



**Human Rights
Mainstreaming
Fund**



**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER**



UNDP OHCHR PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS + SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Promoting and protecting human rights is essential for ensuring sustainable development outcomes. At the same time, progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also advances human rights.

To harness synergies across these agendas and improve the effectiveness of the international communities' efforts, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in close cooperation with the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO), launched a partnership in 2021 to support UN system-wide strategic engagement with human rights mechanisms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In line with the [UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights](#), the partnership seeks to support Member States put rights at the core of sustainable development by strengthening coherence between human rights and sustainable development systems and approaches at the country level and capturing the needed know-how to advance human rights and sustainable development around the world.

HOW

The UNDP OHCHR partnership brings together diverse stakeholders working on human rights and sustainable development to build connections across these agendas within governments, communities, the UN system, and beyond. These connections spark new ways of thinking and working to comprehensively address immediate human rights and development challenges and create the systemic changes needed to sustain progress over time.

This approach is currently being piloted at the country, regional, and global levels with support from the UN Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund through the joint UNDP-OHCHR project entitled, "Enhanced Resident Coordinator (RC) and UN Country Team (UNCT) strategic engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other human rights mechanisms (global and regional) and with national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRFs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to achieve the SDGs."

The project is implemented jointly by UNDP and OHCHR in close collaboration with DCO as well as the broader UNCT and through relevant interagency Call to Action workstreams that have prioritized some of the project's activities in their work plans. This helps to promote knowledge sharing across the UN system and ensure complementarities of efforts. The project began in January 2021 and will be completed by the end of April 2022.

"We need rights-based solutions, and inclusive, sustainable development, rooted in rights and opportunities for all."

*-Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, Human Rights Council,
28 February 2022*



"Bringing UNDP and OHCHR expertise in this project was very valuable as both agencies already had some existing partnership, either with the SDG Council or the human rights entities. This short-term project allowed us to bring them together, which was a defined objective, based on a prior observation that there was no interaction among these stakeholders and limited exposure to human rights obligations and reporting within the SDG Council as well as to the SDGs within the human rights community."

- Alma Mirvic, Project Coordinator, UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

The partnership has already yielded impactful results and generated strong demand for more and longer-term support on human rights and SDG integration.

With implementation ongoing until April 2022, pilot efforts through the joint project have served as a proof of concept that strengthening coherence between human rights and SDG systems helps to boost efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to advance human rights and sustainable development.

The project has also demonstrated the significant potential of human rights mechanisms to be problem-solving tools for development challenges and how they offer important data to measure progress on the SDGs. Identifying and promoting good practices is key to improving implementation of human rights recommendations, in particular UPR accepted recommendations, highlighting positive human rights actions and engendering related collaboration.

RESULTS

✓ STRENGTHENED INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS AND APPROACHES IN 6 COUNTRIES

Thus far, six countries have benefitted from joint UNDP OHCHR assistance on human rights and sustainable development integration in close coordination with the broader UNCT: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, and Uruguay. Based on the needs and priorities in each country context, joint programming was developed across three focus areas: 1) Human rights and SDG systems coherence and integration; 2) Rights-based data platforms for the SDGs; 3) Targetted efforts on specific human rights and SDG issues.

| | | FOCUS AREAS | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | SYSTEM COHERENCE | DATA PLATFORMS | TARGETTED EFFORTS |
| SELECTED COUNTRIES | BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | BOTSWANA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | PAKISTAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | SIERRA LEONE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | TUNISIA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | URUGUAY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

OBJECTIVES OF FOCUS AREAS:

1 System coherence

To harmonize national architectures for human rights and the SDGs including to inform planning and reporting processes such as through the UPR, Voluntary National Review (VNR), NMRF, SDG Unit, etc.

2 Data platforms

To establish and strengthen data platforms that pool together information from various human rights mechanisms, SDG processes, and other relevant sources and to increase data availability to support rights-based implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3 Targetted efforts

To catalyze progress across both agendas by addressing key human rights concerns related to SDGs that are lagging behind.

"In line with the project's rights-based approach, a broad range of rights-holder and civil society stakeholders are being engaged and empowered through project interventions for increased voice and visibility in human rights and SDG mechanisms. Crucially, UNDP will also utilize its role as convenor for the UNCT Human Rights Taskforce to leverage and build complementarities with the rights-based and SDG work of other UN Agencies."

- Salman Asif, Senior Human Rights & Social Protection Expert, UNDP Pakistan

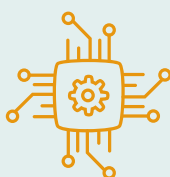
COUNTRY LEVEL RESULTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDG INTEGRATION INCLUDE:



In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the SDG Council, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the national human rights institution (NHRI), and civil society organizations have initiated an important partnership to improve reporting on the 2030 Agenda and human rights and to link human rights obligations with SDGs implementation.



In Botswana, civil society is developing a database for improved coordination and planning of SDG and human rights indicators in collaboration with the government-led national recommendations tracking database.



In Pakistan, the government has strengthened harmonization of data collection and reporting on human rights and the SDGs by linking the various systems together through a digital platform called the Human Rights Information Management System, which is now operable across all provinces and at the federal level.



In Sierra Leone, national partners developed an integrated implementation and monitoring strategy to track progress on human rights recommendations, the SDGs, and the Government of Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan.



In Tunisia, civil society organizations in the Medenine region are developing the first spotlight report on SDG 16 utilizing a human rights-based approach to data and analysis.



In Uruguay, a citizen's perceptions tracker to monitor public opinion about justice and human rights was created and is being utilized to inform efforts to promote alternatives to detention.

RESULTS

✓ ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT OF NHRIS IN SDG MONITORING, REPORTING, AND IMPLEMENTATION IN 10 COUNTRIES

Taking into account the different entry points for NHRIs to engage in VNR processes, two countries have benefitted from joint UNDP and OHCHR assistance in close coordination with the broader UNCT: Jordan and Rwanda. OHCHR has also extended support to UNCTs to strengthen collaboration with NHRIs and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) on compiling human rights indicators and data, including in the SDGs, in nine countries: Albania, Colombia, Egypt, Jordan, Moldova, Mongolia, Peru, Philippines, and Uganda.



COUNTRY LEVEL RESULTS ON NHRI ENGAGEMENT INCLUDE:



In Albania, Jordan, Moldova, Mongolia, and the Philippines, memoranda of understanding between NHRIs and NSOs have been agreed with the aim of catalyzing the production of human rights indicators, including in the SDGs, and their different uses.



In Jordan, in advance of the 2022 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the NHRI and key government partners are developing a roadmap for accelerating 2030 Agenda implementation and building innovative and data-driven solutions for monitoring and reporting on the SDGs with a human rights perspective.



In Rwanda, the NHRI and key government partners are conducting a comprehensive review of the 2019 VNR and 2020 UPR recommendations to inform the midterm review of the national development plan, the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and other national planning efforts.







RESULTS



INCREASED THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Beyond providing country support, the UNDP OHCHR partnership is also focused on building expertise, codifying knowledge, and sharing resources on human rights and sustainable development integration.

The project aims to support thought leadership in human rights and development policy by taking forward the following initiatives:

-  Building a repository of good practices on how the UPR supports sustainable development and launching a flagship publication, [UN Good Practices: How The Universal Periodic Review Process Supports Sustainable Development](#).
-  Creating guidance for Member States to undertake VNR processes from a Human Rights perspective.
-  Developing guidance for UNCTs to support NHRIs facing acts of intimidation or reprisals for their mandated work to protect and promote human rights.
-  A mapping of good practices of NHRIs and NSOs in operationalizing human rights indicators and human rights-based approach to data, with a repository of capacity building materials and data collection tools, to be completed in April 2022.



SCALING UP

Building on the results achieved and demand generated through the project in 2021-2022, UNDP and OHCHR seek to further strengthen coherence between human rights and SDG systems and approaches and the catalytic impact of human rights mechanisms in efforts towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a multi-year work plan.

Recognizing that integrated human rights and SDG efforts are essential for ensuring rights-based and risk-informed development approaches to leave no one behind in the long-term, the partnership aims to provide sustained support to countries in order to foster systems level change. A priority focus will also be maintained on sharing experience, knowledge, and resources within the UN and the international community.



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