the promotion and protection of human rights, have had an impact on sustainable development at the country level. Eighteen of these examples were selected and curated into a flagship publication, 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 examples gathered were also uploaded to an online living repository hosted by DCO.

Key trends in UN engagement in the UPR process were also identified. These included demonstrating that UPR recommendations are increasingly 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 demonstrated that UNCTs and UN entities are supporting governments, parliaments, NHRIs as well as civil society in their engagement with the UPR process. Challenges and recommendations for further engagement with the UPR process for sustainable development outcomes and are also highlighted.

The repository and publication have been disseminated and rolled out widely, including through UNDP, OHCHR, and DCO directly to UNCTs, through webinars and learning events. These include a UNDP community of practice event for staff (April 2022), two events organized by UN Member States on the UPR: the 6th Francophone Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review (September 2022 in Geneva) and at the 15th Anniversary of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance

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[14] Over 60 experiences were received including from the following countries: Angola, Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Egypt, Fiji, Jordan, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Libya, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, North Macedonia, Libya, Iraq, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Vietnam, Venezuela, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

in the implementation of the UPR event on Supporting States, Realizing Rights: the 4th cycle of the UPR and (November 2022 in New York). The publication was also mentioned as a key tool in a letter (November 2022) sent by the President of the Human Rights Council to UN Member States in view of the 4th cycle of the UPR. The publication is currently being translated into French and Spanish and will be available online in those additional languages in 2023.

✓ **Increased knowledge and awareness of the human rights dimensions of VNR processes** *(Additional activity)*

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 International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) developed the [Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews Operational Common Approach Guidance Note](#) to support UN 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 (GANHRI), the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Transparency Accountability and Participation for the 2030 Agenda Network.

The guidance supports UN 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 reiterated the connections with human rights.

This guidance provides an overview of the human rights system and the complementarity and entry points that exist in VNR processes. It explains what existing reports and complementary reporting requirements and data are likely to exist, and how to coordinate between government bodies working on human rights and those working on development. This guidance elaborates on the importance of human rights-based approaches to leaving no one behind, collection and analysis of data, meaningful participation of stakeholders and how to engage human rights actors in VNR preparation and follow-up. The guidance also includes a specific section on gender equality considerations and opportunities. Suggestions on how and where attention to human rights can strengthen VNR processes and the different elements to consider are included. These suggestions are drawn from a review of VNRs submitted by UN Member States to date and illustrative examples of these points are included, although this is not intended to be exhaustive. The guidance suggests practical ways to integrate human rights into VNR processes step-by-step and culminates in an eight-step checklist for practitioners with corresponding related resources and tools.

The guidance was launched during a [VNR Lab](#) at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022 and was further disseminated through an [Integrated Policy and Practitioners Network Knowledge Café](#) in September 2022. The guidance is currently being translated into French and Spanish and will be available online in these additional languages in 2023.

✓ **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 CCA analysis.** *(Indicator 3.1)*

OHCHR in coordination with RCOs and UNCTs facilitated the signing of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between NHRIs and NSOs in Albania, Ghana, 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. Three other MOUs are in advanced stages of discussion in Colombia, Egypt, and Peru. In support of these outcomes, webinars and in-person workshops on the human rights-based approach 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.

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 three-day workshop was organized in December 2022 that launched a national process for contextualizing human rights and SDG indicators on health. 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 was implemented, as part of the MOU implementation, in Albania. Closely coordinating with the RCO, the UNFPA, and OHCHR, Albania's statistical office and NHRI identified human rights-related official statistics.

In Jordan, OHCHR worked with the Department of Statistics, the NHRI, Ministry of Planning, several UN agencies (UNDP, UN Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 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 the [Jordan Development Portal](). Technical support was also provided to contextualize the Human Rights Marker in UNINFO for UNCT Jordan's new Joint Work Plan. UNCT Jordan's slide deck on the Human Rights Marker, developed by the Senior Human Rights Adviser, has proven handy in terms of improving the overall quality of the Joint Work Plan. It has also been adapted for use in other contexts such as Brazil and the Pacific Multi-Country Offices in relation to their country implementation plans.

Egypt's National Human Rights Commission co-organized with OHCHR a workshop in October 2022 aimed at establishing a stronger institutional collaboration with the Central Agency for Planning, Mobilization and Statistics. 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 RCO and funding from The Netherlands and the European Union. A similar process was initiated by OHCHR 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 project, OHCHR and the Senior Human Rights Adviser in Nigeria facilitated the development of a human rights-based approach to data partnership framework between the National Bureau of Statistics, SDGs Coordination Office, and the National Commission on Human Rights. As described by the Chief Executive Officer of the commission, 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 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (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 the 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 UNSDCFs[15] in the Caribbean (through the OHCHR Senior Human Rights Adviser to the UN Multi-Country Office in Barbados), Pacific island countries (covered by the Multi-Country Offices based in Fiji and Samoa), Rwanda (through the RCO Senior Human Rights Adviser), Ethiopia (through the OHCHR Regional Office for East Africa), Tunisia (through the OHCHR Country Office), Moldova (through the OHCHR Country Office), Bangladesh (through the RCO Senior Human Rights Adviser), Peru (through the RCO Human Rights Adviser), Zimbabwe (through the OHCHR Africa Branch), Albania (through the OHCHR Europe and Central Asia Branch and the RCO), and Tanzania (through the OHCHR Africa Branch).
- A mapping of good practices of NHRIs and NSOs in operationalizing human rights indicators and the human rights-based approach to data, 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 project contributed to the strengthening of States' and UNCTs' capabilities in applying 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,

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[15] These SDCFs 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.

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 such as:

- **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 the National Bureau of Statistics of Kenya, OHCHR facilitated the contextualization of demographic questions in the SDG 16 Survey (jointly developed by OHCHR, UNDP, and UNODC), 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. When they are 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 NSOs 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 from OHCHR, through this project, 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 (State of Palestine)** – In collaboration with OHCHR's office, a hybrid workshop was conducted under this project, with participants from the Human Rights Commission, Central Bureau of Statistics, and other ministries in order to identify and set monitoring targets for Child Rights Convention indicators. The data that can be generated through this tool will inform Palestine's reporting to human rights mechanisms.
- **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. Mindful of the challenges faced by Moldova in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, they focused on right to health indicators. Through the project, 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 and partly because the consultant contracted under the project has recently (March 2023) been appointed Minister of Labour and Social Security.

At least 20 countries were provided critical methodological and technical advice on mainstreaming the application of human rights and SDG indicators, in UN CCAs and UNSDCFs. 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. In addition, human rights indicators continue to inform the UN's joint human rights program in the Philippines. Through the project, the notion that data and statistics are crucial and valuable elements of rights-based development programming is stronger than ever.

✓ **<u>Enhanced engagement of NHRIs in VNR processes in two countries</u>** *(Indicator 3.2)*

<center>JORDAN</center>

Recognizing the potential of reporting processes to influence development outcomes, UNDP and OHCHR supported **Jordan** 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 played a key role in the development of the report by chairing the Task Force on SDG 16 and participating in several other SDG working groups promoting

the use of human rights data and approaches throughout the VNR process. The National Center for Human Rights 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 the UN Human Settlements Programme and the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia.

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 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. It is expected that a new SDG roadmap will be developed following the 2022 VNR presentation to prioritize goals and targets to be achieved in the next 8 years and that the coordination structures established for the VNR reporting process will be maintained to accompany the roadmap implementation.

RWANDA

To better inform national development planning in **Rwanda**, UNDP and OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice, the NHRI, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Office of the Prime Minister, the National Institute of Statistics, and other public institutions and civil society members of the Treaty Body Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of the 2019 VNR and 2020 UPR recommendations. The review was completed in June 2022 and 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. Some of the recommendations include improving coordination and collaboration between the Treaty Body Reporting Task Force and SDG Task Force, harmonizing reporting processes where possible, and strengthening partnerships for implementation and follow-up.

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 human rights-based approach amongst the participants.

To further understand opportunities and obstacles related to peace, justice, and inclusion in Rwanda, UNDP and OHCHR in partnership with the Rwanda Governance Board also supported an assessment of the status of domestication of SDG 16 in Rwanda. 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 was completed in June 2022 and found that despite the strong alignment between SDG

16 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 SDG 16 assessment will be utilized to inform the midterm review of the national development plan, the next UNSDCF, 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.

✓ **Strengthened coordination and collaboration amongst UN actors to support NHRIs under threat** *(Indicator 4.1)*

To enhance UN action in situations where NHRIs are facing reprisals for their work to protect and promote human rights, UNDP, OHCHR, DCO, and GANHRI developed draft guidance for UNCTs in 2022. This draft guidance builds upon an existing (but out of date) protocol amongst the TriPartite Partnership to Support National Human Rights Institutions which consists of UNDP, OHCHR and GANHRI. The draft guidance aims to provide UNCTs with clearer guidance on how to support NHRIs facing acts of intimidation or reprisals and was developed through a consultative process with relevant partners, NHRIs, and their networks in the context of current roles and responsibilities in the UN system (post 2019 UN reform).

To inform this process and contribute to broader UN coherence on responses to human rights defenders facing acts of intimidation and reprisals, and upon the request of DCO, a comparative analysis of the various UN protocols on reprisals against human rights defenders was completed in 2022. *(Additional activity)*

The comparative analysis identifies the similarities and differences in approaches with the aim of building UN coherence on supporting human rights defenders who are facing intimidation and / or reprisals more generally, whilst highlighting the nuances needed for specific groups. This is also an area of priority under the Call to Action. Moving forward, the comparative analysis will support broader understanding of the approaches in place to address reprisals against human rights defenders in specific areas and the guidance to support NHRIs will be subsequently finalized in coordination with DCO and considering the broader frameworks to address reprisals in place.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment: *(January 2021-October 2022)*

	Achieved Indicator Targets	**Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)**	**Source of Verification**
Outcome/Output 1[16] Increased awareness and capacity of UNCTs, governments and other stakeholders to follow-up on human rights recommendations and incorporate them into SDG-based national development processes, including by promoting human rights and SDG systems integration and creating synergies between NMRFs and SDG coordination bodies. **Indicators with targets:** 1.1 2 Regional consultations SDG-UPR/human rights mechanisms on to foster the sharing of good practices and enhance UNCTs' capacities to support human rights-based SDGs implementation processes through CCAs and UNSDCFs. 1.2 Integrated country support on Human Rights and SDG planning / platforms in 5-7 countries 1.3 1 South-South and triangular knowledge sharing event capturing experience in integrated approaches.	1.1 Partially achieved (Subregional consultations in Central Asia) 1.2 Achieved (Integrated support provided in 6 countries) 1.3 Achieved (Knowledge sharing events held to support use of knowledge products developed under Output 2 and South-South exchanges organized between Uruguay and Argentina) 1.4 Deferred	1.1. Activities impacted by crises in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Limitations on gatherings due to COVID-19 pandemic and only 1 subregion expressed interest in holding consultations. 1.4 Meetings deferred due to COVID-19 restrictions.	UN records Reporting of activities and results

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[16] Outcome/outputs are adjusted slightly from the project document to reflect the project's focus more clearly during implementation. Indicators and targets are as outlined in the Project Document to report on actual achievements against planned targets.

1.4 Support on SDG-human rights linkages in the five regional learning and advocacy meetings on NMRFs mandated by the Human Rights Council. **Baselines = 0 for all indicators**			
Outcome/Output 2 Support to the roll-out of the Practical Guidance on the UPR, including the development of integrated processes / platforms linking SDG and human rights at country level and the integration of human rights dimensions in VNR reporting and follow-up and gathering good practices of UN engagement with the UPR process for sustainable development outcomes and developing guidance for UN Member States on integrating human rights into VNR processes. **Indicators with targets:** 2.1 Development of repository of good practices to support the UPR Practical Guidance roll out. **Baseline = 0**	2.1 Achieved. (UPR- SDGs publication and online repository; Human Rights and VNRs Guidance)	2.1 Due to the overwhelming response, a publication was developed by curating 18 examples and an online repository was created to house all 62 of the submissions. An additional activity to develop guidance on human rights integration in VNR processes was also identified as a priority and carried out. French and Spanish versions of both publications are forthcoming.	UPR-SDGs Publication and repository Human Rights and VNR Guidance
Outcome/Output 3			

Increased support to NHRI's efforts towards the 2030 Agenda, including:
 	
  A) Improved availability of data for UNCTs and governments to support efforts to Leave No One Behind and for CCA analysis.
  B) Strategic engagement of NHRIs in VNRs and SDG-related processes.
 	
Indicators with targets:
3.1 Provision of dedicated technical support to NHRIs, NSOs, and UNCTs; 4/5 country workshops and related meetings leading to the signing of MOUs between NHRIs and NSOs and/or establishment of similar collaborative platforms for data collection and reporting; and compilation of relevant SDG/human rights indicators at country level.
 	
3.2 Support to 5-7 NHRIs to 2021 VNR reporting countries to support a human rights perspective in VNRs including at the HLPF.
 	
3.1 Baseline = 6 MOUs
All other indicators = 0
	3.1. Achieved. (6 MOUs, 3 online country workshops, 7 webinars completed with 3 additional MOUs in progress)
	
	3.2 Partially Achieved. (Support provided to 2 NHRIs)
		3.2 Project coordinating committee determined funds for this activity were too limited to reach more than 2 NHRIs with in country support.	Reporting of activities and results

Outcome/Output 4 Supporting NHRI prevention and liaison functions with UNCTs and civil society in fragile settings and / or early-warning and prevention contexts including in the context of reprisals.	4.1 Partially Achieved. (Draft guidance and comparative review completed)	4.1 An additional activity to conduct a comparative review of the various UN protocols to support human rights defenders under threat was identified as a priority and carried out. The lessons learned review of NHRIs role in prevention was deferred and	Draft guidance Comparative review document

Indicators: 4.1 Update of protocol of reprisals against NHRIs for UNCTs; including an online learning event on the situation of NHRIs under threat for UNCTs. Lessons learned review of NHRIs role in prevention, early warning and linkages to work of UNCTs. **Baseline = 0**		subsequently replaced with the guidance on human rights integration in VNR processed. The learning event was deferred due to the need to sequence efforts.

iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

As outlined throughout the report, the integrated approach taken through the UNDP-OHCHR joint project yielded impactful development and human rights results at global, regional, and country levels. The project demonstrated the significant potential of human rights mechanisms to be problem-solving tools for development challenges and how they offer important mechanisms, processes, and approaches, including in relation to data to measure progress on the SDGs. 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 and towards outcomes that support both the realization of human rights and the SDGs.

The project 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 project has also played a key role in supporting the implementation of the Call to Action with several activities recognized as key priorities and implemented through various interagency working groups and UNCT networks. In addition, the project expanded the coordinated work on human rights in two countries where there is no OHCHR presence.

In addition, the project initiated, facilitated, and strengthened cross-sector partnerships for human rights and sustainable development that are expected to continue. Civil society, think tanks, academia, and NHRIs played a key role in the project's success alongside governmental and UN partners.

Implementation of the project overall went very smoothly. The largest challenge was the high demand for support, which was not able to be met due to limited funds. A few minor adjustments were made to planned activities in the agreement due to changing priorities and sequencing needs as well as a reformulation of some activities needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two short no-cost project extensions were also requested to provide sufficient time to fully implement the project, due to primarily the fluidity of some national contexts. DCO also requested the completion of an additional complementary activity that the partners were pleased to be able to accommodate due to savings identified. The extensions and project adjustments were granted by the HRM Fund and the flexibility of the fund was appreciated by all involved.

This project has reinforced the importance of adaptive and flexible project management when working within complex systems. It was also evident through this project that joint planning and implementation enhanced the quality of the assistance provided and subsequently the results achieved, but it was also very resource intensive. In the future, a longer time period of implementation should be built into the project to account for joint conceptual development, country selection, and implementation and dedicated resources should be included for project coordination at the various levels. In addition, future joint projects should seek to provide a large enough envelope of support to each context in order to incentivize collaboration between partners involved in implementation and foster comprehensive programming rather than ad hoc activities. Moreover, it should be noted that systems level change, which the project sought to influence, requires sustained investment. Great potential exists to scale up the good practices and export knowledge and expertise derived from the approaches and results achieved in this project. The project was supported through resources from the UNDP Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development.

This project has generated strong demand for more and longer-term support on human rights and SDG integration. Recognizing that the integrated approach piloted by this project is essential for ensuring rights-based and risk-informed development in order to leave no one behind in the long-term, additional resources will

be sought to strengthen coherence between human rights and SDG systems and the catalytic impact of human rights mechanisms in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Partners aim to build on the results achieved and lessons learned from this project to support the full potential of human rights and the human rights mechanisms to sustain human rights-based development, including by addressing pressing social and economic challenges and inequality, as captured in the Call to Action and Our Common Agenda.

iv) A Specific Story (Optional)

PAKISTAN
Change story (2021)

Problem / Challenge faced:

Pakistan faces several challenges to the full and effective implementation of the SDGs. Although the country has established a robust set of policies and aims to nationalize the SDGs, Pakistan has consistently fallen short in implementation of SDG plans. Coordination, capacity and digital gaps have hindered the collection of data to monitor SDG implementation against nationalized targets, exacerbated by the government's at-times-siloed approach to the SDGs. A recurring theme in Pakistan's UPR and treaty body recommendations is the lack of digital capacity, institutional competency, and resources, aggravated by resistance to change non-digital reporting culture, all of which inhibit its capacity to effectively monitor human rights treaties. Additionally, significant population growth, paired with human rights and social inclusion barriers faced by vulnerable or marginalized segments of society (including women, ethnic, religious and gender minorities, persons with disabilities, refugees etc.), have challenged Pakistan's realization of the SDG's inclusive vision of leaving no one behind.

Programme Interventions:

Building on previous UNDP support to the Government of Pakistan, UNDP and OHCHR joint technical assistance in 2021 helped to overcome these challenges by strengthening inter-governmental coordination, enhancing technical capacities, bridging the digital gap, and improving human rights data collection and reporting mechanisms. This joint assistance contributed to the establishment of a digital platform for human rights data collection and reporting. This digital platform, known as the Human Rights Information Management System, enables Human Rights Departments in all provinces as well as the Federal Ministry of Human Rights to collect, collate and store human rights information in order to meet Pakistan's national and international human rights reporting commitments including but not limited to UPR, Treaty Body reporting, and SDGs reporting. Moreover, digital linkages were established between these human rights data platforms at the federal and provincial levels to capacitate and institutionalize swift data flow among relevant stakeholders. Digital interfaces of the Human Rights Information Management System at the Federal Ministry of Human Rights have been established with the Human Rights Information Management System portals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan. The system has also developed linkages with the SDGs data platform established at the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives.

Furthermore, a National Strategic Framework for Coherence and Harmonization of Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms was developed by the Ministry of Human Rights. This key policy framework includes a detailed implementation plan as well as a comprehensive communication strategy to operationalize the coherence and harmonization of key national human rights data collection and reporting

mechanisms. This is the product of a long consultative process in which the Ministry of Human Rights carried out stakeholder engagement with federal ministries, provincial line-departments, provincial and federal human rights institutions, and civil society representatives from across Pakistan. Deliberations were based on identifying system leverages, highlighting key challenges, and affirming consensus on the way-forward to support the harmonization of national human rights data collection and reporting mechanisms. A significant component of these consultations were capacity building workshops for federal and provincial stakeholders. Four capacity building workshops on Harmonizing Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting were held where more than 50 provincial line departments, human rights institutions from each province and at the federal level; and over 100 civil society representatives from all provinces and from the federal capital, participated. The workshops covered topics related to the NMRF, National Action Plan on Human Rights, SDG reporting on Human Rights, the Human Rights Information Management System and UPR reporting for line departments. These workshops included group activities where various ministries, provincial line departments and civil society organizations representatives identified key markers for strategic and effective coordination amongst federal and provincial level stakeholders to propose ways of strengthening human rights data collection and the sustainability and coherence of reporting mechanisms.

Result:

In addition to the tangible milestones described above, this project significantly strengthened collaboration across government entities, national and provincial human rights institutions, and civil society organizations working on human rights and the SDGs which will have long-term impact. For example, the consultative workshops provided a space for civil society members to voice their grievances regarding government policies. In provinces like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the security situation is particularly volatile and the divide between government and the civil society is greater (as compared to other provinces), these deliberations provided the space for much-needed dialogue between the two key stakeholders on human rights concerns. These consultative workshops also provided the opportunity for various provincial departments to engage on the issues of human rights violations and strategies to effectively coordinate to improve the human rights situation in the country. Deliberation between these groups led to the consensus that while digital technology was a necessary tool to support the provision and protection of human rights, ultimate change in society pivoted on grass-root behavioral change. It was agreed that grass-root sensitization on key human rights issues is central to the success of a human rights-based mandate and that local advocacy efforts will be prioritized.

The following quotes from the workshops reinforce the value of cross-sector and interagency collaboration in supporting human rights and SDG integration:

1. '*The success of harmonization of human rights data collection mechanisms pivots upon inclusivity and participation from all stakeholders, therefore, we are convinced that active engagement with multiple stakeholders including the civil society members is necessary.*' Mr. Aziz Iqbal, Deputy Director, Ministry of Human Rights
2. '*The key role of civil society in the implementation process of the recommended National Strategic Framework on Coherence of Human Rights Data Mechanisms, is undeniable, they not only support us in mass sensitization on human rights issues, but we benefit from their active linkages within the community.*' Ms. Sabira Islam Ombudsperson Balochistan for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace'

Photos:

Image 1: Representatives of Federal Line Departments participating in group discussion during the Federal Consultation in Islamabad on Harmonization of National Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms.

Image 2: Representatives of provincial departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, participating in capacity building workshop on global and national human rights reporting systems.

Image 3: Representatives of civil society organizations during the civil society engagement session on Harmonization of National Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms in Lahore, Punjab.

Lessons Learned:

In addition to the importance of cross-sector and interagency collaboration amongst national partners in Pakistan, the collaboration between UN agencies was also crucial to the project's success. While there is no

OHCHR representation in Pakistan, UNDP was able to collaborate closely with the OHCHR representative in Geneva covering Pakistan to ensure OHCHR engagement, including on the human rights-based approach to data and strengthening systems for human rights reporting. Key to this success was the rich experience in technical cooperation on human rights interventions UNDP and OHCHR had previously in-country. The UNCT Human Rights Taskforce was also engaged in this project. UNDP as secretary for the Task Force was able to ensure complementarity with the rights-based work supporting the SDGs of other UN agencies represented in Pakistan.

The timing of this integrated support was critical to its success. Efforts to harmonize human rights and SDG reporting processes in Pakistan were initiated years prior, but with the injection of this catalytic support in 2021, concrete results were realized.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

In January 2022, the project received a three-month project no-cost extension to provide more time to complete country level programming due to differing factors, and subsequently, the knowledge sharing aspects of the project in order to showcase concrete results. In addition, a change in focus of a knowledge product was also approved. (The lessons learned on NHRIs in prevention was replaced with the guidance on human rights integration in VNR processes). A second extension until 31 October 2022 was granted by the HRM Fund Steering Committee to complete the activities under Output 3A at the request of national stakeholders and to provide an opportunity for country level activities under Output 3B to be finalized. In addition, this extension enabled the use of some identified project savings for the translation of the UPR and VNR publications.

VI. Acronyms

CCA: Common Country Assessment
COVID-19: Coronavirus Disease of 2019
DCO: UN Development Coordination Office
GANHRI: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GEWE: Gender equality and women's empowerment
HLPF: High-level Political Forum
HRM: Human Rights Mainstreaming
ILO: International Labour Organization
MOU: Memoranda of Understanding
NHRIs: National human rights institutions
NMRF: national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up
NSOs: National Statistical Offices
OHCHR: United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
RC: Resident Coordinator
RCO: Resident Coordinator Offices
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN: United Nations
UNCT: UN Country Team
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSDCF: UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR: Universal Periodic Review
VNR: Voluntary National Review

Annex I. List of resources developed with project support

Global
- [UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development](#) (781 UNDP page views as of 12 May 2023)
- [Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews Guidance Note](#) (1,743 UNDP page views as of 12 May 2023)
- Draft guidance for UNCTs to support NHRIs facing acts of intimidation or reprisals for their mandated work to protect and promote human rights (Internal) (attached)
- Comparative analysis of the various UN protocols on reprisals against human rights defenders (Internal) (attached)

Regional
- Mapping of Integrating Human Rights into the SDG Planning & Reporting Processes in Central Asian States (attached)

Country
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Gap analysis of human rights and sustainable development data collection and reporting (attached)
- **Botswana:** [E-learning course](#) on human rights and the SDGs; Botswana Council of Non-governmental Organisations [Civil Society Portal](#)
- **Jordan:** [2022 Voluntary National Review Report; Jordan Development Portal](#)
- **Moldova:** Illustrative table of country indicators on the right to health and methodological guidance note on contextualizing human rights indicators (attached)
- **Pakistan:** Human Rights Information Management System (Screenshot below); the National Strategic Framework for Coherence and Harmonization of Human Rights Data Collection and Reporting Mechanisms (attached); Terms of Reference for the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up Secretariat (attached); Report of the UNCT for the 4th cycle of the UPR in July 2022 (attached); Workplan for the National Commission for Human Rights; Report of the commission for the 4th cycle of the UPR in July 2022
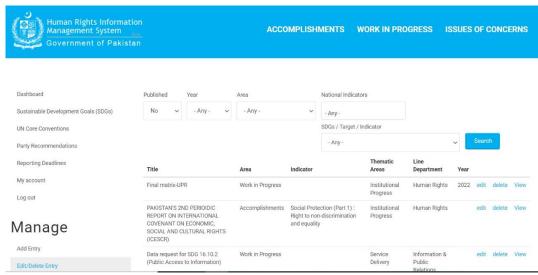
Figure: Screenshot of the Human Rights Information Management System, including reports on the UPR, the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, & SDG 16 indicating progress, indicators, thematic areas and the department where the data is collected from.

- **Rwanda:** Comprehensive review of the 2019 VNR and 2020 UPR recommendations; assessment of the status of domestication of SDG 16.
- **Sierra Leone:** Integrated Implementation and Reporting Strategy for the UPR, SDGs, and the Medium-Term National Development Plan (attached); UPR action plan (attached); Standard Operating Procedures for Secretariat of the National Reporting Mechanism
- **Tunisia:** SDG 16 Progress Report (draft); Spotlight Report on the status of SDG 16
- **Uruguay:** Action plan to improve the management and alignment of the Uruguay System for Monitoring Recommendations with the 2030 Agenda; Three research reports on public opinion and perceptions about justice and human rights;