



Annual **Report** 2006



United Nations **Human Rights**
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	5
2.0	About OHCHR	7
3.0	Implementing the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan 2006-2007 . . .	13
3.1	A Mid-Term Assessment of Progress	14
	Introduction	14
	OHCHR's First Strategic Management Plan	14
	Country Engagement	15
	Leadership	18
	Partnerships	20
	Support for the new Human Rights Council and other United Nations human rights mechanisms	22
	Management and Planning	24
	Challenges and Lessons Learned	25
3.2	OHCHR in the Field	30
	Introduction	30
	OHCHR's Approach to Fieldwork	30
	Types of Field Presence	31
	Headquarters Support to Field Operations	35
	Cooperation with Humanitarian Agencies	35
	OHCHR in Africa	38
	Overview	38
	Country Offices	39
	Support to United Nations Peace Missions	46
	Other Activities in the Region	52
	Challenges and Lessons Learned	54
	Priorities for 2007	55
	OHCHR in Asia and the Pacific	56
	Overview	56
	Country Offices	57
	Support to United Nations Peace Missions	65
	Support to United Nations Country Teams	67
	Other Activities in the Region	68
	Challenges and Lessons Learned	70
	Priorities for 2007	70
	OHCHR in the Middle East and North Africa	72
	Overview	72
	Country Offices	73
	Support to United Nations Peace Missions	77
	Other Activities in the Region	79
	Challenges and Lessons Learned	81
	Priorities for 2007	81

OHCHR in Europe, North America and Central Asia	82
Overview	82
Country Offices	83
Support to United Nations Peace Missions	88
Support to United Nations Country Teams	89
Other Activities in the Region	89
Challenges and Lessons Learned	90
Priorities for 2007	91
OHCHR in Latin America and the Caribbean	92
Overview	92
Country Offices	93
Support to United Nations Peace Missions	101
Other Activities in the Region	102
Challenges and Lessons Learned	104
Priorities for 2007	104
Rapid Response to Emerging Human Rights Crises	106
3.3 Supporting the Human Rights Council and Other Human Rights Bodies	110
3.4 Supporting Special Procedures	118
3.5 Thematic Human Rights Challenges	124
3.6 Executive Direction, Programme Support and Management	142
4.0 Humanitarian Funds	151
Introduction	152
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	152
United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	152
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	153
5.0 Funding	155
6.0 Financial Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2006	167
Annex I: Organization Chart	173
Annex II: List of Abbreviations	174

Introduction by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



This Annual Report offers an overview of a truly momentous year for human rights. The highlight was the historic inauguration, in June, of the Human Rights Council, the new intergovernmental body created to replace the Commission on Human

Rights. Since its inception, the Council has been engaged in institution-building while tackling some of the human rights crises that erupted or intensified over the second part of 2006. It also moved swiftly to adopt the draft Convention on Enforced Disappearances and the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, two new important standard-setting instruments.

Although “crisis responsiveness” and norm-building will remain essential components of its work, the Council must also be able to design comprehensive protection strategies in the face of both simmering strife and endemic human rights situations. Such vigilance is needed to ensure that the Council fully discharges its mandate and meets the expectations of countless and, often, voiceless victims of human rights abuses.

Building on the additional resources and political support the United Nations human rights programme received in 2005, OHCHR devoted 2006 to supporting the ongoing transformation of the international human rights machinery, and driving through major changes in the rest of our operations, which have grown considerably over the past year.

OHCHR is assisting the Council not only in its day-to-day operations and regular sessions, but also in supporting its special sessions, intra-sessional meetings, and fact-finding missions.

My Office has also been engaged in pursuing its own transformation, which we set out in the 2006 Strategic Management Plan (SMP). In contrast to previous OHCHR appeals, for the first time this SMP covered a biennium of activities, and included staff and activity costs to be funded both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions.

As we conclude the first half of an exceptionally challenging biennium, this 2006 Annual Report provides an assessment of how OHCHR is evolving. The report focuses on those priorities that have directed and will continue to guide our action and initiatives, namely strengthening country engagement and thematic expertise as well as the efforts dedicated to further empowering rights-holders, fostering partnerships both with civil society and within the UN system, and enhancing our leadership role.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of field presences in allowing us to better understand the human rights situation on the ground, directly support authorities and the UN Country Teams, and reach rights-holders. However, field presences are only one of the many ways in which we engage countries on human rights issues. We have also focused on strengthening our own internal capability by reinforcing geographical desks at headquarters and developing new tools and training materials. Crucially, we have created a rapid-response unit, which has already been mobilized to establish, support and deploy commissions of inquiry and other fact-finding missions.

In the same vein, I am pleased to note that two new thematic units – one focusing on the Millennium Development Goals and the right to development, the other on women’s human rights and gender – are now in place, giving us the means to increase our impact in these two high-priority areas. At the same time, we have established a Civil Society Unit, which will allow us to interact in a more concerted way with a wide variety of rights-holders and human rights defenders and workers.

Our advocacy and visibility have been enhanced with a revamped communications strategy that has been carried out through the creation of a dedicated unit, as well as my 15 country visits, numerous speaking engagements, and the many opinion articles that have been widely published by the international media.

None of these ambitious, hands-on initiatives would have been possible without the work and commitment of OHCHR staff, whose ranks also have been augmented by the diverse talents of new staff members from previously under-represented regions of the world.

The Annual Report underscores the many challenges that still lie ahead of us. Some stem from the growth that the Office is experiencing internally. Others are engendered by an exponential increase in partners, interlocutors and initiatives. Although these developments are most welcome, they inevitably strain our finite capabilities. We are greatly encouraged by the fact that not only voluntary contributions increased again last year, but, significantly, unearmarked funding leapt from 25 percent to more than 37 per cent. This development reflects a new level of confidence among our donors in the direction and capabilities of the Office and gives us more flexibility than ever before to pursue our priorities and respond to unforeseeable emergencies.

Such confidence and flexibility is needed for OHCHR to better meet the expectations of rights-holders and achieve results in combatting poverty, discrimination, violence, impunity, weak institutions of governance, and democratic deficits. These are today's towering challenges to human rights. Overcoming them rests on commitment, and a truly cooperative effort.



Louise Arbour
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Louise Arbour was appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, effective 1 July 2004. She previously served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and as Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda.

About OHCHR



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has lead responsibility for implementing the United Nations human rights programme. The international community has given OHCHR a mandate to promote and protect human rights around the world. Headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position established by the UN General Assembly in 1993, OHCHR works to build awareness of and respect for human rights – empowering individuals to claim their rights and assisting States to uphold them. OHCHR, a part of the United Nations Secretariat, is headquartered in Geneva.

MISSION



Through its unique access, OHCHR works with governments to help promote and implement human rights. It also assists other institutions responsible for protecting human rights to fulfill their obligations, and speaks out against human rights violations. OHCHR is tasked with injecting a human rights perspective into all UN programmes in order to ensure that peace and security, development, and human rights – the three pillars of the UN system – are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. This task is essential at a time when the United Nations is undergoing far-reaching reform.

In carrying out its mission, OHCHR:

- ▶ Gives priority to addressing the most pressing human rights violations, both acute and chronic, particularly those that put life in imminent peril;
- ▶ Focuses attention on those who are at risk and vulnerable on multiple fronts;
- ▶ Pays equal attention to the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, including the right to development; and
- ▶ Measures the impact of its work through the substantive benefit that is accrued to individuals around the world.

METHOD



High Commissioner Louise Arbour, who was appointed in July 2004, established her Office's priorities in two key strategic documents: a five-year Plan of Action for the period 2006-2011 and a two-year Strategic Management Plan 2006-2007, which sets out detailed implementation proposals for the first two years of the five-year planning period. Key priorities include greater country engagement, which involves working closely with OHCHR partners at the regional, country and local levels in order to ensure that international human rights standards are implemented on the ground; a stronger leadership role for the High Commissioner; and closer partnerships with civil society and UN agencies.

OHCHR's method of work focuses on three dimensions: standard-setting, monitoring, and implementation on the ground. OHCHR works to offer the best expertise and substantive and secretariat support to the various UN human rights bodies as they discharge their standard-setting and monitoring duties. In the first instance, OHCHR serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council. The Council, composed of State representatives, is the key UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. It addresses violations, reviews States' human rights records, works to prevent human rights abuses, responds to emergencies, serves as an international forum for human rights dialogue, and makes recommendations to the General Assembly for the further development of international human rights law. OHCHR also supports the work of special rapporteurs appointed by the Council to monitor human rights in different countries or in relation to specific issues. OHCHR assists these independent experts as they conduct visits to the field, receive and consider complaints from victims of human rights violations, and appeal to governments on behalf of victims.

Another example of the standard-setting and monitoring dimensions of OHCHR's work is the legal research and secretariat support it provides to the core human rights treaty



bodies. These committees are composed of independent experts and monitor States Parties' compliance with their treaty obligations. They meet regularly to examine reports from States Parties and issue recommendations. Some of these committees, such as the Human Rights Committee, which monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also consider individual complaints against violations of treaty provisions. These decisions help to build jurisprudence of international human rights law. The "general comments" issued by treaty bodies also form part of the body of interpretations of international human rights treaties.

Over the years, OHCHR has increased its presence in the field, reaching out to the people who need protection the most. OHCHR field offices and presences play an essential role in identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights violations in close collaboration with governments, the UN system and civil society. Such responses

include implementing projects, such as providing technical training and support in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, human rights treaty ratification, and human rights education. These programmes are designed in cooperation with Member States.

STRUCTURE

Headquartered in Geneva, OHCHR has an office at the United Nations in New York, and a global network of country and regional offices (see map on pages 10-11). In addition to the Executive Office of the High Commissioner and a number of units that report to the Deputy High Commissioner, OHCHR has two major divisions: the Human Rights Procedures Division and the Operations, Programmes and Research Division. The former includes the Treaties and Council Branch, which provides substantive secretariat

support to the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and various working groups, and the Special Procedures Branch, which supports the work of the Council's independent experts assigned different thematic or country-specific mandates (special procedures mandate-holders). The latter houses the Capacity-Building and Field Operations Branch, responsible for overseeing and implementing OHCHR's work in the field, and the Research and Right to Development Branch, which carries out thematic research on human rights issues and provides expert advice. For a current organization chart, please refer to page 176.

STAFF



To implement its comprehensive mandate, OHCHR employs more than 850 staff, based in Geneva and New York and in 11 country offices and seven regional offices around the world. It also supports an additional workforce of some 240 international human rights officers serving in UN peace missions.

History

The United Nations human rights programme has grown considerably since its modest beginnings some 60 years ago. Organizationally, it started as a small division at United Nations Headquarters in the 1940s. The division later moved to Geneva and was upgraded to the Centre for Human Rights in the 1980s. At the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the international community decided to establish a more robust human rights institution with stronger institutional support. Member States of the United Nations thus created the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by a General Assembly resolution in 1993.

The growth in UN human rights activities reflects the increasing strength of the international human rights movement since the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. Drafted as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations," the Declaration sets out basic civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy. Over time, this unprecedented affirmation of human rights has become widely accepted as the standard to which all governments should adhere. Indeed, December 10 is observed worldwide as International Human Rights Day. The Universal Declaration, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional

Protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, form the "International Bill of Human Rights."

As international human rights law developed, a number of UN human rights bodies were established to respond to changing human rights challenges. These bodies, which rely on OHCHR for substantive and secretariat support, can be either Charter-based (political bodies composed of State representatives with mandates established by the United Nations Charter) or treaty-based (committees composed of independent experts, established by international human rights treaties and mandated to monitor States Parties' compliance with their treaty obligations). The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which was established in 1946 and reported to the Economic and Social Council, was the key UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights until it was replaced by the Human Rights Council in 2006. In addition to assuming the mandates and responsibilities previously entrusted to the Commission, the newly created Council, which reports directly to the General Assembly, is also charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly to develop international human rights law and undertaking a Universal Periodic Review of each State's adherence to its human rights obligations and commitments.

OHCHR at a glance



- ▶ 851 OHCHR staff + 242 international human rights officers serving in 17 UN peace missions
- ▶ 11 country offices
- ▶ 7 regional offices





A photograph of the Palais Wilson, a large, multi-story building with a classical facade. The building is light-colored with many windows, some with red frames. The name "PALAIS WILSON" is visible on the facade. There are trees and a blue sky in the background. A colorful horizontal bar is at the top of the page.

IMPLEMENTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006-2007

A Mid-Term Assessment of Progress

INTRODUCTION

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government from around the world committed themselves to an historic expansion of the United Nations human rights programme – setting human rights four square with security and development, at the top of the United Nation’s agenda.

Leaders at the Summit also resolved to strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the basis of a five-year Plan of Action presented by the High Commissioner. The document makes the case for the Office to become more involved not just in setting international human rights norms but also in ensuring that they are actually implemented on the ground – both through more widespread monitoring and public reporting of human rights violations and through sustained technical assistance and advice to governments and others at the country level. The Plan identifies five strategic priorities to guide the work of the Office during the coming years: greater country engagement; more effective leadership of the human rights agenda; closer partnerships with others within and outside the UN system; providing strong, high-calibre support for UN human rights mechanisms; and strengthening OHCHR’s internal management. By focusing on these areas, OHCHR plans to help bridge key gaps in implementation, and therefore have a greater effect on protecting people and empowering them to realize their rights.

To support implementation of the Plan of Action, leaders at the World Summit supported a call to double, over five years, the funding the Office receives from the United Nations’ regular budget. The first tranche of additional funding – some \$24 million – was made available in the 2006-2007 biennium. This increase, combined with a rise in voluntary contributions from Member States and other donors, enabled the Office to move ahead with a major recruitment drive in 2006 and strengthen a number of offices and projects around the world.

OHCHR’S FIRST STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

In early 2006, the High Commissioner launched OHCHR’s first Strategic Management Plan (SMP). The SMP spelt out the Office’s plans to pursue the objectives laid out in the Plan of Action during the 2006-2007 biennium. It was the first time OHCHR had attempted to present, in a single document, the full range of its activities, including those items funded through the United Nation’s regular budget and those funded from voluntary contributions. Using the five priorities of the Plan of Action as a framework, the SMP set out key objectives, outputs, expected accomplishments, and the indicators by which performance would be measured.

This report, prepared over halfway through the two-year period of implementation of the SMP, takes stock of progress to date, and offers an assessment of what has been achieved, what hasn’t, and what’s been learned in the process.

2006: A Year of Change and Growth

- ▶ 212 additional staff recruited – 158 in the field, 51 in Geneva and three in New York – bringing the total number of OHCHR staff to 851 by the year's end;
- ▶ One new country office opened (in Togo), three existing country offices strengthened (Nepal, Uganda and Guatemala), one additional country office to open in 2007 (in Bolivia);
- ▶ Two existing regional offices strengthened (Addis Ababa and Suva), one regional representative deployed (in Bishkek), with up to five additional regional offices to open in 2007;
- ▶ Rapid Response Unit created to enable OHCHR to react quickly to any sudden deterioration in the human rights situation and dispatch teams of experts to the field as needed;
- ▶ A new unit on women's human rights and gender created to enable OHCHR to contribute expertise on gender at both a country level and internationally;
- ▶ A new unit on the Millennium Development Goals and the right to development established to enable OHCHR to contribute expertise on human rights and poverty-reduction at both a country level and internationally;
- ▶ Communications Section established to increase the Office's advocacy capacity;
- ▶ Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section established to improve internal management and cross-Branch coherence;
- ▶ Extra senior staff recruited to strengthen core management functions.

COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT

For OHCHR, engaging directly with countries to increase awareness of human rights principles, inject technical expertise and build institutional capacity is an important way to advance human rights protection where it matters most: at the country level.

The 2006-2007 SMP sets out a number of ways for the Office to increase its engagement with countries, including by adding geographic desk officers in Geneva, extending and rationalizing its presence in the field, piloting common country assessment and engagement tools, developing guidelines on a variety of substantive human rights issues, and establishing a rapid-response capability.

Progress in 2006

Geographic desks strengthened. OHCHR took steps to improve its capacity at headquarters to engage with countries on human rights-related issues. Eight new desk officers were added in Geneva to enable closer monitoring of the human rights situation around the world and lend substantive support to field-based staff.

Network of country and regional offices extended and reinforced. In 2006, OHCHR had 11 country offices, most located in States recovering from periods of conflict. One new country office was opened, in Togo, while negotiations were concluded with the Bolivian Government, paving the way for the opening of a new office in that country in 2007. Three country offices – in Nepal, Uganda and Guatemala – were strengthened with the addition of new staff; two others – in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia – were downsized, pending their closure in mid-2007. OHCHR also took steps to strengthen and extend its network of regional offices, with additional staff for existing offices in Addis Ababa and Suva, a new regional representative stationed in Bishkek, and consultations held with host governments regarding the establishment of five new regional entities in 2007. Increasingly, country

and regional offices operate on the basis of a full human rights mandate, negotiated directly with the host government, encompassing both human rights promotion, through technical assistance and capacity-building activities, and protection, through monitoring and publicly reporting human rights violations.

Field deployment rationalized. The strategic expansion of OHCHR's presences at the country and regional levels required the further development of Office policies and procedures. This ongoing process resulted in a policy on the deployment of human rights advisers, standard host-country agreements for country and regional offices, a concept paper on regional offices, and the development of standard operating procedures.

Rapid response capability established and support to fact-finding missions and commissions of enquiry strengthened. OHCHR established a Rapid Response Unit

to enable it to deploy human rights experts to the field at short notice, either in response to a sudden deterioration in the situation on the ground or in support of special fact-finding missions or commissions of inquiry into alleged human rights violations. The unit proved particularly valuable in the second half of 2006, when it supported a number of initiatives at the request of the Secretary-General, the Human Rights Council and peacekeeping missions. These included a preliminary forensic assessment mission to Liberia (a technical survey of a suspected mass grave site), and the creation of a commission of inquiry to establish the facts and circumstances relevant to incidents that occurred in Dili, Timor-Leste, on 28 and 29 April and on 23-25 May. During the conflict in Lebanon, the unit also supported the prompt deployment of a human rights officer to Beirut, despite severe security constraints. The unit is developing strong partnerships with other UN departments and agencies and other partners in order to secure adequate standby resources for



High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour and Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca Céspedes, signing the agreement to set up a new country office in Bolivia.

emergency operations. In addition, OHCHR's Methodology, Education and Training Unit launched several initiatives to strengthen the Office's capacity to undertake fact-finding and investigative missions, including documenting existing practice and developing additional guidance materials and training programmes.

Common country assessment and engagement strategy tools developed and piloted. OHCHR staff developed guidelines for country assessments to support the development of country-engagement strategies. The guide-

lines are being piloted in five countries and will be reassessed in 2007. Also under development is a set of human rights indicators, to be applied in the context of future country assessments. A background paper, presented in 2006 to the Inter-Committee Meeting of Treaty Bodies, sets out a proposed conceptual and methodological framework for identifying and applying such indicators. OHCHR is also developing a standard database for recording human rights violations. The database will eventually be used by all OHCHR field offices and human rights components of peace missions.

Country Engagement: Examples of Impact

The impact of OHCHR's country engagement was reflected in a number of policy, legislative, and institutional changes introduced at the national level during 2006. Examples include:

- ▶ In **Nepal**, OHCHR provided technical advice to the Government on various draft laws, as well as on the draft interim constitution. The Army Act of 2006, for example, gives jurisdiction over prosecution of murder and rape offenses committed by Nepalese army personnel to civilian judicial authorities.
- ▶ In **Colombia**, the Office presented an *amicus curiae* before the Constitutional Court on the constitutionality of the Justice and Peace Law, which makes provision for judicial benefits for demobilized members of illegal armed groups, including, potentially, those responsible for serious human rights violations, and establishes a general framework for reparation to victims. OHCHR's opinion referred to international standards on impunity and the rights of victims to truth, justice and reparation. The Constitutional Court's subsequent decision modified some aspects of the law in accordance with those standards.
- ▶ In **Serbia**, OHCHR's comments on draft legislation on discrimination and suggested changes in relation to the definition of harassment and victimization have been incorporated into the proposed law.
- ▶ In **Uruguay**, OHCHR's legal and financial support to a working group of government, parliamentary, academic and civil society representatives helped the body to prepare a draft law to establish a national human rights institution in the country.
- ▶ In **Angola**, the Office's assistance to the Parliament and the elected Ombudsman helped to create a permanent national human rights institution. OHCHR's advocacy efforts on access to justice also resulted in the introduction of mediation in the national legal system.
- ▶ In **Cambodia**, the Office's advice, based on treaty standards, was instrumental in building a consensus between the Ministry of Interior and NGOs that a new draft law on peaceful demonstration should be based on the principle of facilitating the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly, rather than issuing permits conceding the right on a case-by-case basis. The Office hopes this principle will be reflected in the final draft.

LEADERSHIP

As the United Nations' senior human rights official, the High Commissioner is in a unique position to shape the international human rights agenda – identifying, highlighting and proposing effective responses to today's human rights challenges.

The High Commissioner's voice was heard on a range of highly topical human rights issues in 2006, including: human rights during times of conflict; the balance between free speech and defamation of religions; the human rights impact of counter-terrorism measures; poverty (which was chosen as the theme for Human Rights Day); migration; transitional justice; violence against women and children; the rights of persons with disabilities; and human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation. On these and other issues, speeches and statements by the High Commissioner, often supported by press releases and media briefings, attracted widespread public comment.

Working with World Leaders

In 2006, the High Commissioner visited Canada, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Russian Federation, Sudan and Uganda. She met with 12 Heads of State, three prime ministers and 78 government ministers. Her access to government leaders and others in positions of authority provides an unparalleled opportunity to press the case for human rights protection and promotion at the highest levels. In addition to bilateral contacts, the High Commissioner addressed the Human Rights Council on seven occasions and made ten other major speeches at a variety of international conferences and other events.

Progress in 2006

Communications capacity enhanced. A new Communications Section was established in mid-2006 to help increase the visibility of OHCHR's work – and its human rights message – in the international press and electronic media. Based on limited research using Factiva and other web-based search tools, OHCHR tracked more than 3,300 articles containing references to the Office (compared with just over 2,000 in 2005). In the second half of the year, articles ("op-ed" pieces) by the High Commissioner appeared in 84 newspapers in 45 countries around the world. The Office's website, which will be redesigned and relaunched in 2007, attracted some 3.3 million individual visits.

New York Office strengthened. The number of OHCHR staff based at the New York Office increased from eight at the end of 2005 to 11 by the end of 2006. With five additional positions to be filled in 2007, the total number of New York-based staff will have risen to 16 by the end of the biennium (double the number in 2005). The further strengthening of the New York Office, including by creating additional senior posts, remains a priority if OHCHR is to make its voice heard in important policy debates taking place in New York.

Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit established. A new Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit was established in September. The unit is tasked with ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all OHCHR programmes and, more generally, in the programming of other parts of the UN system. As an in-house repository of knowledge and expertise, the unit is also expected to strengthen OHCHR's capacity to engage directly with governments and civil society on matters relating to gender and women's rights.

Focus on economic, social and cultural rights strengthened, especially in relation to legal protection. The Office used its position to argue for wider recognition and legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

The High Commissioner submitted an analytical report on the legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights to the 2006 session of the Economic and Social Council, and contributed to a report of the UN Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council, focusing on economic, social and cultural rights in conflict and post-conflict settings. She has also consistently emphasized the importance of legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights in her public statements, including in a lecture given at New York University School of Law in October on “Economic and Social Justice for Societies in Transition.” OHCHR also provided assistance to the working group of the Human Rights Council responsible for preparing a new Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thematic expertise reinforced in other substantive areas.

OHCHR houses specialists with expertise in a range of thematic human rights challenges, among them, discrimination, poverty, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and the rights of indigenous peoples. In addition to establishing two new thematic units – on women’s rights and the Millennium Development Goals and rights-based approach to development – OHCHR drew on a large number of thematic specialists on a consultancy basis. The Office worked with Member States to promote a rights-based approach to national development efforts. One outcome of this work was a set of “Principles and Guidelines for a Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies.” OHCHR also helped to develop a series of guidance materials designed to incorporate a human rights perspective in UN policy positions and in inter-agency guidelines. These included: a United Nations-wide Policy on Gender Equality and

Strategy on Gender Mainstreaming; policy guidance materials for humanitarian action; a Comprehensive Strategy for Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; an Operational Guidance Note on Human Rights for UN Peace-makers; a joint UN Statement on Female Genital Mutilation; the establishment of the “UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for Human Rights Education in the School System,” and the integration of human rights issues into World Health Organization’s 2006-2015 General Programme of Work.

Human Rights Day 2006

OHCHR chose the fight against poverty as the theme for world Human Rights Day in December. A series of events and initiatives, including speeches, marches, leaflets and posters, sought to increase awareness of the human rights dimension of poverty, and the responsibilities of all governments, both developed and developing, to work more effectively towards realizing the right to development.



Human Rights Day 2006 in Cambodia

PARTNERSHIPS



OHCHR has a unique mandate that sets it apart both from other parts of the United Nations and from NGOs. Nevertheless, in many cases, maximizing impact means working closely with and through others – both within and outside the United Nations.

In 2006, OHCHR took a number of steps to establish closer partnerships – from providing human rights officers to work in peace missions and human rights advisers in UN Country Teams, to establishing an NGO liaison unit to help civil society organizations gain access to the UN human rights system. Efforts to strengthen partnerships took on a new urgency with the publication of the report of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, which stressed the need for UN agencies and programmes to work together more closely as "one UN."

Progress in 2006

Steps taken to strengthen the human rights work of peace missions. By the end of the year, some 242 international human rights officers were serving in 17 different Security Council-mandated peace missions. Significantly, the heads of human rights components of integrated missions now have dual reporting lines: to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and to the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Human Rights Components have helped to give a much sharper human rights focus to the United Nation's wider work of peace missions. Such missions are also increasingly issuing public reports on human rights issues.

Steps taken to raise awareness of human rights issues among Resident Coordinators. OHCHR conducted a review of human rights advisers deployed to Resident Coordinators' offices, with a view to enhancing their effectiveness by standardizing the policies and approaches for their deployment. OHCHR led the development of a Human Rights Guidance Note for Humanitarian

Coordinators, which was issued by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The High Commissioner participated for the first time in the induction briefings organized for new Resident Coordinators, and interacted with Humanitarian Coordinators and senior leaders of peace-keeping operations, emphasizing that human rights is a central pillar of the UN system, and that operational activities of the UN system at the country level must be firmly grounded in principles and standards embodied in international human rights instruments and contribute to the realization of human rights.

Human rights capacity of UN Country Teams strengthened, including through the Action 2 Programme. OHCHR organized 11 training events aimed at building the capacity of UN Country Teams. Through these training activities and expert advice provided by OHCHR in cooperation with other agencies, an increasing number of Country Teams have integrated human rights into their common country programming and supported national partners in their efforts to interact more effectively with UN human rights bodies. In addition to support provided by OHCHR's country and regional offices, OHCHR human rights advisers attached to Resident Coordinators' offices, play an instrumental role in advising Resident Coordinators on policy and strategic issues, and in facilitating capacity-building of UN Country Teams. Two human rights advisers were stationed in Country Teams in Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Deployment of 13 additional human rights advisers is planned for 2007, of which five will be funded by OHCHR alone, seven through the Action 2 Global Programme, and one jointly funded by OHCHR and Action 2.

**“Delivering as One” on Human Rights:
The Action 2 Global Programme**

The second action point (“Action 2”) of the former Secretary-General’s report, “Strengthening of the United Nations: An Agenda for Further Change,” stressed that OHCHR must have the capacity to train UN Country Teams, assess and disseminate best practices, and develop monitoring mechanisms for measuring the impact of human rights programming. One of the main vehicles for achieving this goal is the Action 2 Global Programme – an inter-agency initiative developed to support human rights activities at the country level. The programme brings together 20 UN agencies and departments to provide coordinated support for building the capacity of UN Country Teams, so that they can better respond to demands of Member States in establishing and strengthening national protection systems. OHCHR hosts the secretariat and chairs the inter-agency taskforce, consisting of seven UN agencies and departments, established to oversee programme implementation.

After its launch in late 2004, the programme entered full implementation phase in 2006, with nine pilot UN Country Teams being supported and 30 additional Country Teams selected for support in 2007, among over 50 applications received. An inter-agency learning package on a human rights-based approach to UN country programming was also developed in 2006, for rollout in 2007. Many of these Country Teams benefited from substantive support and advice from OHCHR, including through its regional offices, in formulating and initiating their activities. The programme also provided co-financing support (up to six months) to the deployment of OHCHR human rights advisers at the request of UN Country Teams. By the end of 2006, advisers to Country Teams in Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Rwanda were under recruitment; and additional advisers were approved for deployment in 2007 to UN Country Teams in Indonesia, the Maldives, Moldova, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Nicaragua and Niger.

Partnerships developed with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. OHCHR is working closely with the World Bank in the context of the recently launched Justice and Human Rights Trust Fund, which is intended to support the integration of human rights considerations into analytical and operational work of the World Bank, especially in relation to the Bank’s poverty-reduction and related work.

Partnerships strengthened with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Department of Political Affairs, and humanitarian agencies. OHCHR works closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) at multiple levels. The closest partnerships have been struck in those countries where human rights officers make up the human rights components in peace missions. Other institutional links have developed between DPKO in New York and OHCHR. The two parts of the United Nations serve together on various inter-agency committees and working groups, and collaborated to produce an Operational Guidance Note on Human Rights for UN Peacemakers. Similar linkages exist with the Department of Political Affairs, especially in the context of the Action 2 Programme and deployment of human rights advisers to UN Country Teams. OHCHR has also developed close and highly productive working relationships with humanitarian and development agencies, particularly with the UN Development Programme, whose personnel work closely with OHCHR field-based staff. OHCHR also participated in five Consolidated Appeal Processes, Common Humanitarian Action Plans, and Flash Appeals.

Civil society liaison capacity established. OHCHR established a Civil Society Unit to serve as a conduit for closer contact with NGOs. The unit has already developed various information and training materials for NGOs on human rights, the UN human rights programme, and human rights mechanisms. A handbook for NGOs on how to interact with the new Human Rights Council was published in May. The unit also developed a database of human rights NGOs, and has established direct contact with a wide range of NGOs from both the developed and the developing world. Training sessions were given to NGOs visiting Geneva for

sessions of the Human Rights Council, and the Office helped a number of human rights defenders to participate in sessions of the Council or Council working groups.

Unit on Millennium Development Goals and Rights-based Approach to Development established. A new unit was created within the Research and Right to Development Branch to strengthen OHCHR's in-house expertise on poverty, the Millennium Development Goals, and the rights-based approach to development. The Office also continued to provide strong support to the Working Group on the Right to Development and its High-level Taskforce, including by helping to develop criteria for evaluating global development partnerships, as identified in Millennium Development Goal Eight.

SUPPORT FOR THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

OHCHR serves as the secretariat for the United Nations' human rights mechanisms, including the new Human Rights Council, treaty bodies established to monitor States' compliance with the provisions of international human rights treaties, and the special procedures mandate-holders, who are responsible for vital thematic and, in some cases, country-specific fact-finding, reporting and advocacy work.

Progress in 2006

Transition to the new Human Rights Council supported. The launch of the new Human Rights Council, which replaced the former Commission on Human Rights in June, was a landmark event for the United Nations. OHCHR is responsible for providing both administrative and substantive support to the new Council and its three working groups, established to develop or review mandates and procedures for the new body. The Council held three regular sessions and three special sessions during

the second half of the year, and dispatched one fact-finding mission supported by OHCHR. The Office worked closely with the President of the Council and the Council Bureau, providing policy guidance and facilitating, wherever possible, consensus among Council members on a range of critical human rights issues.

New Human Rights Council

On 15 March 2006, the General Assembly adopted a resolution creating the new Human Rights Council to replace the former Commission on Human Rights and making it a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. During the year, OHCHR provided support and advice to the Human Rights Council as it began its work, focusing on institution-building. The Council has a number of innovative features: it meets more frequently than the Commission; members are elected on the basis of their individual pledges and commitments, and are expected to participate in a competitive process for the privilege of serving; and the Council is expected to undertake a periodic review of each State's fulfilment of its human rights obligations and commitments. The establishment of the Human Rights Council has given practical expression to the Charter's recognition of human rights as a fundamental pillar of the United Nations' functions and responsibilities, alongside security and development.



First session of the Human Rights Council, June 2006

More strategic and effective support of the treaty bodies and integration into OHCHR's country-level work.

OHCHR provides dedicated secretarial and substantive support to six of the seven existing treaty bodies, organizing and taking part in meetings, preparing research materials, and disseminating findings. In 2006, the Secretary-General gave OHCHR the responsibility for supporting the one treaty body not already serviced by OHCHR – the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. That responsibility will be transferred to the Office in 2008 (see textbox on page 24). In addition to providing high-quality support to the work of the treaty bodies, OHCHR also committed itself to creating stronger linkages between the work of the treaty bodies and the work OHCHR does at the country level. Efforts were made to engage with governments, national human rights institutions, and civil society in order to raise awareness about treaty obligations and follow up recommendations issued by treaty bodies. Training was provided to help Member States to fulfil treaty-body reporting requirements and implement key recommendations.

New Human Rights Treaties

Several important new human rights treaties were agreed, adopted or entered into force in 2006, with significant implications for OHCHR, which will service the respective treaty bodies:

- ▶ The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture entered into force on 22 June;
- ▶ The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December;
- ▶ The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was approved by the Human Rights Council on 29 June and approved by the General Assembly on 20 December; and
- ▶ The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was approved by the Human Rights Council on 29 June.

In addition, progress was made on developing an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

More strategic and effective support of special procedures mandate-holders and their integration into OHCHR's country-level work.

OHCHR has taken steps to improve the level of policy, administrative and research assistance available to special procedures mandate-holders, and to support their coordination and joint initiatives. OHCHR was also more active in its support to mandate-holders during and after their country visits. For example, following a visit to Nepal by the Special Rapporteur on torture supported by headquarters and the field office, the Nepalese cabinet decided to make torture a criminal offence, subject to consultation on the draft legislation, which is being prepared. In Ecuador, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers was engaged in efforts to resolve the judicial crisis that followed the dismissal of Supreme Court judges and judges in other courts. He visited the country twice and



recommended new modalities for the appointment of judges, including a greater role for the public, judges from other countries, and the United Nations, which he proposed should have an observer role. OHCHR worked closely with the Special Rapporteur during his missions and to follow up on his recommendations. In response to the Special Rapporteur's recommendations, Ecuador set up a Qualifications Committee to select new judges of the Supreme Court in a transparent manner, with public oversight and with the participation of judges from other countries in the region.

Support given to the Human Rights Council's review of special procedures mechanisms and mandates. The UN General Assembly resolution establishing the Human Rights Council required the new Council to review and, where necessary, improve and rationalize the mandates of special procedures mandate-holders within a year of holding of the first Council session. The review is being conducted by an intergovernmental working group, established by the Council and supported by OHCHR. Issues addressed by the working group include: the selection of mandate-holders; the continuation of country-specific mandates; mandate-holders' relationship with the Council; cooperation with governments; following up on recommendations of mandate-holders; and working methods. In November, the Council asked the working group to draft a code of conduct for mandate-holders, for consideration by the Council in 2007. OHCHR will continue to work with members of the working group and seek to facilitate recommendations on the outcome of the review of mandates. The process is expected to conclude by June 2007.

Treaty-body reform. The High Commissioner's proposal to reform the treaty-body system by establishing a unified standing treaty body generated a great deal of interest and discussion in 2006. While achieving agreement on radical reform of the current system is likely to take considerable time, the debate on treaty body reform has already yielded a number of important initiatives, including steps to rationalize and harmonize the working practices of the existing treaty bodies.

Bringing Women's Rights Treaty Body to Geneva

In 2006, the UN Secretary-General approved the relocation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the only treaty body currently based outside of Geneva, from New York, where it has been serviced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to Geneva, where it will be serviced by OHCHR. The decision to transfer CEDAW to Geneva implies far more than a change of scenery. The move consolidates, under OHCHR's roof, all international human rights treaty bodies and creates new opportunities for generating greater synergies amongst them. CEDAW is expected to hold its first meeting in Geneva in early 2008.

MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Strengthening OHCHR's management and planning capabilities was identified in the 2006-2007 SMP as a prerequisite for achieving the Office's wider objectives for the biennium. Past evaluations had identified a number of weaknesses and recommended necessary changes. As a result, OHCHR embarked on far-reaching internal reform, the benefits of which are already becoming clear.

In 2006, action was taken to strengthen OHCHR's management and planning capabilities, with a major recruitment drive, the appointment of a number of new senior management staff, the creation of new posts in administration, finance and human resources, and the establishment of a new section responsible for bringing greater cross-branch coherence to OHCHR's planning processes, monitoring implementation and carrying out periodic evaluations of the Office's performance.

Progress in 2006

Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section newly established. As foreseen in the SMP, a new Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section was established to provide greater cross-branch coordination and more rigorous approach to planning, budgeting and project implementation. The new section is also responsible for coordinating regular internal evaluations of performance, and advises senior management on any necessary adjustments to work-plans, staffing and resource allocations.

Human resource policies and staff diversity strengthened. In a year in which recruitment was high on OHCHR's agenda, significant attention was also devoted to improving human resources policies and practices. Some 120 staff previously employed under temporary contracts were "regularized," ending the practice of employing long-serving staff on short-term contracts. In addition, to encourage greater mobility, especially between headquarters and the field, an in-house roster of staff members qualified and willing to be deployed at short notice to support field operations was compiled, and staff training opportunities were extended. Following criticisms of geographical imbalance in the composition of its staff, OHCHR put in place new procedures to widen the pool of applications from underrepresented regions. Of the 45 individuals selected for professional level posts since the introduction of these new procedures, 31, or 69 per cent, were nationals from regions underrepresented within OHCHR's workforce.

Administrative guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures developed: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for field offices in a number of areas were developed in order to provide greater clarity, consistency and closer organizational and operational links between headquarters and field presences, and to improve the Office's capacity to monitor and evaluate the way in which management decisions are implemented. SOPs on other aspects of OHCHR's work, and a number of other administrative guidelines, will be developed during 2007.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED



There was an array of organizational challenges in 2006 as OHCHR moved ahead with a large-scale expansion programme, hiring some 212 new staff and putting in place major structural reforms. In general, recruitment proved slower than originally envisaged, as the United Nations' human resources management system struggled at times to process the sudden upsurge in OHCHR vacancies. Time spent on recruitment, implementing staff mobility arrangements and changes in managerial structures, while necessary and beneficial in the long term, inevitably had an impact on other parts of the Office's work.

The birth of the Human Rights Council presented challenges of its own. The Council's first year was largely taken up with institution-building, which required strong professional support from OHCHR. The increased frequency of meetings, compared with the former Commission on Human Rights, is placing additional demands on OHCHR, which will need to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat it provides the Council in the coming years.

The High Commissioner's initial proposals to establish a unified treaty body did not attract the level and breadth of political support needed to move forward. Instead, the Office focused its efforts on assisting the treaty bodies in harmonizing their working methods and reporting requirements. The workload associated with providing support to the treaty bodies is set to grow substantially in the coming years, with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women coming to Geneva, to be serviced by OHCHR, together with the new body established to monitor compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and, in time, future bodies established to monitor treaties on enforced disappearances and the rights of persons with disabilities.

It was decided to postpone developing an annual report on the state of human rights around the world, pending the

development of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) proposed by the Human Rights Council. Over time, depending on how it evolves, the UPR could provide the basis for regular reporting on the human rights situation country by country. The idea of an OHCHR World Human Rights Report may be reconsidered once the UPR takes shape.

The concept of country engagement has helped to bring the entire office together in working towards a common objective. This represents a fundamental change in working culture: From a situation where parts of the Office traditionally functioned on the basis of distinct mandates to one where colleagues work across organizational structures towards common priorities. However, maintaining coherence and a clear direction will require sound planning and constant monitoring for years to come.

Negotiating mandates for field presences has proven a complex and time-consuming process, particularly for regional offices. Experience has shown that OHCHR is most effective when it is engaged at a country level on a long-term basis, with adequate staffing, and with a full, unrestricted mandate to both protect and promote human rights. To this end, the Office has developed standard host-country agreements for field presences at the national and regional levels.

Progress has been made on the fundraising front, although the amount of voluntary contributions pledged by donors will need to continue to grow in 2007 and beyond if the Office is to meet the ambitious objectives it has set for itself. Further work is also needed to widen the Office's donor base to attract more countries that have not made regular contributions in the past.

The increased number of partners, including civil society organizations and other parts of the United Nations, made it even more important for the Office to prioritize and strategize its interventions. As the only UN entity based outside New York to be represented on the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee, OHCHR is well placed to contribute to discussions at the heart of the United Nations. Increasingly, the

Office is also deeply engaged with UN partners at policy and operational levels, developing joint approaches and working together to ensure human rights perspectives are integrated into the work of UN agencies and programmes. Even so, OHCHR's location in Geneva means it often finds itself a step removed from key decisions taken in New York. Ultimately, this obstacle can be overcome only by further strengthening OHCHR's New York office.

The Office has developed an array of human rights handbooks, learning resources and other methodology tools, many of which are used regularly both by OHCHR staff in the field and by others inside and outside the United Nations. While the reception from users has been encouraging, the real test is how useful such materials are in practice and their impact on knowledge and practice. With this in mind, OHCHR has started a thorough evaluation of its methodological tools in order to guide and improve future work in this area.

While the performance indicators contained in the Strategic Management Plan have been very useful in focusing staff on the need to monitor and measure progress against results, more work is required to improve and refine some of the indicators for future use, and to put



in place the necessary data-collection processes to ensure accurate reporting. Some of the current indicators, such as the level of awareness and understanding of human rights mechanisms by civil society actors, require surveys to be conducted if they are to be applied satisfactorily. Others, such as the level of attention given to the human rights dimension of issues discussed in UN bodies and agencies, are inherently difficult to quantify. OHCHR's new Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section will make recommendations regarding any necessary adjustments to the current indicators for inclusion in the next Strategic Management Plan (2008-2009). In the meantime, this report presents as complete a picture as possible of OHCHR's progress, using the indicators contained in the SMP and information currently available. A more detailed and definitive assessment will be presented in spring 2008, in an end-of-the-biennium report.

Things That Didn't Happen in 2006

The SMP included several initiatives that have either been put on hold or deferred for implementation in 2007:

- ▶ **World Human Rights Report.** Postponed pending outcome of the Universal Periodic Review.
- ▶ **Unified Standing Treaty Body.** No agreement reached; progress made in harmonizing working methods of existing treaty bodies.
- ▶ **Legal Advocacy and Advice Unit.** Establishment of a unit deferred until 2007.



MAJOR OUTPUTS AND PERFORMANCE AGAINST KEY INDICATORS IN 2006

Major outputs in 2006	Key indicators 2006-2007	Progress against indicators in 2006
i) COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT		
Expected accomplishment: Strengthen OHCHR's engagement with countries to close implementation gaps		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on a common approach to country assessments developed for future use. • Geographic desks strengthened by adding eight new desk officers. • Field deployment rationalized, including the development of standardized host country agreements for the establishment of new country and regional offices; ten Standard Operating Procedures on headquarters-field interaction; and a policy on deployment of human rights advisers. • Rapid Response Unit established and agreement reached with other UN departments and agencies and external partners to secure adequate stand-by resources for emergencies. • Capacity to support fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry strengthened by creation of a rapid response capability and development of a handbook on conducting human rights investigations. • Inventory of existing methodological tools conducted and 13 handbooks, training packs and other tools updated; new tools developed on human rights monitoring and reporting, rule of law, and minority and indigenous issues; fact sheet produced on human rights and counter-terrorism measures; standard database for recording human rights violations created; set of indicators for country assessments under development. 	<p>Increased number of policy, legislative and institutional changes/developments to close human rights implementation gaps introduced at the national level with the support or at the initiative of the United Nations human rights programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nine additional national human rights institutions accredited in 2006, bringing the total to 60. ▶ Network of national human rights institutions for West African states established. ▶ 45 countries ratified international human rights instruments (treaties and protocols). ▶ New legislation promoting and protecting human rights proposed or adopted in, <i>inter alia</i>, Angola, Cambodia, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Guatemala, Iraq, Liberia, Morocco and Serbia.
	<p>Increased number of institutionalized human rights training and education programmes introduced at the national level with the support or at the initiative of the United Nations human rights programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Training provided in 23 countries to support implementation of the recommendations of treaty bodies. ▶ Human rights training for national authorities and civil society carried out in nine countries by human rights officers serving in UN peace missions. ▶ Human rights included in school curricula in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau and Tajikistan and moot court training introduced in several universities.
	<p>Rapid response capacity to deploy human rights officers at short notice established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rapid response capability to deploy human rights officers at short notice created; \$1m contingency fund established; staff from the new Rapid Response Unit deployed to seven countries, access to DPKO equipment reserves secured.
ii) LEADERSHIP		
Expected accomplishment: Enhanced human rights leadership role for the High Commissioner to identify and analyse human rights problems and propose solutions to close implementation gaps		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Section established. • Development of a World Human Rights Report postponed, pending outcome of discussions on the Universal Periodic Review. • New York Office strengthened with the recruitment of three additional staff, five more to join in 2007. • Unit on Legal Advocacy and Advice planned for 2007. • Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit established. • Increased work on economic, social and cultural rights, including through: reports submitted to the UN Secretary-General and the Human Rights Council on legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights in conflict and post-conflict settings; and assistance provided to the working group on the new Optional Protocol to the ICESCR. • Thematic expertise strengthened through recruitment of staff, and consultants and collaboration with Member States and UN agencies and programmes on integrating human rights-based approaches in development and other programming. 	<p>Increased reference to OHCHR policy positions and commentaries by concerned United Nations organs and bodies in policy and planning documents, in civil society campaigns, and in major human rights reports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Numerous UN papers and publications, including reports of Resident Coordinators, UNICEF and UN-HABITAT, contained references to recommendations of special procedures mandate-holders and treaty bodies. ▶ OHCHR statements were quoted or referred to in numerous NGO reports and campaigns, including those of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, Freedom House, Article 19, the World Organization against Torture, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and the International Crisis Group.
	<p>Increased and more accurate reporting on human rights issues and the work of the Office by the media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ More than 3,300 press articles referred to or quoted OHCHR (based on limited media tracking). ▶ Op-ed articles by the High Commissioner appeared in 84 newspapers in 45 countries around the world.
	<p>Increased public interest in the United Nations human rights programme and support for the work of the Office.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ More than 3.3 million individual visits to the OHCHR website (www.ohchr.org). ▶ Human Rights Day marked by events, broadcasts and publications and more than 20 countries reported national campaigns and activities.
iii) PARTNERSHIPS		
Expected accomplishment: Strengthened partnerships with United Nations agencies and programmes and with civil society to close gaps in implementation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of human rights issues enhanced among Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other senior officials, including through: induction training for Resident Coordinators (in which the High Commissioner participated); advice on policy and strategic issues provided by OHCHR human rights advisers to Resident Coordinators; a review of the role of human rights advisers and standardization of policies and procedures for their deployment; and preparation of a guidance note for Human Rights Coordinators. 	<p>Increased number of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) integrating a human rights-based approach to development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OHCHR contributed to the preparation of 18 UNDAFs and PRSPs (compared to 30 in the 2004-2005 biennium). ▶ Training in rights-based approaches to development provided to 16 Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (compared to ten in 2004-2005).

Major outputs in 2006	Key indicators 2006-2007	Progress against indicators in 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human rights capacity of UN Country Teams strengthened, including through: the Action 2 Global Programme, which provided support to nine UN Country Teams in 2006; and the deployment of three OHCHR-funded human rights advisers in 2006 (with plans for 13 more to be deployed in 2007, partly funded through the Action 2 Programme) Unit on Millennium Development Goals and Rights-based Approach to Development established. Senior civil society function within OHCHR established, with the creation of a new Civil Society Unit. Partnership with DPKO, DPA and humanitarian agencies strengthened through participation in interagency bodies, deployment of human rights advisers to UN Country Teams and more than 240 international human rights officers working in 17 peace missions. Partnership with World Bank strengthened, with joint focus on integrating human rights into the Bank's work. 	<p>Increased integration of human rights into United Nations peace and security and humanitarian activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHCHR participated in meetings of the Policy Committee, the Interagency Steering Committee, the UN's four executive committees and 31 interagency groups on country and thematic issues. OHCHR contributed to the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Affairs Committee, the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.
	<p>Increased awareness, understanding and use of various human rights mechanisms and programmes by civil society actors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 154 NGOs participated in the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council, 155 participated in the second session and 99 took part in the third. 56 NGOs contributed information to communications by the Special Procedures and mandate-holders met with numerous NGOs and other human rights defenders during country visits. A weekly OHCHR e-bulletin was sent to over 300 civil society organizations. More than 250 civil society representatives were trained on UN human rights mechanisms, treaty implementation, reporting and follow-up processes and 30 met and interacted with treaty bodies.
<p>iv) UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES Expected accomplishment: Enhanced synergy in the relationship between OHCHR and the various United Nations human rights bodies to close implementation gaps</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for a unified treaty body developed and debated. More strategic and effective support for treaty bodies, and their integration into OHCHR's work at the country level. Examples include OHCHR support for harmonization and rationalization of treaty bodies' working methods; adoption of draft guidelines for a common core document for treaty reporting; decision to relocate CEDAW from New York to Geneva; more active involvement of geographic desks in the work of treaty bodies. More strategic and effective support for special procedures, and their integration into OHCHR's work at the country level. Examples include more active involvement of country and regional offices in the work of special procedures mandate-holders, including supporting field visits; OHCHR efforts to follow up recommendations of mandate-holders with governments. Transition to new Human Rights Council supported, including providing substantive and secretariat support for three regular sessions, three special sessions and two fact-finding missions in 2006. Support provided to the inter-governmental working group on the rationalization of mandates. Links made with UN Executive Committees through New York Office. OHCHR also chaired the inter-agency New York-based taskforce on implementation of the Action 2 Global Programme, increased its engagement with the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, and helped develop terms of reference and a governance structure for the new UN Democracy Fund. 	<p>Increased joint initiatives among the components of the human rights programme (briefings, cross references, statements, missions, implementation of recommendations).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three joint reports were issued by special procedures mandate holders; two joint country visits were conducted, and 48% of communications issued by mandate-holders were issued jointly. Treaty bodies made numerous references to the work of mandate-holders. For example, the CRC referred to recommendations by four Special Rapporteurs in concluding observations on four countries; and CERD met with the Independent Expert on minority issues.
	<p>Increased attention to human rights dimensions of issues discussed in United Nations bodies and agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine human rights policy guidelines adopted by UN agencies, programmes and inter-agency bodies compared with three in 2004-2005. OHCHR's contributions reflected in 51 country-specific and three thematic reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and in background documents prepared for the Peacebuilding Commission.
<p>v) MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING Expected accomplishment: Strengthened OHCHR management and planning capacity to close implementation gaps</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PPMES) established. Delegation of authority requested in relation to receipt of voluntary contributions, issuing of allotments and financial cables, processing of contracts for consultants and locally recruit short-term temporary staff. Standard Operating Procedures on administrative matters developed. Human resource policies strengthened, including through completion of staff regularization exercise, introduction of a new staff rotation policy, and new procedures designed to ensure greater geographic diversity for professional-level posts. 	<p>Established priorities and policies guide the allocation of resources and workplans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocation of both regular and extra-budgetary resources guided by the SMP (2006-2007) and mandates given by inter-governmental bodies. Mid-year and the end-of-year reviews, conducted by PPMES, provided opportunities for priorities to be reassessed and revised as necessary.
	<p>Reduced timeframe in recruiting staff and deploying staff to the field in a safe and efficient manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeframe for recruitment remained unchanged mainly due to the large number of additional posts created and recruited in 2006, and the impact of the regularization exercise. Timeframe for deployment of staff to the field in emergencies was considerably shortened.
	<p>Reduced vacancy rates and turnover.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 212 new staff members recruited and 120 staff previously employed under temporary contracts regularized. Vacancy rates were not reduced due to the creation of a large number of new posts and the regularization exercise. Data on staff turnover not available.

OHCHR in the Field

Introduction

OHCHR'S APPROACH TO FIELDWORK

OHCHR's work in the field is a critical component of human rights promotion and protection. With the adoption of a strategy of country engagement as a key theme of the High Commissioner's Plan of Action, OHCHR's field operations have gained new impetus as a means to ensure more direct and responsive interaction with countries. By engaging with countries, OHCHR seeks to help bridge the human rights gaps identified in the High Commissioner's Plan of Action, namely: knowledge, capacity, commitment, and security. Country engagement encompasses a wide range of national partners, including governments, national human rights institutions and civil society, and involves all parts of the Office, including staff assigned to thematic human rights issues, as well as those supporting treaty bodies and the special procedures.

In 2006, enhancing country engagement required a refocusing and expansion in the number of OHCHR field presences; a strengthening of partnerships with other UN actors, including the development of human rights-sensitive common country assessments and common country strategies; greater utilization of the recommendations of the special procedures and treaty bodies; and development of an urgent response capacity in-house.

The Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch spearheads the country engagement strategy in cooperation with other parts of the Office, involving UN partners, civil society groups, government actors, and national human rights institutions. The overall objective is to ensure that:



- ▶ National authorities are better informed of international human rights standards and how to translate these into laws, regulations, and policies;
- ▶ Government officials and civil society have greater capacities to address human rights concerns;
- ▶ Government authorities are aware of their human rights obligations and design effective remedies to overcome obstacles in the realization of human rights;
- ▶ Rights-holders are better protected from policies that threaten their personal security; and
- ▶ OHCHR is in a better position to respond to human rights crises.

Efforts to establish a clearer link between human rights and the work of other parts of the UN system have gained new resonance in the context of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, "Delivering as One." The recommendations place high expectations on the Office as a human rights "centre of excellence" in ensuring that all parts of the United Nations integrate a human rights dimension into their programming.

Establishing field presences is one way that OHCHR can engage with countries with human rights needs. However, since OHCHR cannot be everywhere, working from headquarters or regional offices and utilizing the human rights mechanisms are also essential activities in working with national partners. The key is to determine where OHCHR's comparative advantage lies in engaging with countries, taking into consideration the gravity of the human rights situation, the work of partners on the ground, the political willingness of the governments concerned, the potential for impact and results, and the commitment of national partners. A standardized memorandum of understanding for country and regional offices was developed to facilitate future negotiations with governments on the status and mandate of field presences.

TYPES OF FIELD PRESENCE

The decision to engage with a country by establishing an OHCHR field presence is based on a human rights country assessment and also takes into account security and political considerations, available human and financial resources, administrative arrangements, and the possibility of establishing offices with the full mandate of the High Commissioner.

Country Offices

In establishing country offices, OHCHR negotiates with the host government a full mandate that includes both human rights protection and promotion. Activities usually include monitoring, public reporting, provision of technical assistance, monitoring and the development of national human rights capacity-building initiatives. Country office mandates are usually negotiated either directly with the concerned government (as in Uganda and Guatemala) or through resolutions passed by the former Commission on Human Rights (as in Nepal). The specific areas of focus of each country office are decided in cooperation with governments and based on an assessment of the human rights concerns, national and international actors involved in human rights work, and the most effective means available to OHCHR for addressing gaps in the realization of human rights. Reports on the operations of country offices and the human rights situation of host countries are often presented to the Human Rights Council for further action and consideration.

In 2006, OHCHR had 11 country offices, in Angola, Uganda, Togo, Cambodia, Nepal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (including in Kosovo), the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico. Former country offices in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were merged with the human rights sections of the integrated UN peace missions. An additional office in Bolivia will open in 2007.

Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation

The Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation was established by the UN Secretary-General in 1987 in response to the former Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/83. The Fund provides resources to support national efforts at building a strong human rights framework in the context of the UN human rights programme. Support is provided to promote and establish strong legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, an independent judiciary, a vibrant civil society, and societies that seek to promote rights and responsibilities. Since 1993, a Board of Trustees has been providing administrative and operational advice to the Fund. The Board meets biannually to review the programmes it supports, discuss thematic issues, methodologies and procedures, examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters, and brief Member States on progress and achievements. The Board met for its 24th session from 24 to 27 January 2006 and 25th session from 7 to 10 November 2006.

In 2006, the fund received US\$ 5 million in fresh contributions. This funding was used to implement OHCHR technical cooperation activities in Afghanistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guatemala, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Palestine, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, and Uganda. Activities implemented using the resources of the Fund have resulted in: greater practical action at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices; the establishment of more sustainable national capacities to adhere to these standards; strengthening of the administration of justice; greater emphasis on the development of human rights education programmes; the establishment of responsive national human rights institutions; and the development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Regional Offices

Regional offices serve as outposts of OHCHR. They provide coverage of countries where there is no other OHCHR field presence. Where possible, regional offices complement the expertise of country presences by providing support on institutional and thematic issues and ad hoc support as needed. They also help to develop and implement OHCHR engagement strategies at the country and regional levels, working particularly closely with regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations.

By the end of 2006, OHCHR had regional offices in Pretoria, Addis Ababa, Santiago de Chile, Bangkok, Beirut, Suva, and a regional centre in Yaoundé, and was in negotiation with relevant host governments concerning the establishment of additional new regional offices in Panama (covering Central America), Kyrgyzstan (Central Asia), Senegal, with an annex in Abuja (West Africa), Egypt (North Africa), and a regional centre in Qatar (Southwest Asia and the Arab region).

Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions

OHCHR works with other UN partners to strengthen the human rights work carried out by integrated peace missions. One of the general premises of these new arrangements is that all UN entities are responsible for ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights through their operations, and that OHCHR, as the “lead agency” on human rights issues, has a central role to play in providing expert advice and support. As a result of a decision of the UN Secretary-General, heads of human rights components of integrated peace missions now have a dual reporting line: one to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and another to the High Commissioner, whose Office provides guidance and functional support.

Human rights components of peace missions focus their work on:

- ▶ Building human rights capacities and institutions;
- ▶ Mainstreaming human rights into all UN programmes;
- ▶ Monitoring, documenting, investigating and reporting on the human rights situation;
- ▶ Ensuring that peace processes promote justice and equity; and
- ▶ Preventing and redressing violations of human rights.

At the end of December 2006, there were 17 UN peace missions that incorporated human rights promotion and protection as part of their mandated work. Periodic internal and public human rights reporting has now been institutionalized and standardized (for example, in Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sudan). OHCHR provided technical assistance and, in some instances, financial support to the integrated peace missions and played a key role in the development of guidelines on the Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP). OHCHR forms part of inter-departmental technical assessment missions for the design and establishment of peace operations.

The Secretary-General's decision on human rights in integrated missions, adopted in October 2005, reinforced the centrality of human rights in the work of peace missions and led to renewed cooperation among the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and OHCHR. The annual meeting of heads of human rights components of peace missions was held in New York in December 2006, with the involvement of all three departments.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Human rights advisers assist in identifying a country's human rights needs and advise the Resident Coordinator,

heads of UN agencies, and Country Teams on human rights-based programme strategies and their implementation. In 2006, OHCHR conducted a review of human rights advisers. As a result, OHCHR revised its policy and developed standardized generic terms of reference intended to improve cooperation with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams and to dovetail with the UN reform initiatives that call for human rights to be incorporated into country-level analysis, planning and programme implementation.

The decision to deploy a human rights adviser is based on a country assessment by OHCHR in consultation with the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team. Human rights advisers have a dual reporting line to the High Commissioner and the Resident Coordinator and perform the following functions:

- ▶ Advise the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team on strategies to build and strengthen national human rights capacities;
- ▶ Advise and provide training to independent national human rights institutions;
- ▶ Advise duty-bearers on how best to promote UN normative values;
- ▶ Liaise with, and provide moral and practical support to, civil society at large;
- ▶ Follow and analyze the human rights situation and provide issue-based or thematic assessments to OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator; and
- ▶ Provide operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity-building activities, including activities conducted under the Action 2 Programme.

In 2006, OHCHR had two human rights advisers deployed in Sri Lanka and Pakistan. In 2007, OHCHR will benefit from Action 2 funding, which will allow for the placement of advisers within seven additional UN Country Teams (in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Maldives, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger and Rwanda), in addition to six OHCHR-funded advisers (in Georgia, Russian Federation, Ecuador, Guyana, Zimbabwe and Indonesia – this last co-funded with the UN Country Team).

National Human Rights Institutions: Key Partners in Strengthening National Human Rights Protection

Providing assistance to national human rights institutions is a central part of OHCHR's country engagement strategy, which seeks to ensure that national-level and international human rights obligations are transformed into meaningful rights for individuals. OHCHR's support of such institutions is guided by the 1993 Paris Principles, which establish guidelines on the role, composition, status and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights. The Office works with over 100 institutions and regional networks of national institutions around the world. OHCHR also assists and advises a large number of governments that are considering establishing or strengthening their national institutions. Initiatives in this area are undertaken by the National Institutions Unit, located within the Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch, and are grouped around four major strategic objectives:

- i) *Country engagement*: OHCHR supports government efforts to establish or strengthen national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles. In particular, it assists national institutions in promoting human rights, democracy and rule of law, and engage in institutional and thematic capacity-building.
- ii) *Leadership*: OHCHR closely monitors compliance of national institutions with the Paris Principles and promotes implementation of international norms for national institutions by other UN agencies and programmes.
- iii) *UN human rights system*: OHCHR works to enhance the synergy in the relationship between national institutions and the UN human rights system. OHCHR also encourages treaty bodies and special procedures mandate-holders to promote the role of national institutions and work closely with them.
- iv) *Partnerships*: OHCHR works with other parts of the UN system, especially UN Country Teams, to encourage and facilitate stronger partnerships with national institutions.

During 2006, OHCHR provided advice to 23 countries on the establishment of new national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles, or the strengthening of the legal framework of existing institutions. Concrete outcomes include better national complaint-handling systems and databases, more effective management structures, and implementation of human rights education and training programmes, particularly on economic, social and cultural rights. In collaboration with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, procedures to strengthen national institution accreditation were developed and a review of existing accredited national human rights institutions was undertaken to ascertain their compliance with the Paris Principles.

With the support of OHCHR, national institutions were able to engage more actively in the work of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies in drafting new international conventions, such as that relating to persons with disabilities. Reference to national institutions was made in many concluding observations issued by treaty bodies. Regional networks of national institutions are established in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. These networks represent another avenue for OHCHR's engagement with national institutions.

Training modules and materials, including a handbook on the role of national institutions in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and in combating HIV/AIDS-related discrimination, were finalized. This handbook will be published in 2007 and piloted through a series of workshops with national institutions at the regional level. Based on consultations, OHCHR also finalized, in cooperation with the International Council on Human Rights Policy, the publication, "Assessing the Effectiveness of National Human Rights Institutions," which discusses how indicators can be used to measure institutional effectiveness and compliance with the Paris Principles.

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT TO FIELD OPERATIONS

Strengthening headquarters support to the field is an important part of the High Commissioner's reform initiatives presented in the Plan of Action and the Strategic Management Plan. In 2006, 11 additional staff were hired at headquarters in the Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch and 17 more are expected to be recruited in 2007. This expansion helped OHCHR to upgrade support to field operations and follow human rights developments on the ground more closely, especially in areas where the Office lacks a field presence. Internal coordination on country initiatives, including with the treaty bodies, special procedures, and the Human Rights Council, have been strengthened. Standard Operating Procedures were developed to provide greater clarity, consistency and closer organizational and operational links between headquarters, field presences and the New York office. They will help improve the capacity of OHCHR to monitor and evaluate the way in which management decisions are implemented, and clarify the roles, responsibilities and accountability of all OHCHR staff.

COOPERATION WITH HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

In the spirit of the High Commissioner's commitment to increase partnership with humanitarian actors, OHCHR has stepped up its engagement with the humanitarian community through its participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. OHCHR also participates in the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs as well as the Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG). The PCWG was established to provide a more predictable, accountable and effective response to protection concerns through humanitarian action in complex emergencies. Through regular participation in the PCWG and other related inter-agency mechanisms, OHCHR has sought to integrate human rights in the development of humanitarian tools and policies and their implementation. In this context, OHCHR supported the development of guidance materials, including the Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action, the Internally Displaced Persons Handbook, the Induction Training Package for Humanitarian Coordinators, and the Interagency Standing Committee Human Rights Guidance Note for Humanitarian Coordinators.

OHCHR is an active member of the inter-agency Protection Capacity project (PROCAP), which manages a roster of senior experts and aims to enhance the United Nations' protection response in humanitarian crises. In the field, OHCHR staff are increasingly involved in mainstreaming human rights into the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters (such as occurred in Sri Lanka and Pakistan) and in the preparations and implementation of Common Humanitarian Action Plans and the Consolidated Appeal Processes (CAP). OHCHR's participation in CAP has also benefited from more coordinated support from headquarters and streamlining with the budgetary planning process. In 2006, OHCHR participated in UN-coordinated humanitarian response initiatives for Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

OHCHR IN THE FIELD: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
<p>Increased number of policy, legislative, and institutional changes/developments to close human rights implementation gaps introduced at the national level with the support or at the initiative of the UN human rights programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 45 countries ratified international human rights instruments in 2006 ▶ As of the end of 2006, 60 national human rights institutions were accredited by the ICC with A-status (fully compliant with the Paris Principles), compared with 51 in 2005. ▶ Permanent Secretariat established to support the network of African national human rights institutions. ▶ Network of national human rights institutions established in West Africa. ▶ Newly established office of the "Provedor de Justiça" (Ombudsman) in Angola. ▶ Legislation to establish a National Human Rights Commission in Cote d'Ivoire adopted. ▶ Iraqi law on the creation of a national human rights institution drafted. Draft laws on the protection of mass graves and for the establishment of a national centre for missing and disappeared persons developed. ▶ Reform of the justice sector initiated in Angola. ▶ The Congolese Parliament passed a law on sexual violence. ▶ Amendments to Liberia's penal code approved, providing potentially greater protection for victims of rape. ▶ Development of a national human rights strategy supported in Mauritius. ▶ Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights established in Côte d'Ivoire ▶ Law against discrimination introduced in Serbia. ▶ Commentary prepared, with OHCHR's assistance, on the law on movement and stay of aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina. ▶ New law on torture adopted in Morocco. ▶ Family Law Act adopted in Fiji, further to a recommendation of CEDAW. ▶ New laws on habeas corpus, childhood and adolescents adopted in Colombia. ▶ Cambodia adopted a civil code, a penal code, and a code of penal procedure. ▶ In Guatemala, OHCHR advice provided during the drafting of three new laws with human rights elements (on the penitentiary system, the national institute for forensic sciences, and organized crime).
<p>Increased number of institutionalized human rights training and education programmes introduced at the national level with the support or at the initiative of the UN human rights programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Training provided in 23 countries on the development of action plans for implementing treaty body recommendations. ▶ Capacity-building projects developed and supported for 10 human rights components of UN peace missions (Ethiopia/Eritrea, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Haiti, and Afghanistan). ▶ Human rights included in school curricula in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea Bissau and Tajikistan. ▶ Moot Court training programmes introduced at faculties of law in Southeast Asia.
<p>Rapid-response capacity to deploy human rights officers at short notice established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rapid Response Unit established ▶ OHCHR involvement in inter-agency mission to Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic for the planning of integrated UN peace missions. ▶ OHCHR responded to urgent fact-finding missions requested by the Human Rights Council to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lebanon, Darfur, and Beit Hanoun. ▶ Commission of Inquiry established for Timor-Leste at the request of the Government and the UN Secretary-General to establish the facts and circumstances relevant to the incidents that occurred in Dili, in April and May. ▶ Forensic-assessment mission conducted in Liberia at the request of the United Nations Mission in Liberia. ▶ Internal tools developed on investigations, commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and the establishment of field operations. ▶ OHCHR operational equipment reserve procured and access to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operation's warehouse stocks initiated. ▶ Contingency fund expanded to US\$1 million for urgent initiatives.



OHCHR in Africa

Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angola • Togo • Uganda
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addis Ababa (East Africa) • Pretoria (Southern Africa) • Yaoundé Human Rights Centre (Central Africa) • Dakar (West Africa) [planned]
Human rights components in peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burundi • Central African Republic • Côte d'Ivoire • Democratic Republic of the Congo • Ethiopia/Eritrea • Guinea-Bissau • Liberia • Sierra Leone • Somalia • Sudan • West Africa (UN Office for West Africa)



OVERVIEW

Africa faces a myriad of complex human rights problems. Violent conflict affects large parts of the continent, depriving many of their most basic rights, while poverty, poor governance, corruption, and ethnic strife cause further suffering. There is growing demand for accountability for human rights violations and increased recognition of the need to strengthen national protection systems. Among those leading the debate on human rights are regional institutions such as the African Union (AU), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and sub-regional mechanisms such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). In acknowledgement of the need for comprehensive UN assistance to regional capacity-building initiatives in Africa, the United Nations and the AU entered into an agreement on human rights assistance to the AU.

The success of OHCHR's human rights interventions in Africa is largely dependent on its field presences and support from headquarters and the New York office. Priority areas include:

- ▶ Helping African policymakers to identify, understand and respond to human rights concerns;
- ▶ Helping citizens to know their rights and understand the mechanisms for protecting them;
- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of regional and national human rights protection systems;
- ▶ Engaging with African governments to encourage and assist them in implementing their international human rights obligations; and
- ▶ Ensuring that individual rights are protected, perpetrators of human rights abuses are brought to justice, and victims of such abuses receive reparation.

In 2006, OHCHR had country offices in Angola, Togo and Uganda; regional offices in Addis Ababa (East Africa), Pretoria (Southern Africa), and Yaoundé (Central Africa); and provided assistance to integrated UN peace missions in Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, and the United Nations Office in West Africa. The Office also continued to support the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi, the Independent Expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan, and the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

COUNTRY OFFICES

Angola

Established	2003
Staff	14
Expenditure in 2006	\$1,473,552

Human rights context

Angola remains a country in transition five years after emerging from a 26-year civil war that ravaged the country, killing up to half a million people and driving many hundreds of thousands from their homes. Today, the human rights landscape is characterized by a fledgling civil society, deep-rooted poverty, poor education and a weak health system. This situation is further exacerbated by restrictions placed on freedom of expression, lack of access to justice, weak administrative structures, and an inadequate legislative framework for protection.

Preparations for elections inched forward in 2006, with voter registration taking place at the end of the year, although a firm date for the poll was not announced. State media continued to be essentially government-controlled, and the independent Catholic radio stations remained confined to broadcasting in the capital. The Government disseminated more information about State revenues and expenditures, particularly through the Finance Ministry's Internet web page, but it has been unable to defuse widespread suspicion of the mishandling of public funds. Housing conditions for the great majority of inhabitants of the capital are precarious, and there were more forced evictions of people living on land earmarked for development projects.

Our role

OHCHR's office in Angola seeks to increase engagement with the Government on its international and regional human rights obligations; contribute to the establishment

of a robust national human rights institution with the appropriate legal framework; mainstream a human rights-based approach in the work of all UN programmes and agencies; and increase awareness and knowledge of human rights among duty-bearers and rights-holders alike.

Achievements in 2006

Supporting the creation of a national human rights institution. OHCHR's efforts to support the creation of a national human rights institution culminated in the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. Laws governing the institution were adopted, a budget agreed, and a deputy for the Ombudsman Commission elected. In October, a conference was held that brought together scholars from a broad range of areas to discuss the legal framework of the national human rights institution and exchange ideas on lessons learned from other country experiences.

Promoting compliance with international human rights instruments. There has been a growing awareness in Government of the need to comply with its international human rights obligations. Work on reports due under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights progressed significantly, and the Government demonstrated a genuine commitment to the necessary information-gathering and reporting processes.

Strengthening national protection capacity. Capacity-building workshops were conducted for provincial human rights committees and national authorities. OHCHR continued to cooperate closely with the police in developing a new training manual, and with the Government in identifying human rights cases for the attention of competent authorities. A draft of the national human rights action plan has been prepared and is under discussion by relevant ministries.



Human rights training for police in Angola

Integrating human rights into the work of the UN Country Team. The Office continued to provide human rights training on a rights-based approach to programming and development to heads of agencies and senior programme staff. The Country Team agreed that a rights-based approach should be applied during the mid-term review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2005-2008.

Promoting human rights education in schools. The inclusion of human rights in the curricula of primary and secondary schools will be an important step in creating public awareness on human rights norms and practices.

Promoting poverty reduction. The Office's involvement in the United Nations Week on Poverty Eradication and its support to a workshop on human rights and poverty to mark Human Rights Day drew attention to the linkages between poverty and human rights, and the need for concrete steps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

OHCHR IN ANGOLA: PERFORMANCE IN 2006	
KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
An increase in the number of international and regional instruments ratified, reported on, and translated into national law, regulations, and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Angola has adhered to two United Nations and African Union conventions against corruption (the UN Convention against Corruption and the African Convention Combating Corruption). ▶ Two laws governing the national human rights institution adopted by the National Assembly. ▶ New draft penal code under discussion.
Acceptance of alternative conflict-resolution mechanisms that would be available to an increasing number of people, particularly those living in areas where formal judicial processes are not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Ministry of Justice accepted mediation as an alternative form of justice.
A clear rights-based implementation of the 2005-2008 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in which OHCHR works closely with other United Nations agencies in Angola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ UN Country Team applied a rights-based approach to programming. ▶ Work began on the development of a common UN protection strategy that defines the role and tasks of the UN in Angola.
An increased number of awareness-raising programmes specifically tailored to vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Human rights workshops conducted with provincial human rights committees and the police. ▶ Human rights included in the official curricula of primary and secondary schools. ▶ Training workshops on democracy and elections held for 35 traditional chiefs. ▶ Support provided to the National Counseling Centre in its training activities on democratic processes, rule of law, political tolerance, and conflict resolution in Malanje and Menongue.

Togo

Established	2006
Staff	2
Expenditure in 2006	\$244,003

Human rights context

Togo was destabilized during the period following the death of former President Gnassingbe Eyadema in February 2005 and the election of the current President Faure Gnassingbe in April that year. Following allegations of human rights violations before, during and after the election, the High Commissioner established a fact-finding mission in June that concluded that massive human rights violations had occurred during the presidential elections. In endorsing the report of the fact-finding mission, the High Commissioner formulated 17 recommendations, which included measures to end impunity and achieve truth, justice and reconciliation. Although the human rights situation in the country has since improved, serious challenges remain, including the practice of arbitrary arrests and detention, poor prison conditions, a weak judiciary, and restraints on freedom of expression.

Our role

OHCHR's office in Togo was established in November 2006. The office seeks to strengthen the capacity of national authorities and institutions to fulfill their human rights obligations, including implementation of the recommendations of OHCHR's fact-finding mission of 2005; support Togolese civil society and other rights-holders to claim their rights; and help the UN Country Team to integrate a rights-based approach in its programming.

Achievements in 2006

A Memorandum of Understanding between OHCHR and the Government of Togo was signed in July. Two international OHCHR staff were deployed to Togo in November to

set up the country office and develop a detailed programme of activities. A first event – a workshop to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – was held in December.

Uganda

Established	2005
Staff	37
Expenditure in 2006	\$3,186,154

Human rights context

The war waged in northern Uganda between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) has led to mass displacement of civilians, with approximately 1.8 million people living in difficult conditions in camps for internally displaced persons. At the end of 2006, the human rights situation had begun to improve due to the cessation of hostilities and the beginning of peace talks.

The constant fear of abductions by the LRA has created unique population movement patterns, most notably the nightly commute, by children and adults, in search of safety. Northern Uganda is a crucible in which all the social problems that exist in other parts of the country, including domestic violence, gender-based violence, and the large numbers of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, are intensified by an insecure environment and lack of basic services. Ongoing peace talks are deadlocked on many issues, including how to address the root causes of the conflict, accountability and reconciliation issues. The virtual absence of civilian policing and administration of justice institutions in the north further exacerbates the vulnerability and plight of the conflict-affected population. The civilian population in Karamoja, northeastern Uganda, was also subjected to killings, torture, arbitrary detention, and destruction of property in the ongoing forced disarmament exercise conducted by the UPDF.

Our role

OHCHR established a country office in Uganda in 2005, primarily to monitor, report and analyze the human rights situation in conflict-affected areas in the north. OHCHR's longer-term objective is to develop a sustainable culture of respect for human rights in all conflict-affected areas in the north, enhance accountability and reduce impunity for human rights violations, and help to strengthen national protection systems throughout the country. Priorities include strengthening the capacity of the Government and NGOs to monitor and respond effectively to conflict-related human rights violations; contribute to greater policy awareness and action, at the national level, to protect the human rights of conflict-affected populations; support reporting mechanisms under international human rights treaties; and integrate a human rights-based approach to humanitarian protection and development programming within UN agencies and programmes active in the country.



Achievements in 2006

Following up on allegations of human rights violations by the Ugandan army. In most instances, the army acted upon OHCHR's in-depth investigations on alleged human rights violations that were submitted to the UPDF, leading to the initiation of the army's own investigations or disciplinary procedures. OHCHR's engagement with the army has contributed to a greater recognition of the need to address human rights violations and strengthen institutional accountability.

Promoting implementation of Security Council resolution 1612 on the recruitment and use of child soldiers. OHCHR and UNICEF jointly facilitated the mission of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in June. As a direct result of the visit, the Government developed a draft action plan, which is under discussion with key Government partners, to end the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. Additional joint efforts by OHCHR and UNICEF to promote implementation of Security Council resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict have significantly raised awareness, including within the leadership of the army, about the importance of taking action to end the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts.

Promoting improved civil-military relations. OHCHR's cooperation with the Uganda Human Rights Commission to revive the Civil-Military Cooperation Centres in northern Uganda resulted in an institutional commitment from both the UPDF and the Uganda Police Force to improve civil-military relations as one way of preventing future human rights violations.

Improving human rights protection for internally displaced persons. OHCHR training for special police constables has helped to strengthen human rights protection by equipping the police with the means to address human rights concerns, particularly in areas where internally displaced persons are returning home. Additional police

personnel were deployed to Lango and Teso sub-regions in the latter part of the year, following concerted advocacy by donors, UN partners and OHCHR.

Supporting legal redress for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. OHCHR's interventions in support of legal aid providers in the district of Kitgum and Gulu facilitated the conclusion of at least 25 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, some of which had been pending for up to five years.

Strengthening civil society in northern Uganda. The training of grassroots NGOs and paralegals in all northern Uganda districts has helped to increase awareness of Uganda's human rights obligations and the role of duty-bearers and rights-holders, and has empowered local and national human rights activists by enhancing their reporting, investigative and monitoring skills.

Drawing attention to human rights abuses in Karamoja. OHCHR's continued advocacy, including through the High Commissioner's visit, public reporting and newly established field presence in Karamoja, contributed significantly to drawing public attention to the serious human rights violations in Karamoja, as well as to the continued political and economic marginalization of the region. Based on its fact-finding reports on Karamoja, OHCHR has been able to leverage the partnership and political commitment of UN partners and donors to jointly advocate for greater protection of civilians in Karamoja. OHCHR's advocacy efforts and reports contributed directly to the Government's actions to revise its military engagement, including cordon and search guidelines, and to the development of a policy framework for Karamoja on development and protection issues.

OHCHR IN UGANDA: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
The establishment of monitoring operations in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All sub-offices established, fully staffed and operational.
Conflict-related human rights information regularly available to policy makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Public reports and press releases issued. ▶ Thematic policy papers developed. ▶ Human rights information regularly shared in policy forums at the national level.
The establishment of a functioning network of human rights defenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Support provided to threatened human rights defenders, including organizations representing sexual minorities. An independent protection network has not yet been established.
Local councils with dedicated and trained human rights focal points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Training provided to UN Volunteers, which had trained human rights focal points in 23 districts.
Local and national human rights groups developing stronger organizational and advocacy capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 16 training sessions for local NGOs conducted in all northern districts. ▶ First basic human rights training session carried out for local council focal points from 13 districts, including those outside conflict-affected areas. ▶ Training to improve organizational capacity of local NGOs not yet initiated. ▶ An initial training session on revised investigative procedures by UHRC was carried out.
Assessment of potential for transitional justice mechanisms to facilitate accountability and reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OHCHR designated lead UN agency on transitional justice, including chairing the Inter-Agency Standing Committee sub-cluster on human rights and rule of law. ▶ Regular discussion group with transitional justice stakeholders in northern Uganda chaired by OHCHR. ▶ Options paper on transitional justice issued for the peace talks. ▶ Research and assessment conducted in relation to transitional justice, with focus on amplifying the voices of the conflict's victims.
The development of a plan of action to help authorities implement recommendations and observations of the CRC and CAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Action plans for CRC and CAT concluding observations developed, based on the national treaty body workshop.
Government of Uganda meets its treaty-body reporting obligations, particularly concerning the ICESCR and the ICCPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ National consultation process for drafting the State Party report under the ICESCR initiated.
Implementation of joint programmes with the UN Country Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Joint programmes developed and implemented with UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, OCHA and UNV (on children and armed conflict; internally displaced persons; transitional justice; human rights capacity-building of local government authorities; and the right to health). ▶ Training on human rights indicators conducted for UN programme staff.

Peter's Story

Peter was 19 in 2003 when he was charged with defiling a local girl in the Padibe camp for internally displaced persons in northern Uganda. Following his arrest, he appeared before the local magistrate's court in Kitgum, which ordered his transfer to a prison in the neighbouring district of Gulu.

The charges against Peter rested on evidence provided by the uncle of the alleged victim, subsequently confirmed by the girl herself. In 2004, the girl's uncle, who had become ill, wrote a letter to the authorities in which he admitted to having framed Peter. He said that he had falsified the girl's age in order to avenge a long-standing dispute between the two families. He explained that he had threatened to refuse to pay the girl's school fees if she did not support his claim. He asked to be forgiven and requested that Peter's innocence be revealed. The uncle died in hospital shortly afterwards, followed, not long after, by the girl.

The letter either never reached the authorities or was delivered but never acted upon. Peter waited in prison for three years before his case appeared before a High Court judge. Fortunately for Peter, through a local legal aid project supported by OHCHR, a legal officer travelled to Kitgum on his behalf in order to obtain a copy of the letter and the death certificates of the complainant and the alleged victim. These documents were submitted as evidence to the Resident State Attorney and to the defendant's lawyer. In November 2006, Peter was finally released from prison. Alone, penniless and miles away from home, Peter was assisted in his return by a staff member from OHCHR's legal aid project who had been instrumental in facilitating his release. With the support of the Office, Peter was reunited with his mother, his other relatives, and friends.

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS

Burundi

OHCHR's country office, established in 1995, was integrated with the human rights section of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) in 2006. Work focused on integrating the monitoring and promotion units of the two entities; supporting the new national institutions that emerged following the 2005 elections; strengthening national capacities to promote and protect human rights; and supporting the integration of human rights in the work of all UN actors.

The human rights section of ONUB trained 600 law enforcement personnel, representatives of international and national NGOs, and Government officials on human rights. A network of 196 national women leaders and grassroots communities, and a network of national human rights observers were created. Working groups on justice reform were established and the revised draft penal code was validated. A human rights-based approach was incorporated into the UN Common Humanitarian Appeal for 2007, and a 16-day campaign against sexual violence was held throughout the country. Through consultations, training sessions, a mapping exercise, and communications strategies, OHCHR advocated for the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms. The independent expert on the situation of human rights visited Burundi twice in 2006 and found that the country had been gradually stabilized following the establishment of the new institutions. However, despite the efforts of the international community, human rights violations continued, resulting from confrontations between Government forces and the FNL (Front National de la Libération) rebel movement, the climate of impunity, widespread poverty, and the weakness of the human rights culture.

Central African Republic

The primary purpose of the United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) is to support the Government in its efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation, strengthen democratic institutions, and facilitate the mobilization of international political support and resources for national reconstruction and economic recovery. The human rights section of BONUCA monitors the human rights situation, provides legal assistance to the victims of human rights violations, and helps to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to protect and promote human rights. With the support of OHCHR, human rights manuals were distributed to members of the Supreme Court of Bangui and a workshop on human rights was organized for members of the judiciary.

Côte d'Ivoire

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was established in April 2004 with a mandate to facilitate implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Peace Agreement (2003) and other agreements signed by Ivorian parties. The human rights section of UNOCI helps to implement human rights aspects of the agreement, notably through monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation and capacity-building activities. OHCHR supports activities developed by the human rights section to address key human rights challenges, among them: low levels of awareness of human rights principles, weak national human rights institutions and accountability mechanisms, limited national capacity for human rights monitoring and reporting, and the need to mainstream human rights into the work of the UN Country Team.

In 2006, the section prepared a series of reports on the human rights environment in Côte d'Ivoire, including a report to Security Council's Sanctions Committee. Training activities were organized for Government officials, police officers, and civil society organizations to promote human rights principles and enhance collaboration among these national partners. Two films were produced and disseminated, on "the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights" and on "the human rights of women and girls." Advocacy sought to raise the profile of the newly re-established Ministry of Human Rights and support the work of the Human Rights Steering Board, established in 2006 within the Prime Minister's Office, and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

OHCHR's former country office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), established in 1996, was integrated with the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). The merged entity is now known as the United Nations Integrated Human Rights Office in the DRC (UNHRO). In 2006, OHCHR provided support to UNHRO, whose activities included training officials in State institutions in human rights monitoring, advocacy and training; supporting the work of civil society organizations, particularly in the electoral process; developing human rights promotional activities, including a campaign against sexual violence; and integrating a rights-based approach in the work of UN partners. Achievements included: the Congolese Parliament's adoption of a law on sexual violence and its promulgation by the President in July; the submission of the periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the omission of the death penalty in the new Constitution; and support, by providing educational materials, for the introduction of human rights in primary and secondary school curricula.

Ethiopia/Eritrea

The human rights component of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is mandated to monitor, investigate and report on the human rights situation in the temporary security zone (TSZ) along the border and protect the rights of vulnerable groups and communities living in this sensitive area. In the TSZ, the separation of family members, the illegal and arbitrary detention of individuals arrested within the zone, and of those civilians who voluntarily cross in to it, continue to occur. Through sub-offices and its offices in Asmara and Addis Ababa, UNMEE contributed to the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

In addition to monitoring the TSZ, the human rights component also conducted training in human rights and the administration of justice for UNMEE peacekeepers, and organized human rights-awareness workshops for law enforcement officials, judicial bodies and civil society organizations. OHCHR also assisted in integrating human rights into the programmes of the UN Country Teams in both countries.

Guinea-Bissau

The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) was established by Security Council resolution 1233 (1999). The mandate requires UNOGBIS and the UN Country Team to contribute to long-term peace-building efforts in the country, integrating development and peace and security activities. The human rights section of UNOGBIS has developed a four-pronged strategy for its work, encompassing monitoring and investigation, human rights education, technical cooperation and integrating human rights into the work of UN partners.

The conditions in which detainees are kept, and respect for legal guarantees enshrined in domestic and international law, were the focus of scrutiny in 2006. As a result of an OHCHR workshop on these issues, assistance was provided to the Government's Legal Guarantee Unit established by the Attorney General. Priority was given to the inclusion of human rights education in school curricula, monthly lectures were held at the Law Faculty of the University in Guinea-Bissau, and human rights-awareness sessions were conducted with local NGOs. Technical assistance and advice was provided in preparation of the State Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and on the establishment and operational efficiency of a national human rights institution.

Liberia

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established in September 2003 by Security Council resolution 1509. Under the terms of its mandate, the mission is expected to contribute to international efforts to protect and promote human rights in the country, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, including refugees, returning refugees and internally displaced persons, women, children, and demobilized child soldiers. The resolution also asks UNMIL to ensure an adequate human rights presence, capacity and expertise to carry out human rights promotion, protection and monitoring.

OHCHR has been working with UNMIL since its inception through UNMIL's human rights and protection section. In January 2006, amendments to the penal code that had been drafted with the support of UNMIL came into effect, providing potentially greater protection for victims of rape. Also in January, Liberia's new President, and Africa's first democratically-elected female Head of State, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, was sworn into office. Three months later, following lobbying by the human rights section of UNMIL and by domestic and international human rights groups, former President Charles Taylor was returned from Nigeria and transferred to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The human rights section monitored the transfer from a human rights perspective. In May, UNMIL released its first thematic public human rights report, examining human rights conditions on rubber plantations, prompting the Government to intervene in this sector. In accordance with the High Commissioner's directives, UNMIL also released three public human rights reports focusing on the general human rights situation; on sexual and gender-based violence; and on the dysfunctional status of the national justice system. With the support of UNMIL, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was inaugurated in February and launched its operations in June.

Sierra Leone

The United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) was established in January 2006 following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone. It assists the Government in creating conditions for lasting peace, security and development. Specific human rights priorities include the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission; formulation of a national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights; implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and steps to strengthen the rule of law, including promoting the independence of the judiciary, and enhancing the capacity of the police and correctional services.

UNIOSIL's human rights section supported the nomination process that selected members of the new National Human Rights Commission. A number of follow-up activities related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) were undertaken, including the dissemination of an abridged version of the Commission's report and the organization of sensitization meetings. The Government designated the National Commission for Social Action as



the lead agency for implementing the TRC reparations programme. A number of human rights training sessions were organized for Government officials, journalists, the police, military personnel, and civil society activists. UNIOSIL's public reporting of the human rights situation in Sierra Leone was widely disseminated internationally and formed the basis for substantive discussions and policy decisions by UN and other partners.

Somalia

The security situation in Somalia remained highly unstable and deteriorated dramatically in the latter part of the year. Insecurity had serious implications for the humanitarian and human rights situation, which was characterized by massive internal displacement, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, threats to freedom of the press and human rights defenders, and violations of women's and children's rights.

In 2006, a new human rights adviser to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia was recruited to engage in Somali issues. The adviser, based in Nairobi, Kenya, provided human rights information and advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General; worked to integrate human rights issues, including gender considerations, into political, humanitarian, peace and security, and other UN activities and programmes; and followed human rights developments in Somalia in order to recommend measures to other parts of the United Nations to contribute to the respect for human rights in Somalia. The adviser also assisted the High Commissioner during her visit to the country in April.

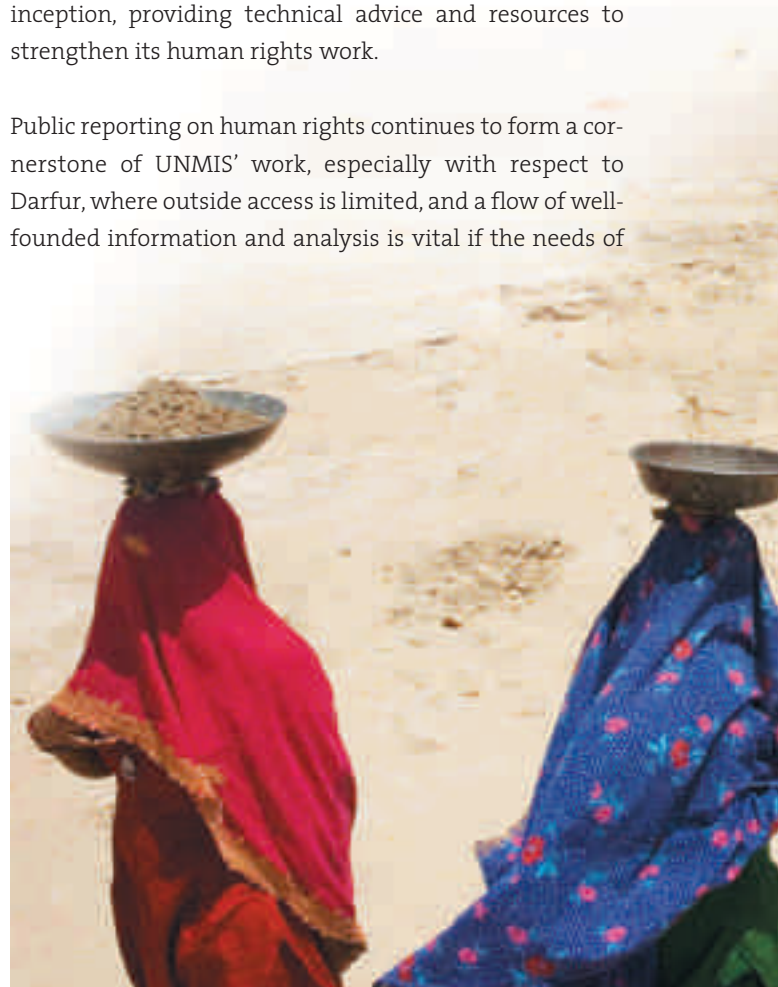
OHCHR participated in the Nairobi-based UN-World Bank Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) exercise by providing the services of a cross-cutting human rights advisor for six months. The JNA concluded its work in late 2006 and its product, the Somali Reconstruction and Development Programme, forms the basis of future international support to Somalia. In the latter part of the

year, OHCHR began discussions with the Resident Coordinator about the deployment of a dedicated human rights adviser to the Resident Coordinator/UN Country Team for Somalia.

Sudan

Security Council resolution 1590 established the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in March 2005 with a mandate to support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by monitoring its implementation, investigating CPA violations, observing the movement of armed groups, and ensuring an adequate human rights presence. OHCHR has been supporting UNMIS since its inception, providing technical advice and resources to strengthen its human rights work.

Public reporting on human rights continues to form a cornerstone of UNMIS' work, especially with respect to Darfur, where outside access is limited, and a flow of well-founded information and analysis is vital if the needs of



vulnerable populations are to be identified and addressed. UNMIS's reporting on the human rights situation in Darfur was widely disseminated and appreciated by policymakers.

Human rights officers in the field were engaged with local police, judicial authorities and other officials both to discuss general human rights concerns and to follow up on individual cases. They visited detention centres on an ad hoc basis to monitor conditions of detention and the rights of detainees. The human rights section also increased its presence in the south and in the three Transitional Areas.

UNMIS worked with the Government and civil society on the creation of the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission, and, once it was established, helped to train

its members. A manual on the Sudanese legal and judicial system was produced, emphasizing the administration of justice. UNMIS also worked closely with NGOs on women's rights, the establishment of a national human rights institution, and alternative reporting under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

While a number of mechanisms have been established to combat sexual and gender-based violence, the threats posed to women and girls remain. Not only have State mechanisms failed to achieve results, but, as the conflict continues, sexual and gender-based violence is increasingly being used as a tactic of war, and the Government has been unable to provide security to communities at risk.

West Africa

The Security Council established the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) in 2001 in response to calls by the Economic Community for West Africa States (ECOWAS) for a sub-regional approach to building peace and security. UNOWA is the first UN peace-building office with a mandate to harmonize UN activities and promote the integration of a sub-regional, as opposed to a country-by-country, approach. UNOWA's human rights work is derived from Security Council Report No. S/2003/688, which requests that the sub-region's Special Representatives of the Secretary-General increase efforts to address issues related to human rights violations and gender-based violence against children and women during armed conflict. UNOWA's human rights component has begun to elaborate a human rights sub-regional strategy with emphasis on cross-border issues, and a comprehensive study on how the international community can cooperate and strengthen ECOWAS' capacity.

In 2006, OHCHR's support to UNOWA's human rights component was limited to providing technical advice. UNOWA's senior human rights adviser participated in OHCHR's regional consultation for Africa in November, and contributed to OHCHR's reports on human rights issues. OHCHR expects to open a West Africa regional office in 2007.



OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION



Central Africa

OHCHR established the United Nations Centre for Democracy and Human Rights in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in 2001. The Centre functions as a regional documentation and training facility, and a platform for OHCHR's engagement with Cameroon and other countries in the region. The Centre's priorities include strengthening the rule of law in the region; increasing awareness of human rights and non-discrimination, focusing on women, children and minorities; building and reinforcing the institutional machinery required for developing a culture of respect for human rights; and injecting a human rights-based approach to UN programming.

The Centre organized training on rights-based approaches to development for UN Country Teams in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome et Principe. In December, the Centre and the International Center for Transitional Justice jointly organized a conference on transitional justice that examined options for countries emerging from conflict or a repressive past. A number of commemorative events were organized to mark Human Rights Day, including discussions on the themes of poverty; good governance and the Millennium Development Goals; gender; and social, economic and cultural rights.

East Africa

Through its regional office in Addis Ababa, OHCHR's work in East Africa aims to strengthen national human rights protection systems in the region; strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams to support national human rights protection systems and integrate a human rights-based approach in their programming; and sup-

port the development of human rights activities by the Economic Commission for Africa. Following a visit by the High Commissioner in April 2006, greater emphasis was placed on monitoring and responding to human rights needs within the host country, Ethiopia. Initiatives included cooperating with national institutions (Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, and major human rights groups, including the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, and Justice for All/Prison Fellowship Ethiopia) to develop a comprehensive national human rights plan of action, and appointing a trial observer to follow the trial of detained opposition party members.

In April, the regional office held a consultative meeting on the rights of women with national stakeholders in Ethiopia. Participants reviewed the situation of women's rights and agreed to establish a network comprised of the National Human Rights Commission, the United Nations, and civil society organizations to cooperate in protecting and promoting women's rights.

As part of the UN Country Team in Ethiopia, OHCHR assisted in reviewing the proposed "10-year Capacity-building Programme" being developed between the United Nations and the African Union. The Programme, which will form the basis of future UN support to the AU is aimed at increasing the capacity of the African Union Commission, its related bodies and other African sub-regional organizations to act as effective UN partners in addressing the challenges to human security in Africa. OHCHR also continued to provide advice to the Economic Commission for Africa and was a member of the Steering Committee of the 5th Africa Development Forum which enabled it to provide input to a review of the first Africa Governance Report.

Also in support of African regional human rights mechanisms, OHCHR organized an expert consultation on the role of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in responding to human rights emergencies, tackling impunity, protecting vulnerable groups and cooperating with the UN and other African bodies. The

evaluation found that profound institutional reform of the ACHPR was necessary in order for it to meet the expectations placed upon it.

The UN Country Team in Ethiopia began implementing an Action 2 project aimed at strengthening UN capacity to support national actors to protect and promote of human rights. An inter-agency team was established by the Resident Coordinator with OHCHR as lead and facilitator. Four priority areas for joint intervention were identified: capacity-building for state and non-state institutions; human rights education; treaty ratification and reporting obligations, and working with special procedures; and human rights monitoring.

Southern Africa

Through its regional office in Pretoria, OHCHR engages with governments and regional organizations across southern Africa to address institutional human rights needs and raise awareness of human rights principles. It also works closely with UN Country Teams to integrate a rights-based approach to development and programming.

In South Africa, OHCHR participated in the development of a Common Country Assessment and the UN Development Assistance Framework, contributing expertise on human rights issues that are reflected in the new UNDAF for 2007-2011. As a result, the regional office is part of the international relations and peace and security cluster, as well as the justice and crime prevention cluster created under the UNDAF.

In March, a joint initiative of the UN Development Programme and OHCHR was launched, aimed at integrating human rights principles and a gender dimension into the response to HIV/AIDS in southern and eastern Africa. This programme supports countries in incorporating international human rights standards in their own domestic HIV/AIDS responses, and helps national and regional partners to promote human rights and gender equality in

national policies. Through the gender and human rights cluster of the Regional Director Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, the regional office provides assistance in mainstreaming human rights and gender in programmes and policies, including issues concerning gender-based violence and discrimination.

In October, a regional stakeholders consultation was held in Johannesburg on strengthening human rights protection in law-making and law enforcement. The consultation identified the main obstacles that impede legislatures and the judiciary from effectively addressing human rights concerns. Participants appointed an ad hoc committee to plan future consultations.

In collaboration with the UN Development Programme, OHCHR supported the development of a national human rights action plan in Mauritius. A workshop was organized for representatives of civil society and the Government to finalize elements of a plan to create a Human Rights Centre. The Office also provided technical assistance to Mozambique, in preparation of a draft Poverty-Reduction Strategy Paper; to Namibia, in its efforts to strengthen the law reform process; to Zambia, in devising a national action plan to implement treaty-body recommendations; and to Lesotho, to establish a national human rights institution.

As part of the commemoration of Human Rights Day 2006, OHCHR's regional office in Pretoria launched a website and produced a range of human rights promotional material to coincide with celebrations to mark the tenth anniversary of South Africa's constitution.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

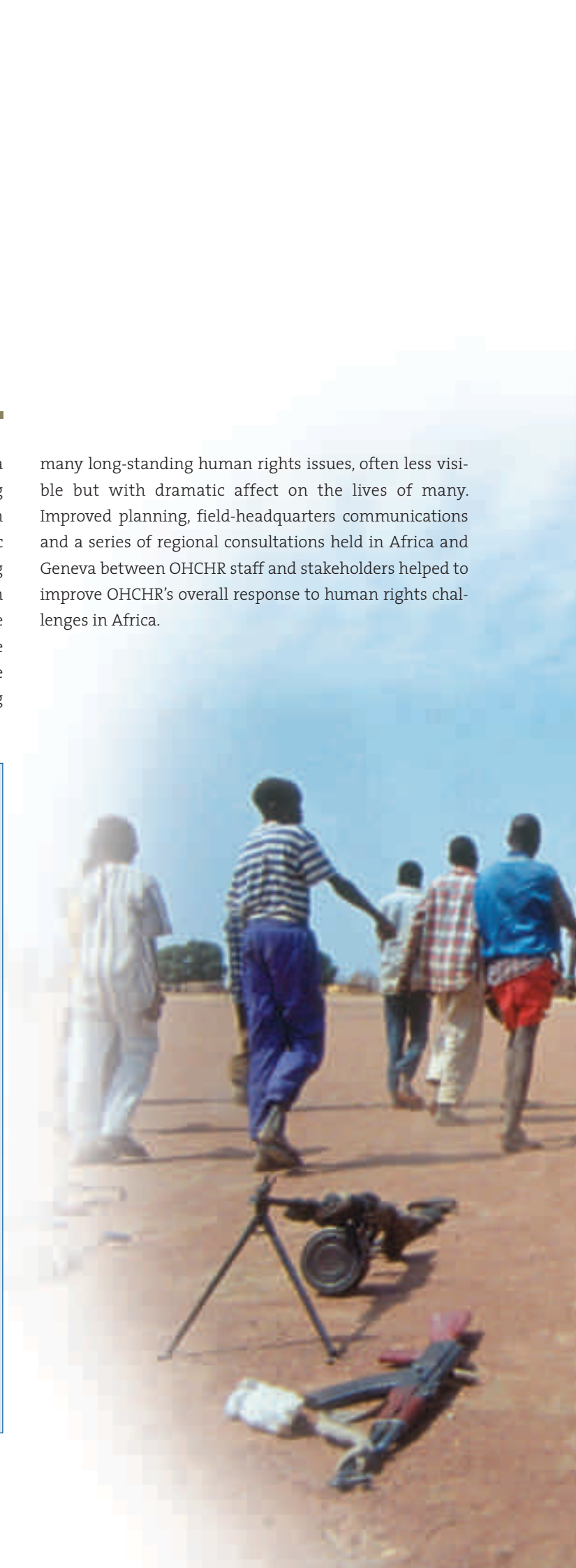
A constantly changing security environment in Africa challenged OHCHR to react quickly to new and emerging crises across the continent. The human rights situations in Somalia, Guinea, Chad, and the Central African Republic all required reinforced efforts by OHCHR, straining human and financial resources. Close collaboration between the Africa and the newly created Rapid Response Unit provided OHCHR with a standing, quicker response mechanism. The Office was also pushed to find a balance between responding quickly to crises and addressing

many long-standing human rights issues, often less visible but with dramatic affect on the lives of many. Improved planning, field-headquarters communications and a series of regional consultations held in Africa and Geneva between OHCHR staff and stakeholders helped to improve OHCHR's overall response to human rights challenges in Africa.

Visits by the High Commissioner and Special Procedure Mandate-Holders

The High Commissioner visited Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya, where she met with UN staff working on human rights, political and humanitarian issues. These missions highlighted the human rights concerns in these countries and raised the profile of human rights issues in policy and political considerations.

Other visits included missions by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to Uganda; a visit to South Africa and regional consultations in Johannesburg by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, held in Johannesburg; a mission to Ethiopia by the Independent Expert on the situation of minorities; a visit to Addis Ababa, which included meetings with senior African Union officials, by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism; and a visit to the Gambia by the Special Rapporteur on torture.



PRIORITIES FOR 2007

- ▶ Establish a West Africa regional office in Dakar with an annex in Abuja.
- ▶ Deploy human rights advisers to Niger, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams to respond to human rights needs.
- ▶ Support the human rights aspects of the ten-year capacity-building agreement between the United Nations and the African Union.
- ▶ Support the work of special rapporteurs and independent experts for Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Somalia, and Sudan, as well as other thematic mandates.



OHCHR in Asia and the Pacific

Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal • Cambodia
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangkok (Southeast Asia) • Suva (Pacific)
Human rights components in peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afghanistan • Timor-Leste
Human rights advisers attached to UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan • Sri Lanka



OVERVIEW

The Asia-Pacific region, stretching from Afghanistan in the west to the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean in the east, includes the two most populous countries in the world and some of the smallest. Home to one-third of the world's population, the region has enjoyed remarkable economic growth in the past decades. Several countries are experiencing rapid

economic development, population growth and urbanization. While development has brought many benefits, it has also created new problems and exacerbated old ones. There has been a massive shift in population from rural areas to cities, creating fundamental changes in the social and cultural environment. Poverty remains pervasive, with more than 800 million people in the region living on less than one dollar a day. Other challenges include growing inequality, weakened social cohesion, ethnic and religious tensions, lack of access to health services and education, gender

discrimination, and corruption. Natural disasters have only added further hardship, with a spate of floods, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in recent years.

The Asia-Pacific region is also the only region of the world without a comprehensive regional human rights treaty or institutional mechanisms. In such an environment, OHCHR's work takes on added importance. The Office is committed to strengthening its engagement with countries in the region, and to working with governments, national human rights institutions and civil society to build capacity at the national level to promote and protect human rights.

In 2006, OHCHR's regional objectives included:

- ▶ Helping to create a climate conducive to respect for human rights in post-conflict situations;
- ▶ Encouraging ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments;
- ▶ Assisting in the creation of national human rights institutions in keeping with the Paris Principles;
- ▶ Helping to improve conditions for migrant workers and trafficked persons;
- ▶ Improving the protection of indigenous peoples and minorities;
- ▶ Raising awareness and improving protection of women's rights;
- ▶ Reinforcing administration of justice and the rule of law;
- ▶ Building local and regional capacities to address gender issues; and
- ▶ Fostering, to the greatest extent possible, a human rights culture in the region.

In 2006, OHCHR maintained country offices in Cambodia and Nepal and regional offices in Bangkok (for Southeast Asia) and Suva (for the Pacific). Activities in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste were directly supported through UN peace missions. In Pakistan and Sri Lanka, human rights activities were promoted through the deployment of human rights advisers. In China, OHCHR provided assistance to a technical cooperation programme.

COUNTRY OFFICES

Cambodia

Established	1993
Staff	22
Expenditure in 2006	\$434,789

Human rights context

2006 marked the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accord, which ended the war in Cambodia. While the past 15 years have seen encouraging progress, with the emergence of a vibrant civil society and political parties and regular elections, Cambodia still faces a number of serious human rights challenges. Curbs on freedom of expression, together with widespread impunity, corruption and a lack of judicial independence, are major obstacles to the realization of human rights. Abuses also arise from illegal or insensitive exploitation of land and forest concessions at the expense of local populations. Some of these problems are rooted in weak institutions, typical of post-conflict societies, that will require continuing assistance in the form of training, capacity-building and technical cooperation. However, the current situation will not be corrected through financial or technical assistance alone; effective mechanisms of accountability and sustained political commitment to genuine reform are also required.

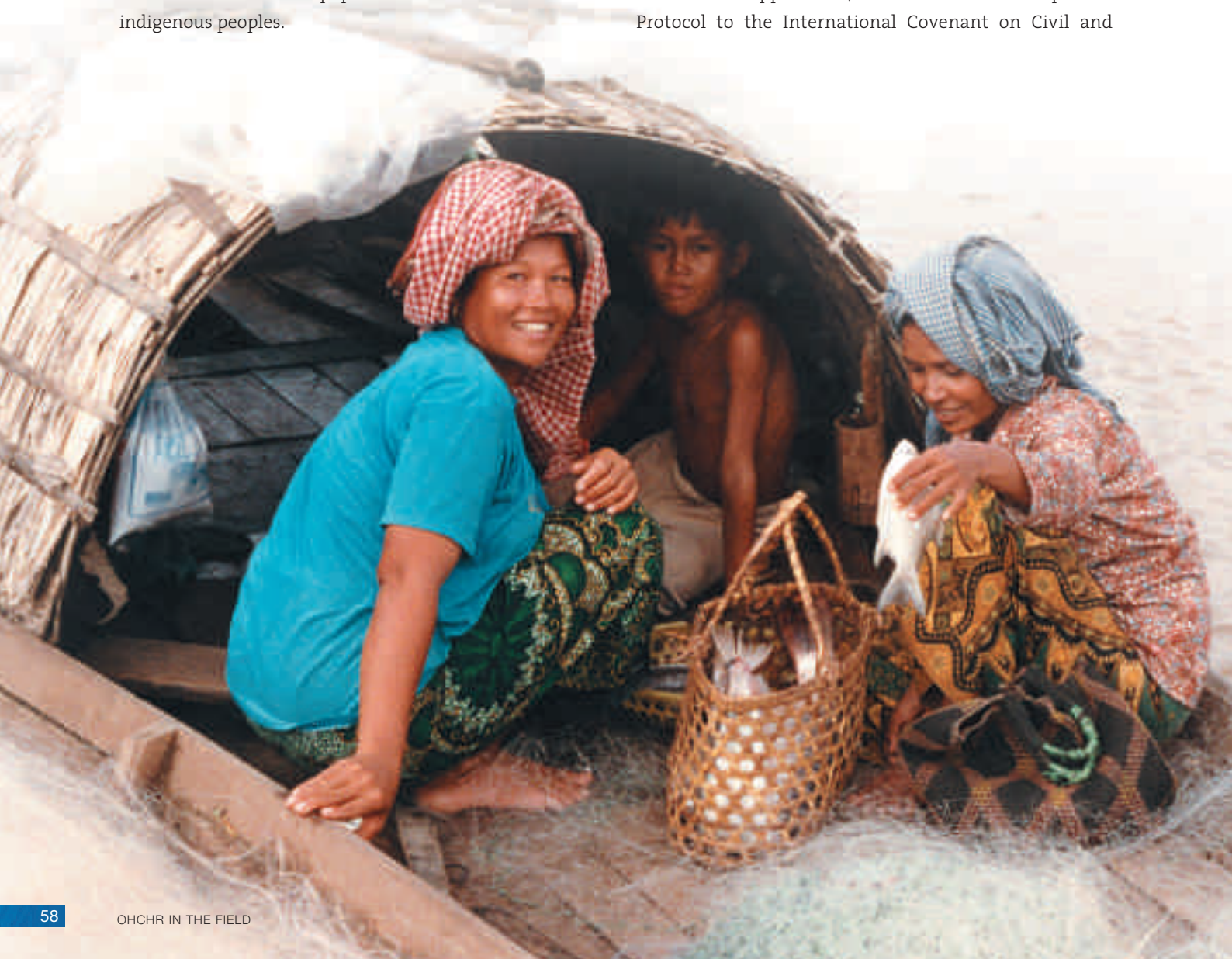
There will be important communal elections in 2007, with national elections scheduled for the following year. The success of these elections will depend to a large extent on the ability of the authorities to overcome technical deficiencies in the management of elections, on whether the political environment is conducive to a free exchange and expression of views, and on the ability of citizens to enjoy their right to freedom of assembly and to participate in public and political life in a meaningful way, without undue restriction or fear of violence or intimidation.

Our role

OHCHR's mandate in Cambodia combines human rights monitoring and protection activities with technical assistance and capacity-building. In setting and implementing its priorities for 2006, the Office formed three teams focusing on: protection and individual cases, with priority given to the protection of human rights defenders/activists and on freedoms of expression, assembly and association; strengthening the rule of law and promoting legal and judicial reform to ensure citizens' access to effective remedy for violations of their rights; and the impact of land concessions on the human rights and livelihoods of affected populations and on Cambodia's indigenous peoples.

Achievements in 2006

Promoting ratification and implementation of international human rights treaties. OHCHR worked with the Government to develop draft legislation consistent with Cambodia's international human rights treaty obligations and to secure ratification of outstanding treaties. Cambodia is party to six treaties and has announced its intention to sign the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is not yet a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, nor to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and



Political Rights. In January 2007, the King promulgated a law ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. OHCHR continued to encourage the Government to complete Cambodia's initial report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which was due in 1994.

Assisting with treaty reporting and responses to recommendations of treaty bodies. OHCHR assisted the Government and other partners in responding to recommendations of relevant treaty bodies. For example, the Office assisted the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the National Council for Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women in following up on the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) issued in January 2006, and participated in a consultation, organized by UNICEF and the National Council for Children, on the first draft of Cambodia's next report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Monitoring judicial independence. In light of concerns regarding the independence of the judiciary, OHCHR monitored individual cases of concern in court proceedings in the Municipal Court of Phnom Penh and continued to cooperate with the Appeals and Supreme Courts, the Battambang provincial court, and other provincial courts as necessary. OHCHR participated in the formal legal and judicial reform consultative process through the Technical Working Group on Legal and Judicial Reform. OHCHR has been working with colleagues in UNICEF to address certain problems related to juvenile justice. OHCHR is also following the progress of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, established to try former Khmer Rouge leaders.

Addressing the human rights impact of land concessions. The Office received numerous requests for assistance in relation to disputes over concessions granted over land and natural resources. OHCHR participated in the Technical Working Group on land with NGO and civil society networks, and worked with donors, NGOs and UN agencies to organize a seminar on indigenous peoples and access to land, which will be held in 2007.

Investigating individual human rights violations. OHCHR acted on reports in individual cases involving restrictions on freedom of expression or association, illegal arrests and other serious breaches of criminal process guarantees and forced evictions. The Office brought concerns to the attention of national and provincial authorities and proposed appropriate responses, encouraging the authorities to conduct credible investigations into reported allegations and to ensure effective remedy.

Making human rights materials more accessible in Khmer. The Office arranged for publications on human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and core human rights treaties, to be translated into Khmer and disseminated across the country. It also made available, in print, CD-ROM and via the Internet, a compilation of key domestic laws.

The High Commissioner visited Cambodia in May 2006. She focused on the importance of an independent, professional judiciary in protecting human rights and freedoms and on the ability of civil society actors to work freely and safely. She met with the Prime Minister and had positive discussions regarding the continuation of OHCHR's mandate in Cambodia, which expires in January 2007. Other visits, supported by OHCHR Cambodia, were made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights, Mr. Yash Ghai, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders, Ms. Hina Jilani.

OHCHR IN CAMBODIA: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
<p>Authorities conduct credible investigations into some cases of reported human rights violations and provide remedy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Investigation and prosecution of cases of human rights violations remained unsatisfactory in the absence of a strong and independent judiciary. ▶ OHCHR continued to advocate for investigations and effective remedy in a number of cases brought to the attention of the authorities.
<p>NGO and civil society groups are better able to function and carry out their work without intimidation or serious threat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Restrictions remained on freedom of assembly and expression, hampering the work of civil society. ▶ OHCHR continued to monitor the environment for civil society work, and intervened in individual cases.
<p>Authorities adopt measures to end impunity in line with the relevant recommendations of the SRSG, Special Rapporteurs, the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, and the GA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Impunity remained one of the most serious human rights challenges facing Cambodia. ▶ OHCHR continued to follow up on unresolved cases and to advocate for implementation of relevant recommendations by UN bodies.
<p>Authorities adopt measures to end torture and inhumane, cruel or degrading treatment in police detention cells and put in place humane prison policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Process of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture initiated.
<p>Credible steps taken to deal with corruption and impunity, including investigation and prosecution of reported cases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Anti-corruption law, in compliance with international standards and best practice, yet to be adopted.
<p>Adoption and implementation of legislation relating to freedom of expression and association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Legislation pending.
<p>Credible steps taken to establish an independent judiciary, including through trials that meet standards for fair trials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Judicial independence and integrity a key concern. ▶ Basic legislation for the functioning of the courts remained pending, including a fundamental law on the organization and functioning of the courts, a law on the status of judges and prosecutors, and the amendment to the law on the functioning of the Supreme Council of Magistracy.
<p>Basic laws consistent with Cambodia's international human rights obligations adopted and enacted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Code of Civil Procedure promulgated in July 2006. Key laws included the Civil Code; Penal Code; Code of Penal Procedure.
<p>Legal assistance in place to increase access to justice for the poor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No state guaranteed legal assistance available; some services provided through NGOs.

Nepal

Established	2005
Staff	119
Expenditure in 2006	\$9,231,959

Human rights context

After 19 days of street protests and increasing social unrest in April 2006, King Gyanendra agreed to restore parliament and the political process, paving the way for a resumption of peace talks with Maoist insurgents. Within weeks, a ceasefire was in place and in November, the Government and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN-M) leaders signed a comprehensive peace agreement. The agreement explicitly referred to the responsibility of the concerned parties to respect human rights and provided for several high-level commissions to be established to look into several hundred cases of “disappearances.” The agreement also supported efforts to

return tens of thousands of displaced people to their homes. An interim Constitution was adopted in December and negotiations on the composition of an interim Government, including the CPN-M, were successfully concluded in early 2007.

In spite of the progress made since April 2006, Nepal’s peace remains fragile and the country still faces some serious and deeply entrenched human rights problems. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an annual per capita income equivalent to approximately US\$280. This economic insecurity has further exacerbated the inequality in the caste system that divides Nepalese society. Despite changes in leadership, the Nepalese army has not cooperated fully with investigations about the fate of the “disappeared,” and no action has been taken to investigate or prosecute cases of extrajudicial execution or torture. The army also maintained its refusal to provide access to documents related to military investigations and court martial proceedings concerning abuses.



Our role

“Although impunity and the absence of accountability remains a major unresolved issue, the OHCHR mission in Nepal can be credited with having directly contributed to reducing the general climate of impunity in the country. It can also be credited with having contributed to the overall decrease in violence and violation of human rights. Furthermore, the OHCHR mission in Nepal has contributed, through its impact in regard of confidence-building, to promote a climate conducive to dialogue and peace talks. It has promoted awareness on human rights throughout the entire country and at all levels of Nepalese society.” – *Mid-term Review of OHCHR Mission to Nepal: Evaluation Mission Final Report*, prepared by ECORYS Research and Consulting, January 2007

OHCHR's Nepal operation was established in May 2005, immediately following the announcement of a ceasefire between the army and CPN-M insurgents. OHCHR human rights officers were among the first international personnel to arrive in large numbers and the Office has since maintained the largest presence in Nepal of any UN department, agency or programme.

The main arguments for launching the mission were to ensure impartial and effective monitoring of the human rights situation across the country, including in districts previously considered inaccessible, and to reinforce the human rights capacity of national institutions and other stakeholders. OHCHR's mandate, set out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Government, is among the broadest of OHCHR's country offices. It allows the Office to independently monitor the human rights situation and to support the National Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations. It explicitly provides for OHCHR to engage with any and all actors, including the CPN-M, and guarantees access to places, people and documents.

Early fieldwork focused on conflict-related human rights violations, including disappearances, torture, summary and extrajudicial executions, and killing of non-combatants. As the peace process took root, OHCHR's emphasis moved to issues of impunity, law enforcement, social exclusion and discrimination, and support for the peace process. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, reached in November, explicitly gave OHCHR responsibility for monitoring and reporting on all human rights aspects of implementation of the agreement.

Fieldwork is conducted from four field offices and one sub-field office: the main country office in Kathmandu, which includes an office covering the central region, and three other satellite offices established in Nepalgunj (mid and far-western regions), Pokhara (western region) and Biratnagar (eastern region). In 2006, the far west of the country was covered by a sub-office in Dadeldhura.

Achievements in 2006

'Saving Lives'

In May, Nepal's newly reinstated Prime Minister and his Government credited OHCHR with having been instrumental, through its human rights protection work, in facilitating the country's return to peace after 13 years of armed conflict. Specifically referring to the massive street protests of April, the Prime Minister said **“thousands of people would have been killed without OHCHR's intervention.”**

Supporting the peace process. OHCHR's intervention and deployment of monitors throughout the country is credited with helping to defuse the political crisis in April and contributing to the success of the peace process. The end of fighting brought about a sharp drop in the number of civilian casualties and a decline in other violations, including extrajudicial execution, arbitrary detention, and torture. Restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly were also eased. Long-term disappearances ceased

soon after the establishment of OHCHR's field presence and no disappearances were documented in 2006. However, by the end of the year, there were still a number of rights concerns that required attention.

Advising the Government on new legislation and the draft interim Constitution. OHCHR provided technical advice to the Government on various draft laws, including citizenship legislation and the Army Act, as well as on the draft interim Constitution, to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

Tackling a culture of impunity. OHCHR monitored criminal investigations into past and current abuses and provided technical advice to the police and relevant actors to assist in the process. The Office also made recommendations regarding transitional justice mechanisms, including through its chairmanship of the Peace Support Working Group on Transitional Justice, launched in June.

Assisting the safe return of displaced persons. OHCHR monitored and advocated for a safe and dignified return of displaced persons with the CPN (Maoists) and the Government at both the local and the central levels.

Drawing attention to the problem of children associated with armed groups and armed militia. In collaboration with UNICEF and child protection NGOs, OHCHR documented the presence of children in armed groups and advocated for their release.

Strengthening national human rights capacity. OHCHR sought to strengthen national capacity in human rights by training partners in Government, security forces, staff of the National Human Rights Commission, NGOs and other organizations in different regions on themes including: treaty bodies; monitoring, reporting and advocacy; economic, social and cultural rights; discrimination; women; sexual and gender-based violence; HIV/AIDS; children's rights; transitional justice; international humanitarian law; use of force; and internal security

operations. OHCHR also worked to build a specialized training unit within the National Human Rights Commission.

Public human rights reporting. OHCHR provided regular public reports on the human rights situation and compliance with international humanitarian law, including through reports on thematic issues and emblematic cases disseminated in Nepalese throughout the country. OHCHR published seven reports: two regular reports and five reports on specific cases or incidents. The representative and other members of OHCHR's office in Nepal delivered statements on the human rights situation at 24 events. The Office also issued 41 press releases.

Dalit Community in Nepal

For centuries, discrimination and social exclusion have kept the Dalit communities of Nepal living in poverty. Human rights activist Janaki herself a Dalit, says the 1,500-year-old Hindu tradition describes those born into her social group as "untouchables," restricts their employment opportunities, and treats them as outcasts of the societies in which they live. Six years ago, Janaki began a protest in the district of Siraha, which inspired Dalit communities across the country to fight discrimination and claim their rights.

The OHCHR office in Nepal works with human rights defenders such as Janaki to promote the rights of Dalit Community members and has investigated a number of reports of caste-based crimes including beatings, rapes and murders.

OHCHR IN NEPAL: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
National Human Rights Commission capacity to engage in the protection of human rights supported through regular advice from international human rights advisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Steps taken to strengthen staff skills at the National Human Rights Commission, including a "train-the-trainer" workshop for 15 Commission staff. ▶ Documentation skills, including interviewing skills, improved, as shown in higher quality of reports submitted by officers and progress reported by supervisors at the National Human Rights Commission.
Capacity-building initiatives in the area of human rights undertaken to provide training, advocacy and other support to national partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ More than 60 training workshops on human rights issues, including transitional justice, provided to a range of actors, including security forces, civil society, national partners, civil servants and lawyers.
International and national monitoring presences are established and functioning in all four regions of Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monitoring presences established and functioning in all regions of Nepal: Kathmandu, Nepalganj, Dadeldhura, Pokhara, and Biratnagar.
A methodology for case review is established with the judiciary at the national and local levels and with the national bar association and human rights cells of the Royal Nepalese Army and National Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Effective working relationship established with the Supreme Court Registry in order to regularly monitor the progress of emblematic cases at the Supreme Court. ▶ Regular liaison established with NGOs, lawyers and police contacts to monitor progress of various emblematic cases during investigation and prosecution stages. ▶ Internal report documenting human rights-related issues and gaps in current support finalized.
Senior staff appointed and dedicated to ensuring effective protection of the human rights of internally displaced persons and coordinating the response to displacement with UNHCR and OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Senior Adviser on Internally Displaced Persons recruited, enabling OHCHR to step up its advocacy for an immediate response to the problems facing IDPs. ▶ Protection obstacles to IDP return monitored and brought to the attention of parties to the conflict. ▶ Media strategies used to raise public awareness of the plight of IDPs. ▶ New government IDP policy developed with extensive UN input. ▶ Inter-Agency IDP Protection Working Group, chaired by OHCHR, coordinated joint responses, including in the area of government policy and capacity-building at the district level.
Prosecution of human rights violations committed by the army against civilians <i>hors de combat</i> are reviewed by civilian judicial authorities and not by court martial proceedings or internal army investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Army Act of 2006 adopted, giving jurisdiction over prosecution of murder and rape offences committed by the Nepalese army to civilian authorities, (although courts martial maintain jurisdiction over torture and disappearances committed by army personnel).
Effective follow-up, by both parties to the conflict, to recommendations made by OHCHR and the various UN human rights mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The State report to CESCR reviewed by OHCHR and revised based on advice provided by the Office. Other reports to UN treaty bodies are due in 2008 and later.

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS

Afghanistan

There are 17 international human rights officers stationed in Afghanistan as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Their main focus is on: monitoring and investigating individual human rights violations; protecting civilians in armed conflict; assisting the Government in the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact with respect to transitional justice; building the human rights capacity of the Government, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and civil society organizations; and protecting the rights of women, children, and those with disabilities. The Office also assists the Government in meeting its treaty-reporting obligations in a project implemented jointly with the United Nations Development Programme. The head of UNAMA's human rights unit is a full member of the UN Country Team representing OHCHR.

OHCHR, working through the UNAMA human rights unit, ran a series of training workshops in eight regions on truth-seeking and reconciliation and to raise awareness of transitional justice. Many participants, who included national human rights professionals, representatives of NGOs and community leaders, subsequently carried out training activities in their own regions. OHCHR also funded a mission to Afghanistan by Physicians for Human Rights, which conducted an assessment of and training to improve the country's forensic capacity, and issued a report on national mapping of mass grave sites.



OHCHR has also worked with UN partners to ensure a human rights dimension was integrated into international development efforts at all levels. The High Commissioner chaired the session on human rights at the 2006 London Conference, held to launch the Afghanistan Compact, the successor to the Bonn Agreement and principal framework for cooperation between the Afghan Government and the international community. OHCHR also participated in working groups on the implementation of the Compact.

OHCHR and UNAMA published several joint public reports on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. In February, the High Commissioner submitted a report on the situation to the outgoing Commission on Human Rights. The new Human Rights Council requested that such reporting continue, and passed a resolution to this effect during its second session in November. To improve the recording of human rights violations, OHCHR deployed an IT adviser to assist UNAMA and the AIHRC in building a human rights database, which will be the pilot for all missions. OHCHR funds will provide training opportunities in India and Geneva for several database staff in 2007.

The wider impact of OHCHR's work was reflected in an increase in the number of complaints and cases of human rights violations reported and handled by national and international human rights NGOs, the AIHRC and UNAMA, and in changes to a number of laws, rules and regulations to ensure that they conform with international human rights standards.

While the Office sought to extend its work to all regions of the country, the deterioration in the security situation in the south and southeast restricted access by human rights officers and other international and local humanitarian actors to only one-third of the country during most of the year.

Timor-Leste

OHCHR has been active in Timor-Leste since 2001, providing technical advice and training for Government officials and NGOs on human rights-related issues and supporting efforts to establish and strengthen national institutions as well as to promote transitional justice and reconciliation. A serious political crisis in early 2006 resulted in outbreaks of violence in the capital, Dili, and a general deterioration of the security situation, which effectively delayed further capacity-building activities. At the same time, the violence prompted an expanded presence of human rights officers in the newly established UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) from August onwards. The human rights mandate of the mission, based on recommendations arising from a UN assessment mission in which OHCHR participated, focuses on capacity-building, monitoring and reporting, and transitional justice. OHCHR also provided funding to UNMIT's Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section for human rights training of newly deployed UN police, which was designed and carried out in collaboration with UNICEF, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In June, at the request of the Government, the Secretary-General asked OHCHR to set up an Independent Commission of Inquiry to clarify responsibility for the violence of the previous two months. On 19 October, the report, which included concrete recommendations regarding criminal investigations, prosecutions and institutional reforms, was presented to Parliament and widely disseminated throughout Timor-Leste. The UNMIT Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section is monitoring implementation of the Commission's recommendations. On 29 November, a new three-year technical cooperation project was agreed with the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice to strengthen the human rights capacity of the Provedoria (Ombudsman's office).

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAMS



Sri Lanka

A senior OHCHR human rights adviser has been stationed as a member of the UN Country Team in Sri Lanka since June 2004. His main role is to advise and support the UN Resident Coordinator and UN agencies on strategies to protect human rights and ways to strengthen the human rights capacity of national institutions and civil society.

Fighting between government forces and separatist rebels escalated in 2006 after a lull of several years, resulting in a sharp rise in the number of human rights violations, including attacks on civilians, political killings, abductions, disappearances and child recruitment. As of December, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that some 465,000 people had been internally displaced because of the conflict.

With the agreement of the Government, OHCHR implemented a technical assistance project with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, providing advice and support on a number of issues, including treaty body reporting, translation and publication of human rights materials, and training on human rights issues for Government officials. At the end of 2006, two additional colleagues were deployed specifically to work on this project

OHCHR worked with UN agencies and programmes active in the country to ensure that a human rights-based approach to programming is clearly reflected in the new Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework for Sri Lanka, which covers UN activities in the country during the period 2007-2009. OHCHR staff also worked with UN colleagues on the Country Task Force, helping to draft Sri Lanka's report to the Security Council Working Group on Children in Armed Conflicts.

Pakistan

OHCHR has been present in Pakistan since 2005, when a human rights adviser was deployed to support UN relief efforts following the October earthquake. In 2006, the UN Resident Coordinator requested OHCHR to maintain a human rights advisor in Pakistan to also support the broader work of the UN Country Team.

The human rights adviser chairs weekly protection meetings with Government officials, UN agencies and civil society to monitor human rights and protection issues in the earthquake-affected areas and assist the Government in identifying resources and solutions to address protection concerns. This forum has produced draft policy and concept papers for Government consideration on issues relating to displaced persons, cash compensation schemes, and standard operating procedures for the closure of camps. The protection group has also mobilized members to support the Government in monitoring camp closures, implementing mass-information campaigns, and monitoring access to services in areas where internally displaced persons originated.

In July, following preparatory work carried out by OHCHR and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government agreed to establish an inter-agency joint protection monitoring system to support the return and reintegration of those made homeless by the earthquake and to ensure that the Government and the UN Country Team were in a position to anticipate and respond promptly to major obstacles. In this context, in August, two joint protection-monitoring units were established in the UN Resident Coordinator's offices in the earthquake hubs of Abbotabad and Mussaffarabad. OHCHR managed the programme of work and the staff of both units. This inter-agency approach, which is based on the principle of one leader, one programme, one budget, reflects the current emphasis on UN reform and embodies a more coherent and holistic approach to protection.

In September, OHCHR organized a workshop, held in Islamabad, on the establishment of a national human rights institution. The objectives of the workshop were to inform key officials in the Government, parliament and civil society about the structure and role of an independent and effective national institution, and to propose changes to the existing legislation to bring it into line with international standards set out in the Paris Principles. In addition to raising awareness amongst key actors, the workshop resulted in a review of the draft legislation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

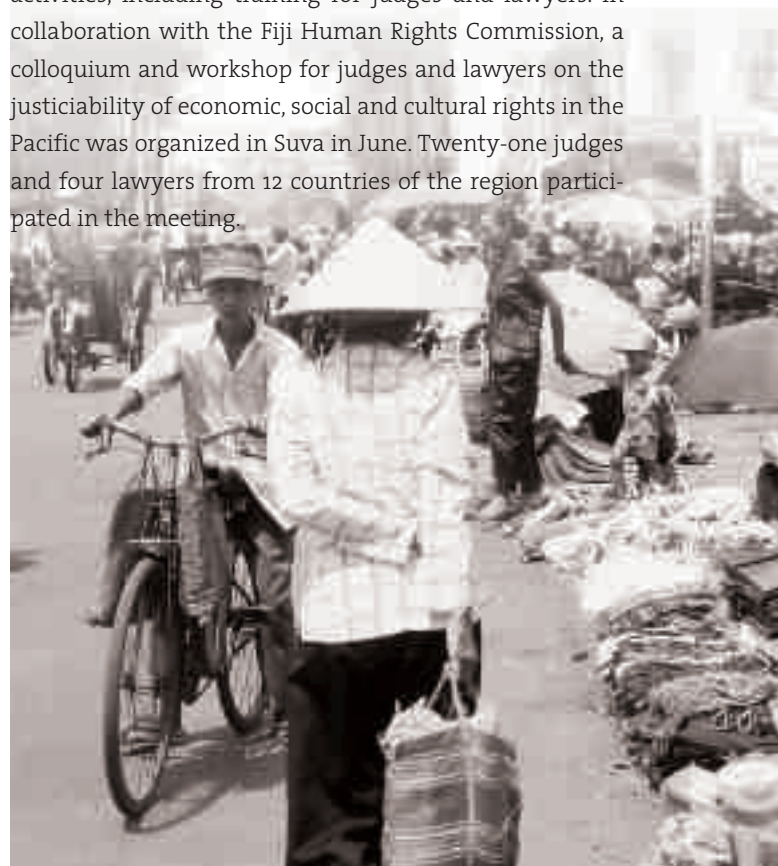
The Pacific

OHCHR's work in the Pacific is largely coordinated out of a regional office in Suva, Fiji, established in August 2005. The Suva office covers the 16 member countries of the Pacific Islands Forum (Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu). In August 2006, OHCHR opened a sub-office in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Most of the region is composed of island countries that are extremely isolated and face major economic and social challenges. The Pacific region has made less progress than any other in ratifying international human rights instruments. Serious political instability resulted in violent riots in the Solomon Islands in April 2006, and in Tonga in November, and a *coup d'état* was staged in Fiji in December. Events in Fiji demanded that OHCHR devote more attention to this country during the latter part of 2006, inevitably affecting implementation of activities, especially training, elsewhere in the region.

OHCHR strengthened its dialogue with governments in the region, including many that were not used to engaging on human rights issues. OHCHR's influence was reflected in the implementation priorities identified by the 16 countries of the Pacific Islands Forum at their annual meeting in October 2006. The Office's efforts to press for ratification of international human rights treaties produced some encouraging results, with a number of governments moving to implement key elements of international human rights law. The Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands, for example, ratified the Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Parliament of the Marshall Islands also ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Fijian legislature passed the Family Law Act of 2003, which gave effect to a recommendation issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

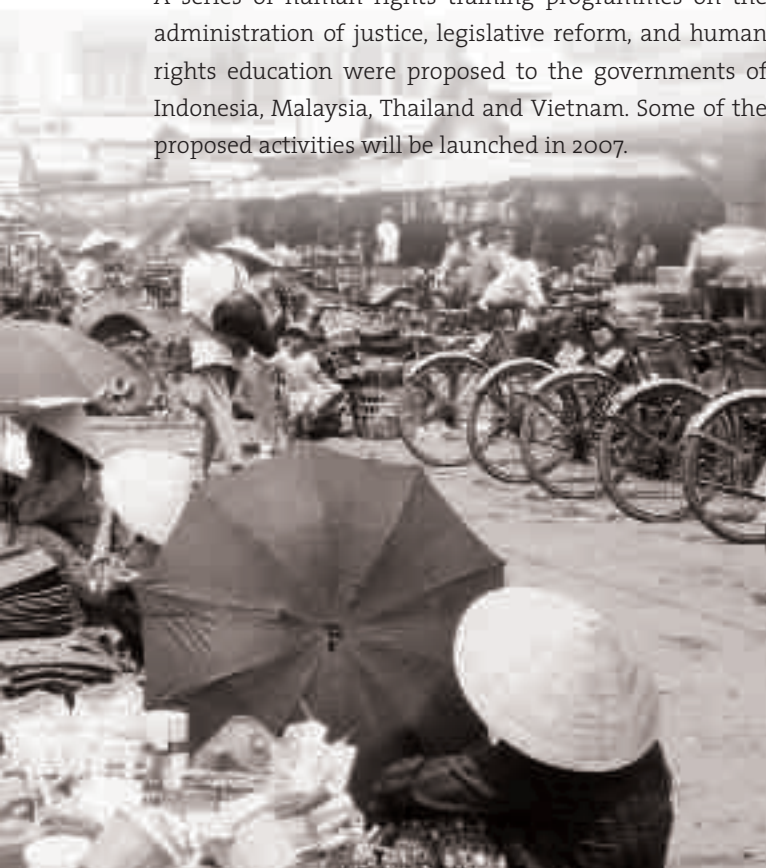
OHCHR also carried out a range of capacity-building activities, including training for judges and lawyers. In collaboration with the Fiji Human Rights Commission, a colloquium and workshop for judges and lawyers on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in the Pacific was organized in Suva in June. Twenty-one judges and four lawyers from 12 countries of the region participated in the meeting.



Southeast Asia

OHCHR's regional office for Southeast Asia, established in January 2002 in Bangkok, was strengthened in 2006. The principal objective of this regional presence is to create structures for the protection and promotion of human rights at national and regional levels and to improve coordination of human rights activities both at the national and regional levels. The Bangkok office covers Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. It provides support and thematic expertise for OHCHR's country offices in the region and for human rights personnel deployed with UN peace operations and Country Teams.

In 2006, the office established a new system for collecting and registering information on human rights violations around the region, covering all countries except Cambodia and Timor-Leste. A new network of national NGOs, based in southern Thailand and working in human rights, peace-building, reconciliation and humanitarian issues, was established to address human rights concerns. A series of human rights training programmes on the administration of justice, legislative reform, and human rights education were proposed to the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Some of the proposed activities will be launched in 2007.



OHCHR organized a series of seminars and other activities to discuss the possible establishment of a regional human rights mechanism. The seminars examined the experiences of regional mechanisms in Europe, Africa and Latin America. The Office also advocated for ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of their Families by Indonesia. A seminar on treaty-body recommendations was held in Thailand in September.

China

OHCHR has sought deeper and more substantive dialogue with China for several years. In August 2005, the High Commissioner signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Government aimed at facilitating greater engagement and technical advice, particularly in relation to ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and implementation of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

After further discussion, a programme document, setting out technical cooperation activities, was agreed in November 2006. The document was presented to Chinese partners and its implementation was discussed during an OHCHR planning mission to Beijing undertaken in December. A key objective of the programme is to support legal reform aimed at removing obstacles for the ratification of the ICCPR, and to support greater engagement with treaty bodies by rights-holders.

Mongolia

OHCHR's engagement in Mongolia was phased out in February 2006. OHCHR worked to ensure a smooth transition and a continuation of the international community focus on human rights issues by transferring human rights activities to UN and other partners.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

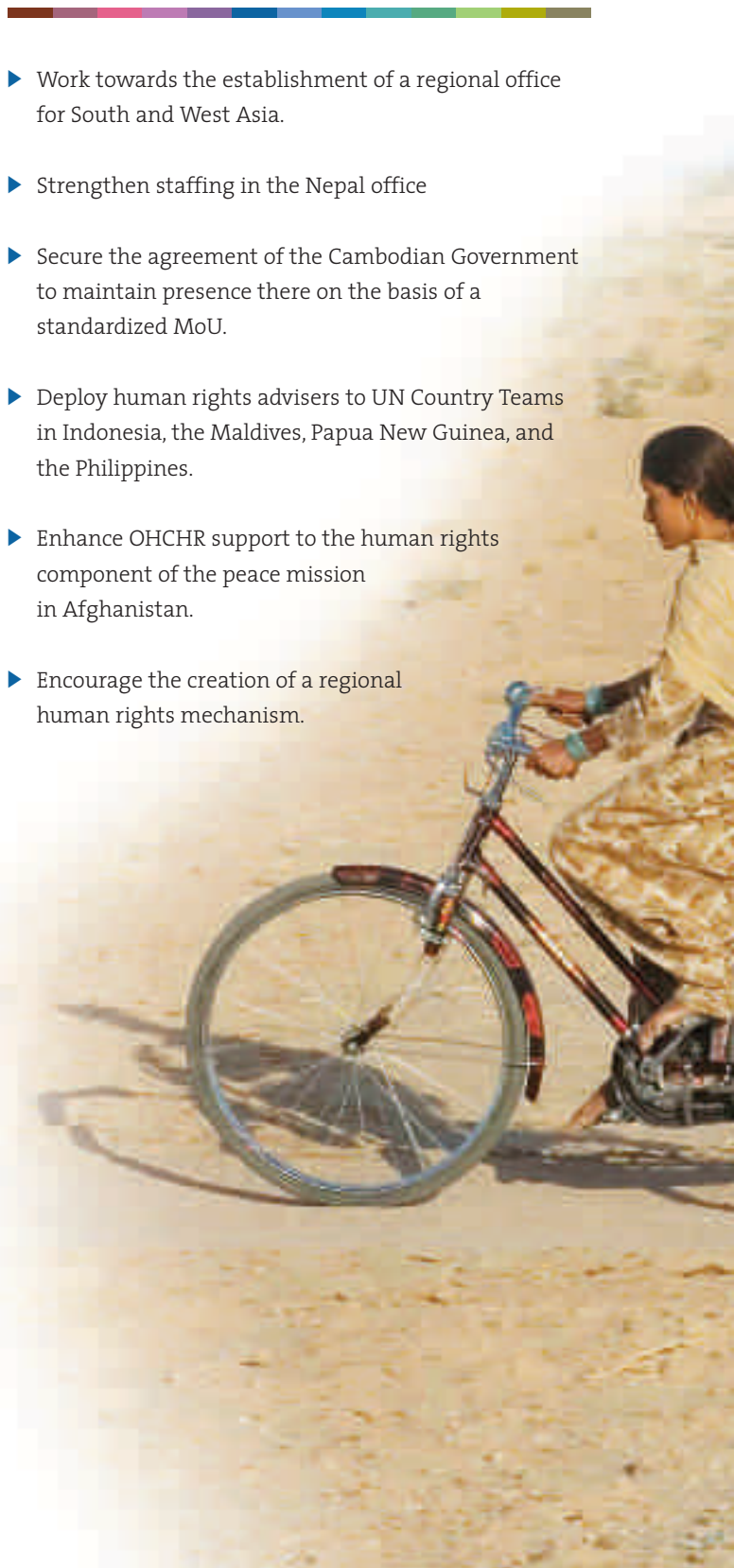
While a large number of countries in the region have pressing human rights problems, these concerns vary enormously from one country to another and from one part of the region to another. In some countries, there is a lack of knowledge and capacity; in others, there is a lack of commitment or basic security.

In order to address these deficiencies effectively, OHCHR needs to be flexible and apply a range of approaches. Regular discussions should be held with UN Resident Coordinators in the region regarding the deployment of human rights advisers in UN Country Teams and ways to strengthen support for the work of those already deployed. More needs to be done to engage governments in substantive discussion on human rights issues, including by strengthening, to the greatest extent possible, OHCHR's country and regional offices. Human rights capacity-building should continue, focusing on reinforcing and improving the performance of national human rights institutions wherever they exist.

At a management and administrative level, OHCHR suffered from delays in recruiting international staff and in delays in the receipt of funding necessary to support implementation of key activities. Training for OHCHR's own staff requires more attention and resources in 2007. Advocacy materials should be developed to support the Office's efforts to engage in dialogue on thematic human rights issues with governments in the region.

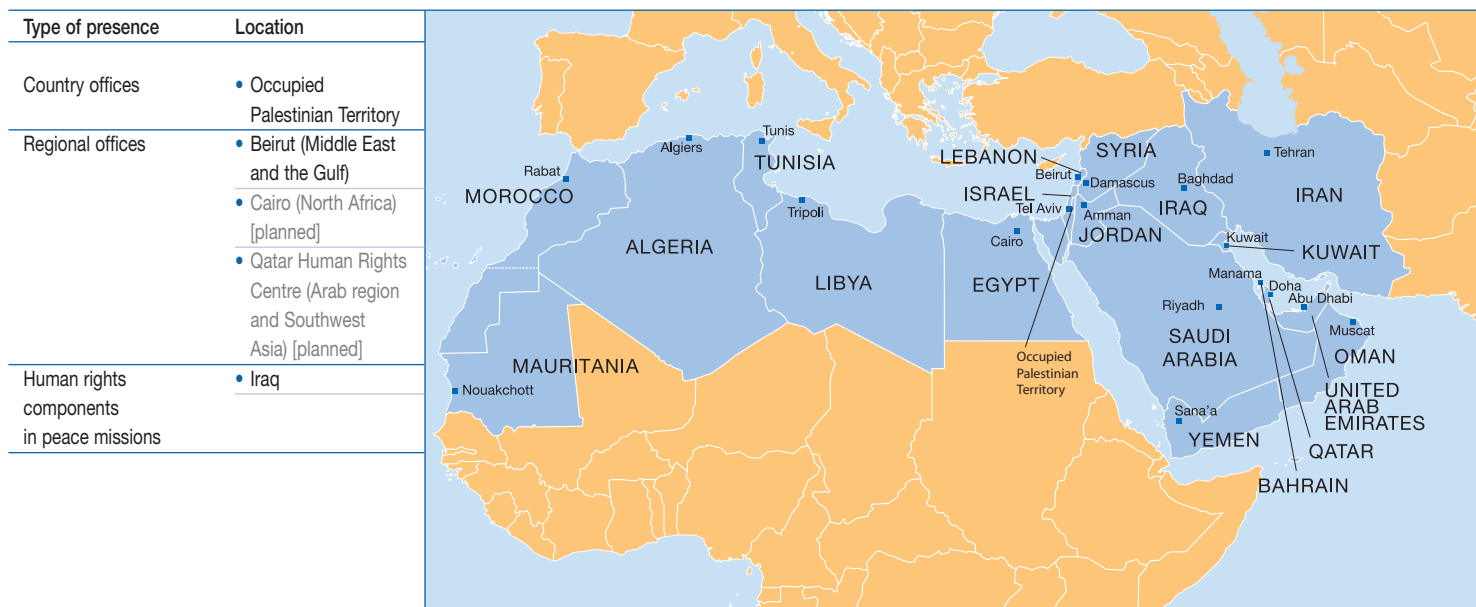
PRIORITIES FOR 2007

- ▶ Work towards the establishment of a regional office for South and West Asia.
- ▶ Strengthen staffing in the Nepal office
- ▶ Secure the agreement of the Cambodian Government to maintain presence there on the basis of a standardized MoU.
- ▶ Deploy human rights advisers to UN Country Teams in Indonesia, the Maldives, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines.
- ▶ Enhance OHCHR support to the human rights component of the peace mission in Afghanistan.
- ▶ Encourage the creation of a regional human rights mechanism.





OHCHR in the Middle East and North Africa



OVERVIEW

The region continued to be marked by instability, with three major crises dominating the scene in 2006. The death toll in Iraq continued to mount amid increasing sectarian violence and a worsening humanitarian and displacement crisis; the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) deteriorated significantly; and, in July, armed conflict broke out in Lebanon. In all three cases, civilians paid the highest price, both in terms of loss of life and livelihood. The continued absence of democratic structures and effective national human rights protection systems has hindered the enjoyment of human rights across the region. Other obstacles include the denial of the right to self-determination, discrimination against women, migrants and minorities, restrictions imposed on freedom of expression and association, the imposition of emergency laws, and harassment and, in some instances, persecution of human rights defenders.

On the positive side, governments in the region announced a variety of reforms designed to improve governance and

bring national legislation into line with international human rights standards. Parliamentary elections in Bahrain, Mauritania and the United Arab Emirates drew high voter turn-out. Civil society grew in strength and diversity, and national human rights institutions were created in several countries. Egypt's National Council for Human Rights received accreditation in compliance with the Paris Principles in October. All countries of the region are parties to several, and some to all, of the core human rights treaties, although some are in breach of their reporting obligations. Follow-up to recommendations of the treaty bodies remains patchy and often ineffective. In 2006, Oman acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Bahrain acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Mauritania acceded to International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, Egypt acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and Morocco accepted the individual complaints procedures under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture. Morocco also withdrew its reservation made under Article 20 of the Convention against Torture, thus recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture to conduct inquiries.

In 2006, OHCHR's regional objectives included:

- ▶ Reinforcing implementation of human rights at the national level;
- ▶ Forging an ongoing dialogue with governments in the region and encouraging ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments and of the Arab Charter on Human Rights;
- ▶ Supporting human rights education;
- ▶ Promoting the adoption of a rights-based approach to programming by UN agencies;
- ▶ Encouraging mainstreaming of human rights within the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Conference Organization, and the League of Arab States;

- ▶ Assisting in the creation of national human rights institutions in keeping with the Paris Principles;
- ▶ Assisting in the establishment of and strengthening NGOs through technical cooperation programmes;
- ▶ Empowering local and regional actors to address gender issues;
- ▶ Contributing to the protection of the rights of migrant workers and trafficked persons; and
- ▶ Promoting and strengthening a human rights culture in the region.

COUNTRY OFFICES

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Established	Gaza: 1996; Ramallah: 2000
Staff	8
Expenditures 2006:	\$1,152,779

Human rights context

The year was again marked by violence and grave human rights violations which continued to exact a heavy toll on the lives of civilians. Of particular significance was the Israeli artillery attack on a densely populated residential area in the northern Gaza strip, Beit Hanoun, in November, which resulted in the killing of 19 civilians. Operations of the Israeli Defense Forces in the Gaza Strip and targeted killings of suspected Palestinian militants in the OPT caused numerous civilian deaths. The destruction of Gaza's sole power installation, among other civilian targets, led to the deprivation of essential electricity and water supplies and gave rise to serious health concerns. Israeli civilians continued to be targeted by Palestinian militant groups through the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel as well as suicide attacks.

The right to freedom of movement for Palestinians within the West Bank and between the West Bank and Gaza Strip remained severely curtailed with the continuing

construction of the barrier by Israel and related restrictions. This had a profound impact on human rights – including the rights to health, education and work – and considerably limited the United Nations’ ability to carry out human rights and humanitarian work. Moreover, the withholding by Israel of Palestinian tax revenues and the withdrawal of donor funding following the formation of the Hamas-led Government led to a severe humanitarian crisis and a sharp rise in the number of people living in poverty.

Our role

OHCHR’s work in the OPT is being developed in line with the High Commissioner’s Plan of Action. The main objectives for 2006 were to: strengthen national capacities for human rights protection; strengthen the capacity of the UN Country Team to use a rights-based approach to programming; support the administration of justice and the rule of law; strengthen the national human rights institution; and promote human rights education.

Achievements in 2006

The poor security situation and complex political situation in the OPT made it difficult for OHCHR to implement all its planned activities. Nevertheless, considerable progress was made in building the capacity of civil society and Palestinian organizations and integrating human rights-based approaches in the work of the UN Country Team.

Drawing attention to the worsening human rights situation. The High Commissioner traveled to Israel and the OPT from 19 to 23 November and used her visit to highlight international law-based rights and obligations, particularly regarding accountability and the protection of civilians. In particular, the High Commissioner stressed that governments were responsible for establishing mechanisms at the national level to conduct independent, transparent and comprehensive investigations into allegations of violations of international human

rights and humanitarian law, and that those mechanisms should address individual criminal responsibility and reparation. The High Commissioner’s visit attracted widespread international and local media attention. A report on her mission was also discussed at the Human Rights Council.

Increasing knowledge about UN human rights mechanisms among Palestinian organizations and civil society.

OHCHR conducted several training and capacity-building workshops in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in partnership with Palestinian civil society groups, the national human rights institution, the Palestinian Independent Commission on Citizens’ Rights, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, and members of the UN Country Team. The workshops focused on how local stakeholders could enhance their interaction with international human rights mechanisms, particularly the special procedures and treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Participants were encouraged to follow up on recommendations issued by of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and by the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Providing financial support to Palestinian civil society.

Nine NGOs received grants of \$5,000 each under OHCHR’s Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project, implemented in partnership with the UN Development Programme. Funding helped pay for human rights education at the community level. Education highlighted gender-based discrimination, the rights of the disabled, and the right to education. OHCHR focused on groups in marginalized areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and provided additional support and training where necessary.

Strengthening the Palestinian justice system. The Office provided human rights training for two groups of Palestinian prosecutors. Training activities planned with a number of Palestinian Authority ministries and institutions relating to the rule of law and administration of justice were delayed due to the political situation.

Raising public awareness of human rights. A number of public awareness activities were conducted in cooperation with the Palestinian Coalition on Violence against Women, the UN Country Team, and the National Coalition for the Global Call to Action against Poverty. These included seminars, newsletters, special events, exhibits, documentary films, public statements, and fact sheets.

Integrating human rights into the work of the UN Country Team. OHCHR organized regular meetings of the UN Inter-Agency Human Rights Working Group, established in 2005 to encourage human rights mainstreaming and joint initiatives, particularly in the context of Human Rights Day. Information sessions were also organized for the UN Country Team on rights-based approaches to

Louise Arbour: Human Rights Must Not be Put on Hold in Times of Conflict

Speaking at the end of a five-day visit to the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel, the High Commissioner said her talks with both Palestinians and Israelis affected by the violence made apparent "their profound sense of frustration and abandonment, including a perception that the international community is not doing enough to protect them."

"This situation is particularly acute in the occupied Palestinian territory, whose people find that virtually all their rights are being denied both individually and collectively, chronically and critically. Particularly vulnerable in this situation, as is invariably the case where respect for rights has been eroded, are women and children.

"I left Gaza with a sense that the right of its people to physical integrity – their right to life – was particularly imperiled. Beit Hanoun is only one case in many," she said, referring to the incident in which 19 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli shelling on 8 November.

"While in the West Bank," she continued, "I was struck by the severe impact that the barrier and the system of checkpoints, road blocks, trenches, and earth mounds was having on family life and economic life, indeed, on the quality of life – in short, on human dignity."

The High Commissioner recalled that she had also impressed upon Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority to exhaust every legitimate means of law enforcement – and be seen to do so – to ensure an

end to the firing of Qassam missiles and to bring those who launch them to justice. The use of Qassam missiles, an inherently directionless weapon, "is done only with the intent to kill and to spread fear without discrimination," she said. "As such, they are in breach of international humanitarian law and their use must cease immediately."

Among the actions to improve human rights in the region, she called for the establishment of a system of accountability allowing for "investigations which are law-based, independent, transparent and accessible. Where violations of law are found to have occurred, there must be adequate reparations and the perpetrators of those violations must be held to account."

The High Commissioner called on the international community to advocate at all times for the respect of international law. "In its efforts to promote a much needed political solution to this 40-year old occupation, it should ensure that treaties, conventions and agreements are respected by all, and that the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, a principle organ of the United Nations, is relied upon as a framework for the implementation of the Rule of Law, both internationally and domestically."

The High Commissioner said a lasting political solution grounded in the realization of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and in the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to live in safety within internationally recognized, secure borders was required. In the meantime, however, human rights cannot be put on hold.

programming, the new Human Rights Council, special procedures, and treaty bodies. OHCHR helped to prepare the OPT Consolidated Appeals Process for 2007 and successfully introduced a protection/human rights/rule of law sector, for which the Office serves as lead agency.

Supporting the Special Rapporteur on the OPT. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the OPT visited the region twice in 2006. OHCHR hosted consultations with the human rights community in Gaza and Ramallah and with the UN Country Team in Jerusalem.

Supporting the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Consultations were held with Palestinian NGOs invited to testify before the Special Committee, which carried out its annual field visit, from 11-18 November, to Egypt, Jordan

and Syria. Some 36 witnesses and a number of Palestinian refugees living in a camp near Damascus were heard. The testimonies, which were provided on a confidential basis, highlighted the seriously deteriorating human rights situation in the OPT.



Human rights training for journalists in the OPT

OHCHR IN THE OPT: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
An increase in the number of high-quality reports submitted to special procedures and treaty bodies by NGOs and PA institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Training on interaction with UN human rights mechanisms provided to a variety of Palestinian institutions and NGOs. ▶ Numerous civil society reports and briefings sent to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in advance of the February 2007 session.
An increase in the number of policy reforms undertaken by the Palestinian Authority to comply with human rights standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The volatile political, economic and security situation meant that little activity was possible in this area.
An increase in the number of joint activities on human rights undertaken by the UN Country Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Four public statements on human rights and humanitarian developments published jointly with other UN entities in the OPT. ▶ Joint activities undertaken with UNESCO, WHO, and the Inter-Agency Human Rights Working Group. ▶ Nine ACT projects undertaken in partnership with UNDP.
Strengthening the UN Country Team's capacity to adopt a rights-based approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Protection/human rights/rule of law sector included in the 2007 Consolidated Appeals Process. ▶ Information sessions on rights-based approaches to programming held for UN Country Team personnel.

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS

Iraq

OHCHR supports the work of the Human Rights Component of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) by assisting in the implementation of activities and providing guidance and expert advice on specific human rights questions. UNAMI human rights officers, based in Baghdad, Erbil, and Amman, Jordan, monitor the human rights situation in Iraq, support the rule of law and institution-building, advocate for judicial and legal reforms, promote a strategy for transitional justice, and implement technical cooperation projects. In 2006, continued instability and sectarian violence had serious consequences on activities outside Baghdad's 'Green Zone.'

Workshops were held for Government representatives, members of parliament and civil society to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights, particularly regarding the drafting, revision and implementation of national laws that conform with international human rights standards. Training was also provided to 13 members of the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. OHCHR provided publications and other materials on human rights in Arabic to several ministries for inclusion in their libraries, and provided training, in Geneva, for 15 Iraqi librarians.

Workshops were held in Baghdad and Erbil to develop a coherent strategy for transitional justice. Best practices in other countries were identified, and options for an accountability mechanism and a workplan were devised. Recommendations were made concerning the need for de-Ba'athification, truth-telling, prosecutions and reparations. A process was initiated to establish a national centre for missing and disappeared persons.

OHCHR provided technical advice to the Iraqi authorities on several draft laws, including a law to protect mass

graves, a U.S. proposal for an amnesty programme, and a law to establish a national centre for missing and disappeared persons. OHCHR and UNAMI also supported the constitutional review process in cooperation with the UN Development Programme and the Austrian Government.

OHCHR and UNAMI assisted the Government in establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles, as provided for in the new Constitution. Two workshops were organized for members of the Council of Representatives and civil society organizations to prepare for the new institution, ensure its independence, and define its core functions, structure, methodology, and legal provisions. A draft law was prepared and is currently before the Iraqi Parliament.

OHCHR offered expert advice to the International Compact for Iraq, a Government initiative for a new partnership with the international community. As a



result, a section on human rights has been integrated in the political and security chapters of the Compact.

UNAMI's human rights office provided secretarial and substantive support to the sectoral working group on the rule of law, which is chaired by the chief justice, and played an important role in developing and finalizing the Strategic Framework on the Rule of Law, which sets out Iraq's needs in this area and provides short-term assistance frameworks for the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Defense, Human Rights and the High Judicial Council.

Bi-monthly human rights reports were published throughout the year and received significant international media attention. The reports provided a clear picture of

the human rights situation in Iraq, including the number of civilian casualties and Iraqis in detention, and made concrete recommendations for action to address the country's most pressing human rights problems.

The Special Rapporteur on torture met with representatives of the Ministry of Human Rights, NGOs and torture victims in Amman, Jordan, in July. Detailed information, including testimonies, pictures, appeals, official complaints, and certificates on 17 individual cases were shared with the Special Rapporteur and transmitted to the authorities for action. Other Special Procedure mandate-holders commented on several aspects of the human rights situation in Iraq.

Application of the Death Penalty in Iraq

On 5 November 2006, the High Commissioner issued a press statement emphasizing the need for judicial systems to include a credible appeals process, particularly in cases where the death penalty has been imposed. On 28 December, she made a public statement calling for restraint by the Iraqi authorities following the 26 December appeals court judgment upholding the conviction and death sentence of Saddam Hussein and two co-defendants. On 3 January, following the execution of Saddam Hussein, the High Commissioner renewed her call for restraint in the case of Awad Hamad Al Bandar and Barzan Ibrahim Al Hassan, two co-defendants of Saddam Hussein, both of whom were subsequently executed. Several statements on these cases were likewise issued by special procedures mandate-holders, including the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. On 15 January, the High Commissioner issued another press statement expressing her regret over the executions and saying that she is "opposed to capital punishment in all circumstances."

On 8 February 2007, the High Commissioner submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the Iraqi High Tribunal, asserting that in the circumstances of the resentencing of Taha Yassin Ramadan, imposition of the death penalty by the Tribunal would breach Iraq's international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. While the Covenant does not prohibit capital punishment, it lays down stringent conditions on its use. The High Commissioner argued to the Court that in the case of Taha Yassin Ramadan, the original trial, *prima facie*, was flawed on a variety of procedural grounds and that the appeal had failed to adequately resolve these legal issues. She argued that the imposition of the death penalty following an unfair trial is itself an inhuman act that is prohibited. She further stressed that Iraqi law, as it had been interpreted, offered insufficient opportunity for executive consideration of commutation or pardon, and that, in view of the problems attending previous executions, exposure to another execution, absent guarantees of acceptable execution protocols, would be a cruel and inhuman act. Finally, the High Commissioner argued that imposition of the death penalty while the accused was still under investigation for other serious crimes would violate Iraq's obligations fully to pursue such crimes.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

Lebanon

Armed conflict broke out in Lebanon in July after Israel responded to the kidnapping of two of its soldiers by Hezbollah by launching air attacks and sending ground troops into southern Lebanon. The war lasted 34 days and resulted in the deaths of over 1,000 civilians and more than 4,400 injured. Israel's attacks on populated areas, often involving cluster bombs, caused widespread casualties and drew strong international criticism. Its attacks on Lebanon's infrastructure, including the airport, roads, bridges and the electricity grid, created further hardship and made delivery of humanitarian relief more difficult. During the war, Hezbollah sent more than four thousand rockets into towns in northern Israel.

OHCHR maintained a regional office for the Middle East in Beirut through 2006, although the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forced it to close for two months. OHCHR human rights monitors remained on the ground throughout the conflict, reporting on the human rights situation and working with UN colleagues to ensure that humanitarian relief efforts took into account human rights concerns. In her statements on the events, the High Commissioner highlighted international legal responsibilities and international accountability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

OHCHR provided support to the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, the Special Rapporteur on health, the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary and arbitrary executions, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons for their joint visit to Lebanon and Israel immediately after the war. OHCHR also supported a separate visit to Lebanon by the Special Rapporteur on food. The special rapporteurs met with Government officials and NGOs and visited sites that had been affected by massive destruction during the war. Significant resources were allocated by OHCHR, both in Geneva and in Lebanon, to support the work of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon, established by the Human Rights Council. The protection working group, set up by the regional office with UNHCR and the UN Country Team after the war, will play an important role in following up and implementing the recommendations made by the special rapporteurs and the Commission of Inquiry.



In collaboration with local partners, the Office organized training on human rights, and on UN human rights mechanisms, to a variety of stakeholders. Specific initiatives included training on treaty bodies and special procedures, conducted in conjunction with the Lebanese Higher Council for Childhood, and training on documentation of violations of human rights and humanitarian law for journalists, NGOs and the Beirut Bar Association. OHCHR also worked with the Lebanese Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights on developing a national human rights action plan.

Working with the International Labour Organization, OHCHR also provided technical advice on a proposed unified contract and a draft law designed to regulate the status and rights of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. A “know your rights” booklet for arriving migrant workers was published, and OHCHR encouraged the Lebanese authorities to take steps towards ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families.

Arab Region

The constraints imposed by the volatile situation in the region and the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and Iraq, inevitably restricted the amount of time that could be spent addressing institutional weaknesses, legislative reform, and capacity and knowledge gaps in the wider region. Nevertheless, the Office worked with several governments, civil society organizations and regional organizations to promote human rights and increase institutional capacity and expertise.

OHCHR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) to strengthen awareness of international human rights norms and mechanisms among Secretariat staff of the two organizations and implement joint activities. As a first event, OHCHR organized

a training seminar for six OIC and eight ISESCO Secretariat staff. OHCHR and the League of Arab States continued to improve their cooperation in the region in accordance with the agreement signed between the two organizations in 2002.

Two seminars were held in Geneva: one, on the international human rights system, was attended by nine participants from the Arab region, including a number of women; the second, on the working methods and reporting guidelines of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, was attended by 21 representatives of civil society. OHCHR continued to provide support to the Arab Institute for Human Rights, which organized its 16th *Anabtawi* human rights training session, in Hammamet, Tunisia, attended by 26 representatives of NGOs, national human rights institutions and governments attended the session.

The second regional conference of national human rights institutions was held in Doha, Qatar, in March. Some 120 participants debated the issue of creating a human rights culture in the region and agreed to set up a committee to implement the recommendations of the two regional conferences held to date. The Doha Declaration, which calls for ratification of international human rights treaties and the Arab Charter for Human Rights and for the establishment of national human rights institutions, constitutes a significant step forward in developing the work of national human rights institutions in the region.

OHCHR assisted the Special Rapporteur on trafficking during her visit to Bahrain, Oman and Qatar from 28 October to 12 November. After her visit, shelters for abused persons were opened in Bahrain. The Ministry of Justice shared with OHCHR a draft law on trafficking and requested comments. Also in Bahrain, the UN Development Programme and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs expressed interest in awareness-raising activities on the rights of domestic servants.

OHCHR conducted two missions to Qatar, in June and November, to make the necessary arrangements for the opening of a UN Training and Documentation Centre for

Southwest Asia and the Arab Region, in Doha, in keeping with an earlier decision made by the General Assembly. Discussions continue with the Government of Qatar on the establishment of the proposed centre.

North Africa

An OHCHR mission visited Rabat, Layoune and Tindouf in May and June to assess the human rights situation in Western Sahara and the Tindouf camps and recommend steps that could assist the parties in addressing serious human rights concerns. Following the mission, a set of observations and recommendations was communicated to the parties.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

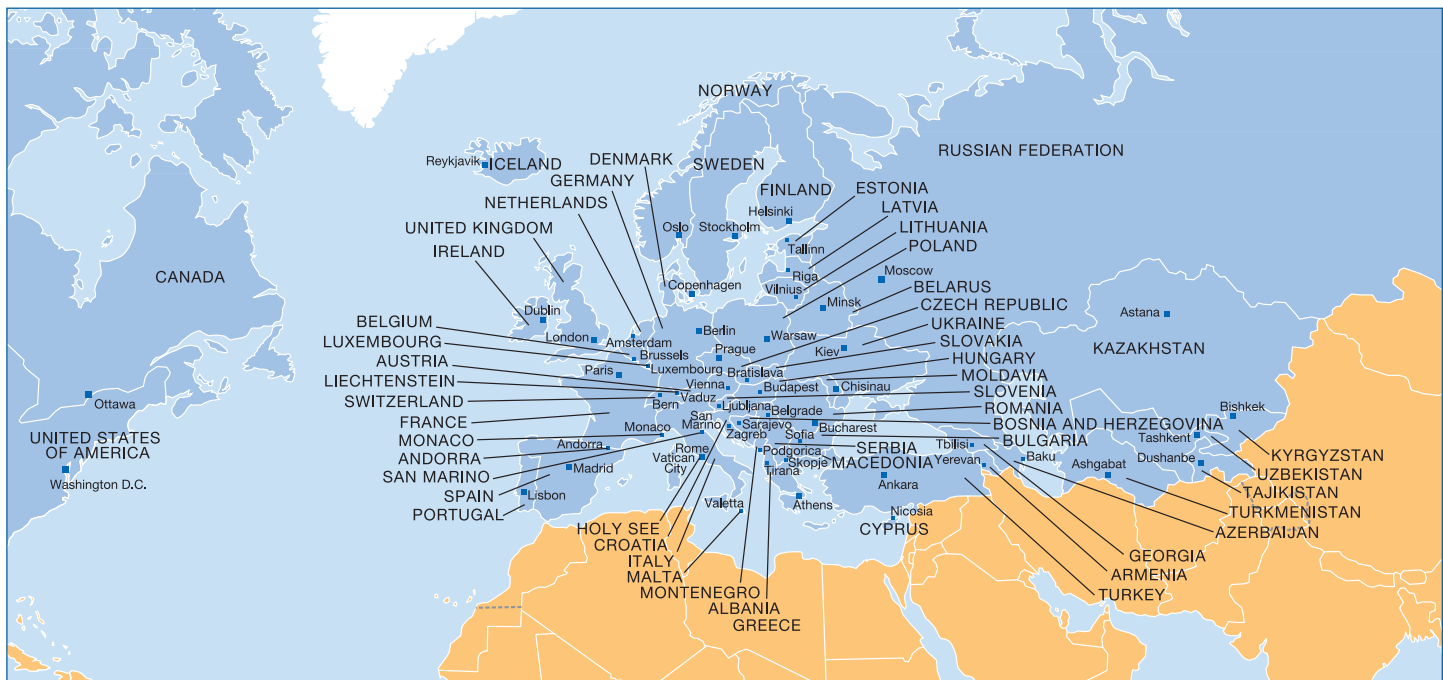
Given limited resources, the volatility of the political and security situation, and the workload generated in servicing three special sessions concerning the region held by the Human Rights Council in 2006 and implementing its resolutions, the Office had to prioritize its activities and its engagement with governments and others across the region.

The events in Lebanon and OHCHR's response showed the value of a rapid-response capacity that facilitates the deployment, at very short notice, of qualified staff and necessary equipment in accordance with security regulations.

PRIORITIES FOR 2007

- ▶ Establish a regional office for North Africa.
- ▶ Establish the Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region.
- ▶ Continue to strengthen partnerships with UN Country Teams, national institutions, NGOs, and regional organizations.
- ▶ Consolidate the network of national human rights institutions in the Arab region by organizing the third annual conference of national human rights institutions in Morocco, Rabat, on the theme of “the independence of the judiciary in the Arab region,” in accordance with the decision of the second conference of national human rights institutions in Doha.
- ▶ Strengthen OHCHR's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

OHCHR in Europe, North America and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Serbia, including Kosovo
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishkek (Central Asia) [planned]
Human rights components in peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia/Abkhazia • Tajikistan

OVERVIEW

The regions of Europe, North America and Central Asia encompass 56 countries with great disparities in their human rights situations. OHCHR's field operations have, until recently, been concentrated in the Balkans, with smaller presences in the Russian Federation, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. In addition, a dedicated unit of eight professional staff and two administrative staff cover the region from Geneva, coordinating and supporting work carried out by colleagues in the field, monitoring areas of concern, preparing briefing materials for the High Commissioner and other senior staff, and supporting the work of relevant special rapporteurs.



COUNTRY OFFICES

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Established	1995
Staff	8
Expenditure in 2006	\$438,025

Human rights context

Bosnia and Herzegovina is still plagued with the legacy of a three-and-a-half-year bloody civil conflict that ended with the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in December 1995. Twelve years later, in spite of progress in many areas, the situation is fragile and a number of major human rights issues remain unresolved. In particular, progress on institutional reform, restitution, justice, and protection of vulnerable groups has been stymied by a combination of countervailing political interests and economic constraints.

In 2007 and 2008, large elements of the international presence that has kept the peace in Bosnia and overseen public policy for the past twelve years will be scaled back or withdrawn completely. The Peace Implementation Council, the international body set up to review implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords, announced in June 2006 that the Office of the High Representative, which has provided both oversight and executive control of key functions of government since 1995, would be wound down in mid-2007. This timetable was subsequently extended for another year.

Our role

OHCHR's role in recent years has involved working with national and local authorities, the national human rights institution, and civil society organizations to increase awareness of human rights, raise human rights concerns, ensure that national laws conform with international human rights standards, and improve the capacity of local institutions to promote and protect human rights. In 2006,

Changes to OHCHR's Operations in the Region in 2007

OHCHR will complete the reorientation of its field operations in the Balkans in 2007. A presence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was closed in 2006 and country offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo) and Serbia (Belgrade) will be closed in mid-2007, while the existing office in Pristina will be reinforced. Pending agreement with governments of the countries of Central Asia, a new regional office for Central Asia will be established in Bishkek. OHCHR is also preparing to deploy human rights advisers to UN Country Teams in Georgia and the Russian Federation, and national human rights officers to UN Country Teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It will also support the deployment of human rights advisers in Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, with the aim of strengthening the human rights expertise of UN colleagues working in these countries.

the Office focused on gender-based discrimination, harassment and violence, the administration of justice, human trafficking, treaty-body reporting, and the protection of the economic and social rights of vulnerable groups.

Achievements in 2006

Supporting war crimes trials and raising awareness of the rights of victims of war crimes. The Office monitored several trials in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court. Following a request for legal assistance from the Court's Witness Protection Unit and the Associations of War Victims, OHCHR provided legal aid for witnesses to facilitate their participation in the trial process. The Office, together with the International Commission of Missing Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held three roundtables to inform war victims about their rights and channels of redress available to them. Questions raised by victims have been used for advocacy to amend legislation and also for producing practical guidance on victims' rights.

Building awareness of and expertise in women's rights. OHCHR helped to increase knowledge of women's rights among police officers, judges and NGO representatives, providing training and information materials at a series of workshops. The Office also sought to improve legislative protection from gender-based discrimination, providing legal advice to the Government for the Commentary of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Gender Law.

Supporting counter-trafficking efforts. OHCHR developed a system of indicators designed to identify trends in human trafficking. The indicators are intended to help the State Coordinator's Office to systematize the process of data-gathering and analysis. Following a request from the Ministry of Security, OHCHR prepared a commentary on proposed amendments to the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens. The Office also published a report entitled "Trafficking in Human Beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Situation and Responses in 2006," which highlighted the lack of protection for domestic victims of trafficking.

Raising awareness of the rights of vulnerable populations. OHCHR sought to raise awareness of the rights of various vulnerable groups, including missing persons, victims of torture and survivors of sexual violence. In cooperation with the International Commission on Missing Persons and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the Office produced a set of guidelines for implementation of the Law on Missing Persons. OHCHR continued to advocate for the rights of civilian victims of war and torture and published a report on "The Rights of Torture Victims under International Law: An Analysis of the Legal Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Assisting treaty body reporting. OHCHR assisted the Government in meeting its treaty-reporting obligations, particularly in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It provided guidance and advice to NGOs submitting observations on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, OHCHR facilitated a workshop for relevant Government officials on reporting to the Committee on Migrant Workers, and a workshop on following up on treaty-body recommendations. In cooperation with the UN Country Team, OHCHR prepared a compilation of all concluding observations and recommendations from UN treaty bodies, in English and Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and disseminated the compilation to senior Government officials and NGO representatives.

Serbia

Established	1996
Staff	5
Expenditure in 2006	\$373,700

Human rights context

Various factors contributed to the revival and rapid rise of nationalism and impeded expected progress in human rights in 2006, including the start of talks on Kosovo's future, the break-up of the union with Montenegro, and the adoption of a new constitution reaffirming Serbia's sovereignty over Kosovo. The failure to arrest war crimes suspects continued to contribute to a climate of impunity. The inquiry into the murder of some 800 victims from Kosovo found in mass graves near Belgrade remained unresolved, as did that of the murders of two prominent journalists in 1999 and 2001. The trial for the murder of Prime Minister Djindjic faltered in 2006: a protected witness was murdered and the presiding judge resigned.

Other human rights concerns included the lack of progress in security-sector reform, the lack of any mechanism to provide reparations to victims of wartime atrocities or their families, the lack of any truth commission or interest on the part of the authorities in establishing such a commission, and the lack of public consultation on proposed new laws, including the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Law on Churches and Religious Communities, and amendments to the Broadcasting Act. Hate speech, violence, threats, and intimidation directed towards human rights defenders, journalists political opponents, and religious and national minorities persisted. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination rendered its first ruling on Serbia and found it in violation of Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The European Court of Human Rights delivered its first judgment on Serbia, finding the State in breach of the applicant's right to a fair trial due to a violation of the presumption of innocence.

Our role

OHCHR's work in Serbia has aimed to strengthen the capacity of national institutions and civil society to promote and protect human rights, particularly with regard to impunity and the rule of law, non-discrimination, human rights education, human trafficking, and social and economic rights. The country office in Belgrade worked with OHCHR colleagues in Geneva and with the treaty bodies and fact-finding mandate-holders to raise awareness of human rights issues, provide technical expertise, and carry out capacity-building activities.

Achievements in 2006

Ensuring that legislation conforms with international human rights standards. OHCHR provided comments on the Draft Law against Discrimination and suggested changes that were subsequently included in the draft law.

Drawing attention to lapses in treaty body reporting obligations. Since the State failed to fulfill its obligation to translate and widely distribute the concluding observations adopted by the Human Rights Committee (2004) and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2005), OHCHR compiled these two documents, along with an introductory note, translated them into Serbian, and published a brochure entitled "The Application of Human Rights Covenants in Serbia." The translated documents and brochure were disseminated to senior Government officials and civil society representatives.

Raising public awareness of human rights. The Office used the occasion of Human Rights Day in December to draw public attention to human rights concerns in Serbia. Over the past six years, the Office has worked to raise the profile of Human Rights Day to the point where it is now widely celebrated across the country and attracts widespread public and civil society involvement. In 2006, a broad range of national actors, media and members of the public joined in marking the Day in 35 towns throughout Serbia. OHCHR received requests

from several local organizations in Serbia for follow-up activities and suggestions on how to develop the original OHCHR project “Tree of Life” in 2007.

Building the capacity of civil society. OHCHR allocated a grant to the Humanitarian Law Centre, a renowned national human rights NGO, to support its work on tackling impunity. The Centre organized a conference, “From Impunity to Accountability: The Road Ahead,” with the aim of strengthening capacity to address serious human rights violations.

Kosovo Sub-office

Established	1998
Staff	2
Expenditure in 2006	\$219,185

Human rights context

Almost eight years after the intervention of NATO forces and the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), the human rights situation in Kosovo remains unsatisfactory, with basic rights poorly protected and inadequate local institutional capacity to monitor and address human rights problems or report on compliance with international human rights treaties.



2007 is expected to be a critical year for Kosovo, as the process for determining the province's future status moves into its final stages. UNMIK is expected to withdraw once the question of status has been resolved, and will hand over most remaining powers to the new Kosovo authorities and residual support functions to a new international presence, led by the European Union. Tensions may run high during this transition period, especially if, as expected, the final arrangements for Kosovo's future are the subject of dispute between community leaders in Kosovo and political representatives in Belgrade and Pristina.

Our role

OHCHR's role combines monitoring, protection, and public reporting with technical assistance and advisory services. The Office works to ensure that human rights promotion and protection is integrated into the functions of the international and Kosovo authorities and are reflected in any future constitutional arrangements developed for Kosovo. It also works with the Kosovo authorities and with civil society to build local human rights capacity, with special attention given to judicial mechanisms, rule of law, the need for a strong and credible national human rights institution, and accountability for war crimes.

Achievements in 2006

Ensuring that local laws and policies comply with international human rights standards. The Office provided advice on a number of draft laws and procedures, including two relating to the establishment and role of the Ombudsman, which resulted in revisions and greater compatibility with human rights standards.

Supporting development of a long-term human rights strategy. The Office participated in a workshop and other activities on the development and implementation of a human rights strategy by Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-government. The workshop produced

a commitment by the authorities to move forward with an effective human rights strategy, broadly in keeping with the approach advocated by OHCHR.

Building local institutional capacity. OHCHR translated several publications, including human rights training materials, into Albanian to facilitate their use in Kosovo. Working with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Office raised awareness among senior officials in Kosovo's provisional institutions of the need to create properly staffed and qualified human rights units within key ministries. The Office also sought to inform discussion in the Kosovo Assembly concerning the transfer of the Human Rights Ombudsperson to local ownership. While the Assembly accepted a number of important arguments put forward by OHCHR, progress in establishing the local institution has been slow and the appointment process became bogged down in late 2006.

Partnering with UN colleagues and building human rights capacity among UN agencies in Kosovo. The Office worked with representatives of 14 UN agencies and programmes who serve on the UN Country Team on a number of advocacy initiatives that resulted in changes in policy. One such initiative involved the relocation of a number of internally displaced persons affected by lead poisoning, which followed intervention by the United Nations Kosovo Team and several special rapporteurs. OHCHR also led two workshops for UN agency staff on a rights-based approach to development.

Assisting treaty body reporting. The Office assisted the Secretary and members of the Human Rights Committee in considering the report of Kosovo under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and helped facilitate dialogue between Committee members and the UN mission. While much remains to be done to follow up on the Committee's recommendations, Kosovo's provisional institutions gave some signs, late in the year, of willingness to engage. Planned training in treaty body reporting was postponed until 2007, mainly due to the uncertainty regarding the staffing of relevant Government offices.

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS

Georgia

Assisted by a national programme officer working within the UN Country Team, OHCHR implemented several activities aimed at strengthening national protection mechanisms, including training representatives of NGOs, the media and the Public Defender's Office. Training was also provided to senior Government officials on treaty-body reporting and on human rights-based approaches to social and development policy. The usefulness of these activities was reflected in the growing number of requests received from various ministries seeking further technical assistance, especially regarding treaty reporting and follow-up, analysis of existing gaps in domestic legislation, a human rights-based approach to development, and human rights training for penitentiary staff.

Efforts were also made to identify and address gaps in human rights knowledge and competencies of UN staff in Georgia. Discussions on a human rights-based approach and an appraisal of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) deepened knowledge of human rights among participating UN staff and generated recommendations on necessary adjustments to the UNDAF.

The Human Rights Office, established in Abkhazia in 1996 under the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, continued to report on human rights developments, implement activities to promote respect for human rights, and contribute to a safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The office was also engaged in human rights monitoring and technical cooperation intended to strengthen capacities and infrastructure to promote human rights and democracy under the rule of law.

Tajikistan

The United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace Building (UNTOP) was established in 2000, following the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan. UNTOP's human rights activities are based on a needs assessment conducted by OHCHR in May 2000, which identified critical shortcomings in institutional capacity to protect human rights and fulfill treaty reporting obligations and relatively low levels of public awareness of human rights principles. UNTOP human rights officers, with OHCHR's support, worked with the Government to address these issues, including by providing technical assistance in respect of both human rights education and treaty reporting and related issues.

A significant achievement in 2006 was the inclusion of human rights in the curriculum for secondary schools and the development of learning manuals for students in the tenth and eleventh grades. UNTOP's human rights office published an educational human rights newspaper disseminated to all schools, organized competitions on human rights topics for youth and journalists and disseminated human rights information to broad public and specialized audiences. Other activities in 2006 focused on strengthening institutional capacity to protect human rights and interact with international human rights bodies. Initiatives included training workshops for judges and Members of Parliament; seminars on the work of the Human Rights Committee; roundtables on the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; and a seminar for a 25 member expert group in charge of drafting the initial report under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The office also held a conference on the establishment of a human rights Ombudsman; roundtables on prison reform and on the draft law on public associations; and a study tour for nine government officials and NGO representatives to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in New York.

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAMS



Russian Federation

In November, OHCHR conducted the first phase of a training programme on a rights-based approach to development programming for members of the UN Country Team in Moscow and in the Northern Caucasus. Further workshops are planned for 2007 based on evaluations of the first phase of training. OHCHR also participated in the preparation of the Country Team's submission to the Action 2 Programme Fund, established to provide technical support to UN Country Teams in the area of human rights.

OHCHR worked jointly with UNICEF and the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development to organize a workshop aimed at raising awareness of child rights and promoting a coordinated approach to implementing the concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the third periodic report of the Russian Federation.

OHCHR continued to support Russian-speaking fellows participating in its Indigenous Fellowship Programme. The Office provided a one-week basic introduction course on human rights for the Russian-speaking fellows taking part in the 2006 Fellowship Programme. Courses were given by national experts with international human rights experience, and a study day was arranged, in cooperation with UN agencies, on issues relevant to indigenous rights. There are plans to reinforce support to the Fellowship Programme in 2007 and beyond.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION



Azerbaijan

In conjunction with the Ministry of Justice, and with the aid of a national programme officer working within the UN Country Team in Baku, OHCHR implemented a technical cooperation project designed to strengthen national human rights capacity. In April and November, OHCHR conducted two training workshops for judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, and Government officials working in the administration of justice. The workshops focused on the administration of justice and juvenile justice. The Office also printed and disseminated 1,000 copies of "Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook of International Standards relating to Pre-Trial Detention." A workshop was held on treaty body reporting for some 25 officials in the Ombudsman's Office and other relevant Government departments. OHCHR has received a number of requests from the Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman's Office to conduct similar training sessions regionally, so that regional representatives of their institutions can also benefit.

Central Asia

OHCHR's engagement with Central Asia was, until recently, very limited. A regional adviser was posted to the region in 2004 and human rights activities were conducted, with OHCHR support, through the human rights section of the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace Building (UNTOP). In 2006, OHCHR took steps to intensify its engagement in the region, dispatching, in June, a regional representative to Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, and developing a new programme of capacity-building activities. Specific initiatives included training for selected Turkmen and Tajik officials in treaty reporting, and workshops in Tajikistan on the work of the Human Rights Committee, proposed legislation to regulate the activities of NGOs, and on proposals to establish a human rights ombudsman's office. OHCHR translated a number of key

human rights texts and fact sheets into the Tajik language for local dissemination, and worked with a Government working group to elaborate a textbook and teachers' manual on human rights for use in Tajik schools.

OHCHR also sought to raise awareness of human rights and rights-based approaches to programming among UN Country Team personnel in the region. In May, OHCHR's desk officer for Turkmenistan visited Ashgabat and provided training to members of the UN Country Team in Turkmenistan.

The Office provided financial support to two NGO initiatives in the region. In conjunction with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Soros-Kyrgyzstan Foundation, the Office helped fund a Kyrgyz NGO that provides training for lawyers on the application of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Funding was also made available to the Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre for a newspaper on human rights education, and to the UNESCO-sponsored radio programme, "Silk Road." OHCHR also supported a visit to the region by the Association for the Prevention of Torture to assess how to pursue ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007 included a commitment to establish a regional office in Central Asia by the end of 2007, with the aim of providing a staging post for an expanded programme of human rights monitoring, reporting and technical assistance activities. The deployment of a new regional representative in Bishkek in 2006 was intended to pave the way for the establishment of a regional office in the city in 2007. However, discussions with the Kyrgyz Government and the governments of neighbouring countries regarding future OHCHR activities in the region had failed to yield agreement by the end of the year, thus limiting OHCHR's ability to operate locally.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED



Delays in recruitment, in some cases caused by cumbersome UN hiring procedures, in others by lack of qualified candidates, had an impact on OHCHR's ability to implement activities in the region on the scale planned. It took longer than anticipated to recruit additional desk officers in Geneva, and the Office had difficulty filling senior field-based posts. Nevertheless, important progress was made and useful activities were successfully implemented. With additional staff now on board, there is an expectation of greater activity at the country level during 2007 and a corresponding increase in impact on the ground.

In Central Asia, plans to proceed with the establishment of a fully-fledged regional office were stymied by the lack of a negotiated agreement with the host government and objections from neighbouring States. The difficulties of engaging with the countries in the region cannot be overstated. It will take time and much effort before progress is made and a regular programme of activities is implemented.

With resources inevitably limited, it has been essential to prioritize programming. In this context, an earlier proposal to establish regional offices for Western Europe and North America has been put on hold. For the foreseeable future, these two regions will continue to be monitored from OHCHR headquarters in Geneva.

PRIORITIES FOR 2007

- ▶ Close country offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo) and Serbia (Belgrade), placing national human rights officers within the Resident Coordinators' offices in Sarajevo and Belgrade. As part of this process, audits and lessons-learned exercises will be conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia.
- ▶ Strengthen the office in Pristina.
- ▶ Conclude arrangements for the opening of the Regional Office for Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- ▶ Recruit a senior human rights adviser to lead the OHCHR presence in Moscow and begin implementation of a framework programme of activities with the Russian Federation.
- ▶ Deploy a senior human rights adviser in Tbilisi, Georgia, for the Southern Caucasus to cover Georgia and Azerbaijan.
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation with regional organizations, particularly the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Union.



OHCHR in Latin America and the Caribbean

Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia Guatemala Mexico Bolivia [2007]
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santiago de Chile Panama City (Central America) [planned]
Human rights components in UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haiti



OVERVIEW

The Latin America and Caribbean region has relatively strong and effective regional, national and civil society institutions, and a well-developed legal basis for the protection and promotion of human rights. The rate of ratification of major human rights treaties is relatively high in Latin America, but not in the Caribbean. The conflict in Colombia, which has lasted over 40 years, continued to be one of the main sources of human rights violations in 2006. At the regional level, pressing human rights concerns included impunity, violence against women, shortcomings in the administration of justice, social exclusion, poverty, inequality and corruption, as well as past human rights abuses committed under various dictatorial regimes.

In 2006, OHCHR maintained three country offices – in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico – and one regional office in Santiago de Chile. The Office also started negotiations with the Bolivian Government, regarding the establishment of a new country office there, and with the governments of Panama and other countries in Central America concerning the opening of a regional office for Central America in Panama City. Both new offices are expected to be up and running in 2007.

OHCHR supports the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti and the Personal Representative of the High Commissioner for Cuba. In 2006, eleven special procedures mandate-holders visited the region and 17 countries reported to treaty bodies.

In 2006, OHCHR's objectives for the region were to:

- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of governments and relevant national human rights protection systems to fulfill their human rights obligations;
- ▶ Build the capacity of civil society and other rights-holders to claim their rights;
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams to assist countries in developing effective national protection systems;
- ▶ Ensure that UN agencies apply a human rights-based approach to programming;
- ▶ Strengthen thematic expertise, particularly in the area of economic, social and cultural rights;
- ▶ Improve internal and external management and coordination; and
- ▶ Provide stronger support to UN fact-finding and needs-assessment missions.

COUNTRY OFFICES



Colombia

Established	1996
Staff	81
Expenditure in 2006	\$6,838,092

Human rights context

President Uribe was re-elected in May 2006 for a second four-year term on a promise to balance security policies with an effort to address, through social and economic measures, the root causes of the country's armed conflict. The conflict, involving the State military forces, guerrillas, paramilitaries, and other illegal armed groups, continued to adversely affect the lives of Colombians, disrupting democratic institutions and hindering socio-economic development. While homicides and kidnappings were on the decrease, the human rights situation remained critical in several regions of the country. Despite progress in demobilizing paramilitaries and holding talks with guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN), prospects for peace remained uncertain.

The Ombudsman's office registered an increase in allegations of human rights violations attributed to the army and the police, particularly affecting members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, social leaders, human rights defenders, peasants, union leaders, journalists, women, children, and displaced persons. While significant progress was made in the demobilization of paramilitary groups (over 31,000 former members of paramilitary groups have been demobilized to date), concerns remained over the activities and influence of paramilitary structures and the emergence of new groups. Other challenges included the continued presence of more than three million internally displaced persons, high levels of poverty, inequity, unemployment, malnutrition, murders with the characteristics of extrajudicial executions, threats, arbitrary detentions (including of

human rights defenders and social leaders) enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, excessive use of force, and impunity.

Our role

OHCHR's mandate in Colombia covers observation, advice, technical cooperation, and promotion of human rights. Priorities in 2006 included: strengthening the ability of national and local institutions and of the UN Country Team to identify human rights concerns by improving their knowledge, skills and expertise; developing proposals for legislative and policy initiatives to address these concerns; empowering civil society, vulnerable groups and the general public to understand and claim their rights; and promoting change in State institutions, including legislative reform and policy measures to ensure redress for victims.

Achievements in 2006

Supporting implementation of key human rights reforms. OHCHR worked with the Office of the Vice-President to advance implementation of the High Commissioner's recommendations regarding institutional reforms and other measures designed to improve human rights protection. In consultation with officials, an implementation plan was developed that assigns responsibilities among Government agencies and establishes indicators of progress and a timetable for implementation. OHCHR also provided advice to the Government and civil society on the preparation of a National Action Plan on human rights, a new draft law on gender-based violence, the new child code, and a new policy to fight impunity.

Strengthening the Office of the Attorney General. Human rights training was provided to officials in the Office of the Attorney General. Since 2005, OHCHR's work with the Attorney General's Office has led to a series of institutional reforms, including the strengthening of the Office's human rights unit, witness protection programme, and School of studies on criminal investigation

and forensic science, as well as the creation of a judicial career system to consolidate the independence and competence of the Attorney General's Office.

Integrating human rights into the activities of other Government institutions. OHCHR supported the Ministry of Defense in implementing recommendations of special procedures mandate-holders regarding human rights protection and humanitarian law in the context of operations carried out by the security forces. The Office also provided human rights training to members of the *Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar* (the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare) and the School of Judges and Prosecutors of Antioquia.

Advising and assisting Colombian civil society. OHCHR provided support and protection to a wide range of NGOs and human rights defenders, trade union members, victims of human rights violations, teachers and journalists on issues such as the right to the truth, justice and reparation, the national plan of action on human rights and international humanitarian law, women's rights, racial, gender and sexual discrimination, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. Several agreements were also signed with NGOs to help them incorporate a rights-based approach in their projects.

Advocating for transitional justice. The Office presented an *amicus curiae* before the Constitutional Court on the constitutionality of the Justice and Peace Law, which makes provision for judicial benefits for demobilized members of illegal armed groups, including, potentially, those responsible for serious human rights violations, and establishes a general framework for reparation to victims. OHCHR's opinion referred to international standards on impunity and the rights of victims to truth, justice and reparation. The Constitutional Court's subsequent decision modified several aspects of the law in accordance with those standards.

Providing advice to Members of Congress on legislative issues. OHCHR held regular meetings with Members of

Congress to discuss legislative issues, and provided advice on a range of topics, including women's rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and transitional justice.

Supporting human rights education. OHCHR worked closely with the Ministry of Education, the Ombudsman, the Vice-President's Office and others on the development of a human rights education plan. With OHCHR's support, the Ministry of Education is working in five regions to develop a human rights approach in schools responsible for training primary school teachers. Six human rights education projects were also selected for funding through the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) Project, which is administered by OHCHR. Recipients included youth organizations, women's groups, indigenous communities, Afro-Colombians, and persons living in rural conflict areas.

Raising public awareness of human rights. Press releases and speeches were disseminated and briefings were given to journalists on issues relating to human rights and humanitarian law. Fourteen publications on human rights, international criminal law and national and international protection mechanisms were provided to media and civil society organizations.

Integrating a rights-based approach in UN programming. With the support of the Action 2 Global Programme, a joint project was initiated in the municipality of Soacha, which has a large population of displaced persons, to incorporate a human rights-based approach in ongoing UN development programmes.



OHCHR IN COLOMBIA: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
A greater amount of information available on human rights abuses and violations of international human rights law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ More than 2,100 cases of alleged human rights violations registered by OHCHR; 1,772 selected for follow-up with the relevant authorities/parties. ▶ High Commissioner's reports on the human rights situation, widely regarded as a valuable source of information, issued periodically.
A greater presence of OHCHR in the field (i.e. outside Bogotá, Medellín, Cali and Bucaramanga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 259 field missions conducted by OHCHR staff, with emphasis on remote and rural areas whenever possible.
A greater understanding of human rights, public policy and Government programmes among vulnerable groups and the general public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 20,000 calendars and diaries, a booklet on poverty eradication, a video on art and human rights, and 15 legal publications produced and distributed. ▶ 16 lectures given by OHCHR staff on human rights-related matters. ▶ 70,617 copies of OHCHR publications distributed in Colombia. ▶ Photographic exhibition on human rights organized. ▶ Situation of indigenous groups highlighted in press releases and in recommendations to the Government and other authorities.
More and better-informed coverage of human rights issues in the media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 46 press releases issued; ten press conferences held; Significant coverage devoted to human rights issues in the Colombian media. ▶ Nine workshops for journalists conducted.
An increase in the number of officials who know and understand international human rights obligations and are able to implement them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Observance of human rights and humanitarian law promoted by defense ministry in all operations carried out by the security forces. ▶ Policy to fight impunity adopted by the Government.
A strengthened human rights unit in the Attorney General's Office and the establishment of an effective witness-protection programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OHCHR worked with the Attorney General's Office to strengthen the human rights unit in the following areas: development of criteria for the assignment of cases; establishment of special groups to investigate links between civil servants and illegal armed groups and human rights violations against women, children, and adolescents; strengthening of a special group to investigate enforced disappearance; and establishment of a coordination mechanism set up to strengthen cooperation between the human rights unit and the police concerning the witness-protection programme. ▶ Draft law on witness protection developed, with OHCHR's assistance. ▶ Selection process for Attorney General's Office staff refined.
Greater use of OHCHR's advice by the Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OHCHR worked closely with the Government on the development of a national action plan on human rights. ▶ Justice and Peace Law modified to comply with international standards on victims' right to the truth. ▶ Draft law on domestic and gender-based violence presented to Congress. ▶ Advice provided on tackling impunity.
Greater incorporation of human rights into programmes and policies of the UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 149 UN staff members trained on human rights and international humanitarian law; 37 UN officers trained on how to incorporate human rights concerns into project development; two retreats organized for heads of UN agencies. ▶ UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessment documents now integrate human rights and gender perspectives.

Witness Protection in Colombia

OHCHR's office in Bucaramanga provided essential protection and assistance to a 17-year-old female witness in an important case against a Bogotá drug cartel. The young woman's testimony was a crucial element in the case against a number of cartel leaders. Despite being protected under the Attorney General's witness-protection programme, the girl had received repeated death threats and approached the local OHCHR office asking for help. OHCHR approached the Procurator General's Office in Bucaramanga and the Attorney General's Office which made new protection arrangements. With her consent, the witness was relocated to another region where her security could be safeguarded.

Guatemala

Established	2005
Staff	23
Expenditure in 2006	\$2,910,745

Human rights context

More than ten years after the signing of landmark peace agreements, Guatemala is plagued by organized crime, which challenges the State's ability to protect fundamental human rights, including the right to life and physical integrity of its citizens, and enforce the rule of law. Guatemala also suffers from rampant impunity, high levels of violence, widespread corruption, threats against human rights defenders, and extreme poverty and inequality, which disproportionately affect the country's most vulnerable groups, especially indigenous populations. Other concerns include extrajudicial executions, high levels of violence against women, impunity, and discrimination.



OHCHR launched field operations in the country in 2005, following the decision to withdraw the UN Verification Mission in Guatemala. In keeping with commitments included in the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan, in 2006, additional staff members were deployed to the Guatemala office and activities were expanded. Over the course of the year, 42 field visits were carried out in the country's 22 departments, accounting for a total of 109 days in the field. These visits enabled the office to extend its direct contact with authorities and representatives of civil society at the local level, and to gather the information needed to analyze trends related to the human rights situation.

In December, the UN Secretary-General signed an agreement with the Government to establish an International Commission against Impunity (*Comisión Internacional Contra la Impunidad en Guatemala*). The Guatemalan Congress submitted the agreement for consultation before the Constitutional Court, prior to final approval. OHCHR has long advocated the establishment of such a body.

Our role

OHCHR's mandate in Guatemala runs until May 2008 and comprises monitoring, the provision of technical advice, public information, and reporting. Key objectives in 2006 included: ensuring national and local institutions have the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to identify human rights concerns and develop appropriate measures to address such concerns effectively; helping empower civil society, vulnerable groups and the general public to claim their rights; initiating legislative, policy and institutional changes to ensure redress for victims; supporting implementation of treaty-body recommendations and helping the Government meet its reporting obligations; being present and reporting on human rights in all parts of the country; increasing public interest in and support for the work of the Office; and integrating human rights into the activities of all UN agencies in the country.

Achievements in 2006

Advising Congress on new laws to ensure conformity with international human rights norms. OHCHR supported Congress in the preparation of draft laws on the creation of a National Commission for the Search of Victims of Enforced Disappearances and a National Institute of Forensic Science, as well as on a law against organized crime and a new law on the penitentiary system. Legal assistance was provided to members of the Congressional commission for indigenous communities in their work on a consultative law for indigenous peoples. OHCHR consulted with Congress on the legislative agenda, public security and human rights, and worked with the Directorate of the Penitentiary System on the implementation of the newly adopted law on the penitentiary regime.

Building the capacity of national human rights institutions. OHCHR worked with the Ombudsman's office on a human rights-based approach to education, and with the *Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora de la Política del Ejecutivo en Materia de Derechos Humanos* (Presidential Commission on Human Rights) on the protection of human rights defenders and the preparation of reports to treaty bodies. OHCHR worked with the office of the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women on a report outlining access to justice by indigenous women. The Office also contributed to a campaign against discrimination that will be undertaken by the Presidential Commission against Racial Discrimination.

Strengthening the capacity of civil society to engage the authorities and international human rights mechanisms on human rights issues. Workshops were held for members of civil society on implementation of recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, and on the adoption of a human rights-based approach to development and poverty-reduction. The Office also worked with civil society groups to: help promote adoption of new legislation and ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Court; encourage the

independent presentation of human rights reports, including under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; follow-up on recommendations of treaty bodies; and produce a catalogue of measures for the protection of human rights defenders. Students from three universities were invited to participate in human rights workshops held at the newly created human rights documentation centre.

Organizing and supporting visits to Guatemala by the High Commissioner and special procedures mandate-holders. The High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and the Working Group on enforced and voluntary disappearances all visited Guatemala in 2006. Fact sheets on the work of the special procedures were produced and distributed ahead of their visits.

OHCHR IN GUATEMALA: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
More analytical information available for national human rights institutions and NGOs on the human rights situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 42 monitoring missions, covering all 22 departments, conducted to gather information on human rights violations and issues of concern. ▶ Information on specific cases brought to the attention of relevant authorities and shared with local partners.
Increased use of OHCHR advice by the Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advice provided on request to the President, Vice-President and Minister of Interior on public security, establishment of an international commission against impunity, and improving the prison system.
An increase in the number of officials who know and understand international human rights obligations and are able to fulfill them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advice provided to Members of Congress, the Ombudsman's office, and staff of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights on implementation of recommendations by mandate-holders and treaty bodies.
Greater understanding of their rights among the general public, civil society organizations, and vulnerable groups, and better knowledge of public policies, constitutional mechanisms and international instruments available to defend them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Series of activities organized in conjunction with civil society and State institutions to explain and promote the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
More journalists and opinion-makers aware of human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Training provided to journalists on substantive human rights issues and on human rights reporting. ▶ Ten on-air interviews and more than 40 briefings given to journalists. ▶ 15 op-ed pieces published in national and international newspapers; 12 press releases on the human rights situation issued.
A human rights-based approach integrated into all UN programmes and projects in Guatemala.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rights-based approach to the emergency response to Hurricane Stan, which hit Guatemala in October 2005, adopted by the UN Country Team.

Mexico

Established	2002
Staff	33
Expenditure in 2006	\$1,992,209

Human rights context

Following presidential, parliamentary and congressional elections in July, Felipe Calderón was inaugurated as the country's new president amid pledges to tackle poverty, create jobs and promote equality. National and international neutral observers determined that the elections were free and fair, although Mr. Calderón's rival, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, disputed the results. In the State of Oaxaca, social unrest, driven by public anger over poverty, impunity, discrimination, and limited access to health, education and housing, left, according to Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, 20 dead, 381 injured, and 336 detained.

Impunity for the perpetrators of violence against women continues to be a major cause for concern. There was also a rise in killings of young women and girls in Ciudad Juárez and in other States where impunity and high levels of poverty prevail. There were various reports of threats made against human rights defenders and journalists, a number of whom were murdered. An increase in drug-related violence and kidnappings kept public security high on the political agenda. Little progress was made in bringing to justice those responsible for past human rights violations.

Mexico's appointment to the presidency of the Human Rights Council in 2006 allowed the Government to assume a leadership role on issues related to human rights, both regionally and internationally. In 2006, five treaty bodies (CEDAW, CERD, CESC, CRC and CMW) examined Mexico's reports and submitted concluding observations. In addition, Mexico ratified the Optional Protocol against Torture and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Our role

The main focus of OHCHR's work in Mexico is providing advice and technical assistance to national and local authorities, national human rights institutions, the legal profession, the judiciary and civil society. Priorities in 2006 included providing support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Diagnosis, conducted by OHCHR in 2003, and supporting the National Human Rights Programme. The Office worked closely with national institutions and civil society, providing them with the tools necessary to identify human rights problems and strengthening their capacity to promote and protect human rights. OHCHR also worked to enhance the capacity of the UN Country Team to address human rights concerns and to integrate a rights-based approach in its own work.

Achievements in 2006

Promoting legislative and legal reforms. OHCHR signed a cooperation agreement with the Congress to promote legal reforms needed to ensure that the constitution and national laws comply with international human rights standards.

Strengthening judicial protection of human rights. An agreement was signed with the Supreme Court with the aim of systematizing jurisprudence on human rights and providing technical assistance and training. A network of judges and magistrates was also formed and trained to instruct members of the judicial branch on international human rights law. In cooperation with two universities, a workshop on litigation strategies was held for lawyers from 17 NGOs.

Supporting the work of the National Commission on Human Rights. OHCHR worked with the National Commission for Human Rights to establish human rights indicators, provide human rights training, and propose modifications to ensure local laws comply with international standards.

Supporting implementation of the National Human Rights Programme. OHCHR worked closely with the Ministry of Interior – particularly the committee for the coordination, follow-up and evaluation of the National Human Rights Programme – in preparing the first evaluation report of the Programme, which was presented to the public in October.

Focusing on human rights at the state level. Building on the national Human Rights Diagnosis, which was conducted in 2003, OHCHR presented proposals for similar diagnoses to be conducted at the state level as the basis for the development and adoption of state human rights action plans. The Office's proposals emphasized the importance of involving all actors working in human rights protection and promotion in preparing the diagnostics. OHCHR began working with the states of Guerrero, Chihuahua, Chiapas and the Federal district of Mexico City. The first meeting of the coordinating committee was held in December to begin work on a human rights diagnosis in Guerrero state.

Strengthening national capacity to provide redress to victims of torture. OHCHR held four workshops for some 200 participants, including civil servants, investigators, and representatives of civil society and human rights commissions, on the importance of medico-psychological and forensic examinations in torture investigations. Another four seminars were organized in cooperation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights for some 200 participants from civil society, human rights commissions, academics, representatives of the Attorney General's office and the National Commission for Human Rights, and officers from the Ministry of Public Security on the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. The Office worked with indigenous organizations to follow-up on recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples. Workshops were held on the promotion and

protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Oaxaca and Guerrero.

Raising public awareness of human rights. Local OHCHR representatives briefed and gave interviews to the media. The office also worked with a national TV station, an NGO and several popular artists to disseminate a human rights message to Mexican youth. Radio scripts were written in cooperation with two organizations promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. They will be translated into more than 65 indigenous languages and disseminated by local radio stations. Activities to raise the awareness of women's rights included a photo competition and discussions with television directors and scriptwriters regarding the content of popular programmes.

Integrating human rights in UN programming. OHCHR ran two workshops for UN staff in Mexico designed to increase awareness of human rights and rights-based approaches to programming, and to encourage staff to incorporate human rights in their own work.

SUPPORT TO UNITED NATIONS PEACE MISSIONS



Haiti

Haiti went through a year of political change, with parliamentary and presidential elections in 2006. René Préval, the country's new President, took office in May, appealing for the continued support of the international community and for the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. OHCHR supports the work of the UN mission's human rights section by assisting with recruitment and providing advice and substantive support on human rights-related issues.

The security situation in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, was precarious, as armed gangs perpetrated serious violations of human rights, including summary

executions and kidnappings. Illegal arrests, prolonged pre-trial detention, and ill-treatment of prisoners by the security forces were widespread. Weak state institutions and high rates of poverty have left many groups, particularly children and women, vulnerable to human rights abuse.

The human rights section provided support to the Ombudsman's office as it collects data on human rights violations. A review of legal aid and the capacity of the bar association and human rights NGOs was conducted, and a process was devised for selecting local legal aid providers and for providing compensation. A radio programme aimed at generating public awareness on law enforcement issues was developed and will be broadcast in 2007. Public promotion and awareness campaigns were organized, including those marking international United Nations days.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

From its regional office in Santiago de Chile, OHCHR is well positioned to monitor events and engage with governments in Chile and the wider region. The regional office increased visibility and knowledge of OHCHR's mandate and activities in the region and disseminated a human rights message to a broad range of actors, including UN agencies, governments, national human rights institutions, judges, parliament members, human rights defenders, NGOs, and the general public.

The office in Santiago also helped to organize a number of capacity-building meetings and workshops in Chile, including one for public officials and NGOs on migrants, smuggling and trafficking, which was organized with the International Organization for Migration. A national conference on concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including the development of a national strategy for implementing



recommendations, was organized in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. An international seminar on indigenous peoples, globalization and human rights was sponsored in cooperation with a Chilean NGO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

OHCHR worked with a number of governments in the region on treaty reporting and implementation of treaty-body recommendations. Training on treaty reporting was organized for government officials in Panama, and a seminar on the implementation of concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was held in Costa Rica. Both seminars were organized in cooperation with OHCHR's Treaties and Commission Branch in Geneva. Plan International, the Costa Rican Government, UNICEF and the World Health Organization contributed to the latter seminar. An updated version of the compilation of concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child was produced and distributed. Some 150 participants from ten countries in Central America and the Caribbean, including government officials, NGOs, national human rights institutions, Members of Parliament and journalists, adopted recommendations on children's health and education, violence and exploitation, juvenile justice, monitoring, and implementation. A compilation of concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was published and disseminated in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The compilation was launched at a regional conference on racism and racial discrimination in Brazil.

OHCHR staff also worked with UN colleagues to integrate a human rights approach into the Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework process, and UN staff from five countries were trained on international human rights standards. The Office received requests for technical assistance from civil society organizations, governments, national human rights institutions, and UN Country Teams.

Ecuador was another focus of OHCHR engagement in the region. The dismissal of magistrates and members of the Constitutional Court and judges of the Supreme and Electoral Courts in 2004 triggered a crisis that continued to reverberate in 2006. OHCHR supported the mandate and the two official visits to Ecuador undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of lawyers and judges, and, in close cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator, helped to monitor the selection process for judges of the new Supreme Court of Justice. A senior human rights adviser will be deployed to Ecuador in 2007 to assist the UN Country Team in implementing capacity-building projects and integrating a human rights-based approach to wider UN activities. A second human rights adviser will be deployed to Guyana in 2007 to work with the UN Country Team there.

Negotiations took place with the Government of Panama and other governments in the region to allow OHCHR to establish a new regional office for Central America in Panama City. The office, which is expected to open in 2007, will monitor human rights developments in the region; work with national institutions, NGOs and UN Country Teams to help them integrate human rights in their work; provide advice on issues related to the administration of justice; and promote regional human rights plans and treaty ratification.

New OHCHR Country Office to Open in Bolivia in 2007

Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in Latin America; a large portion of the population lives in extreme poverty. Human rights challenges include racism and racial discrimination, impunity, inequality and political tensions resulting in violations of citizens' rights. In 2006, OHCHR initiated discussions with the Government in La Paz regarding the establishment of a country office in 2007. The new office, once established, will give OHCHR the capacity to monitor and report on the human rights situation across the country, while also carrying out a series of capacity-building projects, in cooperation with the Bolivian authorities, designed to strengthen national human rights protection systems.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Reaching agreement with governments concerning OHCHR's role and mandate has been a time-consuming process, but essential as the basis for effective engagement at the country level. Strengthening knowledge among OHCHR field-based staff in thematic human rights issues, particularly regarding economic, social and cultural rights, was identified as a priority, with regional offices seen as the most appropriate repository of such thematic expertise.

In Colombia, further human rights training and sensitization is needed, particularly for members of Colombia's security forces, the inter-institutional commissions, and key civil society actors. Development of national oversight mechanisms is also required.

PRIORITIES FOR 2007

- ▶ Establish a new country office in Bolivia.
- ▶ Establish a new regional office for Central America in Panama.
- ▶ Deploy human rights advisers to work with UN Country Teams in Ecuador, Guyana and Nicaragua.
- ▶ Increase focus on activities relating to the administration of justice, impunity, discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Reinforce partnerships with UN agencies and regional organizations to achieve greater impact.





Rapid Response to Emerging Human Rights Crises

Background

The Strategic Management Plan included a commitment to establish a rapid response capability within OHCHR to enable the Office to anticipate and respond promptly to deteriorating human rights situations and to provide support to fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry investigating alleged serious human rights abuses.

A Rapid Response Unit was established in 2006 within OHCHR's Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch. For most of the year, the unit operated with a staff of just two professionals, but by the end of the year there were four professional staff and ongoing recruitment to fill remaining posts. In spite of its fledgling state, the unit achieved significant results, including supporting, participating in and, in some cases, leading a number of field missions and commissions of inquiry; establishing a contingency fund to support future short-notice deployments to crisis areas; and developing training materials on field deployment and investigative fieldwork for use by UN colleagues.



Rapid Response Missions Conducted in 2006

The Rapid Response Unit contributed to eight fact-finding missions or commissions of inquiry in 2006. Specifically, the unit:

- ▶ Provided planning support to an OHCHR consultative mission to Timor-Leste (March).
- ▶ Organized and participated in an OHCHR mission to Western Sahara (May).
- ▶ At the request of the UN Mission in Liberia, planned and led a forensic assessment mission to Liberia. The unit planned the mission, drafted code cables, provided support and advice to the regional desk, led the eight-day mission to the field, and drafted the mission report (May-June).
- ▶ Coordinated the establishment of and provided support to the UN Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste (July-November).
- ▶ Deployed one staff member to Lebanon to provide immediate substantive and logistical support during and in the aftermath of the conflict there (July-September).
- ▶ Participated in a technical assessment mission to the Central African Republic and Chad, led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to determine the feasibility of deploying a peacekeeping mission along the Darfur/Sudan border (November-December).
- ▶ Provided substantive and logistical support to the Lebanon Commission of Inquiry (August-November).
- ▶ Provided advice and planning assistance to the Human Rights Council in relation to the deployment of a fact-finding mission to Beit Hanoun (November-December).

Achievements in 2006

Enhancing OHCHR's capacity to assess situations, make timely and informed decisions, and plan ahead. Unit staff represented OHCHR in a number of inter-agency missions tasked with planning and preparing the ground for new peace operations, including a mission to Darfur in June and a mission to Chad and the Central African Republic in November. The unit also undertook an exploratory mission to Western Sahara in May with colleagues from the Middle East and North Africa Unit. Staff remained in regular contact with geographic desk officers and provided advice and support in a number of areas, including early warning, human rights assessment and support to country offices. The unit worked particularly closely with the Sri Lanka desk in establishing a National Commission of Inquiry, and also identified staff to be deployed to Colombo to assist the UN Country Team's human rights adviser. It also helped to identify staff to be deployed temporarily to assist OHCHR's country office in Nepal and the peace operation in Timor-Leste.

Building OHCHR capacity to secure adequate stand-by financial, human, and material resources. A contingency fund was established within OHCHR that functions as a revolving in-house fund to support rapid-response activities as needed (see textbox). The unit identified and initiated procurement of an operational equipment reserve stock to serve as stand-by equipment for future field deployments. Stand-by rosters of qualified staff, available to support rapid-response missions as required, were compiled. These rosters draw on resources already identified by the inter-agency Protection Capacity Project (ProCap), of which OHCHR is a member. A senior officer was deployed to OHCHR's country office in Uganda for six months to assist colleagues in coordinating the "protection cluster" in that country. The unit also facilitated the preparation and signing of a memorandum of understanding between OHCHR and the Norwegian Refugee Council as a stand-by partner. Additional memoranda are being discussed, including with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and AustCare.

Rapid Response Contingency Fund

To support its new rapid response capability, OHCHR established a contingency fund in 2006. The fund provides a ready source of financial support to pay for the swift deployment of personnel to the field in response to breaking human rights crises. It operates as a "revolving fund": money withdrawn to pay for a particular mission is subsequently replenished, as soon as funding has been secured to pay for the costs of that mission. The Netherlands provided a start-up contribution to help establish the fund; a subsequent top-up donation from the MacArthur Foundation brought the fund up to \$1 million.

Improving OHCHR's capacity to advise, support and participate in investigative missions. The unit played a key role in supporting a number of commissions of inquiry and other fact-finding missions. This included drafting concept notes and terms of reference; providing methodological support and advice, and logistical and financial advice; organizing in-house task force meetings; and, in some cases, deploying staff from the unit to take part in these missions. Support was provided for the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste (July), the Lebanon Commission of Inquiry (August-November), the Beit Hanoun High-Level Mission (November-December), and the High-Level Mission to Darfur (ongoing from December). In May, staff from the unit led a forensic assessment mission to Liberia at the request of the UN mission in the country. One staff member was deployed to the UN Country Team in Lebanon from July to September. The unit also supported OHCHR colleagues in planning a comprehensive mapping exercise of serious human rights abuses committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Protecting Human Rights on the Streets of Kathmandu

In April 2006, the struggle for human rights in Nepal moved to the streets of Kathmandu. After 12 years of armed conflict between the Royal Government and the Maoist opposition force and more than a year after the King suspended parliament and assumed absolute power, public anger overflowed and large numbers of ordinary Nepalis, defying a Government-imposed curfew, joined mass protests to demand the restoration of democracy. This is the journal of one of OHCHR's international human rights officers, dispatched to Nepal at short notice to reinforce OHCHR's country team, who witnessed events:

"Singing, and calling for the police to join them, the crowd of demonstrators swept through the barriers set up by police, growing in number as people came out of their homes to welcome them. By the early evening, an air of excitement and tension was building as the mass of people approached the Royal Palace. I was in an OHCHR vehicle, driving with colleagues several hundred meters ahead of the demonstrators when the streets became suddenly silent and empty. We turned a corner and found a line of eleven soldiers stretched across the narrowing road. They told us they had orders to shoot anyone who tried to pass.

Worried we might get caught in the crossfire of a second line of soldiers some 50 meters further back, our main concern was to make sure the soldiers knew the UN was monitoring

their actions and to dissuade them from reacting with violence to the arrival of the demonstrators. Having circled the area, we parked as close as possible to the first line of soldiers. Moments later, the first demonstrators at the head of the crowd rounded the corner and turned into the street where we were all waiting. When they saw the soldiers, the demonstrators stopped walking and thousands of people fell silent. And then, gradually they began to sing again and started walking very slowly forwards. As we watched, the soldiers took up firing positions, kneeling or lying on the street facing the oncoming unarmed civilians. The two lines got closer and closer until there were just three meters between them. Just as we were sure the shooting was about to begin, the soldiers got up and walked slowly away.

Three days later, the King gave way, restoring the House of Representatives and handing over powers to the Prime Minister – the first, all-important steps that later led to a ceasefire and a peace agreement between the Government and Maoist forces. OHCHR-Nepal, reinforced by the Rapid Response Unit, was later credited by members of the new Government with having saved thousands of lives during the street demonstrations and was asked to play a key role in monitoring implementation of the peace agreement."



Supporting the Human Rights Council and Other Human Rights Bodies

OVERVIEW

The Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies constitute two central elements of the international human rights system. OHCHR's Treaties and Council Branch supports the Council's regular and special sessions, commissions of inquiry, and fact-finding missions, as well as the work of the human rights treaty bodies in reviewing periodic reports, issuing recommendations to States Parties, considering individual complaints and conducting inquiries. In keeping with the vision set out in the High Commissioner's Plan of Action, the Branch also collaborates with other parts of the Office to integrate the work of the treaty bodies into OHCHR's monitoring and capacity-building work at the country level. In addition to its work with the Council and the treaty bodies, the Branch is responsible for providing support to the voluntary fund established to assist victims of torture and to the Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General to lead the study on violence against children.

CONTEXT

Transition to the new Human Rights Council

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government endorsed a call by the UN Secretary-General to replace the Commission on Human Rights with a new Human Rights Council.

OHCHR formulated proposals, prepared background documents and discussion papers, participated in various intergovernmental meetings and seminars, and contributed to discussions on the composition of the Council, working methods, the transfer of mandates, mechanisms, functions, and responsibilities of the Commission, and the proposed universal periodic review mechanism (UPR). The Office also helped to design the agenda and programme

of work for the first year, and supported the President and Bureau of the Council through informal consultations and meetings to build consensus on various highly politicized and sensitive issues.

At its first session in June 2006, the Council created two intergovernmental working groups to review and make recommendations about the proposed UPR system, and to review the mandates and mechanisms of the former Commission. The second of these groups was tasked with looking at three sub-sets of issues: review of the special procedures; expert advice (formerly the Sub-Commission on Human Rights); and the complaints procedure. The working groups met through the second half of the year and are expected to produce proposals for consideration by the Council in 2007. At its third session, the Council decided to establish an open-ended, intergovernmental, inter-sessional working group, serviced by OHCHR, to formulate concrete recommendations on its agenda, annual programme of work, methods of work, and rules of procedure.

Treaty bodies

Treaty bodies are committees of independent experts, elected by States Parties, which monitor implementation of the core human rights treaties and optional protocols. OHCHR supported six of the seven human rights treaty bodies during 2006:

- ▶ **The Human Rights Committee (HRC)**, which monitors compliance with the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and its optional protocols;
- ▶ **The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)**, which monitors compliance with the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- ▶ **The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**, which monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

- ▶ **The Committee against Torture (CAT)**, which monitors compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- ▶ **The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, which monitors compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols; and
- ▶ **The Committee on Migrant Workers (MWC)**, which monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

The seventh treaty body, and the only one not previously serviced by OHCHR, is the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, which monitors compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In October, the UN Secretary-General decided to transfer responsibility for providing technical and substantive support to CEDAW from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York to OHCHR, thereby ensuring that, in future, women's rights will be situated at the heart of an integrated human rights system.

In December, the States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture met and elected members of a new treaty body, the Subcommittee on Prevention. The same month, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, both of which, once they enter into force, will be monitored by new treaty bodies, which, in turn, will be supported by OHCHR.

Treaty bodies meet regularly throughout the year to review periodic reports and issue recommendations to States Parties. Four treaty bodies – the HRC, CAT, CERD and CEDAW – also consider complaints received from individuals. CAT and CEDAW can conduct inquiries in cases where they receive reliable information indicating serious or systematic violations of the conventions by a State Party.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Human Rights Council

Supporting seven sessions of the Human Rights Council. The Human Rights Council held three regular and four special sessions in 2006 (see textbox on page 113). In addition to providing documentation and support to the Council, in collaboration with UNOG's Conference Services Division, OHCHR contributed to the successful outcome of a high-level segment at the first regular session in June, in which more than 80 dignitaries took part; a full transfer of all Commission mandates, mandate-holders, the Sub-Commission and complaint procedure; the adoption of the Council's draft framework for a programme of work for the first year; the presentation of reports by all special rapporteurs; and the extension of the reporting and related mandates of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner concerning the Council. In addition to assisting the new Council, the Office also provided support to the 62nd and final session of the Commission on Human Rights on 16 January, 13, 20, and 27 March; and to the 58th and final session of the Sub-Commission held from 7 to 25 August.

Supporting and participating in Council-mandated investigative missions. OHCHR provided substantive contributions to the setting up of a number of investigative missions established by the Council on human rights violations by Israel in Lebanon and the human rights situation in Darfur (Sudan). This work was coordinated among various branches and organizational units within OHCHR, including the Treaties and Council Branch, the Special Procedures Branch, relevant geographical desks and the newly created Rapid Response Unit.

Supporting the “1503” complaints procedure, established to examine allegations of human rights violations. OHCHR continued to provide service to the so-called 1503 complaints procedure, named after the resolution that created it (Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 XLVIII, which was revised by ECOSOC resolution 2000/3). This confidential procedure allows individuals or groups to submit information that appears to show a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any country in the world.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: OUTCOMES OF SEVEN SESSIONS HELD IN 2006

SESSION	OUTCOMES
1st session (19-30 June)	The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on: the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories; hostage-taking; incitement to racial and religious hatred; the right to development; the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the Working Group on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; the International Convention on Enforced Disappearance; the Working Group on an optional protocol to the ICESCR; the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; titles of officers; extension of mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights; the Universal Periodic Review; and the framework for the Council's programme of work for the first year.
2nd session (18 Sep-6 Oct and 27-29 Nov)	The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on: human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; Israeli settlements in the OPT, East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan; Kyrgyzstan; Darfur; cooperation with OHCHR in Nepal and Afghanistan; human rights and extreme poverty; access to water; right to the truth; incompatibility between democracy and racism; access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; the right to health; reform policies and foreign debt; integrity of the judicial system; arbitrary deprivation of nationality; counter-terrorism measures; implementation of international instruments on human rights; the Intergovernmental Working Group on the review of mandates; and a revised programme of work.
3rd session (29 Nov-8 Dec)	The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on: human rights in the OPT; the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon; regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the agenda, programme, methods of work, and rules of procedure of the Council; conference facilities and financial support for the Council.
1st special session (5-6 July)	The Council decided to dispatch an urgent fact-finding mission to the OPT to investigate the human rights situation in the territory as a result of Israeli military operations; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 was asked to lead the mission.
2nd special session (11 Aug)	The Council decided to establish and dispatch a high-level commission of inquiry, composed of eminent experts on human rights law and international humanitarian law, to investigate the alleged targeting of civilians and other possible violations of international law by Israel in the conflict with Lebanon.
3rd special session (15 Nov)	The Council decided to dispatch a high-level fact-finding mission, appointed by the President of the Council, to travel to Beit Hanoun to assess the situation and recommend ways to protect civilians against any further attack.
4th special session (12-13 Dec)	The Council decided to dispatch a high-level mission, appointed by the President of the Council, to assess the human rights situation in Darfur.

Treaty bodies

Providing substantive and secretariat support to meetings of treaty bodies. OHCHR supported 14 sessions of the treaty bodies in Geneva during which 98 reports were reviewed. The CRC met in two chambers as an exceptional and temporary measure to eliminate the backlog of reports awaiting review. This working method proved effective and the committee may consider using it again should a further backlog develop.

Raising awareness of the work of treaty bodies. In July, the High Commissioner launched a training tool on the work of the treaty bodies, comprising a film and documentation on DVD, produced in partnership with a Geneva-based NGO and a local filmmaker. Over 4,000 copies of the English, French and Spanish versions were distributed to governments, NGOs, field presences, UN entities and others, and an additional 3,000 copies have been acquired. The DVD is being used as the main training tool in many of the seminars and workshops organized by the Office. It is increasingly used as teaching tool by academic institutions.

Encouraging greater engagement with treaty bodies. A workshop to encourage engagement with the treaty bodies for representatives of NGOs, national human rights institutions, and the media in Georgia, Mexico and Morocco was held in Geneva in October, preceded by preparatory workshops in all three countries. Follow-up workshops will be organized in all three countries as well. Technical assistance through specific projects has also been provided to Afghanistan, Angola and Timor-Leste.

Preparing draft treaty body reporting guidelines. Draft guidelines for reporting under the international human rights treaties were finalized. The guidelines, which include proposals for a common core document covering compliance under multiple human rights instruments, are intended to streamline reporting requirements for States Parties and will be kept under regular review. Training on the use of the new guidelines was conducted in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Panama and Nicaragua.

Streamlining and harmonizing working methods of treaty bodies. Consultations undertaken by OHCHR during 2006 revealed limited support for the creation of a unified standing treaty body, not least because of fears that such a reform could undermine the specificity of the individual treaties. However, strong support was demonstrated for harmonization of the working methods of treaty bodies and their interaction with national human rights institutions, NGOs and UN entities. An inter-committee working group was created to guide progress in this area and an international roundtable was organized in Berlin, Germany, in November on the role of national human rights institutions in the treaty-body process.

Strengthening institutional capacity to implement treaty body recommendations. Workshops on follow-up to treaty body recommendations were conducted for representatives of civil society and governments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia. Another workshop was organized in Costa Rica, in cooperation with Plan International, UNICEF and the World Health Organization, on the implementation of recommendations of the CRC. The first in a series of regional training activities took place in Kenya, bringing together representatives of governments, civil society and the UN system from Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia to discuss good practices in implementation. It was followed by a judicial colloquium on the domestic application of human rights norms for senior judges from seven East and Southern African countries. The colloquium recommended that treaty bodies enhance the *ratio decidendi* of their decisions in individual complaints so that they can be relied on more readily by judicial officers at the national level. A seminar on ways in which specialized agencies and field presences could assist in the implementation of recommendations of UN expert bodies took place in November.

Supporting the treaty bodies' complaints procedures. In 2006, treaty bodies examined and adopted decisions on a total of 152 individual complaints. The backlog of pending complaints before the HRC and CAT could be reduced by using streamlined and more effective working methods that allow these bodies to decide on a larger number of complaints during each session. The petitions database was updated and modernized in June. A thematic digest of comparative national and regional human rights jurisprudence was prepared, is continuously updated, and is scheduled to be converted into electronic format.

Supporting preparation of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. A number of regional and national consultations and thematic workshops were conducted for government representatives, UN staff, civil society and children in preparation of the report on the Secretary-General's study on violence against children. OHCHR participated in these workshops and provided substantial contributions to the report.

SUPPORTING THE TREATY BODIES: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
Enhanced participation of national human rights institutions, NGOs and the media in the work of the treaty bodies and overall reporting process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Proposals for increasing the participation of national human rights institutions in treaty body reporting discussed at an international roundtable in Berlin in November. ▶ Follow-up activities focused on encouraging greater involvement by national institutions in the preparation of reports to treaty bodies. Examples of successful cases of engagement to appear in a forthcoming booklet. ▶ A handbook explaining how NGOs can engage with international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, produced by OHCHR's Civil Society Unit.
Reduction in the interval between the submission of a complaint and its review by a committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Average time between the registration of a complaint and a final decision reduced.
Rationalization of the reporting burden on States Parties through greater use of the common core document to achieve greater compliance with reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Several governments, including Afghanistan and Angola, began to prepare reports in accordance with the guidelines. ▶ Treaty-specific reports together with the common core document submitted by Timor-Leste and UNMIK in relation to Kosovo.
Compliance with rules and regulations pertaining to documentation, including timely delivery and high quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OHCHR documentation management and delivery of documents improved through better tracking. ▶ Record concerning treaty bodies' documentation improved slightly, while documentation for Charter-based bodies remained problematic. ▶ Further improvements depend largely on the performance of others (notably special procedures mandate-holders and States), whose late submission of reports has imposed significant constraints in the past.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The ability of the new Human Rights Council to meet regularly in both regular and special sessions has transformed it into a “de facto” standing body. There has therefore been a significant increase in the workload of the staff of the Council Unit, with increasing demands to support and ensure the necessary follow-up and to coordinate with other parts of OHCHR, the United Nations, and civil society.

The main challenge for the Treaties and Council Branch has been how to ensure greater engagement in the work of treaty bodies by actors at the national level, including in countries where conditions are not conducive to such engagement, or where governments face significant challenges or are unwilling to engage in a meaningful way.

The High Commissioner’s proposal for the creation of a unified standing treaty body provoked a high-level of interest and discussion and triggered several initiatives aimed at improving and harmonizing the working methods of the existing treaty bodies. However, achieving the level of agreement needed to move forward with a more radical reform of the system will apparently take more time and require further discussion.



Supporting Special Procedures

WHAT ARE SPECIAL PROCEDURES?

Special procedures is the name given to the system of independent experts mandated by the former Commission on Human Rights and its successor, the Human Rights Council to investigate and report on human rights violations from a thematic or country-specific perspective. Special procedures cover all sets of rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political, and social.

The mandate-holders – Special Rapporteurs, Special Representatives, Independent Experts, or members of Working Groups – serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members and do not receive salaries or any other financial remuneration for their work. Their independence is crucial as it ensures that they exercise their function with impartiality. They interact frequently with actual and potential victims and constitute a unique link between governments, national institutions and civil society.

In 2006, there were 41 special procedures mechanisms: 28 thematic and 13 country-specific. Mandate-holders respond to individual complaints, conduct studies and visit countries, provide advice, engage in advocacy, raise public awareness and work in partnership with NGOs. They regularly prepare written submissions, or “communications,” addressed to specific governments, drawing attention to individual cases where human rights have allegedly been violated or making urgent appeals on behalf of alleged victims of violations.

OHCHR’s Special Procedures Branch supports special procedures by providing thematic, fact-finding, legal and policy expertise, conducting research and analysis, and providing assistance with logistical and administrative matters, as well as communications. In mid-2006, responsibility for supporting eight thematic mandates was transferred within OHCHR from the Research and Right to

Development Branch to the Special Procedures Branch, bringing to 25 the number of thematic mandates directly supported by the latter.

CONTEXT

In 2006, perhaps the most significant development with implications for special procedures was the creation of the Human Rights Council. The Council assumed the functions of the former Commission on Human Rights, including those relating to special procedures, but it employs different working methods and meets more frequently and throughout the year. A new format for dialogues with special procedures mandate-holders, clustered around thematic issues, was used at the second session of the Council in September. The Special Procedures Branch continued to provide support to mandate-holders in their regular reporting to and interaction with the Council.

The General Assembly resolution establishing the Human Rights Council gave the Council responsibility for reviewing, improving and rationalizing the system of special procedures. The Council has established a working group to examine all existing mandates, including those of the special procedures, and to make recommendations on necessary enhancements. Mandate-holders have participated in the debate on the review of mandates, and the Special Procedures Branch has provided continuous assistance to the working group, particularly its facilitator, including by submitting background documentation.

There was a concerted effort by mandate-holders to coordinate their work, issuing joint communications and statements when appropriate and, in some cases, undertaking country visits together and submitting joint reports. The Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, established in 2005, contributed to this effort, notably as part of the Human Rights Council’s review of mandates and by facilitating joint initiatives. Mandate-

holders are expected to continue discussions on the harmonization of working methods. The Special Procedures Branch expanded its support to the Coordination Committee, notably by sharing information and by providing analysis and advice on the ongoing Human Rights Council review of mandates.

In keeping with the spirit of the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan, OHCHR sought to reinforce and extend linkages between special procedures and OHCHR's work at the country level. OHCHR's country and regional offices were increasingly involved in organizing country visits, in following up with governments on implementation of recommendations, and in establishing and following up on contacts with civil society and potential or actual victims of human rights violations. Several mandate-holders and the Special Procedures Branch worked closely with treaty bodies to ensure that references to recommendations made by mandate-holders were included in treaty bodies' concluding observations wherever appropriate. Several mandate-holders were accompanied not only by staff of the Special Procedures Branch but also by desk officers from the Capacity Building and Field Operations Branch, thus facilitating more coherent country engagement.

Special Procedures in Practice: Case Study

In March 2006, a joint urgent appeal was sent to the Government of Mexico by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers, and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples, concerning death threats against a coordinator of the Human and Labour Rights Commission who defended workers' rights. In April 2006, the Mexican Government announced that protective measures had been granted to the subject, his family members, and other members of the Commission.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

Investigating human rights violations on the ground.

There were 48 visits by thematic and country-specific mandate-holders during the year, covering 38 countries, including a joint mission of four mandate-holders to Lebanon and Israel. Some mandate-holders returned to countries already visited to encourage implementation of previous recommendations. A total of 56 countries have now extended a standing invitation to thematic mandate-holders.

Reporting to United Nations human rights bodies.

Over 100 reports were submitted by special procedures mandate-holders to the Commission on Human Rights and were considered by its successor, the Human Rights Council. These included 44 annual reports, 47 country reports and several reports focusing on communications, studies and other issues. Twenty-two reports were submitted to the General Assembly.

Raising individual cases with States.

Some 1,115 communications covering 2,869 individual cases (17 per cent involving women) and systemic human rights problems were submitted to the governments of 143 countries – with Iran, Colombia, China, Mexico and the Philippines topping the list of recipient States. The mandates responsible for the highest number of communications were those dealing with human rights defenders, freedom of expression, torture, arbitrary detention, and the independence of judges and lawyers. Government responses were received in response to approximately 40 per cent of all cases.

Achieving greater impact through joint initiatives.

Two special rapporteurs issued a joint report concerning the defamation of religions. Joint reports were also issued by four mandate-holders concerning a combined mission to Lebanon and Israel, and by five mandate-holders on the situation of detainees at Guantánamo Bay. The latter five mandate-holders had held a consultation meeting earlier to discuss this joint initiative.

Findings of special procedures referred to by treaty bodies.

Concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child referred to recommendations made by four special rapporteurs (on education, indigenous people, trafficking, and health) who had visited Colombia, Mexico, Lebanon and Peru. The Independent Expert on Minority Issues held dialogues with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and exchanged views on thematic issues, including minorities and education, disaggregated data along racial, ethnic and religious lines, and support to CERD's early-warning procedure.

Findings of special procedures incorporated in technical cooperation activities at the country level.

Special procedures conclusions and recommendations have also been used in the development of technical cooperation activities, for example in Latin America, where OHCHR's Andean project incorporates recommendations issued by the special rapporteur for indigenous peoples.

Findings of special procedures noted in major United Nations reports.

Several reports of UN Resident Coordinators, including in Turkey, Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan, referred to the reports and recommendations of special procedures mandate-holders. For example, the report of the UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan

noted that the capacity of the judicial system had increased "in accordance with recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers through training for judges and a follow up conference." The 2006 UNICEF report on the State of the World's Children referred to a recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

Working in partnership with other intergovernmental organizations.

Several mandate-holders increased their involvement in joint initiatives with regional organizations. The Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons strengthened cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Special Rapporteur on torture, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders enhanced their interactions with the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights, and with the Council of Europe, including the Human Rights Commissioner, the Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and the Parliamentary Assembly Committees on Migration, Refugees and Population.

Working closely with civil society.

Mandate-holders continued to work with civil society on possible remedies for victims of human rights violations. 56 NGOs from all regions provided information that was used in communications sent to governments by special procedures mandate-holders.

Communicating through the media.

Special procedures mandate-holders issued over 80 thematic- and country-related press releases and statements, including on special or commemorative events, such as Human Rights Day (focusing on poverty elimination). They also held numerous press conferences, including on outcomes of country visits.



Visit of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir

Sharing information with the general public. A new bulletin on the work of the special procedures was developed by the Special Procedures Branch and is posted on OHCHR's website each quarter. The Special Procedures Branch has also made available other user-friendly materials for the general public, including an annual document entitled "Facts and Figures."

Special Procedures in Practice: Case Study

In March 2006, five special procedures mandate-holders sent a joint urgent appeal to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) drawing attention to the poor conditions in the Mahala camp established to house Roma families in northern Mitrovika. UNMIK has been facilitating the relocation of most of the families to an alternative, temporary camp, to allow the Mahala site to be rebuilt. Members of the Roma community have been involved in designing the plans for their rebuilt community. Mandate-holders followed up on recent developments with a further communication at the end of the year.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
Number of references to special procedures and their recommendations in major human rights reports, UN technical cooperation projects, and UNDAFs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Major UNICEF report and several reports by UN Resident Coordinators explicitly referred to recommendations issued by special procedures mandate-holders. ▶ At least two technical cooperation projects incorporated special procedures recommendations in their workplans.
Number of NGOs and civil society organizations making use of the special procedures mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Some 60 NGOs made use of the special procedures communications mechanism; many more interacted with the special procedures during country visits.
Number of joint actions among special procedures mandate-holders, including statements, missions, communications, and cross-references in reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Of 1,115 communications sent by special procedures to governments, 559, or 48 per cent, were submitted jointly by two or more mandate-holders. ▶ One joint country visit undertaken and one joint consultation organized. ▶ Three joint reports submitted.
Number of references to special procedures and their recommendations in Security Council resolutions and treaty-body documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Treaty bodies referred to special procedures recommendations in at least five cases.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE HOLDERS

(as at 31 December 2006)

Mandate	Established in	Mandate holder
Country mandates:		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	2004	Mr. Adrian SEVERIN (Romania)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	2004	Mr. Akich OKOLA (Kenya)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia	1993	Mr. Yash Ghai (Kenya)
Personal Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Cuba	2002	Ms. Christine CHANET (France)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Vitit MUNTARBHORN (Thailand)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	2004	Mr. Titinga Frédéric PACÉRE (Burkina Faso)
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Louis JOINET (France)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia	2003	Ms. Charlotte ABAKA (Ghana)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Paulo Sérgio PINHEIRO (Brazil)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. John DUGARD (South Africa)
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Ghanim ALNAJJAR (Kuwait)
Special Rapporteur on the situation on human rights in the Sudan	2005	Ms. Sima SAMAR (Afghanistan)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan (1503 procedure)	2005	Ms. Michèle PICARD (France)
Thematic mandates:		
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living	2000	Mr. Miloon KOTHARI (India)
Working Group on people of African descent	2002	Mr. Peter Lesa KASANDA (Zambia) Mr. Joe FRANS (Sweden) Mr. George N. JABBOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) Ms. Irina ZLATESCU (Romania)
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	1991	Ms. Leila ZERROUGUI (Algeria) Mr. Tamás BÁN (Hungary) Ms. Manuela Carmena CASTRILLO (Spain) Mr. Seyyed Mohammad HASHEMI (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms. Soledad VILLAGRA DE BIEDERMANN (Paraguay)
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children , child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Mr. Juan Miguel PETIT (Uruguay)
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Vernor MUÑOZ VILLALOBOS (Costa Rica)
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	1980	Mr. Santiago CORCUERA CABEZUT (Mexico) Mr. Joel ADEBAYO ADEKANYE (Nigeria) Mr. Darko GÖTTLICHER (Croatia) Mr. Saeed Rajaei KHORASANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Stephen J. TOOPE (Canada)

Mandate	Established in	Mandate holder
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Mr. Philip ALSTON (Australia)
Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	1998	Mr. Arjun SENGUPTA (India)
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Jean ZIEGLER (Switzerland)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. Ambeyi LIGABO (Kenya)
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Ms. Asma JAHANGIR (Pakistan)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Paul HUNT (New Zealand)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Hina JILANI (Pakistan)
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Mr. Leandro DESPOUY (Argentina)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people	2001	Mr. Rodolfo STAVENTHAGEN (Mexico)
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Mr. Walter Kälin (Switzerland)
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Ms. Amada BENAVIDES DE PÉREZ (Colombia) Ms. Najat AL-HAJJAJI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) Mr. José GÓMEZ DEL PRADO (Spain) Mr. Alexander Ivanovich NIKITIN (Russian Federation) Ms. Shaista SHAMEEM (Fiji)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Jorge A. BUSTAMANTE (Mexico)
Independent Expert on minority issues	2005	Ms. Gay MCDUGALL (United States of America)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Doudou DIÈNE (Senegal)
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Rudi Muhammad RIZKI (Indonesia)
Independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. Bernard Andrew NYAMWAYA MUDHO (Kenya)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Martin SCHEININ (Finland)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Manfred Nowak (Austria)
Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	1995	Mr. Okechukwu IBEANU (Nigeria)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially in women and children	2004	Ms. Sigma HUDA (Bangladesh)
Special Representative of the SG on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2005	Mr. John Ruggie (United States of America)
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Yakin ERTÜRK (Turkey)

Thematic Human Rights Challenges

INTRODUCTION

OHCHR generates academic, legal and policy expertise on a broad range of thematic human rights issues, including gender, poverty, development, equality and non-discrimination, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and minorities, economic, social and cultural rights, and the rule of law. OHCHR's thematic experts are housed within the Research and Right to Development Branch, which consists of seven units organized along thematic lines. Each unit undertakes research into key human rights issues, develops methodological tools and learning resources, and engages with colleagues both within and outside OHCHR, disseminating research findings, providing advice and training, undertaking needs assessments, and designing and assisting in the implementation of major capacity-building projects at the country level.

APPROACH

The Branch's main objectives are threefold:

- ▶ To increase knowledge and understanding of thematic human rights issues through research, analysis, preparation of methodological tools, and training;
- ▶ To promote and apply the concept of a human rights-based approach to development; and
- ▶ To integrate human rights into all development, humanitarian, peace and security, and rule-of-law activities carried out by UN agencies and programmes.

The Branch's work is grounded in substantive research conducted in-house with contributions from external sources of expertise. Staff members are recruited from a variety of backgrounds on the basis of their specialized human rights knowledge and experience. They carry out a

range of research projects, from mapping exercises aimed at identifying emerging human rights trends, to legal analyses of legislation and institutional arrangements for addressing human rights problems, to the impact of existing international and domestic initiatives. In many cases, OHCHR's own researchers work closely with external experts, exchanging information and research findings and developing strategies for follow-up action.

The results feed into OHCHR's policy planning and programming at multiple levels. Staff in the Research and Right to Development Branch work with colleagues in supporting the treaty bodies and special procedures, providing relevant advice and information, and assisting in the preparation of reports. They also work closely with geographical desk officers at headquarters and staff in country and regional offices, sharing knowledge and applying it to a local context, undertaking needs assessments, and advising on the development and implementation of country-engagement strategies. The Branch produces a range of methodological tools and learning packages for use at the country level to build the capacity of national institutions, civil society and other partners. In this way, the Branch's efforts have a direct impact on the Office's work to engage countries.

OHCHR also works with other parts of the United Nations with the aim of mainstreaming awareness of key human rights challenges throughout the UN system. OHCHR staff sit on various inter-agency taskforces responsible for developing UN responses to specific problems, thereby injecting a human rights dimension into planning and programming.

OHCHR Publications Programme

Some 110 publications are available through OHCHR's publications programme; in 2006, over 125,000 copies of published materials were distributed to selected recipients worldwide.

THEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
Increased reference to OHCHR policy positions and commentaries by concerned UN organs and bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nine human rights policy guidelines, drawn up by OHCHR, adopted by UN agencies, programmes, and inter-agency bodies, compared with three in the 2004-2005 biennium.
Increased number of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and Poverty-Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) integrating a human rights-based approach to development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OHCHR contributed to the preparation of 18 UNDAFs and PRSPs, integrating a rights-based approach to development, compared with an equivalent figure of 30 for the 2004-2005 biennium.
Greater awareness of human rights issues among Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) and UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Human rights training provided to 16 Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, compared with ten in the 2004-2005 biennium. · OHCHR institutionalized its participation in induction and training for SRSGs and senior leaders in peace operations. Two such courses were held in 2006.
Greater attention to human rights in discussions in the executive committees of UN agencies and in other UN bodies (such as the Peacebuilding Commission) and stronger interagency links with others in the United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · OHCHR participated actively in the work and periodic meetings of the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee, the Interagency standing Committee and the Executive Committees on peace and security, humanitarian affairs, development, and economic and social affairs and their ten sub-groups. As well as 31 interagency groups on country-specific and thematic issues. · OHCHR contributed to the work of the four New York-based intergovernmental organs (the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission). · OHCHR contributions reflected in three thematic and 51 country specific reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, as well as background documents prepared for the Peacebuilding Commission since its inauguration in June 2006.
Increased methodological coherence in implementing OHCHR's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Inventory prepared of existing methodological tools and 12 handbooks, training packs, and other tools produced or updated, compared with 16 in 2004-2005 biennium. (A survey to evaluate the utility and impact of these materials will be completed in 2007.)
Level of support provided to special procedures mandate-holders whose mandates touch upon the right to development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 90 per cent of all requests relating to the right to development coming from policy-making organs implemented. · OHCHR supported the Working Group on the Right to Development and its High-level Taskforce, including by helping to develop criteria for evaluating global development partnerships, as identified in Millennium Development Goal Eight.

FOCUS AREAS

Rule of law and democracy

OHCHR works closely with Member States to promote compliance of national laws, policies and practices with international standards on human rights and justice. The Office's efforts are led by a dedicated Rule of Law and Democracy Unit within the Research and Right to Development Branch. The unit's staff provide country and regional offices and special rapporteurs with information and legal analysis; identify where domestic laws fall short of established international standards; advise Member States on necessary legislative and policy reforms; and provide the methodological tools and training needed to build capacity at the country level.

In 2006, the Rule of Law and Democracy Unit carried out substantive research into a variety of subjects relating to the rule of law and democracy, including systems of military justice, informal and traditional justice systems, transitional justice, hybrid tribunals, the right to truth, conscientious objection to military service, and international cooperation in the context of terrorism. The main findings



Detention centre in Uganda

Assisting the International Criminal Court

In October 2006, the High Commissioner submitted an *amicus curiae* brief before the International Criminal Court on the Protection of Victims and Witnesses in Darfur. The brief detailed OHCHR's experience in engaging in on-the-ground monitoring and investigation of serious human rights violations in the context of armed conflict and offered observations regarding the protection of victims.

of those research activities are contained in specific thematic reports presented by OHCHR to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

Technical legal support was provided to commissions of inquiry into alleged violations of human rights in Timor-Leste, Lebanon, and Palestine, and on the establishment of a similar commission to investigate the situation in Sri Lanka. Staff also assisted with the design of a transitional justice strategy in Afghanistan and participated in negotiations held between the United Nations and the Government of Burundi on the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission and a special tribunal in Burundi. A series of supplements to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* were completed, providing legal analysis of specific articles of the United Nations Charter. The supplements are intended to assist Member States, UN agencies, the International Law Commission, legal practitioners and civil society organizations to interpret and apply the United Nations Charter.

Education and training activities were conducted throughout the year. Staff conducted training sessions on the human rights implications of counter-terrorism measures attended by over forty judges, lawyers and prosecutors. Similar trainings were organized at the country level on human rights standards applicable to arrest, pre-trial detention, torture and fair trial. Experts' workshops were held on military tribunals and human rights; conscientious objection to military service; reparations;

and the legacy of hybrid courts. In November, the unit co-organized a workshop on Human Rights and International Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism, in conjunction with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Staff from the Rule of Law and Democracy Unit, joined by colleagues from other parts of OHCHR, also participated in a meeting, organized by the British Council, for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and NGO representatives from Latin America, Africa and Asia. The meeting was designed to be a forum in which to share national, regional and international jurisprudence as well as national approaches to human rights issues relating to the administration of justice.

OHCHR published five rule-of-law learning tools, covering mapping of the justice sector, truth commissions, prosecution initiatives, vetting, and monitoring legal systems. A Facilitator's Guide for the training of judges, prosecutors and lawyers was produced, together with a series of PowerPoint presentations on arrest, detention, torture and fair trial, with reference to decisions of the Human Rights Committee, regional human rights courts and commissions.

The unit began work on a Rule of Law Index (ROLIX), designed to identify and measure the range of factors that affect the rule of law in a given country, with an emphasis on post-conflict States. The project will produce a set of indicators for use by UN partners, national law enforcement agencies, judicial systems and correctional services. It is being developed in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of Legal Affairs, and the World Bank.

Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism

OHCHR believes the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of effective counter-terrorism measures are complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives that must be pursued together as part of States' duty to protect individuals within their jurisdiction. OHCHR's efforts in this area have focused on deepening the understanding of human rights obligations in the context of terrorism through focused research and analysis; promoting greater protection of human rights through leadership and advocacy; providing technical assistance; and developing tools to assist practitioners. For example, in 2006, OHCHR:

- ▶ Conducted training sessions for judges, lawyers and prosecutors on the human rights implications of counter-terrorism.
- ▶ Advocated the promotion and protection of human rights in countering terrorism, in meetings with regional organizations, including the Council of Europe's Group of Specialists on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism and the annual High-level Tripartite meeting among the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the OSCE.
- ▶ Developed a fact sheet on human rights and counter-terrorism measures and updated the OHCHR Digest of Jurisprudence on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism.
- ▶ Monitored and analyzed measures taken by Member States to counter terrorism, and developed recommendations in order to assist States in ensuring that such measures comply with their obligations under international human rights law.
- ▶ Provided assistance on the development of human rights legislation and policies at national level.

Anti-discrimination

Anti-discrimination is a fundamental principle of human rights, enshrined in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

As the designated lead entity within the UN system to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, OHCHR is responsible for supporting national efforts to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which followed the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in South Africa in 2001. OHCHR also seeks to ensure that anti-discrimination is integrated into its own programming and that of the wider UN system, and provides advice, upon request, to Member States on measures, including legislative measures, to counter discrimination at the country level.

Much important work goes on behind the scenes, including at sessions of inter-governmental and experts' working groups established to oversee implementation of the Durban anti-discrimination agenda. In 2006, OHCHR provided substantive and secretarial assistance to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

OHCHR also helped to organize a regional conference, held in Brasília in July, to review implementation of the Durban Declaration in the Americas. The conference, which brought together representatives from 35 countries, including government ministries, national human rights institutions and NGOs, included seminars, training courses and advisory services. The meeting was organized in close cooperation with a number of UN agencies, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Development Fund

for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). In the run-up to the conference, OHCHR helped to arrange and participated in a preparatory meeting, held in Montevideo in June in collaboration with the Government of Uruguay, to look at racial equality in Latin America and the Caribbean. The heads of 17 government institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean that are tasked with promoting racial equality in their countries took part in the preparatory meeting.

Both the regional conference and the preparatory meeting made a significant contribution to efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to promote equality and non-discrimination by reviewing progress and focusing attention on obstacles to implementing the Durban Declaration in the Americas. As a result of OHCHR's efforts during the run up to the Conference, governments and civil society were better prepared to undertake the review exercise. This exercise showed that while there has been progress in establishing institutions to fight racial inequality, important challenges remain, particularly regarding the administration of justice.

OHCHR also worked closely with African national human rights institutions to identify how the Office might be able to help advise and assist them in their own anti-discrimination efforts. A meeting was held with senior representatives of 17 institutions during the session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in May. In November, a seminar on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was held for participants of the NGO Forum that took place during the second regular session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The seminar sought to improve the participants' knowledge of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its follow-up mechanisms, and of governments' obligation to ensure equality and non-discrimination. NGO participants indicated at the time how helpful the event had been, both in increasing their knowledge of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its implementation, and in preparing them to review and react to the African Commission's country reports.

The Office worked to strengthen the capacity of UN agencies and programmes and other multilateral organizations to integrate anti-discrimination principles and references to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action into their own programming. A meeting in Vienna in September reviewed progress in this respect, examined obstacles and improved inter-agency cooperation. OHCHR also participated in regional consultations with UN peace missions in West, Central and East Africa which assessed priorities and sought to incorporate the issue of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance into their respective work plans. Similar discussions were held with a number of UN agencies.

Five awareness-raising events were organized in cooperation with the ILO and the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The theme chosen was "Everyday Racism." A public-information campaign was launched and a poster disseminated to raise awareness of the need to combat racism and racial discrimination.

Indigenous peoples and minorities

Indigenous peoples and minorities often suffer discrimination and pressure to integrate into their surrounding societies. OHCHR is committed to raising awareness of their plight and to promoting and protecting their rights; its work in these areas is coordinated by the Indigenous and Minorities Unit.

Among the unit's activities in 2006 was the finalization of four sets of guidelines on minority or indigenous themes that help to clarify human rights obligations and provide better understanding of issues. The unit also organized three seminars, several community-led workshops, and human rights training in indigenous and minority rights to 36 NGO representatives in Geneva and some 60 NGO representatives at the community level.

The unit supported implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, including working closely with OHCHR country offices in Mexico and Guatemala to support implementation of recommendations relating to these two countries.

Elsewhere, the unit worked with OHCHR's country office in Nepal on a needs assessment designed to help strengthen the Office's activities relating to Dalit and indigenous peoples in that country. In Ecuador, OHCHR encouraged a sharper focus on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in UN programming, including through joint work with UNDP. A member of the Office's Indigenous and Minorities Unit was stationed for most of the year at the UNDP office in Ecuador and was instrumental in establishing an inter-agency group on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants ("interculturalidad") in Ecuador and initiating a paid internship for an indigenous person.



OHCHR is a leading participant in inter-agency efforts to promote indigenous and minority rights throughout the United Nations, including the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG), which is composed of more than 30 agencies, to promote mainstreaming of indigenous and minority issues, especially within UN Country Teams. The IASG has invited OHCHR, in collaboration with the ILO, to develop the first outline of a set of guidelines on integrating indigenous issues into country programmes. These guidelines are intended to ensure the particular needs of indigenous communities and minorities are taken into account when development activities are planned and implemented.

The Office supports several other initiatives that assist indigenous peoples and minorities and the organizations that represent them. In 2006, 20 indigenous representatives (11 women and nine men) took part in the Indigenous Fellowship Programme, which is operated by OHCHR. Participants came from 17 different indigenous communities in the following countries: Algeria, Australia, Burundi, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Republic of Congo and South Africa. The Minority Fellowship Programme, launched in 2005, was expanded, with 16 minority representatives taking part in two sessions in 2006. Participants represented a wide variety of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities from all over the world.

OHCHR also continued to provide substantive reports to various UN bodies, including the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and the Working Group on Minorities. In many cases, OHCHR both contributed substantively and supported implementation of recommendations generated by these bodies.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Minorities: Examples of OHCHR's Impact in 2006

- ▶ An expert meeting organized by OHCHR in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, brought together experts and officials to consider public policies to protect isolated indigenous groups. Following the meeting, Ecuador established an exclusive land area for isolated indigenous peoples in one region of the country – a concrete response to the growing interest in finding appropriate ways to protect these vulnerable groups. The newly elected President of Ecuador also appointed a former OHCHR indigenous fellow and consultant who helped organize the Santa Cruz meeting to a ministerial post.
- ▶ A community-led training workshop on minority rights, held in the district of Polski Trambesh in Northern Bulgaria and organized by OHCHR in cooperation with the community NGO "Roma Together," led the local Mayor and his Deputy to support the creation of a local Council on minorities' issues. The Council is to function as a consultative/advisory body concerning policy and administrative decision-making affecting Roma.
- ▶ OHCHR's intervention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo contributed to the drafting of a new law on indigenous peoples, to be put to the Congolese Parliament in 2007. The proposed law is based on ILO Convention No. 169 and the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Human Rights Council in June 2006.
- ▶ Working with UNDP, OHCHR helped create an established mechanism for NGOs representing indigenous peoples to participate in UN Country Team planning and implementation of programmes in Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Kenya.

Women's human rights and gender

Human rights violations based on gender, including discrimination, sexual and physical violence and other forms of abuse, represent a serious challenge in many parts of the world. In keeping with a commitment contained in the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007, OHCHR moved to significantly strengthen its research and programming capacity in relation to women's human rights and gender. A new five-person Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit was created in September, tasked with ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all OHCHR programmes and, more generally, in the programming of other parts of the UN system and the human rights machinery as a whole, including treaty bodies and special procedures. As an in-house repository of knowledge and expertise, the unit is also expected to strengthen OHCHR's capacity to engage directly with governments and civil society on matters relating to gender and women's rights.

Among the unit's early activities were organizing expert meetings on prosecuting perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict and exploitative labour; a workshop on lessons learned and good practices in promoting and protecting women's rights, including on combating sexual violence, for 21 women's representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina; and training for EU representatives on countering sexual exploitation and implementing Security Council resolution 1325. Preparation began for an analytical study on laws that discriminate against women. This will form the basis for future actions to eliminate de jure discrimination against women.

OHCHR participates in various UN initiatives intended to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel. In 2006, the Office worked closely on these issues with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) Gender Advisory Team. In June, OHCHR was represented at a meeting convened by DPKO in Windhoek to review and revise its gender-equality training modules. In



Monitoring women's human rights in India

November, the Office participated in the Third Annual Meeting of the Gender Advisory Team (DPKO headquarters and representatives of 14 PKOs) in Geneva. It also worked to strengthen the women's rights provisions of DPKO's Policy Directive on Gender Equality in Peacekeeping Operations, which was adopted in December. The unit contributed to an Operational Guidance Note on Human Rights for UN Peacemakers drafted by the Department of Political Affairs. It participated in the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, and contributed to the Security Council's annual review (October 2006) of implementation of resolution 1325 and the System-wide Action Plan that was developed to this end.

Legal standard-setting is also an important element of the new unit's mandate, particularly in the areas of violence and the protection of women's economic, social and cultural rights. To this end, the unit has developed a strategy focusing on post-conflict situations, examining the intersection of social and economic rights protection and the ability to access formal justice. In the context of gender-based violence, issues of consent and the need for individual testimonies of persons made vulnerable by conflict need to be addressed. An initial expert meeting was held in December and two consultants will begin work on a jurisprudential analysis of these issues in 2007. Once the principles are established, developments under international humanitarian and human rights law will form the basis of a policy for the effective prosecution of gender-based violence in non-conflict situations. The development of these core legal principles will inform work with the treaty bodies and special procedures.

Millennium Development Goals, the Right to Development and Human Rights Mainstreaming

OHCHR is committed to supporting the integration of human rights into the work of all relevant UN agencies and programmes. The Research and Right to Development Branch is responsible for leading OHCHR's efforts in this area. It houses experts on the Millennium Development Goals, human rights-based approaches, poverty-reduction strategies, good governance, HIV/AIDS, and human trafficking and migration, as well as methodological specialists tasked with elaborating human rights indicators for use by treaty bodies and others.

Applying a human rights-based approach to the United Nations' development efforts

Effective integration of human rights throughout the UN system is essential for deepening engagement with countries on human rights challenges and ensuring a coherent, United Nations-wide response. OHCHR has led the inter-agency Action 2 programme, which is intended to strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams to assist Member States in building effective national human rights protection systems. In 2006, OHCHR conducted a review of human rights advisers deployed to Resident Coordinator's offices, with the aim of enhancing their effectiveness by standardizing the policies and approaches for their deployment. OHCHR led the development of a Human Rights Guidance Note for Humanitarian Coordinators, which was issued by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The High Commissioner participated in the induction briefings organized for new Resident Coordinators, and interacted with Humanitarian Coordinators and senior leaders of peacekeeping operations, emphasizing that human rights is a central pillar of the UN system, and that operational activities of the UN system at the country level must be firmly grounded in principles and standards embodied in international human rights instruments.

Human rights and national poverty-reduction strategies

OHCHR continued to develop tools to integrate human rights, especially the right to development, into national development efforts, and to assess poverty-reduction strategies from a human rights perspective. In response to a request by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, OHCHR prepared and issued “Principles and Guidelines on a Human Rights-based Approach to Poverty-Reduction Strategies.” OHCHR assisted the OECD/Development Assistance Committee Task Team on Human Rights, including by contributing to the forthcoming OECD policy paper on human rights and development cooperation.





Right to development

OHCHR provided administrative and substantive support to the Working Group on the Right to Development and its High-level Task Force on the Implementation of the Right to Development, established by the Commission on Human Rights and more recently endorsed by the Human Rights Council. In 2006, the Working Group adopted criteria for the periodic evaluation of global partnerships from the perspective of the right to development. These criteria should help to give practical effect to the right to development and offer potentially valuable tools for States, development practitioners and other relevant actors striving for more effective global partnerships.

The Declaration on the Right to Development

Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development states that “the right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.”

The right includes:

- ▶ full sovereignty over natural resources
- ▶ self-determination
- ▶ popular participation in development
- ▶ equality of opportunity
- ▶ the creation of favourable conditions for the enjoyment of other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

Good governance and human rights

Corruption and poor governance are serious obstacles to the promotion and protection of human rights in many parts of the world. Reflecting the linkages between governance and rights, OHCHR and the Government of Poland organized an international conference on anti-corruption, good governance and human rights, in Warsaw on 8 and 9 November. The conference identified a variety of ways to improve anti-corruption efforts, including developing better data and indicators; involving all sectors, not just governments; expanding international collaboration to address the “supply-side” of corruption; implementing judgments, including through asset recovery; and providing technical assistance and clearer guidelines to help national authorities counter corruption in a manner consistent with human rights. The report of the conference (A/HRC/4/71) was submitted to the fourth session of the Human Rights Council.

Migration and human trafficking

Initiatives taken in 2006 included an analysis of the human rights implications of new counter-trafficking legislation and policies introduced by a number of selected countries in Europe and Asia. Research was conducted in partnership with the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, which helped to develop a methodology for the study. Three experts meetings were convened to discuss and analyze research findings and shape the final report. OHCHR prepared eight detailed country profiles examining trafficking originating in West Africa, and a handbook on trafficking and human rights for practitioners and policymakers in the field. In Nepal, OHCHR provided training in trafficking, migration and human rights to staff of the National Human Rights Commission, in an initiative sponsored by the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking. Consultations were held with relevant ministries in Nepal regarding possible legislative and policy changes to address the problem of trafficking. OHCHR also coordinated regular meetings of the Geneva contact group on trafficking and migrant smuggling, which

brings together representatives of the major Geneva-based intergovernmental organizations working on trafficking and provides a forum for information-sharing and joint policy development.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a contemporary form of slavery, with victims typically tricked or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Trafficking fuels organized crime and directly leads to gross violations of human rights. Conservative estimates put the number of people trafficked across borders each year at between 500,000 and a million. Many more are trafficked within their own countries.

The goal of OHCHR's work in this sector is the integration of human rights into international, regional and national anti-trafficking initiatives through legal and policy development. OHCHR has become one of the key anti-trafficking agencies within the UN system. Through position papers and policy documents, the High Commissioner has worked to ensure that the human rights aspects of trafficking and related exploitation are adequately reflected in international and regional legal initiatives.



HIV/AIDS and human rights

OHCHR continued to work towards ensuring that the rights of individuals infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS are better protected and promoted. In 2006, the Office's programme contained three main elements. The first focused on increasing the awareness of human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, special procedures, the Council and Sub-Commission) of the human rights dimensions of responses to HIV/AIDS. A number of concluding observations focused specifically on HIV/AIDS, and OHCHR helped to draft general comments and supported special procedures mandate-holders on country visits. A second element was the mainstreaming of knowledge of human rights and HIV-related issues across OHCHR and the United Nations generally. Guidance notes on HIV and

human rights issues were developed for OHCHR field presences and the Office collaborated with WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to develop *Provider-Initiated Counselling and Testing Guidelines*. OHCHR and UNAIDS launched a consolidated version of the *International Guidelines on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS* at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada. During the reporting period, the programme also focused on the third programmatic element, country-level initiatives, in keeping with the High Commissioner's commitment to country engagement. The Office's HIV adviser provided expert technical support to projects and programmes in a number of countries, including South Africa (violence against women), Mauritius (the draft HIV bill), Uganda (National AIDS Plan), and Thailand (trade law and access to HIV treatment).



Human rights indicators

OHCHR is developing a set of human rights indicators to help promote and monitor the implementation of human rights. The Office organized consultations to build consensus among human rights experts, members of treaty bodies, academics and human rights practitioners on the conceptual and methodological framework for identifying and applying such indicators. A draft framework is being piloted at the country level to test its applicability in a range of human rights situations. Regional- and national-level consultations were held in Uganda in October and November and in Guatemala in December to discuss the results of this pilot phase.

Economic and Social Issues

Economic, social and cultural rights

OHCHR provided substantive support to the intergovernmental working group of the Human Rights Council responsible for preparing an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights. OHCHR took part in two regional meetings and an NGO consultative meeting to discuss the proposed optional protocol, and helped organize an experts' meeting to assist the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group in preparing a first draft Optional Protocol, which will be the basis for negotiations at the next session, due to be held 16-27 July 2007. OHCHR supported the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including by contributing to the draft general comments on the right to social security and on non-discrimination.

The Office used its position to highlight the need for greater protection of economic, social and cultural rights. The High Commissioner submitted an analytical report on the legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights to the 2006 session of the Economic and Social Council, and contributed to a report by the UN Secretary-

General, focusing on economic, social and cultural rights in conflict and post-conflict settings, prepared for the fourth session of the Human Rights Council.

In December, OHCHR held a consultative strategic planning meeting with field staff with the aim of identifying the training needs of OHCHR field presences to enable them to work more effectively on issues related to economic, social and cultural rights and Poverty-Reduction Strategies. An automatic email distribution list was established to facilitate dissemination of information on economic, social and cultural rights, and OHCHR has now established focal points on these issues in most branches and in major field presences.

The Office also worked with UN agencies and programmes and with civil society to raise the visibility of economic, social and cultural rights. Initiatives included: advising WHO on the integration of economic, social and cultural rights within its programme of work for the period 2006-2015; preparing an inter-agency Handbook on Housing and Property Restitution and a fact sheet on the right to health; and participating in a project, led by Harvard University, to draw lessons from the experience of African lawyers working in this field.



Disability and human rights

OHCHR made a major contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly negotiating the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. In addition to taking part in sessions of the committee and providing substantive contributions, including technical advice

and guidance and a review of the draft text, the Office helped to organize several national and regional meetings aimed at disseminating information on the new Convention. The Office organized an expert seminar on “The right to education of persons with disabilities” to assist the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in preparing his annual thematic report to the Human Rights Council. That report attracted significant interest



and commendation from the members and observers of the Council. The High Commissioner also provided a briefing on the Convention to members of the Human Rights Council and spoke about its provisions and likely impact to a wide range of groups, including during official missions and in two official presentations to the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on the Convention.



Business and human rights

OHCHR continued to provide substantive and administrative support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on the human rights responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The Office helped to facilitate two regional consultations convened by the SRSG focusing on the role of business in conflict zones and what constitutes a “social license to operate” for companies with regard to human rights. OHCHR also contributed to a review of all core human rights treaties and their monitoring bodies in order to clarify the existing legal framework concerning the role of States in regulating, and adjudicating on, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. This research was included in the preparation of the SRSG’s report to the Human Rights Council.

OHCHR continued to provide guidance for companies on human rights, particularly through the UN Global Compact. In collaboration with the Business Leaders’ Initiative on Human Rights and the UN Global Compact Office, OHCHR published a “Guide for Integrating Human Rights into Business Management.” The Guide offers practical advice to companies that want to take a proactive approach to human rights within their business operations. The Office also worked with the UN System Staff College and the Global Compact Office to prepare a web-based learning tool on human rights for Global Compact corporate participants. It also collaborated with the Castan Centre on Human Rights, the Business Leaders’ Initiative on Human Rights, and the Global Compact Office to prepare “Human Rights Translated: A reference guide for business.”

Methodology, Education and Training

Through its Methodology, Education and Training Unit, OHCHR draws on best practice to translate human rights law and principles into methods, standards, procedures guidelines and other methodological tools for OHCHR staff and others to use in their human rights work. As a centre of expertise for human rights education and training, the Office also produces an array of education and training packs on human rights-related issues for use by its own staff and by governmental institutions, civil society organizations and UN agencies. The Office also coordinates the World Programme for Human Rights Education, whose first phase (2005-2007) focuses on primary and secondary schools.

In keeping with OHCHR's overall priorities, in 2006 the Unit focused on human rights assessment, monitoring and investigations, human rights in peace operations, and human rights education and training. Highlights include:

- ▶ Mapping of existing OHCHR methodological tools and training materials in an effort to take stock and identify gaps that need to be filled, and a concept note on standards for OHCHR methodology development.
- ▶ A concept paper on applying best practice in OHCHR's work, developed following a review of current approaches within the UN system.
- ▶ Draft guidelines on the development of OHCHR country assessments and two draft tools containing guidance for members of UN Country Teams on strengthening national human rights institutions and the human rights capacity of parliaments.
- ▶ Mapping of OHCHR's investigative capacity, including modalities, standards and available guidance materials, and identification of gaps and needs for further methodology development.
- ▶ Establishment of an OHCHR 'community of practice' network on human rights monitoring, fact finding and investigations.
- ▶ Training materials on human rights monitoring and reporting for the first Protection Capacity (PROCAP) training for standby rosters of protection personnel for rapid deployment to emergency situations.
- ▶ Consolidation of available policy and methodological guidance materials on the integration of human rights in peace operations and identification of gaps and needs for further development.
- ▶ Draft fundamental principles on human rights in peace operations to be translated into a UN policy directive.
- ▶ A concept note on human rights protection roles to be performed by UN military peacekeepers developed and discussed with UN Force Commanders.
- ▶ Participation in training programmes organized by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States
- ▶ Support to the development of human rights training materials for United Nations Police, and implementation of an inter-agency capacity-building programme for the African Union Mission deployed in Darfur.
- ▶ A five-day Basic Training of Trainers Course for 15 OHCHR staff members and a two-day training course for 15 minority and indigenous activists.
- ▶ A Human Rights Training Course for human rights field officers (jointly organized with the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy).
- ▶ In line with its mandate under the World Programme for Human Rights Education, OHCHR and UNESCO co-hosted the first meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education in the School System, for which OHCHR also acts as secretariat.
- ▶ Launch of an updated on-line Human Rights Education and Training Database containing more than thousand institutions and programmes.
- ▶ Development of a new orientation programme for OHCHR staff.

Assisting Communities Together (ACT): Human Rights Education Activities

In 2006, OHCHR provided 119 grants to national and local NGOs in 32 countries for a wide variety of human rights education and training projects through the Assisting Communities Together Project, a joint initiative of OHCHR and UNDP.

In order to create synergy with the World Programme for Human Rights Education, many projects focus on human rights education in primary and secondary schools. Activities include seminars and debates with students on human rights; cultural activities such as music or writing competitions; theatre performances for and with students; dissemination of human rights education materials in schools; training for teachers and other school personnel; and the setting-up of human rights clubs in schools. Some

activities target vulnerable groups, such as orphans, demobilized child-soldiers, children not going to school and children belonging to ethnic minorities. Several aim to promote universal schooling of children. Other activities include radio-programmes, tours of films about human rights in villages, training for NGO representatives, journalists, prisoners and human rights defenders on the functioning of the judicial system, and workshops on conflict resolution.

Feed-back received from OHCHR field presences demonstrates that small grants can have a concrete impact on human rights and that the ACT Project has provided an effective stimulus for collaboration between UN agencies in the field, local government and the civil society.



Executive Direction, Programme Support and Management

CONTEXT

Translating the vision set out in the High Commissioner's Plan of Action and implementing the more detailed proposals contained in the Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007 require additional financial and human resources; they also require effective management, especially in the areas of planning, evaluation, financial administration and human resource management. In 2006, OHCHR began to implement a programme of internal reform designed to strengthen key management functions, improve Office-wide coordination, and ensure that growth in the size of the Office is matched by a deepening of its impact on the human rights situation around the world.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Executive Direction and Management Branch houses the Executive Office of the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, the New York office, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section, the Communications Section, the Resource Mobilization Unit, and the Civil Society Unit.

High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner

As the United Nations' top human rights official, the High Commissioner has a broad leadership role to play in helping to stimulate and shape global debate on human rights issues and press for the adoption of key international human rights instruments. During 2006, she delivered keynote speeches and statements on a wide variety of human rights topics, including poverty, migration, the fight against terrorism, violence against children, violence against women, the rights of persons with disabilities, human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation, and economic and social justice for societies in transition.

The High Commissioner used her position to advocate for the signing, ratification of or accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She also successfully argued for OHCHR to be granted responsibility for supporting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. While proposals to move towards a unified treaty body were not widely accepted, progress was made in harmonizing the working methods of existing treaty bodies with the ultimate goal of developing a unified treaty-body system.

The High Commissioner played a significant role in supporting the Human Rights Council during that body's first six months of operation. She and her staff worked with Council members at sessions of the Council and in the inter-session, open-ended working groups to help advance essential substantive and procedural issues. Policy guidance was also provided to the Council to build the consensus that led to the adoption of resolutions and decisions on a range of human rights issues and to the implementation of certain resolutions, such as those requesting fact-finding missions and special commissions of inquiry.

In addition to her other functions, the High Commissioner serves as the Office's Chief Executive Officer. In this capacity, she chaired key in-house management committees responsible for setting priorities and budgets, producing the Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007, and overseeing and assessing programme implementation. The High Commissioner is assisted in these and other functions by her deputy. In November, former Deputy High Commissioner Mehr Khan Williams retired after a long and distinguished career in the United Nations. Her successor, Kyung-wha Kang, assumed office in January 2007.



High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour and former Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Representing the High Commissioner in New York

The 2005 World Summit's recognition of the importance of human rights mainstreaming required that OHCHR's New York office intensify its advocacy efforts to integrate human rights into other areas of UN work. A central focus of its work is to help integrate a human rights dimension into the work of the New York-based Secretariat and decision-making bodies.

In 2006, the New York office provided substantive advice to the lengthy and difficult General Assembly negotiations on the establishment of the Human Rights Council. Other discussions in which the Office played a prominent role included consultations on the United Nations' approach to transitional justice, the rule of law, integration of human rights into counter-terrorism, the responsibility to protect, and the Secretary-General's role in preventing genocide. The Office also helped to develop terms of reference and a governance structure for the new UN Democracy Fund. OHCHR chairs the inter-agency, New York-based taskforce overseeing implementation of the Action 2 Global Programme, and houses, within its New York office, the secretariat.

The New York office worked closely with OHCHR headquarters in Geneva and other departments of the UN Secretariat to develop policy proposals on key country-specific and thematic issues through the Secretary-General's newly established Policy Committee and other high-level policy coordination mechanisms. The Office was also closely involved in various inter-agency discussions whose outcomes included the adoption of new fully rights-based Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework guidelines for all UN Country Teams.

The New York office increased its engagement with the work of the UN Security Council. New York-based staff also worked with the newly established Peace-building Commission, contributing to background documents provided to the Commission that discussed human rights concerns in Burundi and Sierra Leone, and following the Commission's work after its inauguration in June.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation

As foreseen in the Strategic Management Plan, the High Commissioner established a new section, within the Executive Direction and Management Branch, with responsibility for policy, planning, monitoring, and evaluation. The new section is tasked with ensuring that OHCHR's strategic vision is translated into concrete priorities and operational plans and procedures, and that implementation is properly monitored, lessons learned and impact evaluated on a regular basis. In addition, the section ensures that systematic situation analysis leads to the development of policies.



In 2006, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Section concentrated primarily on cross-branch planning and monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Management Plan, including conducting an internal mid-year review and preparing for the 2006 end-of-year review. The section also worked with other parts of the Office on new approaches to country engagement, aspects of the transition from the former Commission on Human Rights to the new Human Rights Council, and preparation of the UN regular budget 2008-2009 Strategic Framework. In addition, an Office-wide evaluation policy was adopted to systematize and develop a methodological approach to learning lessons from past experience and informing future policy- and decision-making.

During the same period, the new section worked with the UN Office of Internal Oversight on the structure of the Office (on the basis of the Outcome document, the Plan of Action, and the biennium budget for 2007-2008) and the role and functions of OHCHR's New York office. The section developed, in cooperation with other branches, a system for the initiation, drafting, approval and promulgation of Standard Operating Procedures. A new chief of section was recruited at the end of the year and assumed the post in January 2007. Priorities for the coming year include developing and coordinating the implementation of an Office-wide results-based monitoring framework; developing staff capacity in relation to results-based management, through training and the development of guidelines; and identifying and coordinating development of policy in relation to emerging issues.

Donor and External Relations

An effective donor and external relations strategy is essential if OHCHR is to continue to enjoy the support of so many Member States and other donors and, over time, broaden its donor base to include new countries and institutions. Voluntary contributions from donors accounted

for more than two-thirds of OHCHR's overall income in 2006. While much of OHCHR's growth in the past year was funded through a sizable increase in regular budget funding, the goals set out in the High Commissioner's Plan of Action cannot be achieved without continuing increases in voluntary contributions.

A dedicated unit of seven professional staff is responsible for handling donor and external relations. The unit, which reports to the Deputy High Commissioner, maintains contact with a large number of current and potential donors; regularly provides information on OHCHR's plans, priorities and emerging resource requirements; solicits support and negotiates funding agreements; and keeps donors fully informed of the implementation of activities and results. The unit also advises the High Commissioner and senior management on funding and donor-related matters and contributes to the budget and planning processes.

In 2006, OHCHR secured a record US\$ 85.3 million in voluntary contributions – an increase of US\$ 17 million on the previous year. In order to obtain these results, existing donor contacts were strengthened while contacts with new or potential donors were established. The release of the first Strategic Management Plan and the introduction of a two-year planning process were instrumental in persuading more donors to provide a greater proportion of their funding free of earmarks or special conditions. Joint funding initiatives, such as Action 2, with UNDP, and the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, with UNICEF and WHO, as well as participation in the inter-agency United Nations Consolidated Appeal Process, reinforced OHCHR's funding potential. A new chief of unit was recruited and joined in October.

Additional information on OHCHR's funding in 2006 can be found on pages 155 – 165.

Communications

OHCHR has recently taken steps to enhance its communication capacity as part of an effort to increase its outreach to the public and key stakeholder groups. A new Communication Section was created in mid-2006; by year's end, most positions in the new section, including the chief's, had been filled. The enhanced capacity will equip the Office with the skills and resources required to plan and carry out communication campaigns that enhance public awareness and knowledge of human rights and strengthen support for the United Nations' human rights work. A key element of the strategy is highlighting the High Commissioner's leadership role in promoting and protecting human rights.

In the second half of the year, 84 different newspapers in 45 countries published articles by the High Commissioner, identifying human rights problems and proposing solutions. As well as issuing 30 per cent more press statements than in the previous year on urgent human rights issues, the High Commissioner also made numerous appearances in electronic and print media. Based on limited research using Factiva and other web-based search tools, OHCHR tracked more than 3,300 articles containing references to the Office (compared with just over 2,000 in 2005). Interest in human rights and the work of the Office was reflected in the more than 3.3 million individual visits to OHCHR's website, including some 75,000 visits to the site's media pages. The website will be completely redesigned and re-launched in 2007.

Human Rights Day 2006 was marked with events, broadcasts and publications designed to highlight human rights-based approaches to poverty-reduction, using the slogan "Fighting Poverty: A matter of obligation not charity." OHCHR field offices in more than 20 countries reported country-level campaigns and activities. The High Commissioner's message and public information materials were disseminated among local- and national-level populations through government programmes and by

human rights advocates in national institutions and NGOs and through partners in the UN system. A children's essay competition on the theme attracted almost 700 eligible entries from which 17 winners were selected across age and geographical categories.

Civil Society Liaison

Civil society is a vital partner for OHCHR. Both the High Commissioner's Plan of Action and the Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007 stress the importance of strengthening partnership with civil society, arguing that OHCHR's work is amplified when undertaken with and through partners in the civil society.

In 2006, the OHCHR NGO Liaison Officer facilitated regular exchanges between NGOs and OHCHR senior leadership and developed a comprehensive, user-friendly handbook for civil society actors on how to interact and work with OHCHR. The handbook was launched on-line and is being used as a training tool by NGOs. The NGO Liaison Officer also developed an internal database systematizing information on NGOs.

Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/251 establishing the new Human Rights Council, the NGO Liaison Officer dedicated greater resources to facilitating the participation of NGOs in the new inter-governmental body. Some 154 NGOs participated in the inaugural session of the Council; 155 participate in the second session, and 99 took part in the third session. NGOs also made oral interventions in all four of the Council's special sessions. OHCHR developed a mailing list used to send weekly updates on Council affairs to NGOs. Several meetings were facilitated between NGOs and the Council Secretariat, and between NGOs and the Council Presidency and Bureau.

PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Improving the capacity of OHCHR's administrative functions, including by hiring more staff, especially at management level, providing quality programme support services to the substantive programmes, executive direction, management, and the human rights policymaking organs, and obtaining greater delegation of authority on various financial and administrative matters, is an important part of ongoing reform initiatives.

In 2006, all core programme support and management services were brought within one branch. These services include human resources management, finance and budget, general administrative services (logistics, procurement, asset management and travel), staff security and safety, information management and technology, and staff training. The Programme Support and Management Services Branch focused on achieving greater geographic distribution of OHCHR staff, especially through recruitment from countries that had been poorly represented within OHCHR. The Branch also sought to strengthen its capacities, across all of its sections, to support field presences and rapid deployment. The post of Internal Auditor was created, staffed by the Office of Internal Oversight services, to provide dedicated audit services to OHCHR. Monitoring was also bolstered through the creation of an in-house Core Management System that provides financial reports on all extrabudgetary allocations and expenditures.

OHCHR requested limited delegation of authority in the financial and human resources areas at the end of 2005 and in the beginning of 2006. The requests included the authority to accept voluntary contributions, issue allotments and financial cables, process contracts for consultants, and locally recruit short-term temporary staff. The United Nations Controller agreed in principle to the requested financial delegations, which will be put into effect in early 2007. The Office continues to follow up on

proposed delegation in the area of human resources management.

With additional resources from the regular budget and voluntary contributions, recruitment of staff was a major activity during 2006. Some 31 regular and 87 temporary professional staff members were recruited during the year, and similar procedures were completed to regularize the contractual status of 120 existing staff. Recruitment will continue with the aim of filling all new positions by the end of 2007.

Geographical Diversity: Enhancing OHCHR's Workforce

Achieving geographical balance in OHCHR's staff remains one of the High Commissioner's priorities. To this end, various actions and procedures have been introduced to widen the pool of candidates, particularly from countries unrepresented and underrepresented at OHCHR. These efforts have begun to show positive results. Of the 45 individuals selected for professional posts since the procedures were instituted, 31 (or 69 per cent) were nationals from regions that were underrepresented at OHCHR. Five of the eight persons selected from regions already well represented in OHCHR were internal promotions of staff members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION, PROGRAMME SUPPORT & MANAGEMENT: PERFORMANCE IN 2006

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
<p>OHCHR policy positions and commentaries used as a reference by concerned organs, bodies, and agencies of the United Nations in the areas of peace, security, development, humanitarian affairs, and economic and social affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ UN system-wide policy on gender equality and strategy on gender mainstreaming developed. ▶ Policy guidance material for humanitarian action developed. ▶ Comprehensive strategy developed for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. ▶ Operational guidance note developed on human rights for UN peace-makers. ▶ New Joint Statement on Female Genital Mutilation issued. ▶ UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for Human Rights Education in the School System established. ▶ Human rights integrated into the World Health Organization's 2006-2015 general programme of work.
<p>Country assessment and engagement strategies used by the entire Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Draft guidelines developed for OHCHR human rights country assessments. ▶ Draft country assessments developed for four pilot countries (Liberia, Guatemala, Pakistan, and Egypt). ▶ Increased number of joint initiatives undertaken among field offices, desk officers, and the human rights mechanisms.
<p>Increased public outreach of the UN human rights programme and support for the work of the Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Communications Section established and staff recruited. ▶ OHCHR visual identity developed. ▶ Preparatory work completed ahead of website rebuild. ▶ Steps taken to increase OHCHR's visibility and increase knowledge of OHCHR's work, including: distribution of more OHCHR press releases, op-eds, human rights day public information materials, and media material on the High Commissioner's missions. ▶ Approximately 3.3 million visits to OHCHR's website. ▶ Articles by the High Commissioner published in 84 newspapers in 45 countries. ▶ More than 3,300 articles referring to OHCHR tracked using web-based search tools.
<p>More initiatives in place aimed at empowering and/or protecting civil society actors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ More timely and effective responses to NGO queries and requests; increased satisfaction expressed by NGOs regarding assistance rendered. ▶ Comprehensive and user-friendly NGO handbook made available on-line to help civil society organizations engage with OHCHR and the UN human rights system. ▶ Internal NGO database developed. ▶ Consistent and effective liaison established with NGOs in the context of the new Human Rights Council, including briefings for NGOs and distribution of an e-bulletin to more than 300 NGOs.
<p>Lessons learned translated into the design and implementation of projects and programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Methodology under development to systematically record lesson learned to be incorporated into future project design. ▶ Joint OIOS/OHCHR studies undertaken on the management structure of OHCHR and the New York Office.

KEY INDICATORS (SMP 2006-2007)	PROGRESS IN 2006
A comprehensive approach to evaluations developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Evaluation policy developed and approved for use.
Greater funding provided with predictability and flexibility, contributed earlier in the year and on a multi-year basis, with a high proportion of funding provided with light or no earmarking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increase of US\$ 17 million in voluntary contributions (to US\$ 85.3 million) ▶ Increase in the amount of funding made available through multi-year funding agreements ▶ Increase of US\$ 14.7 million (or 86 per cent) in the amount of unearmarked funding pledged.
Time-frame in recruiting staff and deploying staff to the field in safe and efficient manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ With the large number of new posts to be filled and the exercise to regularize the contractual status of existing staff, there was no improvement in the average recruitment time. This situation is expected to improve considerably in 2007.
Vacancy rates and turnover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 212 new staff recruited, 120 existing staff regularized. ▶ Recruitment strategy developed and implemented. ▶ Vacancy rates were not reduced due to the creation of a large number of new posts and the regularization exercise. ▶ Data on rates of staff turnover not available.
Number of field offices provided with adequate logistical support and basic functions prior to the arrival of staff members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All OHCHR field presences, including the human rights components of peacekeeping missions, received support from headquarters.

PRIORITIES FOR 2007

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- ▶ Increase public knowledge of human rights and OHCHR and improve the capacity of OHCHR to inform and educate external audiences in these areas.
 - ▶ Deliver effective advisory services to civil society actors to improve their participation in UN human rights mechanisms.
 - ▶ Develop and implement an Office-wide results-based monitoring framework.
 - ▶ Implement partial delegation of authority.
 - ▶ Integrate lessons learned in future OHCHR decision-making.
 - ▶ Secure predictable, timely and flexible funding sufficient to meet OHCHR's extra-budgetary resource requirements.
 - ▶ Reach out to potential new donors, including Member States and non-governmental funding sources.





HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

INTRODUCTION



In addition to pursuing its core human rights work, OHCHR provides a home and a secretariat to three humanitarian trust funds: the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. Each fund was established by a resolution of the General Assembly and is designed to provide financial support to individuals and NGOs working in specific human rights fields. In 2006, donors pledged and paid contributions worth nearly \$11 million to these three funds.

Marie's Story

Marie, now a 34-year-old mother of two, was captured by the Interahamwe militia in Rwanda. Over a period of three months, she was repeatedly and brutally raped by five Interahamwe soldiers. Today, Marie is plagued with terrible, recurring memories of her ordeal. She suffers debilitating stomach pains and headaches and still hears the drone of the transistor radio messages of the Hutu militia calling for violence. She jumps at the slightest sound outside her house, fearing her captors have returned for her.

Kanyarwanda, a Kigali-based human rights organization, provides Marie with support, advice and encouragement. With the assistance of Kanyarwanda staff, Marie found doctors experienced in treating victims of torture who understand the mental implications of the physical abuse she endured. With the assistance of Kanyarwanda, Marie has been able to regain some strength and confidence to face the future.

Kanyarwanda is one of dozens of organizations working with victims of torture that receives funding from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture. Marie's story is drawn from "25 Years, Rebuilding Lives, United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture," United Nations publication, May 2006.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE



The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established in 1981 by General Assembly resolution 36/151, gives grants to organizations helping to alleviate the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. Types of assistance provided by organizations supported by the Fund range from psychological, medical, and social assistance to legal aid and financial support. The Fund is formally administered by the UN Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. The Board meets twice a year to determine priorities, review the workings of the Fund, and make decisions on grants. OHCHR provides a small secretariat, located within the Treaty Bodies and Council Branch. In 2006, the Fund received US\$10.2 million in contributions from 33 donors. In April 2006, the Board approved grants amounting to US\$8.8 million to 165 different projects established to assist victims of torture for the period July 2006 to December 2007.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY



The Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution 46/122. The Fund supports the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and also provides financial assistance to NGOs working to address problems associated with contemporary forms of slavery, and individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. Projects supported by the Fund cover a variety of issues, including trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and child labour. The Fund is formally administered by the UN Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a

five-member Board of Trustees. OHCHR provides a small secretariat, located within the Research and Right to Development Branch.

In 2006, the Fund received approximately \$250,000 from 14 donors. At its meeting in February 2006, the Board approved grants amounting to nearly US\$611,000, including grants to some 47 projects in 22 countries in Africa, America, Asia, and Europe. The Board also awarded 12 travel grants to enable individuals and representatives of NGOs to attend and speak at the 31st session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, held in August 2006 in Geneva. The Board recommended that a review of the Fund be undertaken to evaluate its impact and functioning more than a decade after it was established. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted the review of the Fund from November 2006 to January 2007.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established in 1985 by General Assembly resolution 40/131 with the purpose of providing indigenous peoples with the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities in international forums and thereby contribute to the development of international standards and national legislation for the protection of their rights. Monies contributed by donors are distributed in the form of travel grants for representatives of indigenous peoples around the world. The fund is formally administered by the UN Secretary-General acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees composed of indigenous representatives. The Board meets annually to determine priorities, review the work of the fund, and approve new grants. OHCHR provides a small secretariat, located within the Research and Right to Development Branch.

In 2006, the Fund received approximately US\$ 459,000 from 13 donors, an increase of more than \$285,000 over 2005. At its meeting in February, the Board awarded 101 grants (up from 60 the previous year): 46 grants for indigenous representatives to attend the 5th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; 45 grants for indigenous representatives to attend the 24th session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; and 10 grants for indigenous representatives to attend the 12th session of the Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Populations. The Board also recommended expanding the mandate of the Fund to include financial support for human rights projects as well as travel grants to support indigenous peoples' participation in meetings of human rights treaty bodies.







FUNDING

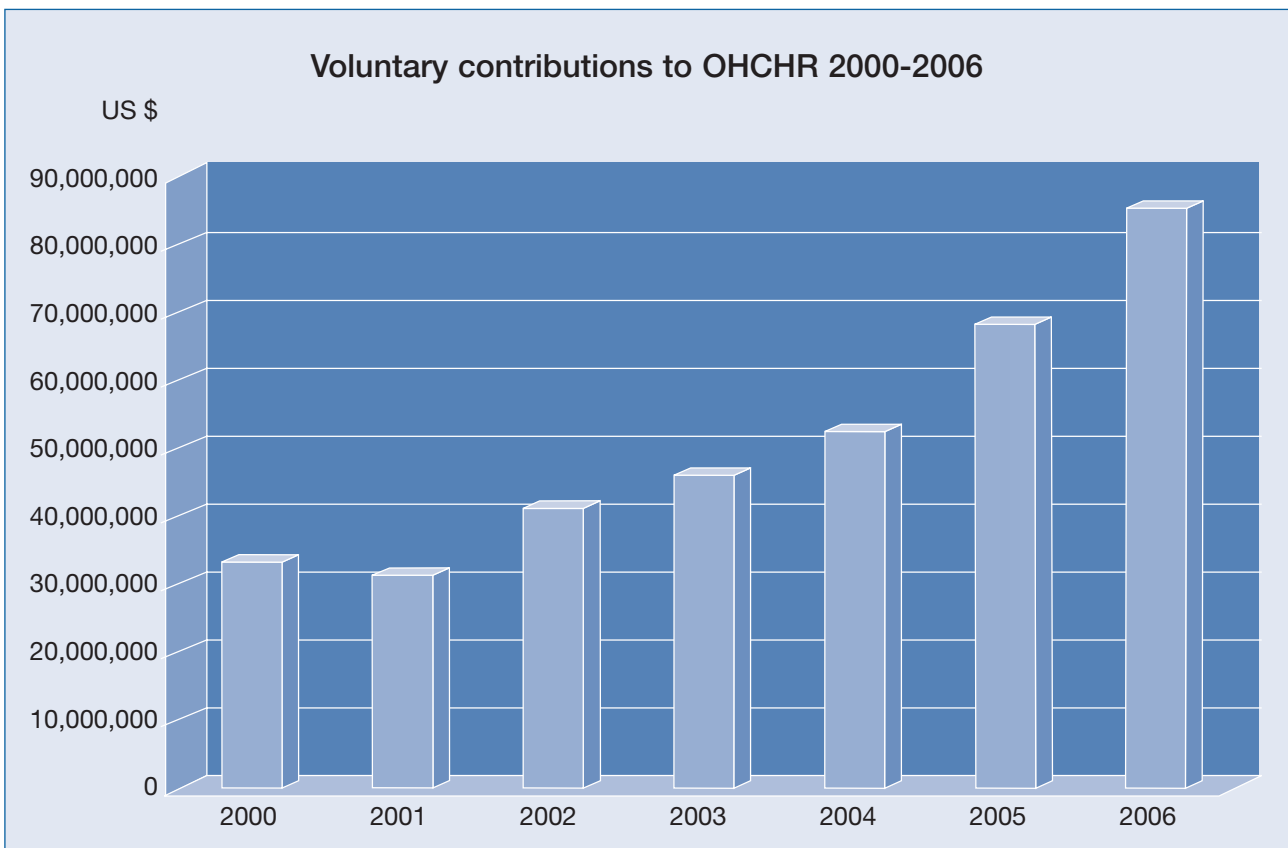
OVERVIEW

OHCHR is funded from the United Nations regular budget and from voluntary contributions from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and individuals. Regular budget funding for the 2006-2007 biennium was set at \$85.9 million, or 2.26 per cent of the United Nations' global budget of \$3.8 billion. This represented an increase of \$18.3 million, or 28 per cent, over the previous biennium, in keeping with the commitment given by leaders at the 2005 World Summit to double, over five years, funding for OHCHR under the regular budget.

In addition to regular budget funding, in 2006, OHCHR also received voluntary contributions from donors amounting to \$85.3 million – an increase of \$17 million compared with 2005. This latest increase continues a

well-established trend of increasing support: the level of voluntary contributions has more than doubled in the past five years. Equally encouraging, last year saw a marked increase in the proportion of funding that was not earmarked by donors for specific purposes – from 25 per cent in 2005 to 37 per cent in 2006.

Maintaining a stable and diverse funding base is critical to OHCHR's efforts to strengthen and expand its work worldwide. Over the coming years, the Office will seek to increase the amount raised year-on-year, while at the same time encouraging donors to provide an ever-greater proportion of their funding free of earmarking, and to commit, wherever possible, to multi-year funding arrangements. The Office will also seek to widen the funding base – approaching and soliciting support from a larger number of Member States, as well as from philanthropic foundations with a particular interest in human rights.



WHO FUNDS OHCHR?



The number of donors remained relatively stable, with 61 Member States, two international organizations, and a handful of private donors making contributions in 2006. Two donors, Romania and the Russian Federation, pledged funding for the first time, and ten others – Bhutan, the Holy See, Hungary, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela – rejoined the list of donors, after having not provided funding in 2005. Eleven donors that made contributions in 2005 dropped off the donor list in 2006: Andorra, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Nigeria, Oman, Sudan and Tunisia, and two UN agencies (UNESCO and UNICEF).

As in the past, the bulk of funding came from a relatively small number of donors. Some 97.6 per cent of pledged voluntary contributions came from 20 major donors in 2006 (compared with 98 per cent in 2005); 80.8 per cent came from just ten countries.

How OHCHR Measures Extrabudgetary Income

In the past, OHCHR used two methods to quantify and report on extrabudgetary income: first, we reported on the amount of new pledges made by donors in a given year, converting pledges into U.S. dollars whenever necessary using the exchange rate prevailing at the time of the pledge; secondly, and separately, we reported on the amount actually received in OHCHR's accounts in the same period. The two figures often varied considerably as, for example, when pledges were made in one year but paid in another, or where significant exchange rate fluctuations affected the value in U.S. dollars of a particular contribution.

This year's annual report moves to a new, simpler and more reliable method. The figure for extrabudgetary income for 2006 includes all written pledges received from donors and registered by the UN Secretariat in the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) during 2006, regardless of whether they were actually paid before the end of the year. This change to 'accrual accounting', which is in line with UN Financial Rules and Regulations and UN System Accounting Standards, will ensure that OHCHR's reporting conforms to generally accepted accounting principles and UN System external auditing standards.

It will also ensure that figures relating to income from voluntary contributions presented in this report, and future annual reports, are entirely consistent with those recorded in IMIS.

In order to provide a reliable basis for comparison with previous years, and eliminate any double-counting of contributions reported in previous annual reports, this report presents revised figures for the amount of voluntary contributions secured in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, calculated using the new accrual method and on the basis of information contained in IMIS.

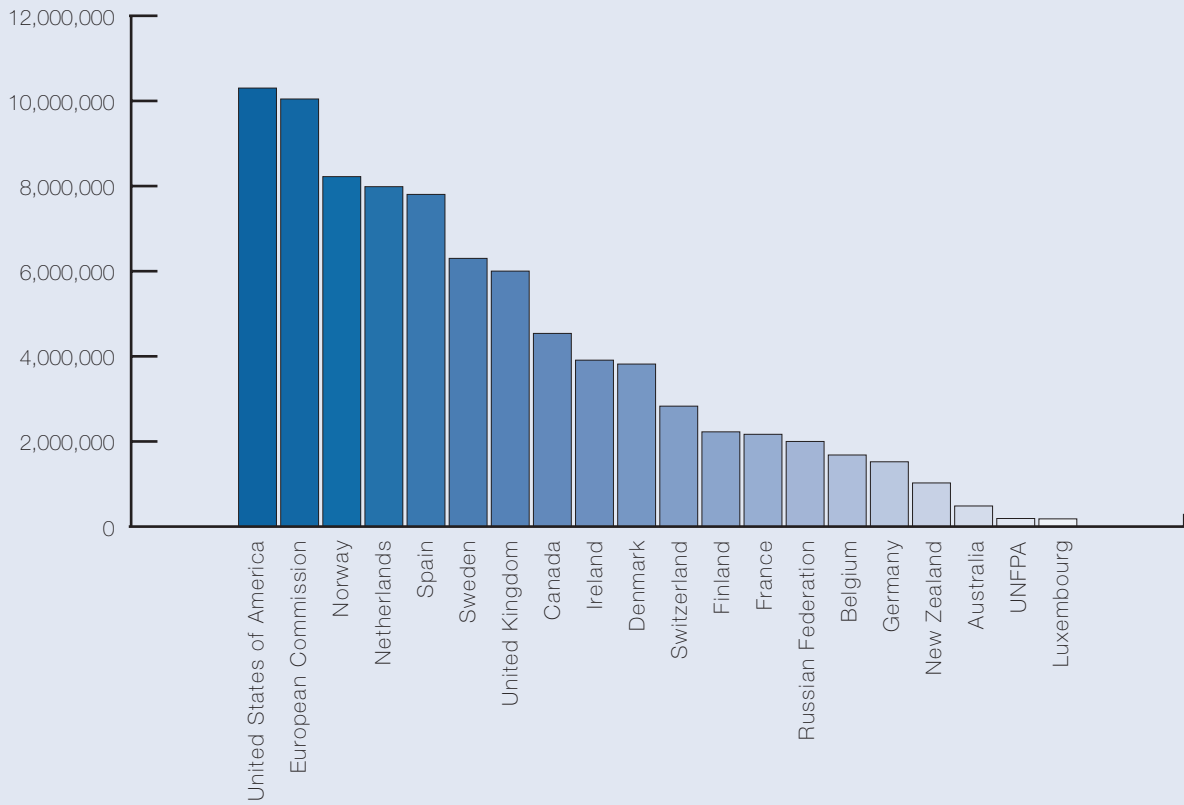
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2006

This table refers to the total amount of voluntary contributions for 2006.

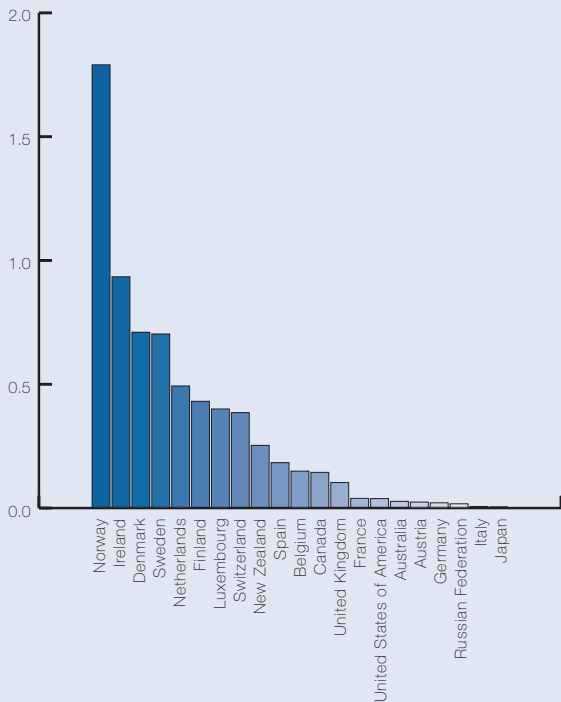
Donor		US\$	Donor		US\$
GOVERNMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS					
1	United States of America	10'302'170	33	Hungary	46'312
2	European Commission	10'045'840	34	Liechtenstein	46'009
3	Norway	8'222'094	35	Chile	31'000
4	Netherlands	7'986'194	36	Monaco	30'000
5	Spain	7'804'014	37	Slovenia	30'000
6	Sweden	6'301'105	38	Venezuela	30'000
7	United Kingdom	6'002'052	39	Thailand	25'000
8	Canada	4'538'405	40	Philippines	21'072
9	Ireland	3'909'953	41	Malaysia	20'000
10	Denmark	3'818'592	42	Estonia	16'841
11	Switzerland	2'829'496	43	Colombia	16'575
12	Finland	2'226'082	44	Croatia	15'000
13	France	2'168'142	45	Israel	15'000
14	Russian Federation	2'000'000	46	Lebanon	15'000
15	Belgium	1'531'975	47	Latvia	14'925
16	Germany	1'522'727	48	Czech Republic	13'198
17	New Zealand	1'025'550	49	Lithuania	12'096
18	Australia	484'315	50	Costa Rica	10'132
19	UNFPA	339'925	51	Algeria	10'000
20	Luxembourg	181'222	52	Bahrain	10'000
21	Austria	174'877	53	Kuwait	10'000
22	Japan	160'396	54	Nicaragua	10'000
23	Portugal	160'000	55	Azerbaijan	8'000
24	Italy	145'103	56	Cyprus	7'377
25	Greece	144'928	57	Morocco	6'000
26	Mexico	120'000	58	Romania	5'000
27	Korea, Rep. of	110'000	59	Bhutan	4'970
28	Poland	100'000	60	Pakistan	4'962
29	South Africa	76'184	61	Holy See	4'500
30	Saudi Arabia	70'000	62	Armenia	1'096
31	Turkey	70'000	63	Panama	1'000
32	India	50'000			
PRIVATE DONORS					
ITCS "Oscar Romero"					1'579
Rights & Democracy					173'006
Other individual donors					5'282
TOTAL					85'292'269

Source: Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors in 2006 (US\$)

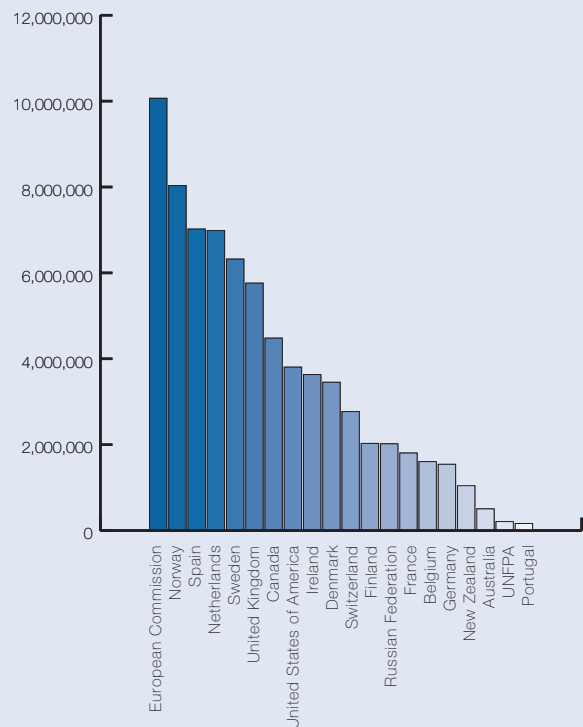


Voluntary contributions from OHCHR's top donors per capita in 2006*



* Sources: based on 2006 voluntary contributions from OHCHR's top donors and 2005 population figures from the World Bank

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR's work in 2006 (US\$) (excluding contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



Contributions to the Humanitarian Funds

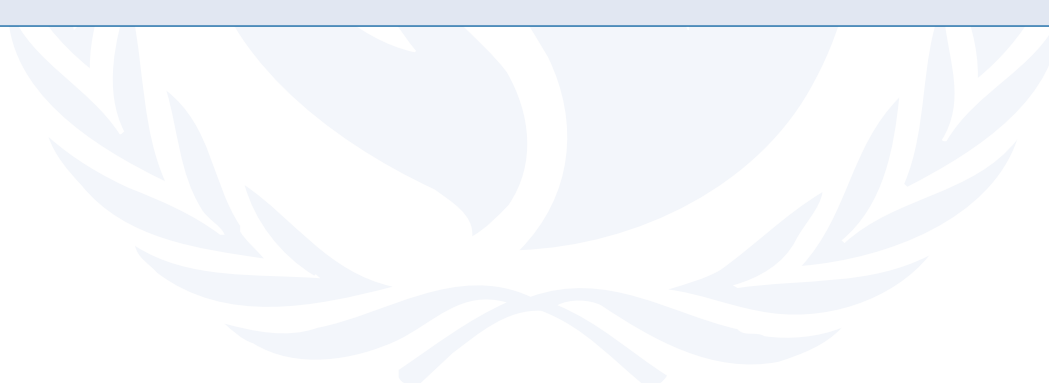
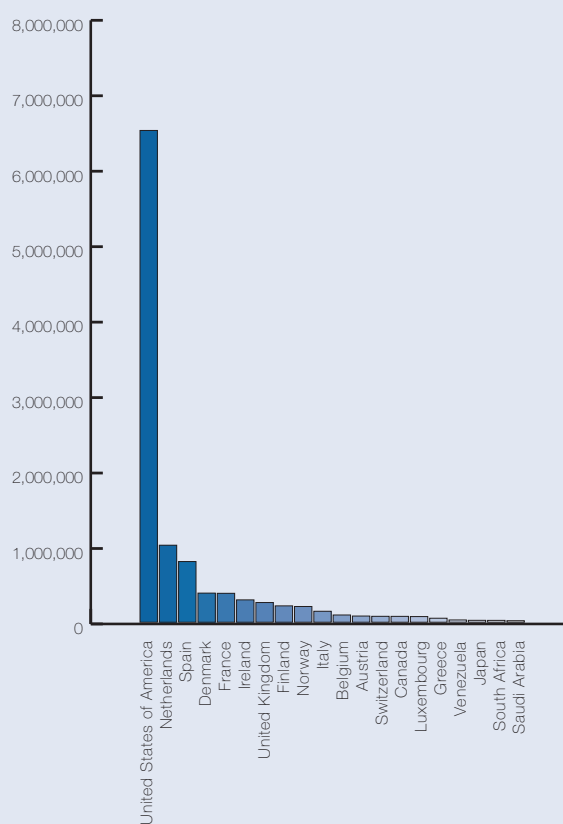
Donors provided \$10.97 million to the three humanitarian funds administered by OHCHR. These three funds – the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations – collect and distribute funding in the form of grants to individuals and NGOs. Contributions to the funds are not used to support OHCHR's wider work.

Altogether 37 governments and a handful of private donors made contributions to the three humanitarian funds in 2006.

The top five donors were the United States (which provided contributions worth \$6,517,170), the Netherlands (\$1,020,408), Spain (\$803,921), Denmark (385,689) and France (383,009).

If contributions to the humanitarian funds are excluded, OHCHR's voluntary contributions in 2006 amounted to \$74.32 million. By the same measure, the top five donors to the Office were the European Commission (which provided contributions worth \$10,045,840), Norway (\$8,013,844), Spain (\$7,000,093), the Netherlands (\$6,965,786) and Sweden (\$6,301,105).

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to the Humanitarian Funds in 2006 (US\$)



FUNDING TRENDS

Rate of Funding Growth

Total voluntary contributions increased by 25 per cent in 2006, compared with the revised figure for 2005. This followed increases of 29.9 per cent in 2005, 14.2 per cent in 2004 and 11.8 per cent in 2003.

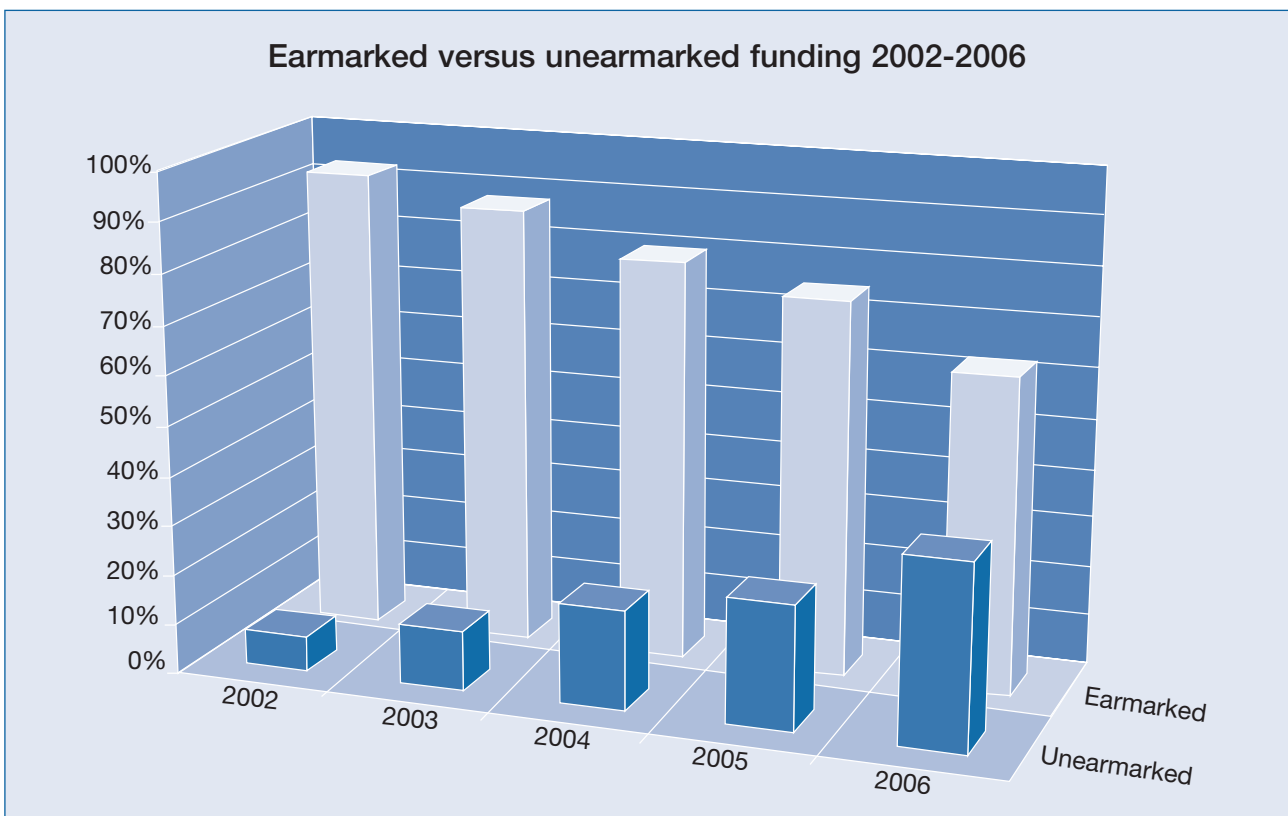
Predictability

In order to increase the predictability of funding flows, the High Commissioner has encouraged all donors to enter into multi-year funding commitments. In 2006, nine donors had multi-year funding agreements with OHCHR in place: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Earmarking

The trend towards donors providing a larger proportion of funding free of earmarking continued in 2006, with \$31.8 million of unearmarked funding secured in 2006 (compared with \$17.1 million in 2005). As a share of total voluntary contributions, unearmarked funding has risen steadily in recent years – from approximately 12 per cent in 2003, to 20 per cent in 2004, 25 per cent in 2005, and 37 per cent in 2006.

The increase in the amount, and proportion, of unearmarked funding contributed by donors in 2006 was a very positive development and followed numerous appeals by the High Commissioner encouraging donors to lift or lighten earmarks on their contributions. The shift also coincided with the release, in early 2006, of OHCHR's first-ever biennial Strategic Management Plan. Many donors indicated that the introduction of the SMP, together with recent improvements in OHCHR's management and planning capabilities, were instrumental in persuading them to make available more unearmarked funding.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OHCHR FROM TOP 20 DONORS IN 2006

	United States of America	European Commission	Norway	Netherlands	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom	Canada	Ireland	Denmark
Unearmarked	0	0	1,909,213	6,965,786	3,872,321	690,669	4,680,313	3,365,346	1,836,493	2,163,062
OHCHR in the field – Headquarters Support	0	742,332	48,058	0	0	0	0	0	118,483	0
OHCHR in the field	3,785,000	7,226,324	4,710,959	0	2,253,635	3,273,424	782,609	1,095,562	414,692	1,269,841
All regions	1,485,000	0	0	0	0		782,609	0	414,692	0
Africa	2,300,000	136,309	1,963,164	0	63,613	690,669	0	0	0	0
Asia and the Pacific	0	6,043,257	947,468	0	89,120	945,422	0	0	0	1,269,841
Middle East and North Africa	0	0	0	0	343,573	0	0	650,167	0	0
Europe, North America and Central Asia	0	0	818,330	0		0	0	0	0	0
Latin America and the Caribbean	0	1,046,758	981,997	0	1,757,329	1,637,333	0	445,395	0	0
Supporting the Human Rights Council and Human Rights Bodies	0	943,138	432,519	0	159,033	966,937	0	0	414,692	0
Supporting Special Procedures	0	1,101,437	160,192	0	358,620	955,674	0	0	355,450	0
Thematic Human Rights Challenges	0	32,608	112,135	0	356,484	0	278,261	0	473,934	0
Executive Direction and Management	0	0	320,384	0	0	414,401	0	0	0	0
Programme Support and Management	0	0	320,384	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humanitarian Funds	6,517,170	0	208,250	1,020,408	803,921	0	260,870	77,497	296,209	385,689
Total contributions by donor	10,302,170	10,045,840	8,222,094	7,986,194	7,804,014	6,301,105	6,002,052	4,538,405	3,909,953	3,818,592

THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN THIS TABLE REFLECTS EARMARKING BY DONORS



	Switzerland	Finland	France	Russian Federation	Belgium	Germany	New Zealand	Australia	UNFPA	Luxembourg	
	206,107	701,531	1,477,441	1,000,000	956,633	0	1,025,550	74,510	0	106,635	Unearmarked
	0	0	0	0	137,842	126,880	0	74,510	0	0	OHCHR in the field – Headquarters Support
	1,948,885	606,312	128,205	250,000	118,622	634,495	0	260,785	339,925	0	OHCHR in the field
	1,145,038	211,055	0	0	0	634,495	0	0	0	0	All regions
	0	0	0	0	118,622	0	0	0	339,925	0	Africa
	543,511	0	128,205	0	0	0	0	260,785	0	0	Asia and the Pacific
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Middle East and North Africa
	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	Europe and Central Asia
	260,336	395,257	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Latin America and the Caribbean
	200,000	286,990	51,282	100,000	0	380,688	0	0	0	0	Supporting the Human Rights Council and Human Rights Bodies
	116,336	159,439	128,205	250,000	223,214	190,332	0	0	0	0	Supporting Special Procedures
	200,000	255,102	0	400,000	0	190,332	0	74,510	0	0	Thematic Human Rights Challenges
	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Executive Direction and Management
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Programme Support and Management
	78,168	216,709	383,009	0	95,663	0	0	0	0	74,587	Humanitarian Funds
	2,829,496	2,226,082	2,168,142	2,000,000	1,531,975	1,522,727	1,025,550	484,315	339,925	181,222	Total contributions by donor

Early payment

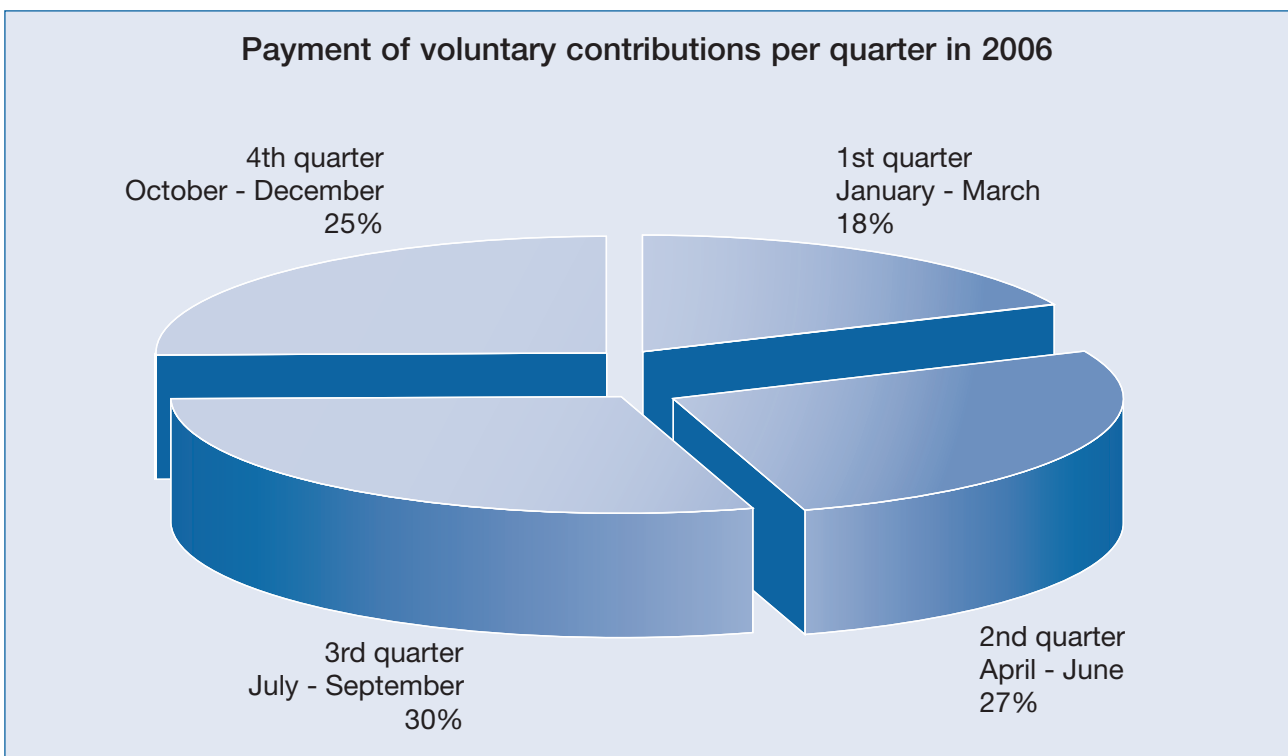
Like many agencies in the UN system, OHCHR enters each new year with limited cash on hand to pay for programme and operating costs. In the past, most funding from voluntary contributions was received in the second and third quarters of the year, with relatively little received during the first quarter. This can create debilitating financial constraints at the start of the year when expenditure runs ahead of income, forcing us to postpone implementation of certain activities until later in the year when funds become available.

In 2006, 18 per cent of all contributions were received in the first quarter and 27 per cent in the second. This created short-term cash-flow pressures that affected the timing of certain project activities. In an effort to alleviate this situation, the High Commissioner launched an appeal in January 2007 to encourage donors to pay their pledges as early in the year as possible. Annual consultations with major donors have been brought forward and, in future, strategic management plans will be published earlier to allow time for donors to take funding decisions as early in the new year as possible.

Regular budget versus extrabudgetary funding

The ratio between regular and extrabudgetary funding shifted slightly in 2006 as a result of the decision to substantially increase in the amount of funding OHCHR receives under the regular budget. While the full effect of the regular budget increase was partly offset by continued growth in the level of voluntary contributions, the net impact was a small increase in the proportion of regular budget funding. Overall, 34.4 per cent of OHCHR's funding came from the regular budget in 2006 (compared with 33.7 per cent in 2005); 65.6 per cent from voluntary contributions (compared with 66.3 per cent in 2005).

This ratio may be expected to shift further in the same direction in 2008, when the next increase in regular budget funding is due to take effect. The objective remains over time to reduce the proportion of extrabudgetary funding to something closer to 60 per cent. Assuming further increases in regular budget support are approved, OHCHR is on course to achieve this objective by the end of the period of the High Commissioner's Plan of Action – that is by the end of 2010.



Junior Professional Officers

In 2006, OHCHR had 29 associate experts who were supported by the following Governments: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland; and by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF). Of the total number of associate experts, three were non-nationals supported by the Netherlands and the OIF. The table below indicates the distribution of associate experts by Government sponsor.

Sponsor	Number of associate experts	Number of non-nationals
Austria	1	
Denmark	3	
Finland	1	
Germany	4	
Italy	4	
Japan	1	
Netherlands	3	1
Norway	1	
OIF	2	2
Spain	3	
Sweden	1	
Switzerland	5	
Total	29	3

How to Help

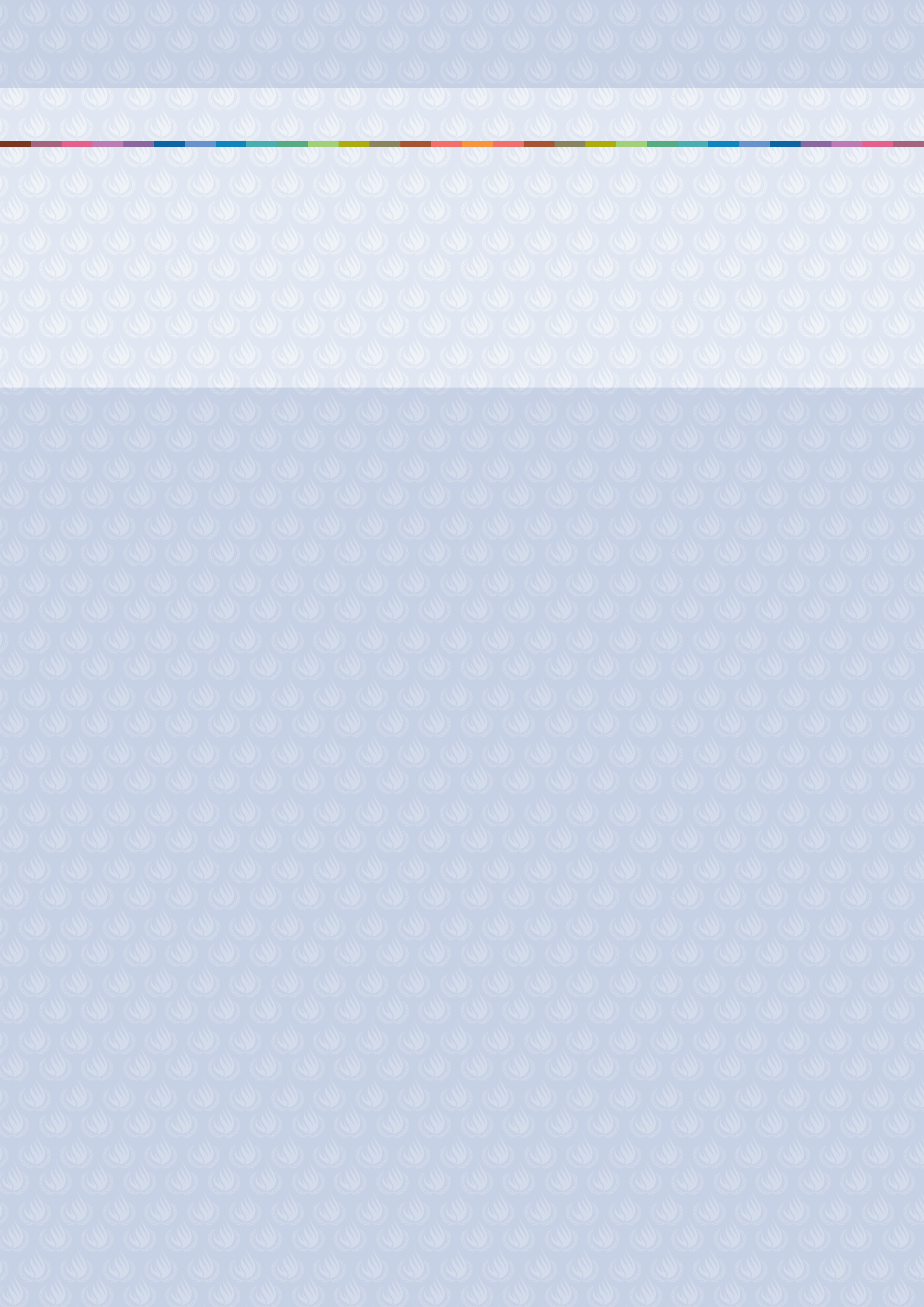
OHCHR accepts contributions from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, foundations, NGOs, voluntary associations, and individuals. If you or the institution you represent would like to make a contribution, please contact Charles Radcliffe, Chief of OHCHR's Resource Mobilization Unit in Geneva.

Tel: +41 22 917 94 38

Fax: +41 22 917 90 04

Email: cradcliffe@ohchr.org







**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR TO
31 DECEMBER 2006**

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

This statement indicates total funds available for activities in 2006, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during 2006 and total balance as at 31 December 2006.

	Extrabudgetary:	Regular Budget:	Total:
SUMMARY *			
Opening balance ¹	52,601,585	-	52,601,585
Adjustment ²	7,129,754	-	7,129,754
Income from contributions / Allotments ³	85,292,269	44,798,500	130,090,769
Other funds available ⁴	3,257,432	-	3,257,432
Total funds available ⁵	148,281,040	44,798,500	193,079,540
Expenditure ⁶	78,804,498	34,493,916	113,298,414
Closing balance ⁷	69,476,542	10,304,584	79,781,126

Notes:

- 1) The extrabudgetary amount corresponds to the closing balance reported for the activity in the Annual Report 2005. There is no opening balance for Regular Budget since the allocations are made to OHCHR based on the approved budget with no use of previous carry-over.
- 2) Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure, savings, transfers and refunds and other miscellaneous income.
- 3) For extrabudgetary, includes all contributions received at UNOG for 2006. For Regular Budget, corresponds to the amount allotted to OHCHR for 2006.
- 4) Includes interest income.
- 5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4).
- 6) Includes disbursements and unliquidated obligations as at 31 December 2006.
- 7) The extrabudgetary amount corresponds to all funds held by UNOG as at 31 December 2006 including operating cash reserves of US\$ 10.5 million and reserves for allocations of US\$ 2.1 million which were not available for activities in 2006.

* All figures are subject to audit.

STATEMENT OF EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2006

ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY TRUST FUND

This statement indicates total funds available for activities in 2006, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during 2006 and total balance as at 31 December 2006.

	VF for victims of torture	TF for contemporary forms of slavery	VF for indigenous populations	VF for the international decade of the world's ind. people	TF for action to combat racism and racial discrimination	VF for advisory services and technical assistance in human rights (VFTC)	TF for human rights education in Cambodia	TF for support activities of OHCHR	Total OHCHR trust funds
SUMMARY *									
Opening balance ¹	6,425,817	999,982	908,565	293,187	543,358	8,542,379	1,797,316	33,090,981	52,601,585
Adjustment ²	861,606	11,525	115,631	(293,187)	143,146	2,113,735	244,703	3,932,595	7,129,754
Income from contributions ³	10,263,295	250,286	459,303	0	0	4,810,359	461,996	69,047,030	85,292,269
Other funds available ⁴	485,141	31,843	49,203	0	33,523	576,386	97,114	1,984,222	3,257,432
Total funds available ⁵	18,035,859	1,293,636	1,532,702	0	720,027	16,042,859	2,601,129	108,054,828	148,281,040
Expenditure ⁶	6,916,338	690,471	442,337	0	0	5,580,820	434,789	64,739,743	78,804,498
Closing balance ⁷	11,119,521	603,165	1,090,365	0	720,027	10,462,039	2,166,340	43,315,085	69,476,542

Notes:

- 1) Corresponds to the closing balance reported for the activity in the Annual Report 2005.
- 2) Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure, savings, transfers and refunds and other miscellaneous income.
- 3) Includes all contributions received in UNOG accounts during 2006
- 4) Includes interest income.
- 5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4).
- 6) Includes disbursements and unliquidated obligations as at 31 December 2006.
- 7) Corresponds to all funds held by UNOG as at 31 December 2006 including operating cash reserves of US\$ 10.5 million and reserves for allocations of US\$ 2.1 million which were not available for activities in 2006.

* All figures are subject to audit.

OHCHR REGULAR BUDGET EXPENDITURE IN 2006 BY PROGRAMME

This table shows expenditure under the Regular Budget only as per the major headings of the SMP.

	Allotment (RB)*	Expenditures
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT		
Total Staffing Table	4,570,900	4,052,630
Total Non-post	601,400	369,682
TOTAL	5,172,300	4,422,312
SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND ORGANS *		
Total Staffing Table	5,810,100	5,299,752
Total Non-post	3,616,000	2,938,166
TOTAL	9,426,100	8,237,918
SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FACT-FINDINGS PROCEDURES		
Total Staffing Table	3,096,600	2,332,789
Total Non-post	1,507,100	1,311,500
TOTAL	4,603,700	3,644,289
RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS		
Total Staffing Table	5,447,500	4,623,728
Total Non-post	1,231,700	733,906
TOTAL	6,679,200	5,357,634
ADVISORY SERVICES, TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND FIELD ACTIVITIES (HEADQUARTERS) **		
Total Staffing Table	6,961,000	4,323,084
Total Non-post	3,868,500	1,960,985
TOTAL	10,829,500	6,284,069
ADVISORY SERVICES, TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND FIELD ACTIVITIES (FIELD) ***		
Total Staffing Table	1,461,500	972,647
Total Non-post	780,700	720,564
TOTAL	2,242,200	1,693,211
SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMMES		
Total Staffing Table	2,998,300	2,716,895
Total Non-post	2,847,200	2,137,588
TOTAL	5,845,500	4,854,483
GRAND TOTAL	44,798,500	34,493,916

* Includes Policy making organs except the Special Committee Israeli Practices.

** Includes Commissions of Inquiry of Timor-Leste and Darfur.

*** Includes Cambodia, Cameroon and Regular Budget technical cooperation.



EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2006

OVERALL SUMMARY

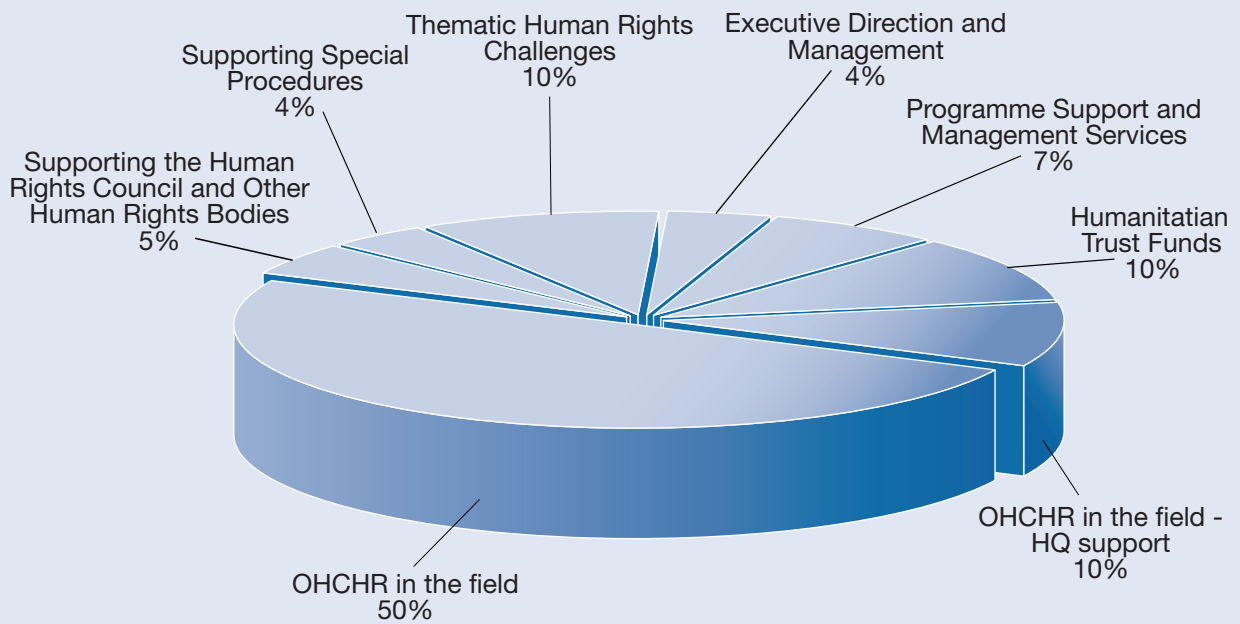
OHCHR's Programmes	Projected 2006-2007 expenditure in US\$	Income 2006 in US\$	Expenditure 2006 in US\$*	Projected 2007 expenditure in US\$
OHCHR IN THE FIELD				
Headquarters Support				
National Institutions	3,243,474	1,492,664	1,992,084	1,251,390
Peace Missions Support	1,150,179	0	165,366	984,813
Rapid Response	1,203,685	248,515	288,157	915,528
Africa	2,734,013	0	1,404,007	1,330,006
Asia and the Pacific	2,628,324	97,000	1,147,298	1,481,026
Middle East and North Africa	2,002,151	25,507	1,202,159	799,992
Europe, North America and Central Asia	1,774,639	178,700	679,889	1,094,750
Latin America and the Caribbean	1,138,508	0	473,215	665,293
Coordination and Management	1,124,049	4,534,810	541,949	582,100
Sub-total Headquarters Support	16,999,022	6,577,196	7,894,124	9,104,898
Field Presences				
AFRICA				
Angola – Country Office	3,935,220	1,565,401	1,473,552	2,461,668
Togo – Country Office	1,098,503	251,000	244,003	854,500
Uganda – Country Office	6,401,570	2,024,167	3,186,154	3,215,416
East Africa Regional Office – Addis Ababa	1,311,272	164,975	396,981	914,291
West Africa Regional Office – Dakar	318,606	0	0	318,606
Central Africa Centre – Yaoundé	486,636	108,700	261,217	225,419
Southern Africa Regional Office – Pretoria	1,287,904	328,322	589,229	698,675
Burundi – Peace Mission Support	3,145,493	1,103,799	1,694,652	1,450,841
Côte d'Ivoire – Peace Mission Support	288,109	0	104,073	184,036
Democratic Republic of the Congo – Peace Mission Support	3,379,909	1,990,038	2,058,118	1,321,791
Eritrea / Ethiopia – Peace Mission Support	175,465	0	77,996	97,469
Liberia – Peace Mission Support	134,794	0	67,966	66,828
Sierra Leone – Peace Mission Support	700,990	203,702	397,196	303,794
Somalia – Peace Mission Support	77,211	0	0	77,211
Sudan – Peace Mission Support	897,123	3,118,331	455,623	441,500
Great Lakes	88,367	118,622	0	88,367
Zimbabwe – Human Rights Adviser	275,468	60,599	0	275,468
Sub-total Africa	24,002,640	11,037,656	11,006,760	12,995,880
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC				
Cambodia – Country Office	854,418	473,743	434,789	419,629
Nepal – Country Office	19,540,879	10,540,665	9,231,959	10,308,920
South East Asia Regional Office – Bangkok	996,388	358,881	528,022	468,366
Pacific Regional Office – Suva	1,091,091	457,145	373,985	717,106
Afghanistan – Peace Mission Support	760,320	271,620	139,638	620,682
Timor-Leste – Peace Mission Support	658,331	0	0	658,331
Indonesia – Human Rights Adviser	93,894	0	0	93,894
Pakistan – Human Rights Adviser	324,184	86,600	180,761	143,423
Sri Lanka – Human Rights Adviser	617,641	644,793	182,202	435,439
Timor-Leste – Commission of Inquiry	206,191	0	206,191	0
Sub-total Asia and the Pacific	25,143,337	12,833,447	11,277,547	13,865,790
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				
OPT – Country Office	2,204,266	513,497	1,152,779	1,051,487
Arab Region and South West Asia Regional Office – Doha	0	43,200	0	0
Middle East and Gulf Regional Office – Beirut	1,361,692	602,913	634,209	727,483
North Africa Regional Office – Cairo	0	254,453	0	0
Iraq – Peace Mission Support	130,747	63,613	12,653	118,094
Lebanon – Commission of Inquiry	340,546	588,235	340,546	0
Sub-total Middle East and North Africa	4,037,251	2,065,911	2,140,187	1,897,064

OHCHR's Programmes	Projected 2006-2007 expenditure in US\$	Income 2006 in US\$	Expenditure 2006 in US\$*	Projected 2007 expenditure in US\$
EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA				
Bosnia and Herzegovina – Country Office	655,404	672,165	438,025	217,379
Serbia – Country Office	532,400	608,165	373,700	158,700
Kosovo – Sub-Office	813,488	203,377	219,185	594,303
Georgia/Abkhazia – Peace Mission Support	673,105	22,475	235,014	438,091
Central Asia – Human Rights Adviser	1,289,188	514,831	584,330	704,858
Russia – Human Rights Adviser	604,806	43,505	173,428	431,378
Sub-total Europe, North America and Central Asia	4,568,391	2,064,519	2,023,682	2,544,709
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
Bolivia – Country Office	525,992	186,558	0	525,992
Colombia – Country Office	13,226,867	8,436,444	6,838,092	6,388,775
Guatemala – Country Office	6,527,637	2,399,736	2,910,745	3,616,892
Mexico – Country Office	3,648,907	1,341,458	1,992,209	1,656,698
Latin America Regional Office – Santiago	1,552,686	923,078	807,083	745,603
Haiti – Peace Mission Support	404,909	0	127,960	276,949
Ecuador – Human Rights Adviser	180,498	160,599	0	180,498
Guyana – Human Rights Adviser	119,192	0	0	119,192
Sub-total Latin America and the Caribbean	26,186,688	13,447,873	12,676,089	13,510,599
Sub-total Field Presences	83,938,307	41,449,405	39,124,265	44,814,042
Supporting the Human Rights Council and Other Human Rights Bodies				
Treaties and Council Branch	8,999,661	4,412,460	3,992,529	5,007,132
Sub-total	8,999,661	4,412,460	3,992,529	5,007,132
Supporting Special Procedures				
Special Procedures	7,705,966	4,103,480	3,260,667	4,445,299
Sub-total	7,705,966	4,103,480	3,260,667	4,445,299
Thematic Human Rights Challenges				
Equality, Anti-discrimination	3,929,052	853,529	1,718,843	2,210,209
Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues	2,766,851	527,892	1,559,140	1,207,711
Rule of Law and Democracy	2,922,056	1,006,641	1,535,039	1,387,017
Methodology, Education and Training	5,304,639	0	2,516,073	2,788,566
Coordination and Management	684,287	5,253,553	306,817	377,470
Sub-total	15,606,885	7,641,615	7,635,912	7,970,973
Executive Direction and Management				
Executive Direction and Management	6,882,897	1,748,862	3,224,833	3,658,064
Sub-total	6,882,897	1,748,862	3,224,833	3,658,064
Programme Support and Management Services				
Programme Support and Management Services	12,756,011	2,318,696	5,623,022	7,132,989
Sub-total	12,756,011	2,318,696	5,623,022	7,132,989
Humanitarian Funds				
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	14,363,603	10,374,453	6,916,338	7,447,265
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	1,089,940	465,637	442,337	647,603
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,101,791	256,233	690,471	411,320
Sub-total	16,555,334	11,096,323	8,049,146	8,506,188
Other funds available**		10,263,542		
GRAND TOTAL	169,444,083	89,611,581	78,804,498	90,639,585

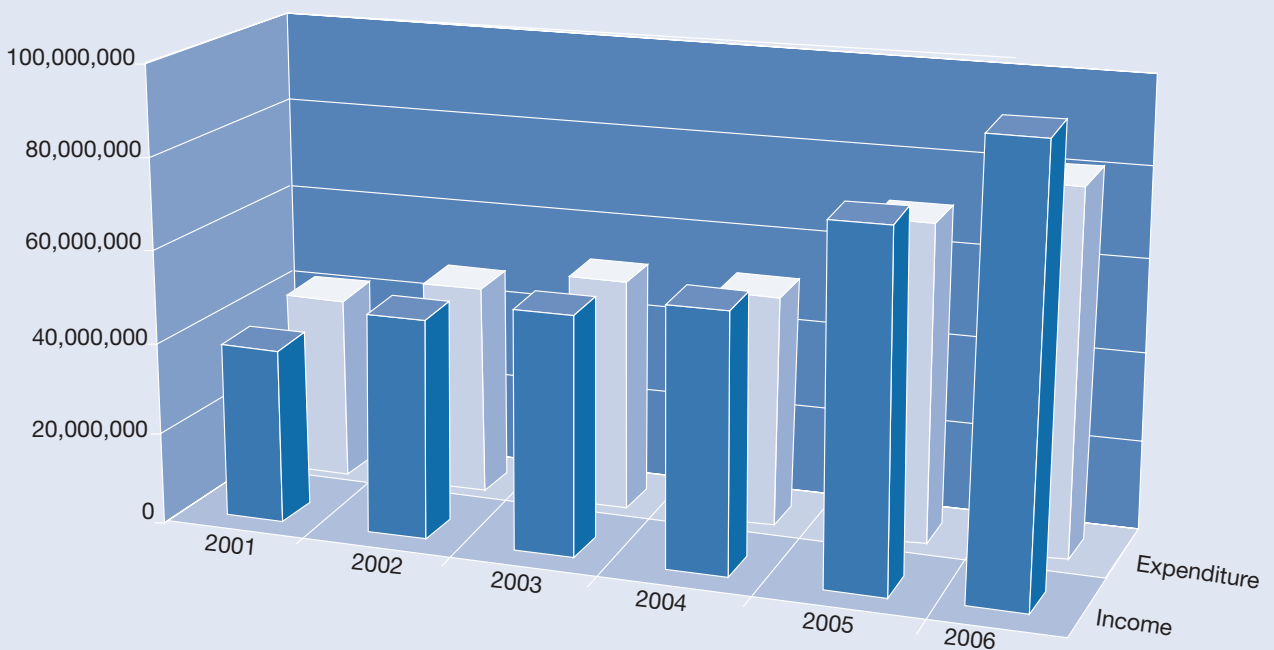
* Balances brought forward from previous periods account for instances where annual 2006 expenditure exceeds income at the project level.

** Includes interest income, gain on exchange, undistributed funds and miscellaneous income as of 31 December 2006.

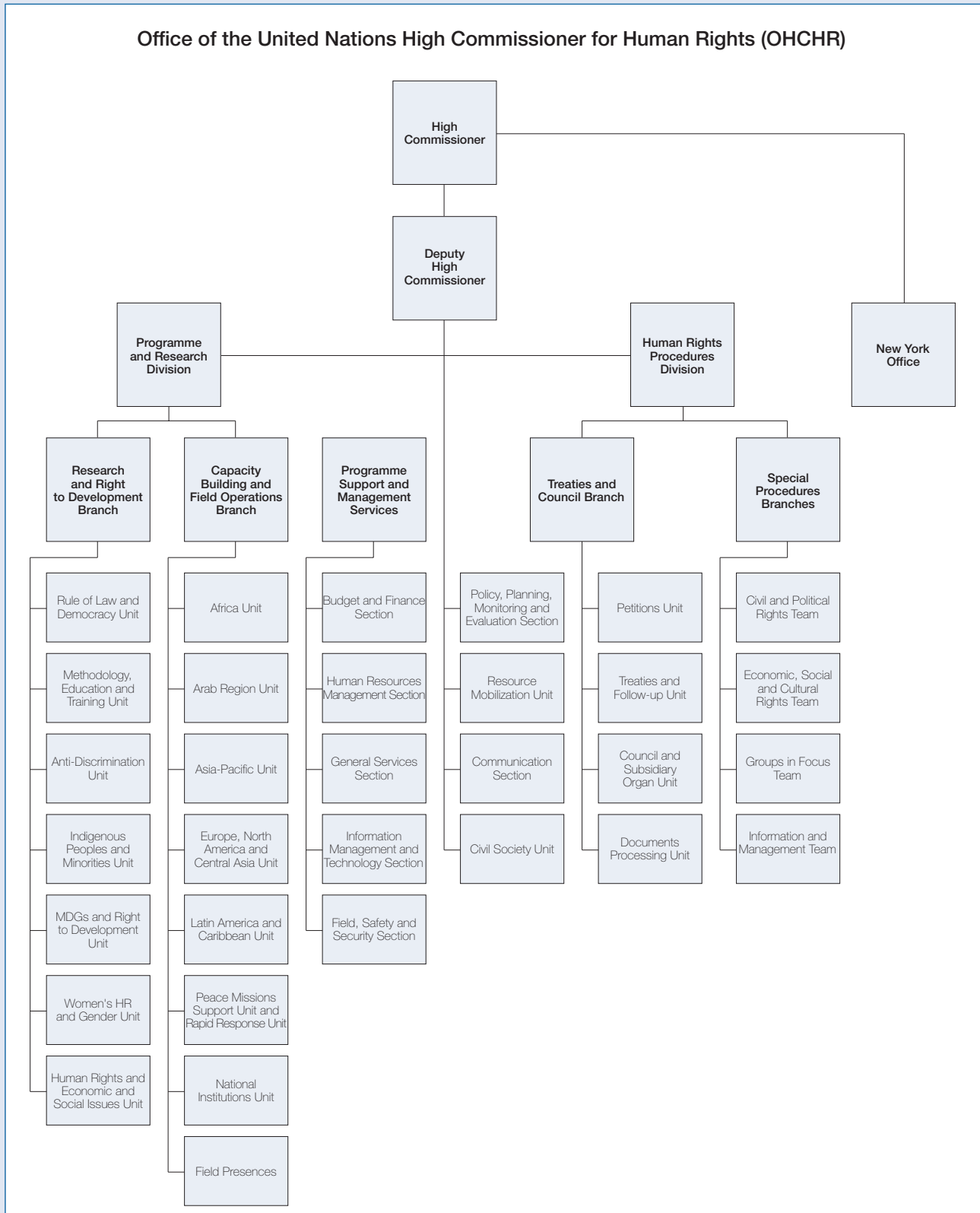
Extrabudgetary expenditure by main activity in 2006



Extrabudgetary income versus expenditure 2001-2006



Organization Chart



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Assisting Communities Together project
BONUCA	United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic
CAT	Committee against Torture
CCA	United Nations Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CMW	Committee on the Convention of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
DPKO	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPA	United Nations Department for Political Affairs
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
GA	General Assembly
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
HRC	Human Rights Committee
IDP	Internally displaced persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
MONUC	United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NYO	New York Office
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
ONUB	United Nations Operation in Burundi
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PPMES	Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SMP	High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan

SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRO	United Nations Integrated Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNIOSIL	United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone
UNOMIG	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in the Sudan
UNMIT	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNOGBIS	United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau
UNOWA	United Nations Office for West Africa
UNTOP	United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace Building
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UPR	Universal periodic review
WHO	World Health Organization

Credits

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