

Investing in *human rights* *delivers on the SDGs*

**Consolidated
Annual
Narrative
Report
of the
Human
Rights
Mainstreaming
Fund
2023**



#HUMANRIGHTS4SDG



**Human Rights
Mainstreaming
Fund**



**United Nations
MPTF Office**

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

1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Bureau of Management Services

United Nations Development Programme

GATEWAY:

<https://mptf.undp.org>

This annual report on the activities implemented under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund (the HRM Fund) is submitted to donors by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the HRM Fund in fulfilment of the reporting provisions of the Standard Administrative Arrangement. The information presented in this Progress Report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023. This report is consolidated based on information contained in the individual programme narrative reports and financial information provided by the HRM Fund Secretariat and Participating UN Organizations.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights



United Nations Development Programme



United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization



UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

United Nations System Staff College



United Nations Population Fund



United Nations Children's Fund



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women



International Labour Organisation

CONTRIBUTORS



DENMARK, Government of



FINLAND, Government of



GERMANY, Government of



IRISH AID



NORWAY, Government of



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04  **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

05  **SDG ACHIEVEMENTS**

16  **ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING FUND**

62  **OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE**

64  **CONCLUSION**

66  **ANNEXES**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



“Human rights – political, civil, economic, social and cultural – are the key to solving many of the world’s interlinked problems.” -António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, General Assembly, 19 September 2023

In 2023, as Member States, the United Nations (UN) and partners marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stocktaking on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) showed that only 15% of the targets are on track, and some have reversed. These alarming trends were driven by multiple, intersecting crises including impunity for human rights violations, economic choices and sovereign debt, new and intensifying conflicts, increasing impacts of climate and environment-related emergencies, skyrocketing inequalities and shrinking civic space. To support governments to address these daunting challenges and implement the transformational, whole

of society responses required by the 2030 Agenda, the UN system must work together, drawing on its foundation of international human rights and the respective strengths of its entities and partners.

The Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund (the HRM Fund) supports the UN development system (UNDS) to respond to the call by Member States for UNDS entities to assist countries in their efforts to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments, and to help to operationalize the 2030 Agenda's pledge to leave no one behind (LNOB). Leveraging the opportunities presented by the UNDS repositioning, the HRM Fund enables UN resident coordinators (RCs) and UN country teams (UNCTs) to advance the values of the UN Charter and to ensure that human rights are at the heart of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through coherent, system-wide policies and coordinated interagency action. Building on the achievements of the past 12 years of the HRM Fund's operations, and leveraging the vision of the UN Secretary-General's [Call to Action for Human Rights](#) and [Our Common Agenda](#), the HRM Fund provided critical support in 2023 to key initiatives that deepened the ability of the UNDS staff at country level to support national development partners in their efforts to implement people-centered, gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches to development issues.

The HRM Fund contributed to the following key results in 2023 under the multi-year results framework:

1. Improved policy coherence, thought leadership, and knowledge creation and management on human rights in development:
 - Strengthened data collection features and technical support for UNCTs relating to human rights and LNOB in UN Info, including disaggregated data systems for tracking activities targeting groups at risk of being left behind in annual workplans and integration of the Human Rights Marker into the processes of the Joint SDG Fund.
 - Ongoing management and updating of key knowledge-sharing platforms to put system-wide guidance, tools and good practices in the hands of UNDS staff, including the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) knowledge platform on Human Rights and LNOB,

and the Viva Engage (formerly Yammer) knowledge exchange network on Human Rights, LNOB and Gender.

2. RCs and UNCTs increasingly have the capacities, knowledge, skills, guidance and tools to apply the human rights-based approach (HRBA) putting human rights at the core of analysis, programming and advocacy, and implementing the Call to Action for Human Rights:

- Implementation of the moderated, online course on the application of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) guiding principles of HRBA, gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), and LNOB, and continued promotion of the self-paced foundational course;
- RC and UNCT capacities to lead on human rights at the country level were also supported through the deployment of Human Rights Advisers, providing in-country expertise and trainings.

3. Human rights more at the centre of UNCTs' support to the 2030 Agenda through the deployment of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs):

- HRAs enabled RCs and UNCTs to continue engaging in a more active, joined-up and strategic manner on human rights issues in the context of development and, where relevant, humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. HRAs provided daily support to RCs and UNCTs to use international norms and standards as the basis for strategic decision-making, programming, advocacy and engagements with partners (including integrating human rights standards and indicators into Cooperation Frameworks);
- HRAs supported RCs and UNCTs to assist governments, including in development of new laws (e.g., on rights of persons with disabilities, legal identity, inheritance rights for women, digital rights, civic space and transitional justice), national human rights action plans and early warning systems. HRAs also assisted national partners to elaborate plans and systems for safer elections, human rights considerations in economic planning and budgeting, to implement the recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), treaty bodies and special procedures, and to establish and strengthen National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and national mechanisms for reporting and follow up of human rights recommendations (NMRFs);

- HRAs supported UNCTs to deepen engagements and partnerships with civil society and human rights defenders in line with the HRBA, to protect/expand civic space, to build the capacity of civil society and communities to engage effectively on human rights and development issues, and to use their convening power to support safe and inclusive spaces for meaningful participation of civil society in dialogues with governments in policymaking processes (a cross-cutting contribution under HRM Fund results area 4);
- Despite increasing requests from UNCTs for deployment of HRAs, the total number of UNCTs with HRAs secured at the end of 2023 was 43, down from 54 at the start of 2022, due to lack of resources to meet the demands. The Fund's financial support to this programme in 2023 was complemented by resources from other sources.

These results contributed towards the Fund's overall outcome for 2022-2025, that human rights are more at the core of UNDS work at all levels, and that RCs and UNCTs build the capacity of duty bearers to meet their obligations and empower rights-holders as active agents in development to ensure no one is left behind. HRM Fund-supported programmes in 2023 built on the investments the HRM Fund in previous years, as well as the investments of Member States in the entities and structures of the UN development system, leveraging the UN's mandate and normative authority in advocacy and programming. The Fund's investments, guided by the vision of the Fund and the interagency Steering Committee's strategic guidance on prioritization, helped to sustain critical support to UN country teams during a time of constrained resources for multilateral development assistance to Member States in delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

As of 31 December 2023, the cumulative amount transferred (net) to Participating UN Organizations (7) from the HRM Fund was US\$ **44,479,766** with a balance of US\$ **864,350** remaining in the Fund account for 2024 programming. The Fund and its support structures demonstrated flexibility during the year to maximize delivery and results despite HRM Fund resource constraints. The overall Fund expenditure delivery rate is **98.12%**, which demonstrates efficiency of Participating UN Organizations in implementing the Fund's mission.

SDG ACHIEVEMENTS



In 2023 the status of global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was bleak. Devastating conflicts, compounding crises, socio-economic instability, increasing inequalities, the ongoing climate emergency, and rising and unsustainable debt burdens impacted significantly on countries' progress. In the year of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the world saw in stark relief that failure to respect human rights and enforce its values and principles results in instability, suffering, more inequalities and economic crises. In a continuing trend from 2022, 2023 was marked by further push back on human rights including gender issues, on civic space, and respect for human rights to life in times of conflict. At the SDG Summit, Member States reaffirmed their resolve to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; and, to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. However, with the need for support and accelerated action increasing exponentially, there was also a simul-

taneous decline in funding for sustainable development, which impacted directly on many parts of the United Nations development system (UNDS) including the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund (HRM Fund).

The HRM Fund is a key asset of the UNDS, positioned to provide catalytic and cost-effective support to UN country teams to respond to the expectations of Member States in assisting them to implement their human rights obligations in order to achieve the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda. With the UN Charter and the full spectrum of human rights as the anchors, the Fund continued to build on achievements over past decades in institutionalizing human rights within the UNDS and the development assistance it provides to countries.

With generous contributions from Member State partners of the HRM Fund and investments from engaged UN entities, RCs and UNCTs received support to apply the full breadth of the UN's mandate and normative authority on human rights to strengthen the assistance provided to Member States to ensure that development efforts were anchored in human rights. Under the strategic guidance of the interagency Steering Committee, the Fund directed its modest resources towards two priority programmes in 2023: the deployment of Human Rights Advisers and the provision of interagency capacity building support to UN country teams on the application of the guiding principles of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE across the Cooperation Framework process.

These investments of the HRM Fund strengthened UNCTs' work towards the realization of renewed social contracts anchored in human rights and expanded engagements with civil society as key development partners as outlined in Our Common Agenda, including through enabling UNCTs to build a strategic, rights-based value proposition to countries and to deliver on that through their programming and advocacy.

The HRM Fund's investments also supported staff at country level to implement the Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights (Call to Action). For example:

Advisory capacity for RCs and UNCTs:

- HRA deployments, although reduced in number due to funding constraints, remained a critical and highly-valued resource for RCs and UNCTs in advancing rights at the core of sustainable development and gender equality and the rights of women.
- HRA deployments contributed to UN actions in times of crisis, including through their contributions to early warning, human rights and prevention analysis and strategic planning (eg. in the context of elections, land issues, and the operations of security forces), action plans on combatting hate speech, and rights-based advocacy and post-crisis response such as transitional justice and reparations. In humanitarian contexts including climate-related emergencies, HRAs provided valuable support to RC/HCs and country teams in the integration of human rights in humanitarian action, such as in humanitarian needs analyses and humanitarian responses.
- HRAs' expertise enabled RCs and UNCTs to expand public participation and civic space by advocating and programming more effectively on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association. Many HRAs (over 40%) serve as UNCT Civil Society Focal Points, a global network established in 2022 to advance UN efforts in enhancing effective UN engagement with civil society under Our Common Agenda. HRAs contributed to the development of partnerships with CSOs, including through creation of community-led data and monitoring systems, inclusive decision-making mechanisms and strengthening CSOs' capacity to engage effectively on rights issues and with the UN human rights mechanisms.

Guidance and capacity building tools:

- Guidance and capacity building tools for UNCTs on the application of the HRBA, GEWE and LNOB reinforces the importance of addressing root causes of discrimination against women and of ensuring meaningful participation of women across all stages of the UNCT programming cycle, contributing to rights at the core of sustainable development and gender equality and equal rights of women. In 2023, this included the moderated online course on Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles on HRBA,

LNOB and GEWE, continued promotion of the self-paced foundational course on the same topic, and use of the inter-agency checklists on the integration of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks.

- Other knowledge products supported by the Fund on the HRBA and operationalization of LNOB informed the development of strengthened disaggregated data systems and the integration of the human rights marker into UNSDG programming processes. These improvements shape the work of UNCTs together with partners to put rights at the core of sustainable development and to track our efforts and investments as a system in these key areas. With additional resources from UNDP, knowledge products on human rights and development that were produced with the support of the Fund, including UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development and Human Rights and VNR common approach guidance notes were translated into other UN languages.

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

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

In 2023, the Fund was recognized in UN reports to the Human Rights Council as playing an indispensable role in the provision of tailored technical and capacity-building support to countries, UNCTs and other stakeholders for the promotion of human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda (A/HRC/51/9). The Fund was also recognized for its role in supporting the work of United Nations agencies and country teams in mainstreaming human rights and strengthening of coherence and coordinated responses to national technical assistance and capacity building needs of States, which contribute towards building national resilience to crisis and the prevention of human rights violations (A/HRC/49/68). The contributions of the Fund since 2010 towards enhancing the capacities of RCs and UNCTs in their efforts to integrate human rights into their work, and contributions towards preventions and resilience and the Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights were also referenced in the World Bank's 2024 report [Integrating Human Rights into Development – Law, Policy and Practice](#).

Strategic programme objectives of the Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund

12

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

The HRM Fund's expected outcome is that by 2025, human rights are more at the core of UNDS work at all levels, and that RCs and UNCTs build the capacity of duty bearers and strive to empower rights-holders as active agents in development and uphold their inherent dignity and rights to ensure no one is left behind.

If this is achieved, it will support our goal that the UNDS contributes to a society where all people enjoy their human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development without discrimination and are empowered to be active partners in development (impact). This in turn will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. While it is understood that the 17 SDGs reflect human rights standards, and 92% of the associated 169 targets are linked to international human rights instruments³, the HRM Fund is more directly contributing to SDGs 16, 5 and 10. The HRM Fund aims to achieve the planned outcome to put human rights more at the core of UNDS work at all levels by delivering four specific outputs from 2022 to 2025.

<p>OVERALL GOAL</p>	<p>The UNDS contributes to a society where all people enjoy their human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the right to development and right to a healthy environment without discrimination and are empowered to be active partners in development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind.</p>
<p>MISSION</p>	<p>To support the UNDS, particularly the country level, to fully integrate human rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, putting people at the centre of development and systematically applying a human rights-based approach, including through the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.</p>
<p>VISION</p>	<p>Human rights are at the core of UNDS work at all levels, RCs and UNCTs build the capacities of duty bearers and strive to empower rights holders as active agents in development and will uphold their inherent dignity and rights to ensure no one is left behind.</p>

Key result areas 2022-2025

The HRM Fund contributes towards the achievements of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights (Call to Action), which seeks transformative change and emphasizes that human rights underpins the work of the UN across the 3 pillars of development, peace and security, and human rights. One of the 7 areas where concerted effort can achieve significant impact for the enjoyment of human rights on the ground is Human Rights at the Core of Sustainable Development, for which support to RCs/HCs and UNCTs is essential. The HRM Fund supports the implementation of this thematic area for action, as well as other areas as

relevant to the mission of the Fund and its results framework (e.g., gender equality and equal rights for women, rights in times of crisis, rights of future generations and public participation and civic space). The HRM Fund's objectives and focus areas also enable UNCTs to take forward concrete actions to support States to establish a new social contract anchored in human rights, particularly focusing on trust, addressing discrimination and exclusion, and measuring what matters – in line with the vision set out in Our Common Agenda.

From the HRM Fund's [Terms of Reference](#), the results areas are:

OUTPUT 1: Policy Coherence, Thought Leadership and Knowledge Management on Human Rights in Development (THEMATIC AREA: GLOBAL LEVEL)

OUTPUT 2: RCs and UNCTs Apply HRBA at the Core of Their Work Including Implementation of the Call To Action For Human Rights (THEMATIC AREA: UNCT)

OUTPUT 3: Increased Number of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) Supporting RCs and UNCTs to Put Human Rights at the Centre of Their Work (THEMATIC AREA: HRA)

OUTPUT 4: With Support of RCs and UNCTs, Governments and NHRIs Have Stronger Capacities to Engage with Human Rights Mechanisms and Integrate Human Rights in Development, and Human Rights Defenders, Civil Society and Communities Have Strengthened Capacity and Platforms (THEMATIC AREA: UNCT PARTNERS)

OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (FUND GOVERNANCE)

With contributions in 2023 amounting to 18% of the HRM Fund's appeal for 2023, the Fund was able to support a number of key initiatives that contributed towards these four substantive outputs in the second year of implementation of the strategic plan. However, direct investments were primarily under Area 3 and only small direct investments under Area 2. HRM Fund contributions towards Areas 1 and 4 were through the work at country level of the Human Rights Advisers, and at global level through the Secretariat's contributions to interagency and RC system-led policy coordination and programmatic support processes. While it was not possible to implement activities at the scale and scope planned due to lack of resources, the results in this report demonstrate the potential for impact towards the achievement of the Fund's results targets if fully funded. The results also demonstrate the commitment of the Participating UN Organizations and partners to the programmes envisaged by the Fund, with several entities making contributions towards those programmes and related initiatives from their own core and extra-budgetary resources given the limited resources of the HRM Fund. Annex 2 provides details of the progress of the UNDS with the Fund's support with reference to agreed indicators against baselines and targets. When reviewing progress against the Fund indicators and targets, it is important to consider that the Fund was also significantly under-resourced in 2022, impacting opportunities for synergies and momentum with the investments in 2023.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING FUND



In 2023, the Steering Committee strategically managed the resources of the HRM Fund to maximize the stability of ongoing initiatives offered to RCs and UNCTs in a context of limited funding which impacted on support available for UN development system operations across the board.

These achievements included strengthened operationalization of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in key processes under the UN development system reform including Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (Co-operation Frameworks), and progress under priority areas outlined in the [Call to Action for Human Rights](#) and [Our Common Agenda](#).

Since the introduction of the Gender Marker in the HRM Fund proposals in December 2021, all new proposals or amendments of ongoing programmes have applied the gender marker. According to this data, all approved

programmes have met minimum standards (gender marker score 2 or 3), confirming that a minimum of 25% of the approved programme budgets account for gender equality and women's empowerment.

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

In 2023, the HRM Fund supported the RCs and UNCTs in integrating human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment and the principle of leaving no one behind in analysis, programming and advocacy through enhanced integration of the guiding principles in policies, guidance and system-wide knowledge products on human rights in development.

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

- Ongoing management and updating of key knowledge-sharing platforms to put system-wide guidance, tools and good practices in the hands of UNDS staff, including the UNSDG knowledge platform on Human Rights and LNOB, and the Viva Engage/Yammer Group on Human Rights, LNOB and Gender. For example, the Secretariat and DCO promoted in the UNSDG knowledge portals the UNDP-led translated knowledge products: [UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development](#) and [Human Rights and VNR common approach guidance note](#)
- Strengthened tools and guidance for monitoring activities relating to LNOB and human rights under the Cooperation Frameworks (ongoing guidance on LNOB tags and human rights marker in UN Info); revised indicators for annual UNCT reporting on human rights activities under the annual Information Management System reporting.

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

“In the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review, Member States called on all entities of the United Nations development system to support countries in their efforts to fulfil human rights obligations under international law. This is critical in operationalizing the pledge to leave no one behind and United Nations entities served as vital partners for Governments in this regard...” Secretary-General’s Report on the Implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system, advance unedited version, April 2024

RC and UNCT leadership on human rights is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Evidence shows that gaps remain in the capacities, knowledge, skills and access to guidance and tools by RCs and UNCTs to enable them to effectively support countries in utilizing the transformative power of human rights for sustainable development. In 2023, the HRM Fund supported key interagency initiatives to address some of these gaps - drawing on the expertise, mandates and capacities of UNDS entities - to deliver coherent and integrated support to UN teams on the ground.

2.1 Interagency capacity building support for UN country teams on integration of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (Cooperation Frameworks)

In 2023, the Fund continued supporting interagency efforts through the inter-agency programme which provided operational advice and capacity building for the field through the development and launch of the online moderated course and training of trainers utilizing the UNSDG Common Learning Package on HRBA, LNOB and GEWE (revised in August 2022).

The programme was led and managed by UN Women, working in close consultation with the project team consisting of OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA and DCO. The programme implementers also cooperated closely with the UN Interagency Network on Human Rights, LNOB and Sustainable Development (co-chaired by OHCHR and ILO) as well as the working group on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The initiative to develop online training programmes was in response to UN entities' recommendations to pivot the Common Learning Package on an integrated approach to HRBA, LNOB and GEWE to a virtual environment in order to ensure consistent quality and maximize reach and impact in a resource constrained environment. Through the partnership with the UN System Staff College (UNSSC), it was possible to offer the courses on the same technical platform and with the same format as the [Foundational course on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), thereby reinforcing that the courses on these three guiding principles are seen as part and parcel of the same process. The [Foundational course on UNDSCF guiding Principles: Human Rights-Based Approach, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and Leave No One Behind](#), developed with the Fund's support under the same programme and launched in 2022 is still available, free of charge for UN staff and external partners. DCO recommends completion of this course by all UNCT programmatic staff to inform Cooperation Framework design and implementation, and it is also routinely promoted by the other UN entities and the UN Network on Human Rights, LNOB and Sustainable Development. UNSSC has undertaken an evaluation of the course and it received a rating of 5.74/6.00 (fully met) for the question if the overall learning objective been reached. Participants' feedback on the self-paced course indicated an overall 98% satisfaction rate and 99% recommendation rate.

2.1.1 Moderated online course launched in partnership with UNSSC

The 6-week moderated online course was designed to bolster the capacity of UN staff from 2023 and 2024 Cooperation Framework design countries - primarily UN country teams, Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs), and staff engaged in developing the Cooperation Frameworks

including the Programme Management Team/Group, Results Groups, Thematic Working Groups (LNOB, Human Rights and Gender), and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Groups - as well as staff from UN headquarters and regional offices engaged in providing support to country offices. The moderated course had four learning objectives:

- 1) Understand the UN integrated approach to programming in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and UN reform, with a specific focus on the Guiding Principles of HRBA, GEWE and LNOB.
- 2) Apply HRBA, GEWE & LNOB in the various stages of the Cooperation Framework process and to embed them across each phase.
- 3) Be familiar with key frameworks and tools for including the Guiding Principles integrated UNCT programming, such as the use of UNCT scorecards and markers for human rights and gender equality.
- 4) Gain an enhanced understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and accountability of UN leadership and staff for application of the Guiding Principles, and the ability to advocate for human rights, gender equality and LNOB in the Cooperation Framework process.

The 2023 cohort involved participants from across 22 RCOs, two Multi-country Offices and 19 representatives of UN agencies, funds and programmes across 40 countries. The course had a 79% completion rate, of which 65% were female. Each week consisted of self-paced learning with specific assignments as well as moderated learning webinars led by experts, both UN and external. The experts were identified by the project team and came from different UN entities and different parts of the world. The agenda for the course covered all the stages of the CCA/ Cooperation Framework development process. UNSSC has undertaken an evaluation of the course, and was rated 5.16/6.00 (fully met), for the question if the overall objective been reached.

The online moderated course incorporated a blend of synchronous and asynchronous opportunities for active participation and peer-to-peer engagements. The weekly course workflow diagram is presented below.

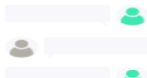
Each week was guided by the following workflow:



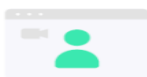
eLearning modules deepened participants' understanding through case studies, selected readings, and video-interviews with experts.



Interactive exercises allowed participants to apply lessons learned through immersive case study scenarios.



Discussion forums provided participants with an asynchronous space to exchange insights and best practices.



Webinars with experts from the UN system facilitated practical discussions of weekly content, fostering collaborative learning through active participation, shared insights, and reflections on challenges and best practices.



The course ended with an innovative 'choose your own adventure' **Branching Scenario**, simulating the UNSDCF cycle for a fictional country. This exercise encouraged critical thinking and practical application of HRBA, GEWE, and LNOB, building on knowledge and lessons learned from the course.

Figure 1: Moderated Course Demographics

COHORT DEMOGRAPHICS

112 people were registered for the course.



72 registrants participated in the course cohort.



57 (79.1%) of participants completed the course.

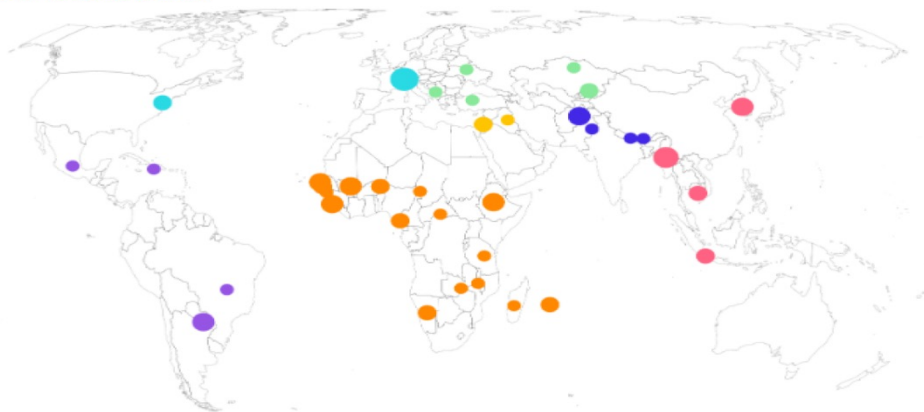
Of 72 participants...

47 (65.3%) participants identify as **Female**.



25 (34.7%) participants identify as **Male**.

Participants work across 40 different countries:



19 UN agencies represented.

22 different RCOs and 2 MCOs represented.



With strong demand from country teams for the moderated course, a second cohort is planned for mid-2024 and will involve the 2024 and 2025 Cooperation Framework design countries. The UNSSC, in collaboration with OHCHR, UNICEF, UN Women, ILO, UNFPA, DCO and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) will be delivering the 2024 course, with updated content to reflect recent policy and programming developments.

2.1.2 Training of Trainers on HRBA, LNOB, GEWE guiding principles

The investments of the HRM Fund in the Common Learning Package and online inter-agency learning materials under this project also facilitated and informed efforts led by UN entities to build the capacity of UN country teams on the operationalization of the HRBE, LNOB and GEWE. For example, OHCHR a member of the interagency project team, organized and held a 5-day training of trainers (ToT) on the integration of the three guiding principles of HRBA, LNOB and GEWE into the Cooperation Framework processes. Participants of the ToT included UN agency members of the 5 regional Peer Support Groups (PSGs) which have a key quality assurance role in the design of new Cooperation Frameworks, as well as other UN colleagues from HQ and regional offices. Entities represented were OHCHR, DCO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNECE, UNOCA, and UNHCR. The ToT course materials were developed and coordinated by the interagency project team led by UN Women. The objective was to build up regional teams of trainers equipped to support UNCTs in their regions on the integration of these three guiding principles in UN-SDCF processes.

Some of the key lessons learned from this programme for UN capacity building initiatives include: the importance of soliciting the needs and priorities of UNCTs and practitioners during the design phase (which led to the streamlining of the online courses from the beta test period to the final course version), the importance of providing opportunities for horizontal exchange and peer learning in the pedagogical process, and the added value of the interagency project team in guiding the development of the training materials at all stages of the training rollout.

3. Human Rights more at the centre of UNCTs' support to the 2030 Agenda through the deployment of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs)

Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) are essential catalysts for human rights mainstreaming, supporting and assist the RCs, heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate human rights into UN programmes and activities at the country level. They also ensure coordinated UN responses to requests from state institutions for technical cooperation and advisory services. HRAs provide human rights expertise in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which situates human rights at the core of the UN's development efforts. They play a critical early warning and prevention role within the UNCTs and, when applicable, provide advice on integrating human rights into humanitarian responses and post-crisis recovery processes. Requests for HRAs have grown considerably since the UNDS reform, because of the relevance human rights has to efforts towards achieving sustainable development, and reaching the goals of the 2030 Agenda, including its promise to 'leave no one behind'.

“The strategic value of human rights advisers in resident coordinator’s offices is undeniable, as the Board was able to ascertain in its visits to the field. During its two most recent missions, to the Pacific and Central Asia regions, the Board saw ample evidence that human rights advisers are not only effective in mobilizing actions to promote human rights by resident coordinators, but also by their colleagues in the resident coordinator’s office and by the entities that compose the United Nations country teams.” – Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, 2024, A/HRC/55/78 para 45.

3.1 Overview of the HRA Programme in 2023

The HRM Fund prioritized its limited resources in 2023 to provide RCs and UNCTs with dedicated advice, capacities, information and tools on positioning human rights strategically through the HRA Programme. The deployment of HRAs has proven to be fundamental to the achievement of the ambition outlined in the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights to place human rights at the core of the UN's work, highlighting their essential role in development and crisis prevention. HRAs also catalyze and strengthen the UNDS's efforts to support countries in meeting their human rights obligations and commitments as part of the 2030 Agenda in line with the 2020 QCPR mandate. In 2023, HRAs' technical expertise led to more coherent and strategic efforts by RCs and UNCTs to raise awareness and catalyze leadership and action around critical human rights issues and concerns such as civic space, freedom of expression and participation, hate speech, gender equality and gender-based violence, rights of indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities, human rights dimensions of national budgeting, food systems, climate change, and transitional justice.

Despite acknowledgement of the crucial role played by HRAs, positive evaluations, appreciation of donors, and growing demand from UNCTs for HRAs, resources remain insufficient to meet the demands for support. Numerous resource mobilization efforts have been undertaken by the HRM Fund Steering Committee and Secretariat, in New York, in Geneva and elsewhere. OHCHR and DCO were particularly active in consistently emphasizing to both current and potential new donors the importance of recapitalizing the HRM Fund and the HRA programme.

The HRM Fund provided only partial support (51%) towards the implementation of the HRA programme in 2023 due to resource constraints (total budget 9.8M¹). Despite the increasing demand from RCs and UNCTs for support, only 44² countries benefited from the

HRA deployment in 2023. OHCHR, as the overall manager of the HRA programme, covered the funding gap for the continuation of these deployments. In light of the concerning funding shortfall, OHCHR and DCO (with the support of the HRM Fund Secretariat) conducted several joint briefings for Resident Coordinators hosting HRAs and HRAs in 2023, and provided guidance for RCs on supporting resource mobilization efforts for the Fund and this programme specifically.

After the decision in June 2023 to close the HRM Fund at the end of 2024, OHCHR became the main UN entity implementing the programme, working in close coordination and cooperation with DCO and the requesting RCs. OHCHR will also coordinate these efforts with the HRM Fund Secretariat in 2024 until the financial support through the HRM Fund ceases. The end date of this project in the HRM Fund is 30 June 2024. OHCHR is now directly fundraising for the HRA Programme and seeking sustainable, predictable, and adequate levels of funding to maintain existing deployments, and to resume the recruitment for vacant positions, with a view to continue and expand the cohort of HRAs in line with demand. This will have a direct impact on the critical support provided to RCs and UNCTs in promoting all human rights as a common value and upholding international norms and standards.

OHCHR provided significant and ongoing institutional and thematic support to HRAs throughout 2023. In early 2023, OHCHR and DCO initiated monthly online community of practice meetings with HRAs covering both operational and substantive topics. HRAs also participated in online clinics and webinars for RCOs and UNCTs on priority topics on development issues. In terms of in-person opportunities for strengthening the capacity of HRAs and HQ/regional exchange with HRAs on their needs and experiences in-country, HRAs participated in the OHCHR annual meeting of field presences, as well as some specific in-person consultations and trainings where relevant (eg. on disability inclusion, for focal points in Africa).

Figure 2: 44 countries assisted by HRAs in 2023

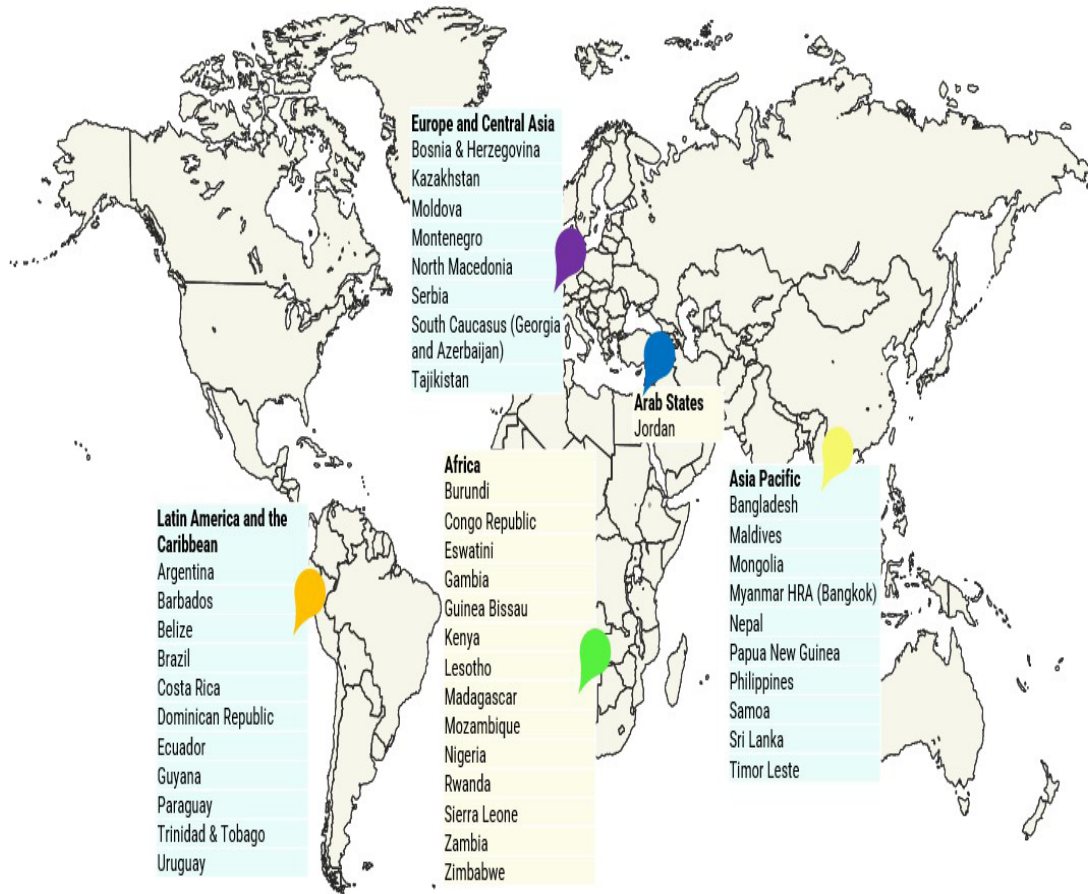
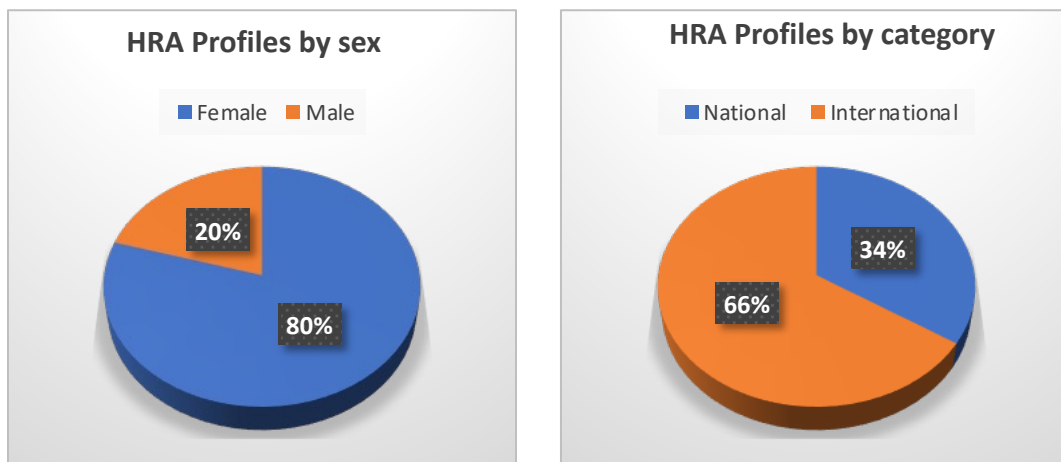
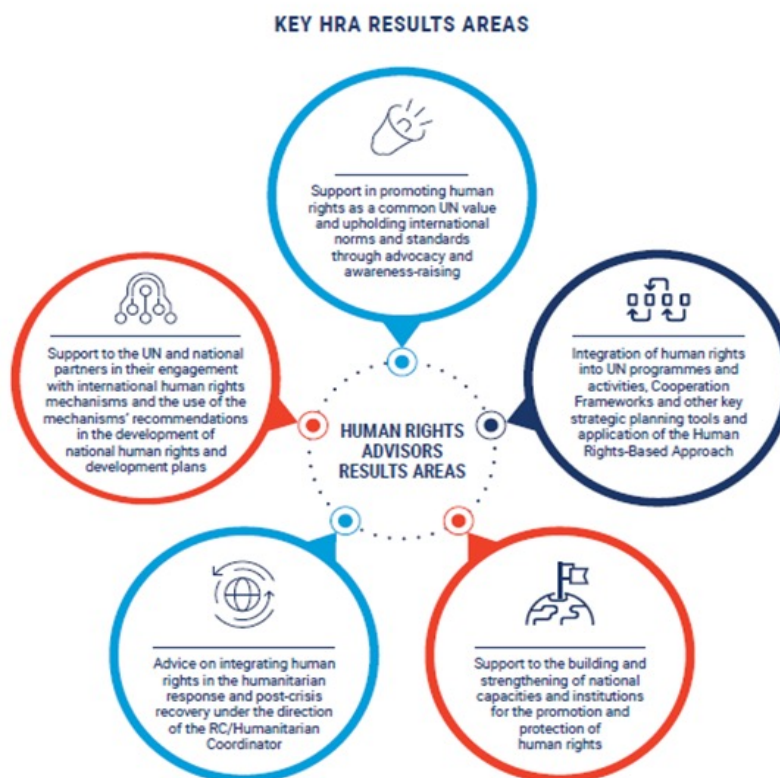


Figure 3: HRA Profiles



“Since its establishment in 2021, and despite minimal capacity, the Human Rights Adviser presence has had a notable impact in timely and strategically mobilizing relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms, in progressively bringing the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina around fundamental human rights issues - notably civic space, including the right to participation, and dealing with the past - and in helping us to operationalize the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights”. - RC in Bosnia and Herzegovina

As advisory capacity within the Resident Coordinator Offices, HRAs customize their engagements and actions with the UNCT and national partners to respond to the specific development challenges and opportunities within the country. Results in all of the 5 areas (see diagram below) are routinely seen in all countries of deployment.



3.2 Examples of HRA Results in 2023

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

HRAs play a critical role in supporting RCs and UNCTs to ensure awareness and leadership around critical human rights issues and concerns. They also helped to open cooperation avenues for UNCTs with key State institutions including ministries to address some of the identified challenges, including issues related to discrimination and hate speech, gender-based violence, civic space, human rights in the digital space, and the rights of vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities. In 2023, the UN and partners celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Human Rights 75). HRAs in many countries, including Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Jordan, Kenya, the Maldives, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Republic of Congo, Samoa, Serbia, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, and Zimbabwe led the design and implementation of UNCT commemoration activities with governments, civil society and other stakeholders, many of which resulted in pledges by Governments to take concrete actions to strengthen the realization of human rights in their country and increased public awareness of the value of human rights implementation as a path for solutions to development challenges. Awareness raising and support for the implementation of the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) was also an important area of work for HRAs in some countries, including Myanmar, Nigeria and Tajikistan.

“The Human Rights Adviser is a valuable resource to the Resident Coordinator’s Office and the UN country team. With this position, we have expanded our presence and support to the Government of Belize and civil society organizations on human rights.” - RC in El Salvador and Belize

○ ARGENTINA The HRA supported the UNCT to establish dialogues with the Human Rights Secretariat and Instituto Nacional contra la Discriminación, la Xenofobia y el Racismo (INADI) regarding Afro-descendant rights, focusing on memory and recognition policies in line with transitional justice mechanisms and documentation of human rights violations. As a result, research on the national archives regarding the contribution of afro-Argentines in Argentine history and culture is being carried out by the national partners. [#racial discrimination](#)

○ BRAZIL The HRA and UNCT monitored threats to human rights defenders (HRDs) and cooperated with the LGBTIQ+ social movements to raise awareness on international human rights standards and the defence of human rights of LGBTIQ+ people to combat hatred and bigotry. In close cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs), UN agencies, and the National Protection Programme for HRDs (PPDDH), cases of threats, attacks, and reprisals against HRDs were monitored and followed up with relevant authorities. And through the mentoring e-course for Trans people, called Transformation, awareness raising on international human rights standards and the defence of human rights of LGBTIQ+ people were undertaken in partnership with the LGBTIQ+ social movements. [#LGBTIQ+](#) [#human rights defenders](#)

○ URUGUAY The UNCT with support from the HRA and in collaboration with the NHRI, held joint advocacy efforts related to reparation laws to prevent double standards on treatment of perpetrators of grave human rights violations during the military-civil dictatorship that ruled the country after the 1973 coup d'état, and created spaces through the joint UN and NHRI event to commemorate the breakdown of democratic institutions and facilitate intergenerational dialogue and reflection involving HRDs who were young at the time of coup d'état and young HRDs now. [#social cohesion](#) [#human rights defenders](#)

○ ESWATINI In collaboration with the OHCHR Surge team and the World Bank the HRA worked on the integration of human rights, gender, and LNOB principles in the analysis of World Bank projects. The human rights, gender and LNOB analysis of current World Bank projects in Eswatini reviewed implementation of the SDGs and improving the level of respect for human rights in Eswatini, with a focus on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) including the right to water and electricity and promoting and protecting human rights in Eswatini. The analysis, which is being finalized, revealed gaps in the grievance mechanism in country. For example, some beneficiaries' views were not taken into consideration in the implementation of projects and the affected vulnerable groups did not have the capacity to advocate for their rights when the enjoyment of their rights had been adversely affected. [#LNOB](#) [#human rights economy](#)

○ REPUBLIC OF CONGO The HRA with the RC promoted the rights of Indigenous Peoples in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples' groups, through consultations and sensitization activities with other CSO networks and lawyers involved in biodiversity and prevention of economic exploitation. The RC joined the HRA in the events organised in the Department of Plateaux and Department of Kouilou, which among others tackled the need to operationalise the

specific laws on Indigenous Peoples' rights, discrimination and economic exploitation of Indigenous Peoples, and the preservation of biodiversity as follow up to the Summit on the World's Three Tropical Basins (Congo Basin, Amazon Basin, and Borneo-Mekong Basin). [#rights of indigenous peoples](#)

○ ZIMBABWE The RC, with support from the HRA and relevant special procedures, provided inputs on a draft bill that was likely to limit civic space and adversely impact on freedom of association and assembly. The bill had been approved by the legislature and transmitted to the President for assent. Following concerted advocacy by development partners including the UN country team to the President, the draft bill was reverted to Parliament for reconsideration. [#civic space](#) [#maximising the use of special procedures](#)

○ BANGLADESH In an environment of fake news, misinformation, and disinformation, the HRA spearheaded a digital rights platform, bringing together local rights groups, social media platforms, development partners and other stakeholders, regularly ensuring knowledge transfer and common advocacy, nurturing the movement on digital rights. Consistent advocacy coordinated by HRA, on the controversial Digital Security Act, led to its replacement with the new Cyber Security Act, which includes some suggestions from OHCHR's technical note. [#civic space](#)

○ MONGOLIA Mongolia has made significant progress in implementing the World Programme on Human Rights Education. However, there are still challenges and gaps to be addressed to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of human rights education programmes in Mongolia. The HRA together with the RCO supported the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM) in the promotion of human rights education. The RC supported the events and advocacy for integration of human rights education in the teacher training programme and curriculum. The final event, a National Symposium on Human Rights Education, brought together 120 human rights experts and educators representing civil society, the private sector, and government organizations engaged in human rights education and training. The event resulted in a human rights education position paper with recommendations and a joint action plan for all stakeholders, including holding the follow up event biannually. [#participation](#) [#NHRI](#)

○ PAPUA NEW GUINEA The RC, supported by the HRA, provided detailed feedback to the Department of Information and Communication Technology regarding the draft national media development policy, and co-hosted a stakeholder consultation with the Media Council on World Press Day to raise awareness on the important role of the media and the need for a government that policy that strengthens the media. The government is now considering re-drafting the policy and conducting wider stakeholder consultations. [#freedom of expression](#)

○ SAMOA The HRA supported the work of the Pacific Human Rights Coordination Group (jointly led by OHCHR, ILO, Pacific Community and the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network), which included the sharing of CSOs experiences in the Cook Islands in advocating for the rights of persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, which in turn led to the decriminalization of consensual same sex rela-

tions with the adoption of the Crime (Sexual Offences) Amendment Act in April 2023. [#LGBTIQ+](#) [#non-discrimination](#)

- TIMOR LESTE The HRA supported the NHRI in holding a seminar on digital space and human rights promotion including prevention of abuses. More than 220 (90 women) individuals from different line ministries, civil society, students and lecturers participated. [#digital rights](#)

- AZERBAIJAN The HRA supported the country working group in preparing a report and holding focus group discussions with national stakeholders (judges, lawyers, members of the Parliament, as well as representatives from the NHRI, Ministry of Justice, CSOs, and academic institutions) on improving access to justice for those in vulnerable situations. The report was submitted to the Center for Legal Examination and Legislative Initiatives, a central public entity established by the president to make recommendations for legal reforms in the country. [#participation](#) [#access to justice](#)

- BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA The three HRAs collaborated to convene a regional conference with over journalists to focus on safety of journalists particularly of women. The event involved over 100 journalists from the three countries and pledged to counter all forms of discrimination and hate speech throughout their work. [#hate speech](#) [#safety of journalists](#)

- MONTENEGRO The HRA with the RC, RCO and UNCT facilitated national-level dialogues with children, young people and members of the Roma and Egyptian communities, including an online campaign (“Trova Prava”) involving more than 2,700 children and young people to increase awareness on discrimination faced by these groups and need for better education, mental health services, and full respect for equality and human rights. [#rights of minorities](#) [#youth](#)

- NORTH MACEDONIA As part of the RC and UNCT efforts under the Call to Action for Human Rights, the HRA provided technical advice on statelessness to the multi-stakeholder drafting group led by the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. As a result, the Law on Civil Registry and the Law on Identity Documents were amended to strengthen the legal framework for immediate birth registration for every child, and issuance of personal documents.

[#statelessness and legal identify](#)

- JORDAN The UNCT with support of the HRA and in collaboration with national partners worked with the renowned Jordanian street artist Suhaib Attar, which led to vibrant illustrations of human rights concepts. House walls were transformed as

“The Human Rights Adviser in Bangladesh has been instrumental in supporting my work with in-depth analysis of the context, enabling the UN system to raise some sensitive yet very important issues such as protecting civic space, media freedom, rights of indigenous people and to advocate for policy reform”. - RC in Bangladesh

canvasses which showcased among others the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, workers' rights, women's rights, access to food, civic space, right to a healthy environment and human rights-based economy. [#Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

○ ZAMBIA The HRA, with support from OHCHR, coordinated a study on advancing the rights to food and education in Zambia and convened consultations led by the RC and UNCT with Government officials, national institutions, experts, academia and NGOs to discuss how international human rights law and norms are implemented, and on ways to make further progress, including through enhanced fiscal space for rights, legal protection, and rights-based analyses and budgeting. The HRA also engaged with the Independent Expert to deliver key messaging, including on budgeting for the rights of persons with albinism given their specific needs, during the consultations. National stakeholders have leveraged the study in other fields. For example, the Zambia Law Development Commission (ZLDC) issued a commentary on the right to food, and the Zambia Council for Social Development used a rights-based lens in media outreach, including on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation and in the Daily Mail newspaper, on issues such as school closures during the cholera outbreak and the implications of Zambia's improved corruption perception on resource availability for the social sectors. [#human rights economy](#) [#maximising use of special procedures](#)

○ KAZAKHSTAN In the Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, cited the work of the HRA with the United Nations country team in providing guidance to the country on the elaboration of the country's Social Code. This assistance helped the country in better aligning national legislation to human rights norms and standards. The Board believes that the ability of the Human Rights Adviser to collaborate and coordinate with different United Nations entities in the United Nations country team, each within their area of expertise, in order to produce a comprehensive human rights-based analysis of elements to be considered in a policy as broad as the Social Code constituted a best practice. This example demonstrates how the United Nations system can provide integrated and high-quality policy advice when it comes together in support of human rights. (A/HRC/55/78)[#HRBA](#)

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

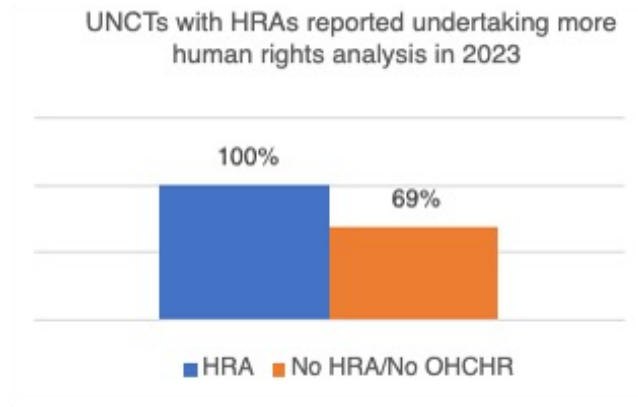
HRAs' support to RCs and UNCTs to the integration human rights and the principle of LNOB in UN programmes and activities – in line with the UNSDG Guidance on Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks – was a critical achievement in 2023, helping to institutionalize the UNDS reform and Secretary-General's Call to Action. Capacity development for UN staff in applying the guiding principles of HRBA and LNOB in CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks continued to be a common area of

work for HRAs in all countries of deployment, in particular for strengthened use of the outcomes of human rights mechanisms, analyzing the human rights dimensions of development challenges, and supporting identification of strategic, coordinated, norms-based support and guidance from the UN to countries.

“The Human Rights Adviser has performed multiple functions over the past 4 years of my tenure: advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator on the wide scope of human rights, advisor to the UN country team with knowledge sharing, connector to relevant authorities and to civil society, producer of thematic knowledge, facilitator for training and capacity building to UN staff, contributor to normative sections of all the processes and documents related to the implementation of the cooperation framework, co-organiser of HR related events. This is a fantastic resource that is placed strategically in the RCO, allowing for optimum use of specific technical resources by a wide range of stakeholders within and outside the UN system.”
- RC in Serbia

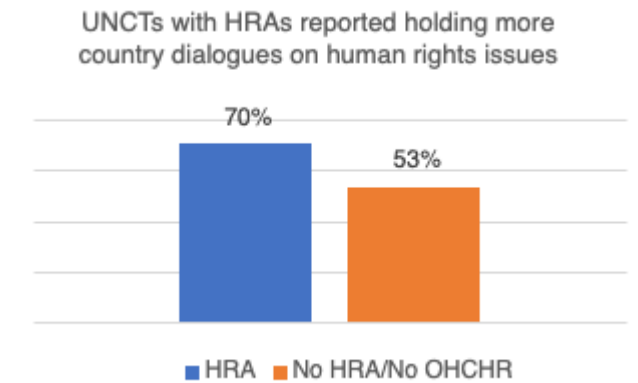
The Cooperation Framework is a key opportunity for effective integration of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social human rights at the core of the UN’s support to countries on sustainable development, and as a foundational contributor to an economy that enhances human rights including with a view to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. HRAs supported UNCTs in the use of the HRBA across all steps in the Cooperation Framework cycle, and facilitated the engagement with national partners on the “why” as well as the “how” of addressing human rights issues impacting on development progress. HRAs in many countries led interagency coordination groups on human rights and LNOB, which have been found in independent evaluations to contribute to more effective mainstreaming and results.³ HRAs also spearheaded processes to facilitate ongoing consultation, supporting the RC in her/his convening role, and, where appropriate, to institutionalize stakeholder (including civil society) participation in UN coordination mechanisms. HRAs were

Figure 4: UNCTs with HRAs undertaking more human rights analysis



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS/UN INFO)

Figure 5: UNCTs with HRAs holding more country dialogues on human rights issues



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS/UN INFO)

also able to leverage investments of other pooled funds such as the Joint SDG Fund, Peacebuilding Fund, and UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for action on human rights issues, and to build UNCT capacities in integration of the HRBA and LNOB in UN joint programming.

- BURUNDI The HRA supported UNCT strategic prioritization processes, resulting in having the 2023-2027 Cooperation Framework devote a stand-alone output under governance outcome which reads, “Judicial and rule of law institutions and performing policies to ensure accountability and access to rights and services without discrimination have been established/strengthened,” as well as develop a Joint Human Rights Programme with UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO and UN Women. The Joint Programme is instrumental in bringing together government and civil society partners on pressing human rights issues. [#Cooperation Framework](#) [#joint programmes](#)

- GAMBIA The issue of women’s participation was supported by the HRA through the UNCT joint project on this matter and leading the national dialogue on

inequalities. The HRA provided technical support to the UNCT joint project team on women's participation and led the convening of the national dialogue on reducing inequalities. The dialogue with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) - with the NHRC leading the presentation on inequalities and strategies to dismantle barriers - was attended by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Gender, the National Human Rights Commission, students from the various human rights clubs and the University of The Gambia, Law Students Association, the Children's National Parliament, the Diplomatic Community, CSOs and the Gambia Federation of the Disabled and OPDs, and the UN. [#LNOB](#) [#participation](#)

“The Human Rights Adviser in Samoa has helped ensure a focus on human rights in the efforts led by the RCO to accelerate the SDGs in four priority areas for the government of Samoa, namely climate change, non-communicable diseases, gender equality and gender-based violence, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Her inputs have been valuable in ensuring that the interventions by the UN in these areas lead to the enjoyment of human rights by groups at risk of being left behind, and to have an integrated approach in addressing these complex challenges, including by linking them to the government's international human rights commitments and recommendations received by human rights mechanisms.” - RC in Samoa MCO covering Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau

- GUINEA BISSAU Several UNCT members with the HRA support convened training on the Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles (HRBA, LNOB and GEWE) for national counterparts – government authorities and civil society – in the three Cooperation Framework Outcome Groups. The training was delivered in Portuguese by national trainers from the Leadership Academy (a project supported by UNDP within the National School of Administration) and the training package was fully translated into Portuguese. The training built on the OHCHR-supported training of trainers, and was part of broader sustainability and capacity building measures. [#capacity building](#) [#accountability](#)
- KENYA The HRA in collaboration with OHCHR and DCO economists and analysts from RCO, UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women produced a joint UN Kenya analysis of the 2023/2024 Kenya budget and explored allocations for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights and progress against the SDGs and LNOB commitment. The work on human rights economy was also rolled out at the county level with a framework for a participatory human rights-

based budgeting process in three counties (Marsabit, Nakuru and Makueni) through engagement with the county government executive, members of county assemblies, communities, and CSOs engaged in human rights and governance issues in these counties. This included the training of 90 budget champions on a HRBA to budgeting, conducted in collaboration with local CSOs and county government officials in the three counties. The training equipped the community budget champions with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance community participation in the budgeting process at the county level to promote the realization of ESC rights, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable and minority groups in the county. [#human rights economy](#)

- LESOTHO Working with the UNCT, the HRA aided human rights integration across the Cooperation Framework including a dedicated outcome – “People living in Lesotho are better served by improved governance systems and structures that are inclusive, accountable, with people empowered, engaged, and enjoying human rights, peace, justice, and security by 2028.” The human rights integration in the Cooperation Framework was facilitated by the HRA leading sessions on the CCA update, the strategic prioritization retreat with the UNCT, government and other stakeholders, and the elaboration of human rights indicators for the Cooperation Framework. [#Cooperation Framework](#)

- MADAGASCAR The HRA worked on civil society partnerships in collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP. And the HRA initiated the quarterly dialogues of the UN with civil society networks (consisting of HRDs, youth, women, persons with disabilities, trade unions, environmental activists and lawyers) which are hosted by the RC. The quarterly meetings facilitated exchanges on priority issues and national concerns, and identified opportunities for strengthening the partnerships including joint advocacy initiatives. [#participation](#)

- RWANDA The HRA developed a human rights strategy for UN Rwanda’s mainstreaming efforts in the implementation of the Cooperation Framework. The HRA assisted the UN in applying HRBA including integrating recommendations from UN human rights treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms in its Cooperation Framework roll out. [#HRBA](#)

- BANGLADESH The HRA assisted the establishment of the UNCT-wide disability inclusion team to promote coordination and joint action, including the development of a UNCT disability inclusion strategy. The strategy will be finalised in 2024. [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

- ECUADOR The HRA supported multiple UNCT dialogues with human rights and environmental defenders and journalists (Fundamedios and Periodistas Sin Cadenas). The HRA led the meetings with civil society and gathered their inputs for a draft action plan to protect the work of journalists. The meetings were held to strengthen the UNCT’s support in addressing the context of insecurity and its impact on the work of HRDs. Actions taken by the UNCT included conducting a training on open-source monitoring and digital protection for HRDs and NHRIs and the development of the draft action plan, under the leadership of UNESCO in consultation with OHCHR. [#hu-](#)

man rights defenders [#safety of journalists](#)

- BARBADOS AND EASTERN CARRIBEAN The HRA with the RCO, PAHO, UN Women Spotlight, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly organised the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy consultation, “Breaking barriers: inclusion, participation, and freedom from violence for persons with disabilities.” This was the first regional consultation organised with organizations of persons with disabilities, and led to surfacing of intersectional issues for future work of the UN. [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

- BRAZIL The UNCT prioritised the response to the Yanomami Indigenous Peoples human rights crisis in 2023 including through UN dialogue with the federal government and establishment of a task force of 13 agencies engaged in the coordinated UN response. This included providing capacity building support for indigenous peoples’ leaders and Rede de Cooperação Amazonica (Amazonian Cooperation Network). The HRA facilitated trainings for this group of leaders on indigenous peoples’ rights, strategic litigation in the international human rights system, violent crimes and racial profiling against People of African descent. [#rights of indigenous peoples](#)

- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC The HRA chaired the interagency taskforce on minorities and hate speech which developed the UNCT Plan of Action on Hate Speech. The UNCT Plan provided the framework for collaboration with government, civil society and the private sector to uphold freedom of speech while addressing hate speech. The UNCT plan includes monitoring and analyzing hate speech, supporting state institutions in hate speech prevention, and supporting victims of hate speech. This UNCT Plan was incorporated into the workplan of Cooperation Framework Outcome Group 4. [#hate speech](#)

- GUYANA The HRA co-organised with OHCHR regional office a Caribbean regional session on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) including indigenous knowledge systems for UN staff. The Indigenous Peoples Commissioner of Belize joined the session to discuss Belize’s National FPIC protocol and experiences implementing the protocol. The session also examined key elements of the FPIC and practical approaches to implement FPIC. [#rights of indigenous peoples](#)

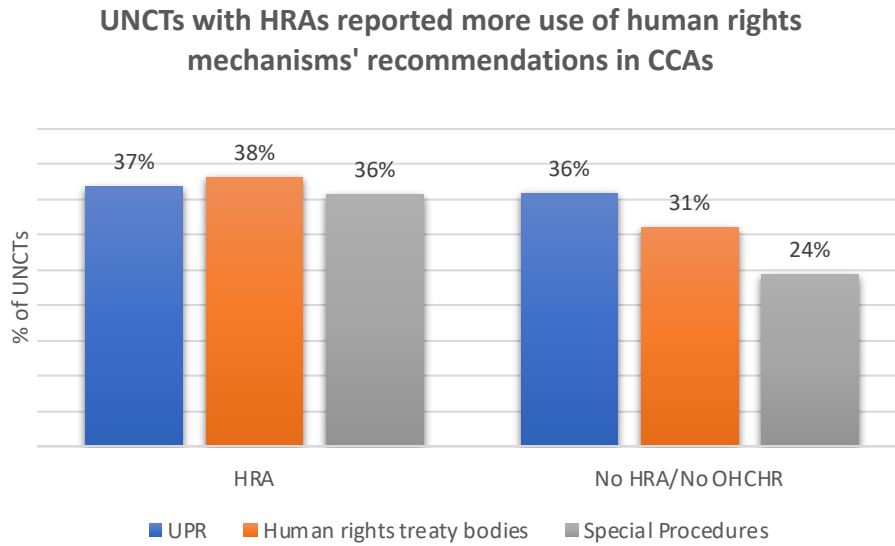
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO As part of a joint UNCT programme funded by the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN PRPD), the HRA provided technical advice in the review of key legislations for alignment with obligations of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in the provision of capacity building for organizations of persons with disabilities. [#rights of persons with disabilities](#) [#joint programmes](#)

- URUGUAY The HRA supported the UNCT in implementing the interagency anti-discrimination strategy including facilitating the technical cooperation mission of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to advance the rights of this population in Uruguay. The Working Group met with the UNCT, provincial and national government authorities, parliamentarians, NHRI and CSOs and issued an unofficial report to the UNCT on future support for follow up of the mission. [#maximising the use of special procedures](#) [#non-discrimination](#)

- MOLDOVA The HRA led the UNCT training on HRBA to disability for UN staff, which led to disability inclusion as one of the cross-cutting elements of the UN Moldova communications plan and in UNCT joint workplans on disability inclusion. The UNCT training covered the areas of programming (including consultation and participation of persons with disabilities), operations, procurement, human resources and communications. [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)
- MONTENEGRO The HRA, with the leadership of the RC, provided technical support to the UNCT for the UN action plan on hate speech, ensuring that it is in line with the Global Strategy and Action Plan. The HRA's monitoring and analysis of the hate speech situation contributed to the design of a two-year Peacebuilding Fund project to strengthen social cohesion, counter hate speech and build trust in institutions. [#hate speech](#)
- ZIMBABWE Although water and sanitation services are a critical public good which require sufficient financing from the Government, during the COVID-19 period, there was a high demand for water and sanitation services which could not be adequately met by the Government. Previous trends had demonstrated that poor access to water and sanitation services in urban areas resulted in the country experiencing cholera outbreaks in the country, including the most recent in February 2023. Against this background, the HRA working together with an Economist from the OHCHR Surge Team and the RCO Economist, conducted a human rights analysis of the 2023 budget allocations and expenditures of the water and sanitation sector. The analysis synthesized the budget information so as understand the current level of allocations and compare with expenditures in the water and sanitation sector. This was with a view to determining whether the investments by the Government of Zimbabwe guarantee the right to water and contribute to achieving SDG 6 while also taking into particular consideration the needs of the poor and most vulnerable groups. The UNCT-endorsed analysis was shared with the Government to inform future budget consultations and has also been integrated into the UN's Common Country Analysis. The analysis will continue to be used to inform the UN's advocacy and other initiatives around SDG 6 such as the proposed President's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene High Level Political Compact. [#right to water and sanitation](#) [#human rights economy](#)

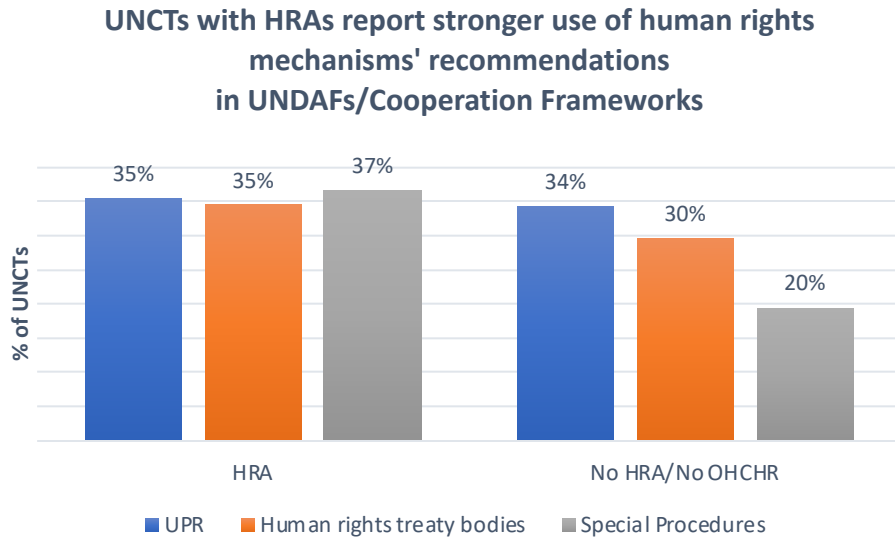
“Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities received invaluable support from the UN Human Rights Adviser here in Guyana, specifically to enhance our advocacy work to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and participate in UN processes and mechanisms. Through this support, we are better equipped to advocate and promote disability inclusion across sectors and thematic priorities.” - Ganesh Singh, Programme Manager of the Guyana Council of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities

Figure 6: UUNCTs with HRAs reported more use of human rights mechanisms' recommendations in CCAs



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS/UN INFO)

Figure 7: UNCTs with HRAs report stronger use of human rights mechanisms' recommendations in UNDAFs/Cooperation Frameworks



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS/UN INFO)

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

“We benefited much from our cooperation with the Human Rights Adviser, particularly support to our flagship initiatives implemented last year. We jointly organized the presentation and discussion of the key human rights document for Tajikistan - National Human Rights Strategy 2038 - to ensure its implementation by national authorities in cooperation with the civil society organizations.” - Umed Bobozoda, Human Rights Ombudsman in Tajikistan

In 2023, HRAs were engaged in a wide range of initiatives with RCs and UNCTs to strengthen national capacities and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, bolstering understanding and actions on the links between international norms and the 2030 Agenda. For example, HRAs in Azerbaijan, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Ecuador, Eswatini, the Gambia, Kenya, Maldives, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Samoa, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, and Uruguay, worked with National Human Rights Institutions, HRAs in Georgia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Timor Leste supported UNCT efforts to improve compliance with human rights by law enforcement, and HRAs in many countries including Azerbaijan, Belize, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, North Macedonia, Republic of Congo, Uruguay, worked with legislative bodies to enhance awareness of human rights standards in key areas. HRAs in several countries also contributed to enhanced human rights capacities of national statistics offices, which play a critical role in the generation of data on progress and gaps in the achievement of the SDGs, including efforts to reach those furthest behind.

○ BURUNDI The HRA supported the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) to improve its protection work, particularly on redress for victims especially HRDs, journalists. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) recognized the improvements and re-accredited the INHRC with “A” status. In November 2023, the HRA hosted a regional workshop in Bujumbura that underscored the criticality of NHRIs’ role in risk analysis, early warning and prevention and resulted in NHRIs’ pledges to imbed an early warning unit inside their structures to facilitate information sharing among themselves and with other stakeholders within the constellation of human rights actors in the national and regional level, including the Early Warning Unit of the Centre for Human Right and Democracy in Central Africa, and the Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism (MARAC) of the ECCAS. The initiative was particularly relevant to Burundi as major polls will be taking place in a year while tensions have been mounting. [#NHRI](#) [#agenda for protection](#)

- **ESWATINI** The HRA in collaboration with UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA) continued to provide strategic advice and capacity building (including support to stakeholder consultations) to strengthen the Commission of Human Rights & Public Administration / Integrity (CHIPA). The HRA also collaborated with the Canadian High Commission, the UK High Commission, the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO), the eSwatini National Association of Journalists, Campaign for Free Expression, and the Centre for Investigative Journalism to conduct a series of workshops for media professionals and journalists to integrate a HRBA in their electoral reporting and coverage. [#NHRI](#) [#accountability](#)
- **GAMBIA** The HRA together with the UNCT supported the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) to align its work on socio-economic rights and development alignment with international human rights frameworks, including the Advisory Note on the Right to Food and the Advisory Note on Mental Health. The HRA also assisted the Ministry of Justice on reviewing accountability bills to support the implementation of the recommendations from the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC). [#NHRI](#) [#accountability](#)
- **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** The HRA in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a workshop on developing a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation for members of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Human Rights, the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up (NMRF). The workshop delved on key components of a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, explored good practices, and examined case studies on discrimination. The participants also analysed the two draft anti-discrimination bills dating from 2016 and 2020, currently under NMRF review. [#non-discrimination](#)
- **MALDIVES** The UN with technical support from OHCHR and the HRA facilitated a training on monitoring human rights in context of elections for the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) and other stakeholders in preparation for the presidential elections. A separate session for government partners was also convened and focused on international human rights standards and human rights protection in electoral contexts. [#agenda for protection](#) [#elections](#)
- **NEPAL** The HRA contributed to the National Human Rights Commission study on the rights of older persons. The study focused on the implementation status of the Senior Citizens Act of Nepal and the final report is anticipated in 2024. The study's preliminary findings revealed that: older persons are deprived of living a respectful life as a result of outward migration and maintenance from family members in light of the minimal efforts of the state senior citizens' support services and lack of access to social security services due to a lack of digital technology; and that social security schemes had a positive impact on older persons from marginalized and poor communities. The study's final report will be submitted to the Open-Ended working Group in Ageing for the development of the convention on the rights of older persons. The study informed the Government's draft national policy on the rights of senior citizens. [#rights of older persons](#) [#NHRI](#)
- **TIMOR LESTE** The HRA continued with the long-standing human rights training

program for members of the security forces, in partnership with the National Human Rights Institution (the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice – PDHJ), the Police Training Center, the Minister of Defense and the Armed Forces of Timor-Leste (F-FDTL). The week-long trainings focused on the use of force, freedom from torture and other ill-treatment, human rights in detention, the role of the police/army during states of emergency and ways to improve protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

[#agenda for protection](#)

- KENYA In line with the MOU between the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) on advancing the HRBA to data and support implementation of the SDGs, with the HRA support, the national partners completed the collection and verification of data for SDG indicator 16.10.1 that monitors the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months. This included citizen-generated data from civil society, as well as data from KNCHR and the Media Council of Kenya. This is a significant development as Kenya will be one of the first countries globally to contribute to this key indicator. [#HRBA to data](#) [#human rights defenders](#)

- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA The HRA, with support from OHCHR, conducted an HRBA to data workshop involving the NHRI, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and the State Agency for Statistics, and CSOs. The workshop focused on measuring discrimination and promoting partnerships towards institutionalization of data exchange and cooperation among agencies especially between the NHRI and the State Agency for Statistics. [#HRBA to data](#) [#non-discrimination](#)

Supporting civil society to engage strategically on the rights-related aspects of development, including states' pledge to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first is also a critical part of HRAs' work in this area, as is the protection and expansion of civic space as a critical component of strong national protection systems, accountability and a social contract anchored in human rights. For example, HRAs in many countries, including Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Gambia, Georgia, Guyana, Madagascar, Moldova, Montenegro, Paraguay, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, enhanced UNCT and/or government engagement with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, which is key to a rights-based response to development issues impacting on persons with disabilities. Results included enhanced legal frameworks and actions for their implementation, more systematic consultation with diverse OPDs in policy processes and government programmes, improved OPD engagement with human rights mechanisms, and UNCT actions to implement the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. Support to human rights defenders, including women's human rights defenders, was also a key area of work in many countries, including Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Ecuador, Eswatini, Guinea

Bissau, Guyana, Madagascar, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Samoa, and Uruguay.

“FAO’s work on the right to food aims at providing countries, institutions, civil society, communities and other stakeholders with a series of effective instruments they can use to assert the right to adequate food as a basic human right. The Human Rights Adviser supported FAO’s engagement with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to ensure adequate policy guidance to the government on the promotion and protection of the right to food.” - Moshibudi Rampedi, FAO Representative in The Gambia

○ JORDAN The Jordan Economic and Social Council (JESC), with support from the HRA and UNCT, launched a joint policy brief on HRBA to tackling inequalities and promoting mobilization of domestic resources for investments in economic, social and cultural rights, and to reposition public expenditure to prioritize people’s needs and rights. With inputs from relevant governmental departments, national and academic institutions, the policy brief contributed human rights dimensions to the tax discussions, emphasizing the importance of equality and non-discrimination. The President of the JESC presented the findings at the Human Rights Council 6th inter-sessional meeting on Integrating Human Rights into the International Financial Architecture Reforms in January 2024. [#human rights economy](#)

○ GUINEA BISSAU In the context of shrinking civic space and with support from a joint project implemented by UNDP, UNICEF and OHCHR, the HRA facilitated the UN country team’s consultations with the Rotary Club of Bissau, the Children and Youth Journalists Network, the Youth sounding board, and the national consultation with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. These consultations led to the

Civil society sees the United Nations System as its defence against pressures exerted by the State on freedoms that citizens should enjoy. Regular meetings between civil society and the UN System make it possible to adjust or find more effective actions/approaches to remind the State that it is not alone in deciding how the country is run. These meetings also provide a forum for sharing best practice in other countries in terms of democracy and respect for human rights.” -Ratsimbazafy EMÉE, Member of the ROPE platform (National Network for the Observation and Prevention of Electoral Violence), Madagascar

Government's pledge to adopt a national strategy and policy on social protection.

[#civic space](#) [#youth participation](#)

○ ARGENTINA The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with HRA technical support, developed and launched the national action plan on business and human rights. This led to strengthening of long term alliances, and human rights training support provided to members of the Argentine Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEADS), which is the local chapter of the WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) and participant in Global Compact. [#Business and human rights](#)

○ GUYANA The RCO with HRA support convened a panel discussion and mini exhibition on Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World. The session elaborated on Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, opportunities for green jobs and increasing youth participation in climate spaces. The HRA also facilitated Guyana's participation at the Second Meeting of the Conference of State Parties to the Escazu Agreement, the Second Annual Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters Forum and the VIII Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. [#climate and environment](#) [#business and human rights](#) [#youth participation](#)

○ SERBIA The HRA provided technical guidance to CSOs in the field of adequate housing and manual development on eviction processes that are aligned with international human rights standards, including social inclusion of the Roma communities. The manual aims to promote equality and non-discrimination in the realm of adequate housing and the prevention of forced evictions, to bolster the capacities of local self-governments in understanding and effectively applying international eviction standards, and social inclusion of marginalized communities. [#LNOB](#) [#right to housing](#)

○ TAJIKISTAN The HRA was actively engaged in the 2nd VNR report preparation process and initiated research on the vulnerable groups in Tajikistan. As a follow-up to the research, the UN, in agreement and in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, held a series of consultations with vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, HIV positive persons, former prisoners, the homeless, refugees as well as on child rights. The results of the consultations were

“The HRA is playing a key role in supporting the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). She provided technical advice on the founding law of the NHRC to make it compliant with the Paris Principles; on reporting to human rights mechanisms, including the UPR and has strengthened the staff's technical capacities. According to the President of this body, the HRA's assistance has been extraordinary and helped to raise the profile of the NHRC.” - RC in Congo

incorporated into a LNOB chapter of the VNR report presented as a good practice during the side-event organized during the high-level meeting in New York in July 2023. [#VNR](#) [#LNOB](#)

"Embedding a human rights-based approach in discussions about fiscal policies and economic decision-making marks a critical intervention for Middle Income Countries like Jordan. Echoing His Majesty King Abdullah II's call to action for building a modern, participative state rooted in law and dedicated to development, the UN's support in expanding the evidence base for such transformative vision is indeed an excellent entry point." – RC in Jordan

HRA also supported the work of a range of national legislative, judicial, oversight and implementation-related bodies.

- **REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** The HRA organized a discussion series with several constitutional bodies regarding evaluation of public policies through the lens of human rights and the pledge to leave no one behind. The session with the Court of Audit and Budgetary Discipline led to a request by the Court for more guidance in evaluating public policies with a human rights perspective. The guide is being developed with support from OHCHR, and expected to be adopted by the Court in 2024. Following the session with the National Assembly, the legislative body adopted a resolution in April 2023 establishing a parliamentary commission of inquiry for the management of the University Medical Center of Brazzaville. The National Assembly also deployed fact-finding missions to several public offices regarding ID cards, public transportation and the household purchasing power.

[#accountability](#) [#human rights economy](#)

- **SIERRA LEONE** The HRA supported UN Women's leadership in development of strategies to support the implementation of the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) Act, including strengthening capacities of the new Gender Units and Sexual Offences Model courts. The capacity development included supporting judges, prosecutors, support staff and court users. [#GEWE](#) [#accountability](#)

- **BRAZIL** The HRA, through the UNCT and Federal Public Defenders' Office (DPU) agreement, supported capacity strengthening of the DPU in applying and complying with international human rights standards, including the translation of the updated Minnesota Protocol into Portuguese. [#accountability](#)

- **PARAGUAY** The HRA with the OHCHR regional office provided technical support to the Interinstitutional Commission for Compliance with International Judgments (CICSI) of the Vice Presidency of the Republic for the development and approval of an Interinstitutional Protocol for Responding to Cases of Judgments, Opinions, and Recommendations from International Human Rights Organizations,

and to the Human Rights Network of the Executive Branch. This network is responsible for consolidating working groups' implementation of the action plan, monitoring human rights situation, and elaborating reports in accordance with national and international legal frameworks. [#maximising the use of human rights mechanisms](#)
[#accountability](#)

○ SRI LANKA The HRA, in collaboration with UN agencies, supported the institutional needs assessment of the Office of Missing Persons (OMP), a key transitional justice mechanism for the disappeared or missing in relation conflicts in the country. The assessment reviewed the institutional capacities of the OMP and other influencing factors that have an impact on its core mandate of tracing missing persons. The HRA also led the follow-up advocacy with OMP, the government and international development partners. [#agenda for protection](#) [#transitional justice](#)

○ GEORGIA The Special Investigative Service of Georgia (SIS) developed, with the HRA assistance, specific guidelines for investigators on classification and effective investigation of crimes of torture and ill-treatment. The Head of SIS officially launched these guidelines (which made clear the situations that fall under the classification of torture and ill treatment, and those exceeding official power) and made it binding for all SIS investigators. [#accountability](#) [#agenda for protection](#)

○ MOLDOVA The HRA in cooperation with the Public Administration Institute, developed the learning package, Mainstreaming Human Rights in the Work of Public Authority Staff, for civil servants. The training series will be held in 2024. The course aims to provide concrete human rights knowledge to civil servants for its application in their work in policy, programme and decision-making processes. [#HRBA](#)
[#accountability](#)

○ ZAMBIA The HRA supported the UNCT follow up to the Special Rapporteur's report on toxic wastes, which led to the creation of a technical team on mining sector and UN concept note on sustainable mining. The government, in response to the UN note, requested technical assistance for the establishment of the Minerals Regulatory Commission. The HRA with UNDP held meetings on the effects of manganese mining on mine workers and the prevention of harms. The government subsequently suspended the mining operation in the Lower Zambezi National Park. [#maximising use of special procedures](#) [#climate and environment](#)

○ URUGUAY The HRA in close cooperation with the National Directorate of Public Defenders of Uruguay (DINADEF), held a course for public defenders on "Human Rights with a gender perspective" using the DINADEF guides. The work with the justice operators included coordination with ILO, IOM, UNODC, UNESCO, UNHCR and OHCHR. The course was built on international human rights standards for the protection of women undergoing criminal proceedings. [#GEWE - discriminatory laws](#)

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

“Maldives is certainly among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. The UN in Maldives has for several years worked to promote, protect and increase awareness of people's right to a healthy environment. Through the facilitation of the Human Rights Advisory capacity within RCO, human rights and the environment was identified as one of the four human rights priorities for UN-Maldives within the SG's Call to Action for Human Rights framework. This has led to among others the holding of training for UN staff on human rights relating to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and climate change.” - Enrico Gaveglia, UNDP Resident Representative in the Maldives

As environmental and conflict-related humanitarian crises increase and take a greater toll on country, regional and global development progress, HRAs deployed in countries with a humanitarian situation or crisis/post-crisis recovery were instrumental in enhancing cross-pillar coherence and strengthened integration of human rights standards and principles in humanitarian responses and post-crisis recovery. Under the direction of the RC/HC, HRAs supported UN teams to advance the prevention agenda and the Call to Action, including through facilitating early warning information sharing and human-rights based analyses to inform timely and coordinated UN action to prevent serious rights violations. HRAs often worked in close coordination with Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) (including in Eswatini, Kenya, Madagascar, and Zambia) on UNCT prevention analysis and response, particularly in the context of preparations for elections, as well as capacity building on human rights and LNOB. HRAs' work increasingly involves supporting the UNCT effort to identify and address hate speech, as the potential for rapid amplification online increases the risks and scale of harm for individuals and communities. In February 2024 the UN Secretary-General launched the Agenda for Protection, which outlines how the UN will support states in meeting their human rights obligations through acting as one to prevent human rights violations and to identify and respond to them when they take place. This Agenda specifically refers to the role of HRAs in providing local analysis and advice on protection risks and responses, including how to use human rights mechanisms as part of a protection or advocacy strategy.

- **ESWATINI** The HRA and the PDA co-led on the implementation of the Secretary-General’s Prevention Agenda in Eswatini, and provided regular integrated analysis to the UNCT and interagency cluster mechanisms to inform programming and activities. With temporary deployment of surge capacity from the OHCHR Prevention and Sustaining Peace Section, and with the support of UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) and OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), a draft early warning and prevention tool was developed in collaboration with UN Disaster & Environmental Management Trust (DEMT) and the UNCT. The prevention tool identified the main risk and opportunity areas on: (1) political stability, (2) economic stability / infrastructure and access to services, (3) democratic space / justice and rule of law. [#prevention #agenda for protection](#)
- **KENYA** On behalf of the UNCT, the HRA and PDA led the Prevention and Integrated Analysis Platform, including review of the platform in 2023. The HRA also provided inputs to the Kenya Reparations Study (focused on electoral-related sexual and gender-based violence) which is part of a global study on reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). In line with the Kenya government’s pledge to establish mechanisms for prevention, investigation, prosecution, and victim support, the HRA continued to provide capacity-building support to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations, including support for regional Training of Trainers for prosecutors and investigators, and a rapid reference review of 100 files of serious human rights violations committed by police officers that were investigated by the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), to enhance coordination between the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and IPOA under the Standard Operating Procedures on the Investigation and Prosecution of Serious Human Rights Violations Committed by Police Officers. [#prevention #agenda for protection](#)
- **LESOTHO** The HRA supported the strengthening of oversight institutions (Ombudsman and Parliament) for public accountability. The RC, in the opening remarks of the session with Parliamentarians, highlighted the significance of oversight work for democracy to function and exercise of rights by the Basotho people. The training for civil society members focused on identifying early warning indicators (eg potential threats to peace and security) and how to use conflict prevention approaches. [#prevention #accountability](#)
- **MADAGASCAR** In the lead up to the November Presidential election, the RC actively played the role of convenor, bringing together the international community, civil society and political actors to search for inclusive solutions to the electoral crisis. The HRA, working in close collaboration with the PDA, ensured that a broad range of CSOs, including women and persons with disabilities, contributed their voices to the process. The HRA in collaboration with the PDA set up a monitoring and reporting system for the November Presidential elections. Weekly and daily reports informed the interventions of the RC and the international community during the highly sensitive pre-electoral period. The HRA verified and followed up election-related information received including through the civil society networks. [#prevention #elections](#)

- NIGERIA The HRA worked with the Elsie Initiative to conduct an HRDDP review of the Nigeria Armed Forces. To support the UNCT HRDDP implementation, the HRA completed a general and preliminary risk assessment profile and draft SOP on implementation and coordination mechanisms. [#HRDDP](#)
- SIERRA LEONE During the presidential and parliamentary elections the HRA, in collaboration with the OHCHR Election Surge Team, supported the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone in human rights situation monitoring during the presidential and parliamentary elections. [#prevention #elections](#)
- ZAMBIA The UN Zambia's Concept Note on a National Conflict Prevention Architecture for Zambia, led by the PDA and supported by the HRA, was submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The HRA, in support of the UN Zambia's advocacy, continue to promote the potential role of a formally established body in trust building, mitigating tension and potential electoral violence, in the lead-up to the 2026 elections. [#prevention #elections](#)
- ZIMBABWE The HRA provided technical advice and inputs to the development of the UN Interagency Contingency and Operational Plan for the return of Zimbabweans from South Africa following the expiry of the Zimbabwean Exemption Permits. This support is related to the Executive Committee decision requesting IOM to lead the development of such a plan that promotes a rights-based approach to migration governance in return contexts. This plan is intended to support the Government's efforts to respond to the anticipated influx of migrants returning and/or deportations to Zimbabwe from South Africa. The HRA also collaborated with UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO and the Africa University to support the development of a policy brief on promoting sustainable reintegration of Zimbabwean returnees from South Africa. [#LNOB #migration](#)

“In 2023, the analyses provided by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) deployed in Zimbabwe, contributed to the development of the UNCT Prevention Strategy in the lead up to the harmonized national election, and resulted in a focused UN System’s advocacy for women participation and prevention / protection of women and children from electoral violence.” - Dr Tajudeen Oyawale, UNICEF Country Director, Zimbabwe

- NEPAL The HRA, working in close collaboration with a transitional justice expert deployed to the UNCT, supported the stakeholder consultations on the proposed legislations on transitional justice and inform on international standards on dealing with the past. A technical note was developed to emphasize the victim-centred approach in transitional justice, and the RC advocated for this policy position to inform the proposed amendments to the pending legislations. [#agenda for protection #transitional justice](#)
- SAMOA The work of the Pacific Human Rights Coordination Group (co-chaired

by OHCHR, ILO, Pacific Community and the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network) as a platform for dialogue and joint human rights action in the Pacific was supported by the HRA. In 2023, the group tackled inclusion of human rights and LNOB in humanitarian disaster response, particularly on the impact of the twin Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin. [#human rights in disaster response](#)

○ SRI LANKA The HRA monitored land conflicts as potential drivers of inter-community tensions. The HRA provides regular human rights inputs to the Early Warning System of the UN in Sri Lanka with a particular focus on transitional justice and reconciliation-related issues. Land issues were reflected in the early warning and prevention tools of the UNCT and RC advocacy with the Government. [#agenda for protection](#)

“With the invaluable support of UN partners like the Human Rights Advisor, the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus has been able to facilitate key discussions around human rights and simultaneously launch strategic planning sessions. Armed with such allies, the Caucus will be able to meaningfully intervene in legislative efforts as well as actively advocate for the enabling environment we need for women and girls to thrive. Because when women and girls thrive, nations prosper.” - Senator Janelle Chanona, President of the Women’s Parliamentary

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

HRAs are a key tool for RCs, UNCTs and national partners including CSOs to increase their engagement with human rights mechanisms and support national efforts to ensure consideration and integration of the work of these mechanisms and their recommendations in national development processes. As shown in the examples below, HRAs facilitate direct engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), treaty bodies and special procedures, including during country reviews. HRAs’ technical advice and expertise on the workings of the mechanisms and the outputs of mechanisms enables more strategic and substantive engagement by UNCTs, governments, civil society, National Human Rights Institutions and other partners with the mechanisms. HRAs in Argentina, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Guyana, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Republic of the Congo, Serbia, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia also supported countries’ efforts to establish national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up on the recommendations of human rights mechanisms (NMRFs), provided the mechanisms with capacity building support, and strengthened partnerships between these bodies and other key development institutions and stakeholders, thus helping to bolster

the strategic role of these mechanisms as key actors for accelerating rights-based sustainable development.

- JORDAN The UN in Jordan, with support from the HRA, developed a UNCT submission to the UPR and engaged international partners and local CSOs to facilitate the engagement and follow up of the implementation of the UPR recommendations. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, 16 UN agencies supported the UNCT's submission to the UPR (an increase of seven additional UN agencies since the last review). In the lead-up to the national report submission, the HRA provided technical assistance to the government and in the joint consultation between the government and four major CSO coalitions before the submission of the national report to the UPR. In preparation for the review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the HRA organized a training for the UN Youth Task Force and conducted a follow-up workshop for the Child Protection Working Group, composed of UN agencies and INGOs, on the implementation of the CRC recommendations and integration into UN programming. [#maximising use of UPR](#) [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#)

- BURUNDI The HRA and UNCT provided comprehensive support to the country for its engagement with various human rights mechanisms. Burundi accepted 204 of the 287 UPR recommendations during the 2024 fourth cycle of the UPR. The country also submitted its periodic reports to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture. These constructive engagements with human rights mechanisms have been integrated in the Joint Human Rights Programme for 2024-2027, which was developed under the coordination of the HRA. [#maximising use of UPR](#) [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#)

- ESWATINI The HRA supported a multistakeholder approach to the development of a UPR implementation plan involving all key stakeholders including the Inter-Ministerial Committee, relevant technical focal persons within government departments, parastatals, the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/ Integrity (CHRPA), human rights defenders, civil society, academics, and the private sector. This is the first time a UPR implementation plan has been developed in Eswatini. With UPR Trust Fund support, the HRA together with other UN agencies (including UNFPA and UNDP), CSOs (African Women Peace and Development Foundation) and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, collaborated in implementing a key UPR accepted recommendation - enhance women's participation in public processes. They held leadership and women's empowerment sessions in four regions and matched it with multi-media campaign to promote women's inclusion, which in turn resulted in increased number of women running of posts, getting elected and appointed in parliament and ministerial posts. [#maximising the use of UPR](#) [#GEWE](#)

- GAMBIA The HRA supported the UNCT in the submission of a joint report to the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW). This report facilitated the adoption of a list of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure for the implementation of the International

Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. In addition, with UPR Trust Fund and the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN PRPD) support, HRA supported the Ministry of Justice to hold consultations on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) with law enforcement to address the UPR recommendation on SGBV. The consultations included various ministries, police, prison services, health officers, NAATIP, the Female Lawyers of The Gambia (FLAG), CSOs and the UN (RCO, UNDP, OHCHR, UNFPA and UNICEF). The outcomes of this consultation included: commitment from the government and partners towards implementation of UPR recommendations particularly SGBV related and those targeting protecting persons with disabilities, and commitment from partners towards an integrated and more coordinated approach towards addressing SGBV in The Gambia. [#maximizing use of UPR](#) [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#SGBV](#)

- KENYA Enforced disappearances have been a longstanding human rights concern in Kenya, and highlighted as a priority area for action in the UPR and by other human rights mechanisms. The HRA drafted a strategy and road map for engagement with the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance as follow up to the series of discussions between the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances Secretariat, Attorney-General's Office and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. A technical level visit is planned for early 2024, to support ongoing discussions with the government to prepare for the ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances and its implementation in national legal frameworks. The HRA also supported the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association visit and holding regional consultations on the development of tools for law enforcement on promoting and protecting human rights while facilitating peaceful protests, as requested by HRC Resolution 50/21. The HRA facilitated the participation of Kenya National Police Service and Kenyan CSOs in the regional consultations. [#maximising use of special procedures](#) [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#)

- LESOTHO The HRA, in partnership with international NGOs, supported the capacity building of civil society organizations to prepare for their shadow reports and engagements with the Human Rights Committee. With UPR Trust Fund support, the Government was assisted in implementing UPR recommendations on addressing discriminatory laws against women in terms of land inheritance. The HRA supported the propagation of the law on Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Women passed in 2022, to raise awareness of rural women and facilitate their claim to their respective rights. The RC advocated women's empowerment and gender-based violence eradication in every speaking engagement. [#maximising use of UPR](#) [#GEWE - discriminatory laws](#)

- MADAGASCAR The HRA, on behalf of the UNCT, continued the coordination of the joint UN, government, and civil society response to the recommendations of the Independent Expert on Albinism regarding attacks against people with albinism. The development of a national action plan on the rights of persons with albinism is

ongoing and the Ministry of Justice is leading the process. With training from the HRA, an intra-governmental committee is in the process of setting up and using the database proposed by OHCHR to keep track of recommendations from the human rights mechanisms and their implementation as a tool for reporting and follow up.

[#maximising use of special procedures](#) [#non-discrimination](#)

○ REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO The NHRI and NGOs preparing for UPR reporting received technical guidance from the HRA with support from the RC. The HRA, with the RC leadership, also organized workshops with the Ministry of Human Rights, NHRI, constitutional bodies, CSOs and journalists to advocate for and support the implementation of recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms/bodies through the establishment of a national monitoring and reporting mechanism. [#maximising use of UPR](#)

○ ZIMBABWE The HRA supported strengthened engagement by the UNCT and national partners with several treaty bodies in 2023. For example, the HRA collaborated with UN Women to provide technical support and advice to Government to submit its Follow-up Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and to CSOs for their parallel inputs. The HRA worked with UNDP for the consolidated parallel report of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The HRA also led the drafting of the UNCT submission of issues for the Pre-session Working Group of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and provided technical guidance to CSOs submitting inputs to the Working Group. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#)

○ ARGENTINA The HRA led the UN interagency key inputs to CEDAW report, CRC, Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The HRA joined the RC in the 4th cycle of the UPR for Argentina, and together with the Government, they organized a side event in Geneva in the context of the 4th UPR cycle on “human rights as state policy: 40 years of democracy advances and challenges”. The HRA also assisted the Government in strengthening the NMRF, which is coordinated by the Human Rights Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly for updating the network of members, and expanding the participation of legislative and judiciary focal points in the reporting process. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#maximising use of UPR](#)

○ BARBADOS AND EASTERN CARIBBEAN, GUYANA, BELIZE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO In the first Caribbean capacity building workshop on treaty body reporting and the strengthening of the National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs), the RC in Barbados was supported by the four HRAs in facilitating the workshop. The event was jointly organized by OHCHR with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, and attended by the government representatives from 13 Caribbean countries. Participants shared experiences, challenges, and good practices and took part in the capacity-building activities on treaty body reporting,

NMRFs, and synergies between human rights reporting and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The workshop's outcome document highlighted strengthened commitment of CARICOM countries to establish or strengthen NMRFs, access the National Recommendation Tracking Database (NRTD), and strengthen efforts to comply with reporting obligations to treaty bodies. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#)
[#accountability](#)

- BELIZE The HRA in Belize was instrumental in convening technical and advisory meetings with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNDP and government focal points to support the process of Belize's ratification of the Escazú Agreement in 2023. Since ratifying, Belize is engaged in the process of finalizing the Implementation Roadmap for this Agreement, a process that has allowed for significant engagement with civil society on the matter of environmental rights and the protection of environmental HRDs. The HRA also enabled greater visibility and action on the rights of marginalized populations including people living with disabilities. After receiving training support, sensitization and capacity building assistance on the CRPD, the ministry with responsibility for people with disabilities has led the preparation of draft disability legislation for adoption into law. [#environmental rights](#) [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

- ECUADOR The HRA supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and provided support to national partners on cases relating to disputed recognition of the right to ancestral territory. The HRA also closely followed the case of Indigenous Peoples and peasant communities affected by the activities of extractive companies, including cases of criminalization of environmental defenders. The HRA also conducted a capacity building activity for the UNCT on international mechanisms for the protection against racism and the agenda for positioning the rights of Afro-descendant peoples for its programmatic planning in 2024. [#maximising use of special procedures](#) [#rights of indigenous peoples](#)

- GUYANA The HRA supported the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) secretariat throughout 2023 and facilitated the UNCT's support to national capacity-building activities on international human rights law and its domestic applications. Of note were training organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance with the NMRF members and constitutional bodies. The HRA also facilitated presentations of Guyana's NMRF experience at the OHCHR global NMRF seminar in Geneva and at the regional capacity building workshop in Barbados. [#accountability](#)

- PARAGUAY Together with the RC and the UNCT, the HRA provided technical support to capacity strengthening of CSOs preparing their report to the CRPD. Government officials, including SIMORE Plus Focal Points and members of the Human Rights Network of the Executive Branch were also trained in the preparation for the Constructive Dialogue with the CRPD and on the preparation of state reports to UN treaty bodies. The UN Human Rights Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Justice jointly organized the training sessions, with the HRAs from Paraguay and Argentina delivering sessions. The sessions included participation from

representatives of OHCHR regional office, UNDP in Paraguay, authorities from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

- URUGUAY The HRA supported the capacity building of CSOs and the state parties including the convening of the multistakeholder sessions on UPR and other human rights mechanisms. Through the learning platform, meetings and outreach by a team of tutors who supported more than 60 persons to build familiarity with the UPR process and human rights mechanisms were conducted; and the elaboration of CSO reports (19 reports from CSOs were finally submitted). Separate sessions were convened involving CSOs and EU State parties, and State authorities with the NHRI and CSOs, where key points of respective entity reports were shared to inform the potential recommendations for Uruguay. [#maximising use of UPR](#)

- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO The HRA, in collaboration with UN Women, led the drafting of the UNCT submission to CEDAW - a report to inform the list of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure. The HRA also drafted and led the process for the UNCT's submission of the report for the Human Rights Committee, and provided technical guidance to CSOs who submitted reports to the Committee. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#)

- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Based on the analysis conducted by the HRA, several Special Rapporteurs issued timely open letters regarding legislative initiatives in the Republika Srpska entity aiming at criminalising defamation and at establishing a distinct regime for NGOs receiving foreign funding and other assistance. Thanks to the prompt action of the HRA presence, these communications were used widely by civil society actors, the Resident Coordinator and the international community (e.g. Embassies) as a reference tool in their advocacy against the adoption of these bills. While defamation was criminalised, the sanctions foreseen in the initial draft were significantly lowered. The strategic use of the Open Letters of the Special Rapporteurs contributed to considerably increase the visibility of the Special Procedures and showcased their relevance. [#maximising use of special procedures](#) [#civic space](#)

- MONTENEGRO The Protector for Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro, the NHRI, established an Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) with ten organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). The HRA provided technical advice in the process of setting up the mechanism, and training support on disability inclusion, which included sessions on integrating disability and CRPD indicators in programmes and recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms. Further, in preparation for the UPR session, the HRA and national partners briefed over 40 Member States representatives about the UPR process, in an event organized by the UNCT. The NHRI and eight NGOs also shared their concerns and proposed recommendations during the event. In a post-UPR session, the HRA and UNDP brought government, NHRI, civil society and the diplomatic community together to discuss the implementation of UPR outcomes, and learn from good UPR practices in the region including the value of a national mechanism for reporting and follow up to strengthen overall implementation of human rights obligations. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#maximising use of UPR](#)

- NORTH MACEDONIA The HRA engaged with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the multi-sectoral Coordination Body for the CRPD implementation established under the Prime Minister's Cabinet in developing the national strategy. The HRA coordinated the UNCT support and provided technical advice on mainstreaming an HRBA to disability inclusion, to ensure a meaningful participation of rights holders and their representative organizations in making decisions that affect their lives. The National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, developed through an inclusive and participatory process, was adopted in December 2023. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

"The Republic of Serbia is continuously committed to improving the state of human rights, and we, as the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, through intensive cooperation with the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), contribute daily to the improvement of the legislative framework and its adequate application through participatory processes and open social dialogues. With the support of the HRA in 2023, we launched a series of relevant topics with the aim of including the most vulnerable and those further left behind, we developed manuals for the direct application of international human rights standards, and nationalized a digital database for monitoring and reporting to the UN Human Rights Mechanisms (NRTD). With joint efforts, we marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the implementation of the Human Rights 75 initiative within which and through over 30 events we included all parts of the society, raised awareness of the roots of human rights and their basic values." - Tomislav Žigmanov, Minister for Human Rights, Republic of Serbia

- TAJIKISTAN Within the framework of the Human Rights 75 campaign, HRA led advocacy efforts of the UN Resident Coordinator Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) for the CRPD ratification. This effort included supporting the visit of the CRPD member in Tajikistan and the meetings with various national and international stakeholders to advocate for CRPD ratifications; preparation and publication of a series of human stories on persons with disabilities on the Asia+ website; analysis of the draft law on persons with disabilities in view of its compliance with CRPD norms. The latter was discussed with representatives of relevant state agencies as well as

OPDs which resulted in incorporation of the proposed amendments in the draft law. [#rights of persons with disabilities](#) [#maximising the use of treaty bodies](#)

○ MALDIVES The Maldives ratified the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (CED) on 31 July 2023. This followed engagement by the HRA with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs especially within the context of the Human Rights 75 “Push for Pledges” Campaign. The Push for Pledges was a campaign to encourage meaningful actions by Member States, with the dedicated aim to show commitment towards improving communities, nations, everyone’s human rights under the Human Rights 75 initiative. The ratification of a new human rights treaty was one of the indicators under the Maldives 2022-2026 UNSDCF Strategic Priority 3: Gender-Responsive, Rights-Based and Accountable Governance and Justice. [#maximising the use of treaty bodies](#)

○ PAPUA NEW GUINEA The HRA, together with other UN agencies in PNG and the UN Human Rights Pacific Regional Office, provided technical support to the Government and civil society on the reporting process for the treaty bodies, including technical support to consultations on the PNG UPR recommendations. As a result, the Government is submitting its first CRC state report since 2003 and will be drafting the first State report on the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) since 2010. With ongoing support from the UN country team, the PNG Government has established the Human Rights Secretariat and is working closely with the UN, and in particular the HRA, to initiate the UPR

○ PHILIPPINES In partnership with the NHRI and network of CSOs, the HRA supported the strengthening of the NMRF and relevant government actors in engaging with international human rights mechanisms, including the mock sessions to prepare government delegates for reviews by the CMS, CRC and the CERD. The HRA also provided support during the visit of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#maximising use of special procedures](#) [#climate and environment](#)

○ TIMOR LESTE Through concerted efforts by the HRA supported by the RC and UNCT advocacy, Timor Leste acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and to its Optional Protocol. The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion also requested support in further advancing the implementation of the Convention. The HRA also supported the Voluntary National Review (VNR) consultations organized by the National Agency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, under the Office of the Prime Minister and with support from the UN RCO. [#maximising use of treaty bodies](#) [#rights of persons with disabilities](#)

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

Despite the strong demand for scale up of the pilot UNDP/OHCHR project run in 2021/2022, the Fund was not able to provide dedicated funding for additional efforts at global, regional and country level under this area in 2023 due to lack of resources. UNDP, OHCHR and other entities continued their support to UNCTs in this area through their own initiatives and further dissemination and promotion of resources developed with Fund support in 2022. This included:

- OHCHR with UNDP convened the side event on "UPR as problem solving tool" during the 2023 Human Rights Council session;
- OHCHR oriented the UNCT and regional offices in Fiji on the UPR good practices publication and UNSDG repository;
- In response to request from UN country teams, UNDP led the translations into French and Spanish of the following knowledge products: [UN Good Practices: How the Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development](#) and [Human Rights and VNR common approach guidance note](#)

“Integrating human rights in development programming is a must for all UN agencies. Being able to rely on the dedicated support from a Human Rights Adviser to do this, jointly implement human rights policies like on countering hate speech and disability inclusion, and to help agencies to use the opportunities of working with the various UN human rights mechanisms to tackle human rights concerns, is of great value to the UNCT, and in line with the Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 for Montenegro.” - RC ai in Montenegro

To further build on the prior investments of the Fund in this area, the Secretariat facilitated RCs’ engagement with the UPR in 2023 through bilateral strategic calls with OHCHR experts to prepare for upcoming UPR reviews.

Human Rights Advisers also contributed to progress under this area through their work at country level, as elaborated earlier in this report. For example, HRAs in multiple countries reported work with NHRIs to build their capacity to engage with human rights mechanism and integrate human rights into development, including in Uruguay, Burundi, Eswatini, Barbados, Samoa, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Congo,

Ecuador, the Philippines, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Moldova, North Macedonia, the Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Kenya and The Gambia. It is also a core part of HRAs' work to strengthen legal frameworks and platforms for meaningful participation and advocacy by human rights defenders and support capacity building initiatives where needed. HRAs in Guinea Bissau, Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines, Burundi, Argentina, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, Paraguay, Samoa, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guyana, Eswatini, and North Macedonia provided direct support and facilitated RC and UNCT engagements with a wide range of human rights defenders including women's rights defenders and environmental human rights defenders, which face increasing challenges and threats globally. Similarly, HRAs in many countries provided support to civil society organizations' advocacy and operations, and strengthened UNCT work on the promotion and protection of civic space.

5. HRM FUND LESSONS LEARNED

The Fund's achievements in 2023 show the value of a pooled funding mechanism dedicated to supporting coordinated and system-wide efforts to integrate human rights in the activities of the UNDS and further bolster the reforms requested by Member States to improve support in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, the positive impact of dedicated, in-country expertise on human rights on the UN's analysis, programming and advocacy is clear from the reported results and the feedback from RCs, UNCT members and national partners. In addition, the catalytic and multiplier effect of small amounts of funding to enable the development and delivery of interagency operational guidance and capacity building initiatives for UNCTs to address ongoing gaps, particularly at the country level, has shown to be a strategic investment in building system-wide coherence and impact.

Follow up activities are being taken forward by the UN organizations participating the HRM Fund in collaboration with other entities, building on the outputs of the Fund-supported programmes in 2023 and previous years. This work is benefiting governments, civil society, national human rights institutions and other partners at country level and contributing towards more efficient and joined-up efforts across the UN development system. Participating UN organizations in the HRM Fund and other UN entities are also continuing coordination and pooling resources where feasible to deliver other key initiatives previously supported or planned by the Fund, such as interagency capacity building initiatives for UNCTs. However, scarce entity resources and reduced coordination support due to the closure of the HRM Fund Secretariat in 2024 is likely to have a negative impact on the pace and scale of such efforts.

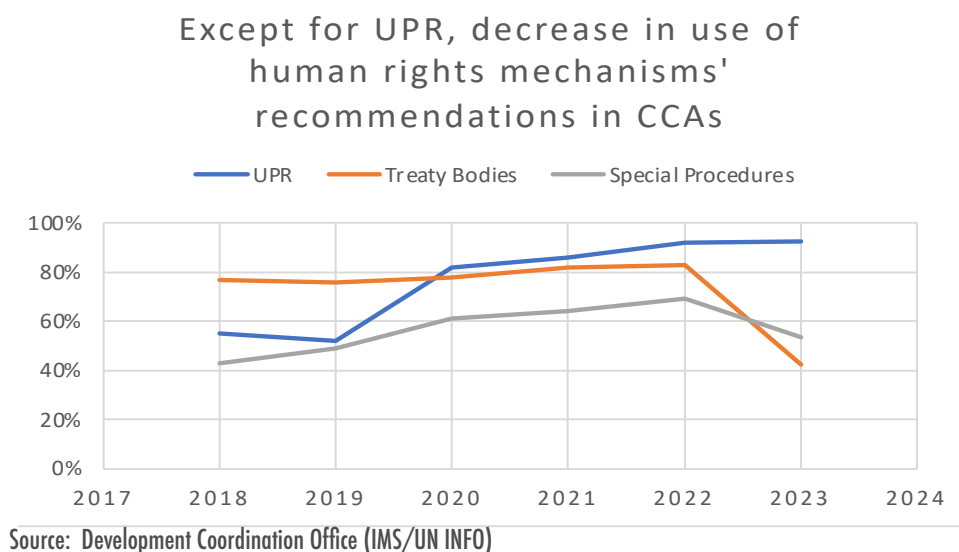
Sustained and dedicated support to UNCTs results in stronger and more effective integration of human rights in UNCT's analysis, programming and advocacy,

including more strategic engagement with UN human rights mechanisms. There is a high demand for such support as UNCTs and national partners recognize the transformative power of human rights as a pathway for solutions to development challenges. With minimal additional resources dedicated to interagency initiatives, UN entities are better able to develop and roll out system-wide resources that promote coherence and joint action on human rights for sustainable development at the country level.

UNCTs with HRAs continued to demonstrate considerably stronger results on key indicators on mainstreaming of human rights. However, with a 20% reduction of HRA deployments support since 2021, it is not surprising that the overall performance of UNCTs in 2023 illustrated some gaps. More investment is required to ensure that UN staff at country level understand how to operationalize the HRBA consistently and systematically in their analysis, programming and advocacy.

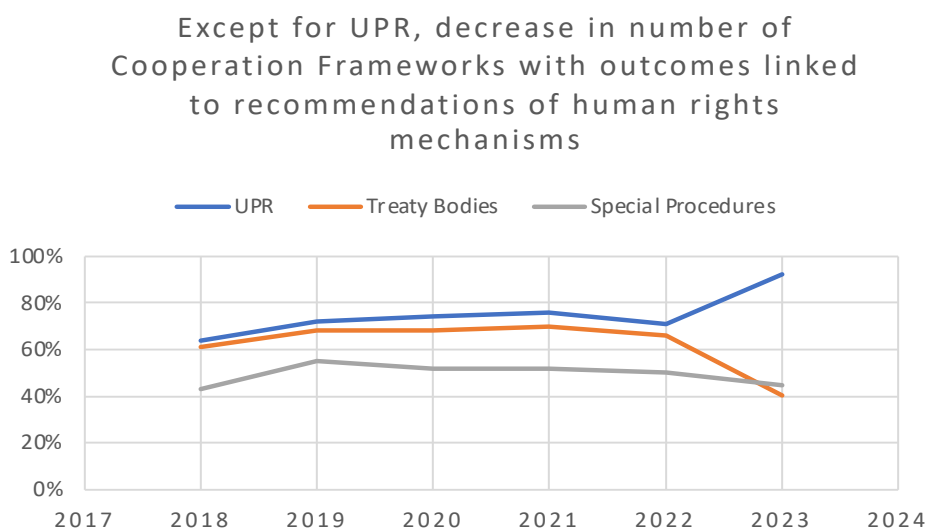
UNCTs' engagement and use of the recommendations of HR mechanisms in CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks remained relatively steady from last year, however, declines were seen in reported use of recommendations by treaty bodies and special procedures in both CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks. UNCT reporting and feedback on various types of engagements with human rights mechanisms, including support to governments on implementation of recommendations, also indicates that additional support is needed to enable UNCTs to effectively assist governments in the use of the human rights to guide sustainable development efforts.

Figure 8: Decrease in use of human rights mechanisms' recommendations in CCAs



These data show that sustained support initiatives are required to ensure that UNCTs have the expertise, skills and capacities to fully integrate human rights in their work and respond to emerging priorities including opportunities and risks in area of human rights for sustainable development. The overwhelming demand for HRAs and for the UNSSC moderated e-learning on HRBA, LNOB and GEWE highlights the eagerness of UNCTs to learn more if the appropriate support is available. Knowledge sharing platforms and active communities of practice, particularly those that facilitate the horizontal sharing of good practices at the country level, are another valuable way of building capacity on human rights. Leadership support for RCs on human rights also remains critical for helping UNCTs and national partners to prioritize actions that address root causes of inequalities to build more equal and resilient societies and get the SDGs back on track.

Figure 9: Decrease in number of Cooperation Frameworks with outcomes linked to recommendations of human rights mechanisms



Source: Development Coordination Office (IMS/UN INFO)

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE 2023



© UN7758802

HRM Fund Management pivot and the funding crisis

In 2023, the Steering Committee, with the support of the HRM Fund Secretariat, reviewed and approved Fund documents through virtual meetings and electronic endorsements, and continued its strategic oversight of the Fund's operations, including resource mobilization and partnerships, programme/project workplans and providing guidance to lead implementing organizations on recalibration of workplans due to the funding crisis. The Fund Secretariat also assisted Participating UN Organizations in the preparation and amendment of project documents and prepared financial and other information for the Steering Committee to perform its oversight functions.

HRM Fund Management pivot and the funding crisis

In 2023, the Steering Committee, with the support of the HRM Fund Secretariat, reviewed and approved Fund documents through virtual meetings and electronic endorsements, and continued its strategic oversight of the Fund's operations, including resource mobilization and partnerships, programme/project workplans and providing guidance to lead implementing organizations on recalibration of workplans due to the funding crisis. The Fund Secretariat also assisted Participating UN Organizations in the preparation and amendment of project documents and prepared financial and other information for the Steering Committee to perform its oversight functions.

and other information for the Steering Committee to perform its oversight functions. The Secretariat continued to liaise with Member States to facilitate completion of documentation for new agreements and contributions.

The HRM Fund Secretariat also supported the Steering Committee and RCs through key messages development to inform intensive bilateral and joint resource mobilization efforts for the Fund's multiyear results framework and funding appeal, linking with key priorities including UN reform, the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, and the ambition of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Secretariat led on the implementation of the Fund's resource mobilization strategy and plan during the first half of the year, with scaled up actions to address the under-capitalization of the Fund. The Steering Committee reprioritized and expanded activities under the four pillars of the resource mobilization strategy - (i) Deepening our partnership with contributing Member States, (ii) Diversifying the donor base by identifying high priority Member States, (iii) Establishing strategic partnerships to identify innovative sources of funding, including with foundations and private sector, and (iv) Thinking global and acting local for expanded resource mobilization efforts. Some of the key activities led by the Secretariat included strengthening engagements with current donors which led to planning donor briefings, updating tailored information and messages for RCs (country-level messages) and senior leaders' bilateral engagements with Member States and potential donors, and initiating/supporting internal discussions on alternative funding sources (e.g., pooled funds, UNDS entities). With support from the Secretariat, messages from RCs, UNCT member entities, and other development partners highlighted the Fund's impactful support for integration of human rights in the development system (such as the HRAs, UPR repository, Surge Initiative) in key events with Member States including the HRC 52nd session (27 Feb-31 Mar 2023), 2023 HRC 49/19 mandated workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2023 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment. The value of HRM Fund-support was also raised in internal UN development system discussions including the UNSDG Principals meeting in March 2023, and November RC Global Retreat sessions on the SG Call to Action on Human Rights and Advancing SDGs in Complex Settings. The critical need for replenishment of the Fund was also raised in many of these engagements.

Despite the intensive efforts and multi-pronged resource mobilization strategy led by the Steering Committee of the Fund over many months, the Fund only secured 18% of the funding needs for the 2022-2023 workplan. In 2023, the Steering Committee monitored the funding situation closely and advanced its contingency planning in response to the ongoing funding crisis. With support from the Secretariat, the Steering Committee reviewed options for the Fund, convened strategic discussions with the Assistant Secretary General level-Steering Committee, ad hoc meetings with current fund contributors, and joint briefings with resident coordinators hosting HRAs (in post or approved requests). As a result of these deliberations, the Steering

Committee decided in June 2023 to cease active resource mobilization and commence planning for winding up the Fund. Following this decision, the Secretariat prepared detailed winding up plans for the Steering Committee, monitored the implementation thereof and engaged with SC member entities to facilitate transition of programmes.

Throughout the year, the Fund Secretariat played a key role in facilitating the coordination between DCO and OHCHR on the HRA programme, contributing to regular information exchanges, strategic discussions on DCO/OHCHR collaboration to maintain and strengthen the programme as a key asset of the UN development system, and development of guidance for Resident Coordinators on local resource mobilization. With this guidance, several RCs were able to secure local funding for their country's HRA posts in 2023 and 2024. The Secretariat also collaborated with DCO and OHCHR on regular engagements with the HRA community to reinforce further the key advisory capacities available in-country for the leadership of the RCs and UNCTs in supporting Member States and key stakeholders (such as the NHRIs and civil society) to advance human rights for sustainable development.

The Secretariat provided critical technical and policy inputs and ensured engagement of relevant DCO teams in the UN Women-led capacity building programme under the Fund in 2023, specifically the finalization and launch of the UNSSC moderated online course on operationalizing HRBA, LNOB and GEWE in Cooperation Frameworks. The Secretariat also facilitated the outreach to UN country teams. This work continued throughout 2023 with the planning for a second cohort of the course to be offered in 2024, leveraging the investments of the Fund in the development of the course content.

To sustain the impact of Fund's prior investments particularly on the collaborative interagency processes and the knowledge products developed (or translated into other languages) supporting the vision of the UNSDG interagency groups and Call to Action Task Teams, the Fund Secretariat continued to promote and leverage the knowledge products in existing UNSDG platforms and processes. As one of the two DCO-hosted fund secretariats, the Fund Secretariat provided advice to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat on further integration of human rights and LNOB in Joint SDG Fund processes (from strategy and tools review), which expanded the HRM Fund's impact across other development-related pooled funds. The Fund Secretariat also provided inputs on the HRM Fund and work of the RC system for the report on Integrating Human Rights into Development, published by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / World Bank in 2024.

The HRM Fund Secretariat extended knowledge management through continued support to UNCTs to apply a HRBA to development through knowledge exchange (e.g., constructive dialogues, as resource person in clinics) including management of the online UNSDG Community of Practice on Human Rights and LNOB (Yammer platform and others), the Resident Coordinator System Inclusion Focal Points Network

and through sharing HRBA-related updates, activities, tools and publications through the UNSDG network including through RCs and RCOs, and the HRAs Community of Practice platform. The Fund Secretariat co-manages the UNSDG Knowledge Portal on Human Rights and Leaving No One Behind and updates the site regularly to feature global clinics, knowledge products and information aligned with key UNSDG policies and human rights themes. The Fund Secretariat sustained its quality assurance support to the UNSDG data systems including annual reporting by UNCTs in UNINFO to ensure the collection and analysis of data on the capacities, actions and results on human rights mainstreaming at country level. UN INFO data is used for QCPR reporting and progress tracking for the Fund's multiyear results framework, and to strengthen the policy-practice feedback loop at country and interagency levels.

CONCLUSION



© UN71031352

2023 was the second year of implementation of the HRM Fund's multi-year strategic vision to meet the needs of RCs and UNCTs in putting human rights at the centre of development and responding to governments' requests for assistance in implementing their human rights obligations as a critical tool to leave no one behind through strategic interagency programmes. In light of the declining contributions to the HRM Fund (and other inter-agency development pooled funds⁴) the Steering Committee guided the prioritization of limited Fund resources in 2023 to focus efforts on supporting delivery of ongoing programmes, primarily the flagship HRA programme which delivers critical support to resident coordinators, UN country teams and national partners and consistently delivers significant results.

Despite the commitment and investments of the entities directly involved in the Fund's operations, the Fund's limited resources since 2022 impacted significantly on its ability to implement the programmes envisaged. This hindered the progress towards targets in the Fund's results framework and the ability of the Steering Committee and PUNOs to respond to demands for support and plan for effective responses to ongoing gaps in the UN development system. More specifically, the urgent need to prioritize available resources towards the HRA programme constrained the role of the Fund in supporting other innovative inter-agency efforts and scaling-up of human rights mainstreaming initiatives led by other participating UN organizations and UN country teams (in line with the strategic vision of the Fund), thereby undermining a key element of the value proposition of the Fund. The limited roles of some Participating UN Organisations in the direct implementation of Fund-supported programmes (as a result of under-capitalization and the prioritization of the available resources towards the flagship programme) hampered the ability of some entities to engage in fundraising efforts for the Fund. The Steering Committee took this into account during the challenging exercise of prioritization of resources. Strong donor support for the HRA programme (including earmarking of contributions in some cases) was also a relevant factor in decision-making, as were the demand from UN country teams and national partners for maintaining this precious resource, and the responsibility of the UN towards staff on contracts. As the results presented in this report demonstrate, this was a worthwhile investment. The many demands on Member States' resources in responding to complex global crises and conflicts also presented a challenge for the Fund's recapitalization efforts.

During 2023 significant efforts were undertaken by the Steering Committee and implementing entities to maximize Fund investments and to stabilize the HRA programme as a critical in-country resource for RCs and UNCTs. This included intensive resource mobilization, discussions with donors and exploration of new partnerships. However, with the ongoing funding concerns, much time was also dedicated to risk analysis and mitigation planning and overall strategic review of Fund as the only pooled funding mechanism dedicated to enhancing the capacities of RCs and UNCTs in their efforts to integrate human rights in the support provided to countries in line with the QCPR. The Steering Committee's decision to commence winding up of the Fund was a practical decision informed by senior level reflection and discussion with partners on the viability of the Fund as a mechanism to meaningfully support inter accelerated action in line with its overall goal, vision and mission. The Steering Committee and Secretariat remained engaged in internal planning processes and discussions with key Fund donors and other pooled funds and partners throughout the year with a view to maximizing the impact, as well as continuation of initiatives supported by the Fund through other interagency coordination mechanisms and funding streams.

Annex 1

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

Steering Committee

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

Technical Secretariat

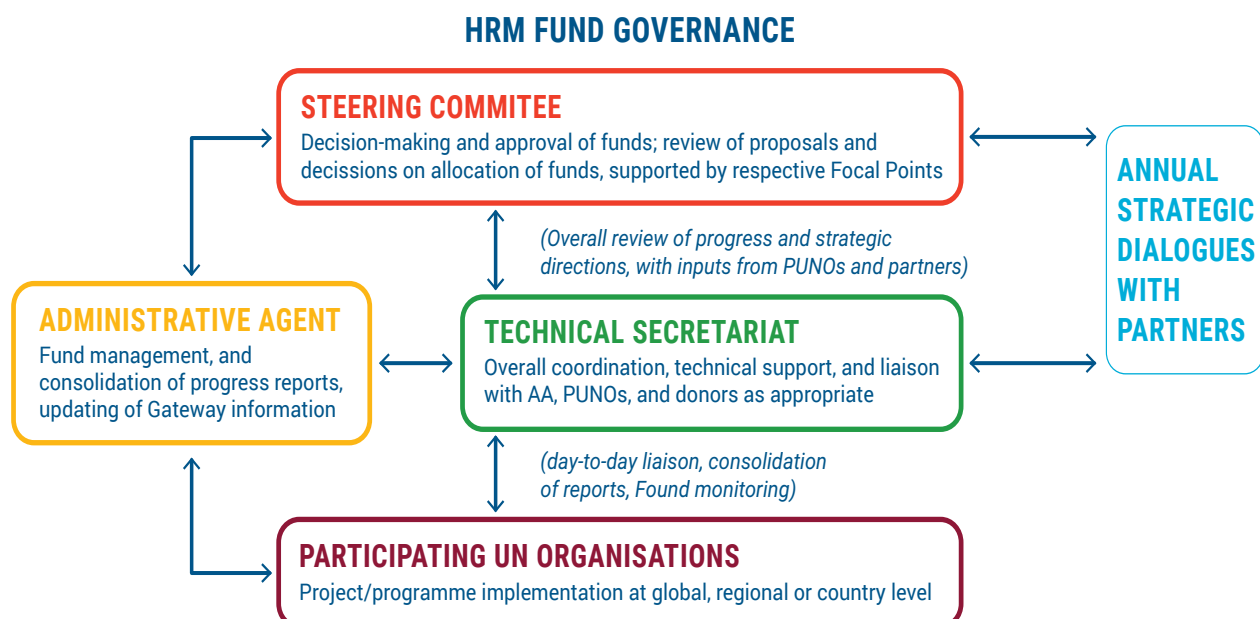
The Secretariat provides operational coordination and technical support to the HRM Fund. It will be hosted by the UN Development Coordination Office to facilitate the Secretariat's support to interagency coordination, institutional linkages between the Fund and the UNSDG and its working mechanisms, and the coordination of, support to, and communication with, RCs and UNCTs and Regional UNSDG structures as required to achieve the Fund's objectives. The Secretariat provides overall coordination and facilitation support to the Steering Committee, Participating UN Organizations, and the Administrative Agent.

Administrative Agent

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

Participating United Nations Organizations

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



Annex 2: Multi-year results framework matrix 2022-2025

Progress towards the impact level indicators for the Fund will be reviewed in the Fund's final report. The significant under-capitalization of the Fund since 2022 has negatively affected the ability of the Fund and its PUNOs to implement the necessary programmes, thus contributing to the variance observed between the Fund's outcome and output-level targets for 2023 and indicator status as re-reported for 2023. The impact of under-capitalization on the Fund in 2023 is described in more detail in the body of the report.

Impact:			
<i>The UN development system contributes to a society where all people enjoy their human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development and the right to a healthy environment without discrimination and are empowered to be active partners in development in accordance with the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind.⁵</i>			
INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	SOURCE
% of countries with independent Human Rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (SDG target indicator 16.a.1.a.)	41.6% (2020)	n/a	UN Global SDG Database
Number of cases of enforced disappearance of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (SDG target indicator 16.10.1.a)	19 (2020)	n/a	UN Global SDG Database
Number of cases of killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (SDG target indicator 16.10.1.b.)	393 (2020)	n/a	UN Global SDG Database
% of countries with legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex – Area 1: overarching legal frameworks and public life (SDG target indicator 5.1.1.a.)	70.9% (2020)	n/a	UN Global SDG Database
Conflict-related death rate (civilians) per 100,000 population (SDG target indicator 16.1.2.b.)	5.0 (2020)	n/a	UN Global SDG Database
% of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (SDG target indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1)	20% (2020) ⁶	n/a	UN Global SDG Database
% of women reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (SDG target indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1)	No data available yet	n/a	UN Global SDG Database

Outcome:

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

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	2023 STATUS
Supporting governments and duty bearers			
% of UNCTs that have in the past year facilitated follow-up of the UPR recommendations by the Government	59% (2020) ⁷	95% (2025)	56% (48/85) ⁸
% of UNCTs that have in the past year facilitated follow-up of the treaty bodies recommendations by the government	72% (2020) ⁹	80% (2025)	48% (37/77) ¹⁰
% of UNCTs that have in the past year facilitated follow-up of the recommendations of special procedures mandate holders by Government	48% (2020) ¹¹	55% (2025)	31% (20/65) ¹²
% of programme country Governments that agree that the UN contributes substantially to identify the situation of the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind	90% (DESA Survey, 2021 baseline published in 2022)	Not established	86%
% of programme country Governments that agree that the UN contributes substantially to address the development needs of the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind	84% (DESA Survey, 2021 baseline published in 2022)	Not established	87%
Empowering right holders			
% of UNCTs that have structured engagement with civil society groups throughout the programming cycle	75.17% (2021 baseline published in 2022) ¹³	Not established	86%

Output 1

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

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2023 STATUS
Number of <i>interagency engagements</i> to generate <i>thought leadership, knowledge or policy messaging</i> convened with the support of the Fund (cumulative)	0 (2020)	2 (2022), 4 (2023), 6 (2024), 6 (2025)	HRM Fund Annual Reports	8 cumulative total
				<i>In 2023: 3 (1 UN Women-UNSSC, 1 Webinar with RCs on complex HR challenges, 1 UPR side event)</i>
Number of <i>joint, interagency knowledge products</i> on human rights in development supported by the Fund (cumulative)	1 (2020)	3 (2022), 5 (2023), 7 (2024), 9 (2025)	HRM Fund Annual Reports	179 cumulative total
				<i>In 2023: 6 (2 UPR good practices translations, 2 VNR guidance translations, 1 thematic brief on Indigenous Peoples, 1 thematic brief on disability inclusion)</i>
Extent of knowledge sharing as measured by the number of page views of the <i>UNSDG Knowledge Portal on HR and LNOB</i> per year	0 (2020)	1,000 (2022), 1,500 (2023), 2,000 (2024), 2,200 (2025)	UNSDG Knowledge Portal web analytics	2,369
Number of peer-to-peer engagements with an explicit knowledge sharing objective supported by the Fund, at global and regional levels (cumulative)	0 (2020)	3 (2022), 5 (2023), 7 (2024), 9 (2025)	HRM Fund Annual Reports	7 cumulative total
				<i>In 2023: 2 (1 HRA thematic, 1 VNR)</i>

Output 2

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

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2023 STATUS
% of RCs that have indicated that UNCT members consult with them on exceptional and sensitive cases related to their normative agenda	83% (2019)	90% (2022), 92% (2023), 94% (2024), 96% (2025)	HRM Fund Annual Reports	98%
% of UNCTs that have been trained on HRBA per year	37% (2020)	50% (2022), 60% (2023), 70% (2024), 75% (2025) ¹⁴	DCO IMS D.1.1.2	Not included in 2023 IMS normative survey

Output 3

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

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS	SOURCE	2023 STATUS
No. of RCs/UNCTs that have the support of a Human Rights Adviser	43 (2020)	54 (2022), 60 (2023), 66 (2024), 72 (2025)	OHCHR	44 UNCTs supported by 43 HRAs
% of UNCTs that have in the past year completed a human rights analysis	77% (2020)	85% (2022), 90% (2023), 90% (2024), 90% (2025)	QCPR 1.4.7.i; IMS D.1.1.2	88% (116/132)
% of UNCTs that have developed a strategy to address the issues identified in the human rights analysis and taken subsequent action to address the issues set out in the human rights analysis	66% (2020)	75% (2022), 77% (2023), 80% (2024), 83% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.3, 2023 IMS D.1.1.4	Not included in 2023 IMS. In 2023, 66% of UNCTs reported that they had held a dedicated strategic discussion on human rights, informed by a human rights analysis, such as the country dialogues envisaged by the Secretary General's Call to Action for Human Rights.
% of UNCTs with an HRA that have supported the government in mainstreaming human rights into national development policies and programmes	91% (2020)	93% (2022), 95% (2023), 95% (2024), 95% (2025)	QCPR 1.4.7.ii;	Not included in 2023 IMS
% of UNCTs with an HRA reporting that current CCAs include recommendations from UPR, treaty bodies, and special procedures as a core component of its analysis (unweighted average)	84% (2020)	90% (2022), 92% (2023), 95% (2024), 97% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.3, 2023 IMS D.1.1.6	72% (UPR 89%, TB 73%, SP 53%)
% of UNCTs with an HRA reporting that UNDAFs/ CFs link outcomes with recommendations from UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures (unweighted average)	74% (2020)	80% (2022); 83% (2023); 86% (2024), 89% (2025)	DCO data and IMS D.1.1.4, 2023 IMS D.1.1.7	55% (UPR 72%, TB 61%, SP 31%)

Output 4

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

INDICATOR		TARGETS	SOURCE	2023 STATUS
<i>Governments</i>				
% of RCs that confirm receiving adequate support on human rights by the UNDS in assisting the country in their engagement with international human rights mechanisms (UPR, treaty bodies, special procedures) and the use of their recommendations	98% (2021)	Baseline not established	QCPR 1.4.11. iii; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey) *Now 1.4.11.i	97%
% of RCs that confirm receiving adequate support on human rights by the UNDS in building and strengthening of national capacities and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights	97% (2021)	Baseline not established	QCPR 1.4.11. vi; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey) *Now 1.4.11.iv	98%
% of RCs that confirm receiving adequate support on human rights by the UNDS in support to national partners on the domestication and ratification of international treaties and alignment of laws, policies and practices with standards	97% (2021)	Baseline not established	QCPR 1.4.11.v; DESA (RC/ UNCT survey) *Now 1.4.11.iii	92%
% UNCTs that have supported the government in mainstreaming human rights into national development policies and programmes in the past year	85% (2020)	89% (2022), 90% (2023), 91% (2024), 91% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.4	Not included in 2023 IMS
<i>NHRI</i>				
% of UNCTs in countries with a NHRI that have engaged with the NHRI as a partner in the past year	96% (2020)	98% (2022), 99% (2023), 100% (2024), 100% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.20.1, 2023 IMS C.4.4	87%
<i>CIVIL SOCIETY</i>				
% of UNCTs that have reported supporting civil society to develop inputs or reports for the UPR or treaty bodies, or supporting civil society to interact with the Special Procedures per year	69% (2020)	72% (2022), 74% (2023), 76% (2024), 78% (2025)	DCO IMS D.1.1.8	58% (36/85 UPR, 40/77 TB, 51/65 SP) ¹⁵

% of UNCTs that regularly assess risks and threats to civil society actors from different groups and backgrounds, including human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists	51% (2021)	Baseline not established	DCO IMS D.1.1.22	Not in 2023 IMS
% of UNCTs that have contributed to an enabling environment for civic space online and offline in partnership with civil society, in the past year	80% (2021)	Baseline not established	DCO IMS D.1.1.21, 2023 IMS C.1.6.3	Not included in IMS in 2023.
				From 2023, 74% of Cooperation Frameworks or equivalent include interventions on civic space
% of dedicated catalytic activities that includes building the capacity of human rights defenders as a priority, per year	n/a ¹⁶ (2020)	25% (2022), 35% (2023), 40% (2024), 45% (2025)	Annual analysis of project proposal forms by the Secretariat	No dedicated catalytic activities funded by the HRM Fund in 2023.
				HRAs in many countries reported providing capacity building support to human rights defenders.

Fund's Operational Effectiveness

Work Stream	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Status as of 2023
Use of Resources	Cumulative delivery rate as at 31 December	68% ¹⁷ (2020)	70% (2025)	98%
	Number of UN organizations that received funds transferred (cumulative)	2 (2020)	6 (2025)	3 under 2022-2025 results framework. 2 in 2023
	Number of dedicated catalytic activities ¹⁸ supporting integrated approaches by UNCTs that have been funded (cumulative)	26 (2020)	100 (2025)	34 under 2022-2025 results framework. None in 2023
	% of HRAs deployed that are female (yearly)	59% (2020)	50% or more (2025)	80%
Resource Mobilization and Communication	Volume of resource mobilized annually (in USD)	3,045,493 (2020)	TBC (2025)	4,371,755
	Number of HRM Fund contributors	6 (2020)	10 (2025)	Total 7 (4 for 2023)
	Number of formal strategic dialogues of Steering Committee with donors/partners (cumulative)	0 (2020)	4 (2025)	Total 4 (2 in 2023)
	Number formal engagements of the Steering Committee with donors or potential donors/partners ¹⁹ (cumulative) Communications strategy tracked annually	0 (2020) No ²⁰ (2020) No ²¹ (2020)	8 (2025) Yes (2022-2025) Yes (2022-2025)	4 Yes Yes
Monitoring & Evaluation	M&E framework updated annually		Yes (2022-2025)	Yes
	Annual % financial delivery ²²	68% (2020)	70% (2022-2025)	N/A
	% of projects operationally closed within 6 months of end date	48% (2020)	67% (2022-2025)	TBA
	% of approved project proposals that apply the gender equality marker	0 (2020)	100% (2022-2025)	100% ²³

Annex 3: Abbreviations and Acronyms

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

Endnotes

¹ OHCHR also provides supplemental support to HRAs including, in some countries, additional staff. Total budget for the whole of the programme including these additional elements in 2023 was USD 13.94 million. See A/HRC/55/78.

² 43 HRAs assisted 44 UNCTs: note that HRA in South Caucasus covers two countries; Serbia had a temporary deployment; HRA posts vacant at the end of 2023 – Malawi, Equatorial Guinea, Jamaica, Suriname, and Malaysia.

³ System-wide Evaluation of the UNDS Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 (2022). Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/download/5456/74335>

⁴ In 2022, contributions to inter-agency development pooled funds declined by 22 per cent. Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: funding of the United Nations development system. A/79/72/Add.1 – E/2024/12/Add.1, para 15.

⁵ While it is understood that the 17 SDGs reflect human rights standards, and 92% of the associated 169 targets are linked to international human rights instruments (see e.g. www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf), the result matrix includes only a selected set of SDG target indicators that are most relevant to the intended impact of the Fund. It includes SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship for which data is available for a baseline year (16.a.1, 16.10.1.a., 16.10.1.b., and 16.1.2.b; see www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/SDGIndicators.aspx for details). In addition, the matrix includes an SDG target indicator on legal frameworks on equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (5.1.1.a.).

⁶ This is an approximate value for 2020 based on data from only 34 states. No precise global data is available yet. See Report of the Secretary General on Progress towards the SDGs (E/2021/58).

⁷ 2020 data from DCO UN Info

⁸ In 2023 IMS the question structure was changed. Denominator reflects the number of UNCTs that responded that they engaged with the relevant mechanism (UPR, treaty bodies or special procedures) in the past year.

⁹ 2020 data from DCO UN Info

¹⁰ In 2023 IMS the question structure was changed. Denominator reflects the number of UNCTs that responded that they engaged with the relevant mechanism (UPR, treaty bodies or special procedures) in the past year.

¹¹ 2020 data from DCO UN Info

¹² In 2023 IMS the question structure was changed. Denominator reflects the number of UNCTs that responded that they engaged with the relevant mechanism (UPR, treaty bodies or special procedures) in the past year.

¹³ 2020 QCPR indicator, unweighted average from 5 subset indicators of 3.7.3 (i-v)

¹⁴ Removed from DCO IMS in 2023

¹⁵ In 2023 IMS the question structure was changed. Denominator reflects the number of UNCTs that responded that they engaged with the relevant mechanism (UPR, treaty bodies or special procedures) in the past year.

¹⁶ The HRM Fund has not yet started to fund dedicated catalytic activities in 2021.

¹⁷ HRM Fund delivery rate and targets reflect the planned transfer of significant funds to OHCHR in the 4th quarter to cover HRA Programme costs in the coming year. This reduces the overall Fund delivery rate as at 31 December each year.

¹⁸ Defined as funding that has been transferred to country level, including sub-elements of global and regional programmes and seed funds.

¹⁹ Fund reports, Fund communications materials, formal events or engagements (outside of annual strategic dialogues with current donors)

²⁰ Fund communications strategy was approved in 2022.

²¹ Fund M&E strategy was approved in 2022.

²² Due to the nature of Output 3, significant funds are transferred near the end of one calendar year for salaries for the following year. Annual financial delivery targets are accordingly set lower to accommodate this.

²³ The Fund applied the gender equality marker from 2022 and all (3) PUNOs submitting new or amended proposals after that time fully complied. The minimum marker score for the relevant project documents was 2, indicating a minimum of 25% of the indicative budget accounting for gender equality and women's empowerment.