

CENTRE FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2017

Strategies, planned activities
and financial requirements of the CCPR Centre



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ACRONYMS

CAT	UN Committee against Torture
HR Ctte	UN Human Rights Committee
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
LOI	List of Issues (for State reporting purposes)
LOIPR	List of Issues Prior to Reporting
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OP	Optional Protocol
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

WHO WE ARE

The CCPR Centre was established in 2008 with the objective to support NGO engagement with the UN Human Rights Committee, the body that monitors and promotes the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The ICCPR is the main international treaty which guarantees fundamental rights such as inter alia freedom of expression and association, prohibition of torture, slavery and arbitrary detention, electoral rights, rights of minorities, equal rights of women and men, etc.

The first Optional Protocol (OP1) to the ICCPR enables individuals in State parties to present complaints to the Human Rights Committee on alleged violations of ICCPR provisions.

The second Optional Protocol (OP2) upholds the abolition of the death penalty in State parties.

We are a small team of dedicated professionals based in Geneva and in different regions of the world.



Follow us at:

www.cprcentre.org



Centre for Civil and Political Rights



CCPR_Centre



CCPR Centre

OUR VISION & MISSION

The CCPR Centre envisions the full and universal realisation of the rights proclaimed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its two Optional Protocols.

The CCPR Centre aims to fulfil that vision by facilitating the application of the ICCPR and promoting the implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations, mainly through engaging with national NGOs and strengthening the Committee itself.

We believe that making the most of the reporting, review and follow-up cycle of the Human Rights Committee is one of the best ways to achieve our vision.

WHAT WE DO

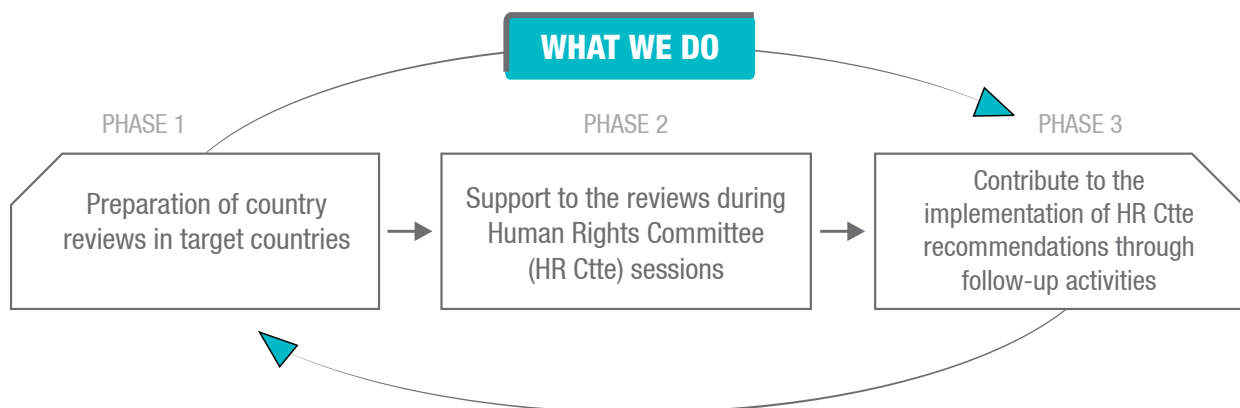
We undertake workshops, advocacy activities and consultations with NGOs and other relevant national stakeholders such as inter alia national authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, judicial institutions and bar associations.

These activities are organised both in Geneva and in target countries. In those State parties that have ratified the ICCPR, they take place at all stages of the treaty implementation cycle:

Phase 1: Preparation of country reviews in target countries, notably through direct support to NGO contributions to the review. This includes preparation of civil society contributions both before the adoption of a LOI or LOIPR (to provide suggestions on their content) and after its adoption (to provide information in response to the issues raised). Phase 1 activities normally take place within a year prior to the review of a State party.

Phase 2: Support to the reviews during Human Rights Committee (HR Ctte) sessions, notably by facilitating the participation of civil society representatives. This includes the organisation of both formal and informal briefings by CCPR Centre between NGO representatives and HR Ctte members.

Phase 3: Contribute to the implementation of HR Ctte recommendations through follow-up activities, including country visits with HR Ctte members. This includes supporting NGOs to produce assessment notes and evaluations on the level of implementation of HR Ctte recommendations, as well as meeting with high level authorities to encourage them to take steps on implementation. Phase 3 activities normally take place within a year after the review.

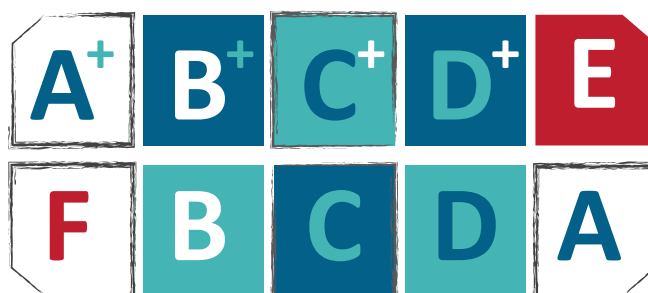


In addition to the activities in the 3 above mentioned phases, we also undertake research on related topics, litigation, review of jurisprudence, and follow-up of individual cases. In this regard, the CCPR Centre maintains **the largest online database of summary records of HR Ctte views on individual communications (available at www.cprcentre.org/complaints)**.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR

Since it became operational in 2009, the CCPR Centre has supported dozens of civil society organisations and human rights defenders from all around the world to engage with the Human Rights Committee. We have also dedicated much of our efforts to helping HR Ctte recommendations be realised back in all the countries under review, to improve the implementation of the ICCPR. To do so, we undertook various follow-up activities, with the participation of HR Ctte members, to encourage national authorities to take action on the recommendations. **We prompted the HR Ctte to adopt an innovative and effective system to assess the level of implementation of their recommendations.** Finally, we have contributed to disseminating relevant information from the HR Ctte to a large audience, including its decisions on individual complaints under OP1.

The Human Rights Committee has become one of the UN treaty bodies with the most consolidated method of follow-up at the national level. This is evidenced by the significant levels of media coverage reviews prompted in some countries, and the steps which authorities take on the basis of HR Ctte recommendations. These steps have included for instance lesser restrictions on abortion in Bolivia, recognition of the traveller community in Ireland, free and systematic registration of child birth in Angola, and a ban on police arresting people for same sex relationship in Malawi. These examples are exactly the sort of impact we want to see, and we'll continue to strive towards this, in close cooperation with our civil society counterparts and other relevant actors.



WHAT WE LEARN

As an institution **we are committed to learning and drawing on lessons learnt.** In 2014, we voluntarily commissioned the first institutional evaluation of the Centre covering the initial years of operation. The objective was to get an external expert perspective on our institutional achievements and to base our future development around the perspectives of CCPR Centre actors, partners, beneficiaries and other relevant stakeholders.

The suggestions, recommendations, good practices and lessons learnt identified in the evaluation report will help us to adapt the implementation of our 3 year strategy accordingly.

WHERE WE WORK

The CCPR Centre aims to support the participation of civil society in all countries to be reviewed by the HR Ctte.

We primarily focus our attention on the following categories of countries:

a) In countries that have ratified the ICCPR

- Countries with substantial concerns with regards to civil and political rights
- Countries with low participation of civil society in the review process
- Non-reporting countries i.e. countries which are particularly late in their periodic reporting to the HR Ctte or which fail to present their report

b) In countries that have not ratified the ICCPR

- Countries where the prospect and need for ratification are respectively positive or important

It must be noted that our limited resources do not allow us to support the 3 phases of the implementation cycle in all countries reviewed by the HR Ctte. We thus have to make decisions and identify priorities. Availability of funding is another obvious criteria (e.g. although we'd like to work more in regions where we see tangible needs such as Europe or North America, it is particularly challenging to receive funding to do so).

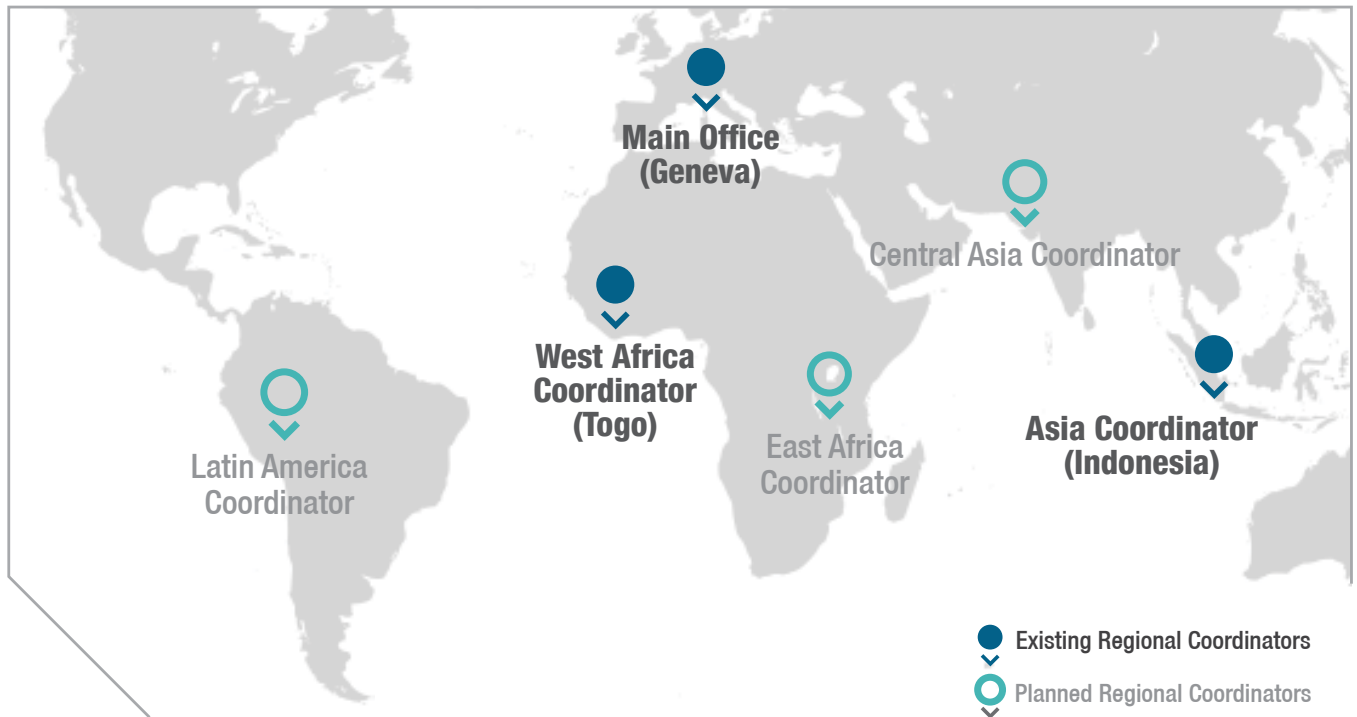
Over the period 2012-2014, we have supported the implementation of the ICCPR in the following countries (non-exhaustive list):

AFRICA	ASIA-PACIFIC	EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA	LATIN AMERICA	MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
Angola	Cambodia	Armenia	Bolivia	Jordan
Burundi	Indonesia	Uzbekistan	Dominican Republic	Mauritania
Cape Verde	Nepal		Guatemala	
Chad	Philippines		Haiti	
Democratic Republic of Congo			Jamaica	
Malawi			Paraguay	
Mozambique			Peru	
Rwanda				
Sierra Leone				
Tanzania				
Togo				

For an overview of the countries where we intend to work over the period 2015 -2017, see our yearly operational plans.

HOW WE WORK

The CCPR Centre is a young organisation which operates as a decentralised body with a small team of professionals and interns in Geneva, as well as regional coordinators in different regions of the world. This reflects our intention to foster the implementation of the ICCPR and its two OPs on the ground, and the key role which civil society plays to reach this objective. We make maximum use of online tools and social media to facilitate communication both internally, and externally to promote the role of civil society in HR Ctte reviews, and to disseminate HR Ctte recommendations.



We mostly work through partnerships with national civil society in our countries of engagement. We encourage national NGOs to work in coalition, ranging from 3 to 4 organisations to several dozens, in order to address the broad range of human rights issues covered by the ICCPR. Our national civil society partners are typically well known and recognised actors in civil and political rights in their own country.



OUR STRATEGIES AND WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

Our 2015-2017 strategies are organised through 3 complementary and interrelated pillars. These have been traditionally the core of CCPR Centre's mandate. However, some aspects of the strategy are novel (see examples mentioned under each strategy below). They were developed as part of a team planning process, which involved our staff in consultation with partners and Board members.



PILLAR 1.

Towards universal ratification of the ICCPR,
its optional protocols and effective reporting by states



PILLAR 2.

Towards enhanced implementation of the ICCPR through
civil society engagement and HR Ctte outreach



PILLAR 3.

Towards a suitable implementation of human
rights committee recommendations



TOWARDS UNIVERSAL RATIFICATION OF THE ICCPR, ITS TWO OPTIONAL PROTOCOLS AND EFFECTIVE REPORTING BY STATES.

PILLAR 1.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

1.1

Campaign for the ratification of **ICCPR** and its two Optional Protocols



A pilot campaign for ICCPR ratification will be initiated in at least 5 target countries.



The ongoing ratification campaign for OP2 will have **contributed to 3 new ratifications.**



Our target countries which are not party to OP1 will be encouraged to ratify. Decisive steps towards **ratification of OP1** will be taken in at least 3 target countries

1.2

Advocate for the timely submission of reports by States



At least 3 delayed States will have **submitted their report to the HR Ctte**

1.3

Advocate for the review of non-reporting States by the **HR Ctte**



At least 5 delayed countries will be **reviewed in absence of a report.**

Novel aspects of our work under this pillar:

We'll undertake advocacy work to convince more States to ratify the ICCPR, the First Optional Protocol on individual complaints, and the second Optional Protocol on the abolition of the death penalty. (since 2013, we are a member of the World Coalition against Death Penalty).



TOWARDS ENHANCED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCPR THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT AND HR CTTE OUTREACH

PILLAR 2.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

2.1

Strengthen civil society capacities on the ICCPR, its two OPs, and reporting to the HR Ctte



In 18 target countries (6 per year), an average of 20 civil society partners will have **enhanced capacities to contribute to the HR Ctte reporting process.**



Undertake strategic **litigation on 5 individual complaints to be submitted to the HR Ctte.**



In 6 annual target countries (36 in total), **2 NGO contributions will be submitted to the HR Ctte** (one prior to Lol, one subsequent)

2.2

Support and coordinate the participation of **NGOS** during **HR Ctte** sessions



36 NGO representatives (on average 12 per year, 4 per session) will have participated in HR Ctte reviews and engaged with Ctte members.



For all countries under review during each Ctte session, coordinate the **formal and informal NGO briefings** (15 per year, 45 in total).

2.3

Strengthen, the outreach of **HR Ctte** sessions, particularly towards civil society



In all States reviewed by the Committee (15 per year, 45 in total), sessions will be **live webcasted** and disseminated through **social media and e-newsletters.**



Provide 9 updates (3 per year) on the latest developments on **HR Ctte jurisprudence.**



Update the **case law database** of the HR Ctte on CCPR-Centre's website.

2.4

Contribute to an effective and transparent election process to the **HR Ctte**



Undertake a campaign for the election of candidates with **"recognised competence in the field of human rights."**



Advocate for an **"equitable geographical distribution of membership."**

Novel aspects of our work under this pillar:

We'll seek to improve outreach before, during and after HR Ctte sessions, through continued webcasting of HR Ctte sessions and other outreach activities. We will also dedicate substantial attention and efforts to making the most of the elections of HR Ctte members. We will also support the submission of a few targeted complaints to the Committee.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

3.1

Support the dissemination of recommendations at national level with HR Ctte members



In most States reviewed by the HR Ctte, recommendations will be **translated into national languages** and disseminated nationwide



In 18 target countries (6 per year) **follow up missions** will be organised with HR Ctte members and civil society initiatives will be supported



In 6 target countries (2 per year) an **action plan aimed at fulfilling the priority recommendations** will be adopted & implemented

3.2

Contribute to the implementation of recommendations and the assessment of their application



In 18 target countries (2 per year), an **assessment note on implementation of recommendations** will be submitted to the HR Ctte



Good practices in the implementation of HR Ctte recommendations will be identified through regional & international events involving relevant experts



Together with the victim and his/her counsel, an **assessment of the implementation of HR Ctte** views will be undertaken, 15 countries/year

3.3

Streamline the dissemination of HR Ctte recommendations within relevant human rights mechanisms



In 6 target countries (2 per year) reports from human rights defenders to the HR Ctte will be promoted within other human rights tools, particularly **Universal Periodic Review and Committee against Torture**.



In 6 target countries (2 per year), representatives from civil society will be able to **engage with other UN mechanisms** (UPR & CAT mainly) on HR Ctte recommendations

Novel aspects of our work under this pillar:

We'll dedicate even more attention and efforts to the implementation of HR Ctte recommendations, which are made up of both concluding observations on periodic reports and views on individual complaints. This will involve continued focus on developing and strengthening the follow-up and evaluation methodology implemented by the HR Ctte, as well as disseminating HR Ctte recommendations through other international human rights mechanisms such as UPR & CAT. We will also explore new avenues to convince States to implement HR Ctte views on individual complaints.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Our 2015 -2017 strategy is the backbone of our monitoring and evaluation routines. As a small and decentralised team, we take a simple and results-oriented approach to assessing how we deliver on our goals. Our yearly work plans will be based on the structure of our tri-annual strategy, and we will also publicly report annually on how we have delivered in the implementation of the strategy. If possible, we'll seek to undertake an external review upon completion of the 3 year period.



FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

	2015		2016*		2017*	
	CHF	USD	CHF	USD	CHF	USD
Pillar 1 towards universal ratification of the IC CPR and its two OPs, and effective reporting by states						
So 1.1 campaign for the ratification of ICCPR and its two optional protocols						
Human Resources	24,840	26,579	26,082	27,908	27,386	29,303
Travel and Per Diem	4,130	4,419	4,337	4,640	4,553	4,782
Consultations for the OP2 ratification process	1,000	1,070	1,050	1,124	1,103	1,180
SO 1.2 Advocate for the timely submission of reports by States SO 1.3 Advocate for the review of non-reporting States by HR Ctte						
Human Resources	25,076	26,831	26,330	28,173	27,646	29,582
Travel and Per Diem	5,190	5,553	5,450	5,831	5,722	6,123
Capacity strengthening	3,000	3,210	3,150	3,371	3,308	3,539
Equipment and offices for activities under pillar 1	11,160	11,941	11,718	12,538	12,304	13,165
Administrative Costs under pillar 1 (10%)	7,440	7,960	7,812	8,358	8,202	8,776
Total of activities related to pillar 1	81,836	87,564	85,927	91,942	90,224	96,539
Pillar 2 Towards a strengthened Human Rights Committee through civil society engagement and increased outreach						
SO 2.1 strengthening civil society capacities on the ICCPR, its two OPs, and reporting to the HR Ctte SO						
Human Resources	75,228	80,494	78,989	84,519	82,939	88,745
Travel and Per Diem	15,570	16,660	16,349	17,493	17,166	18,368
Capacity Strengthening	9,000	9,630	9,450	10,112	9,923	10,617
SO 2.2 Support and coordinate the participation of NGOs during HR Ctte sessions SO 2.3 strengthen, the outreach of HR Ctte sessions, particularly towards civil society						
Human Resources	90,612	96,955	95,143	101,803	99,900	106,893
Travel and Per Diem	30,960	33,127	32,508	34,784	34,133	36,523
SO 2.4 Contribute to an effective and transparent election process to the HR Ctte						
Human resources	10,350	11,075	10,868	11,628	11,411	12,210
Consultations for the election process	1,500	1,605	1,575	1,685	1,654	1,770
Equipment and offices for activities under pillar 2	11,160	11,941	11,718	12,538	12,304	13,165
Total activities related to pillar 2	268,818	287,635	282,259	302,017	296,372	317,118

Pillar 3: Towards a suitable implementation of Human Rights Committee Recommendations

SO 3.1 Support the dissemination of recommendations at national level with HR Ctte members

Human Resources	86,102	92,129	90,407	96,736	94,927	101,572
Consultations for follow-up & assessment	16,000	17,120	16,800	17,976	17,640	18,875
Travel and Per Diem	42,480	45,454	44,604	47,726	46,834	50,113

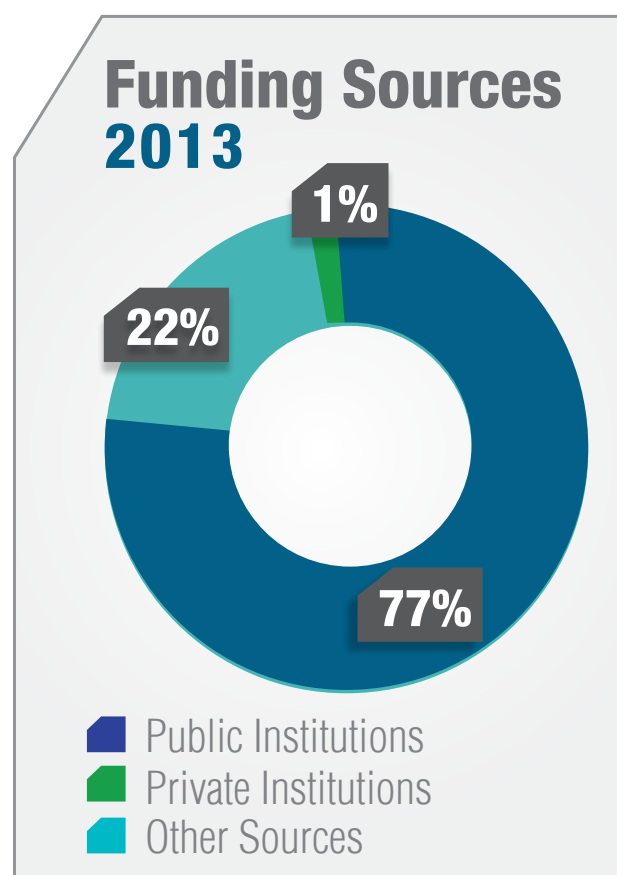
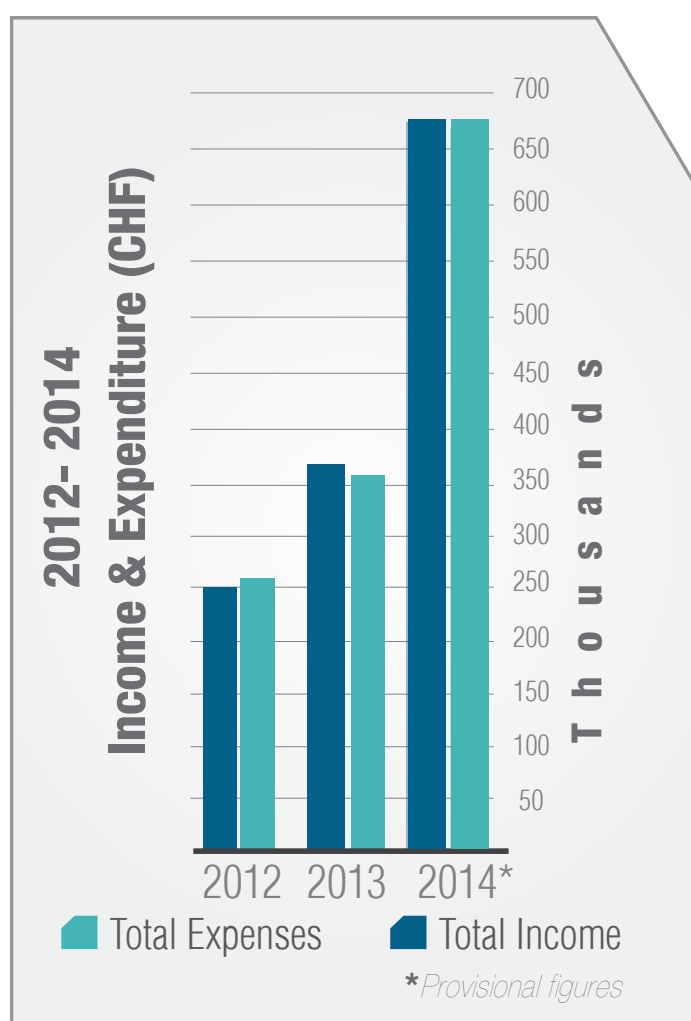
SO 3.2 Contribute to the implementation of recommendations and the assessment of their application

Human Resources	64,540	69,058	67,767	72,511	71,155	76,136
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SO 3.3 Streamline the dissemination of HR Ctte recommendations within relevant human rights mechanisms

Human Resources	19,872	21,263	20,866	22,326	21,909	23,443
Travel and Per Diem	15,480	16,564	16,254	17,392	17,067	18,261
Equipment and offices for activities under pillar 3	11,160	11,941	11,718	12,538	12,304	13,165
Administrative Costs under pillar 3 (10%)	25,563	27,353	26,811	28,720	28,183	30,156
Total activities related to pillar 3	281,197	300,881	295,257	315,925	310,020	331,721
Grand Total	631,851	676,080	663,443	709,884	696,615	745,378

* 2016 and 2017 are estimates based on the 2015 institutional budget



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