



2018
ANNUAL REPORT

**The Network of African National
Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)**

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ISBN: 978-9966-1765-4-7

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This report is published by: The Network of African National

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About the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is a not-for-profit-organisation that brings together 44 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Africa. The Secretariat of the Network is hosted by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Network supports the establishment and strengthening of the NHRIs across the continent in addition to facilitating coordination, cooperation amongst members and linking them to other key human rights actors at the regional and international level.

Vision

A continent with effective NHRIs; contributing to an enhanced human rights culture and justice for every African.

Mission

To support, through national, regional and international co-operation, the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs to more effectively undertake their mandate of human rights promotion, protection, monitoring and advocacy.

Values and Guiding Principles

To achieve its mission and vision, NANHRI is committed to the following: -

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Openness
- Cooperation
- Professionalism and
- Gender Equality

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights	NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
ACJR	Africa Criminal Justice Reform	OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
APCOF	African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum	OPSC	Office of the Public Service Commission
AUC	African Union Commission	OSJI	Open Society Justice Initiative
BHR	Business and Human Rights	PANSALB	Pan South African Language Board
BLASC	Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter		Reintegration of Offenders
CALS	Centre for Applied Legal Studies	RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	SAHRC	South Africa National Human Rights Commission
DIHR	Danish Institute for Human Rights	SAIRR	South African Institute for Race Relations
DJCS	Department of Justice and Correctional Services	SAITF	South African Informal Traders Forum
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	SALC	Southern Africa Litigation Center
GCM	Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	SALGA	South African Local Government Association
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders	SAPS	South Africa Police Services
IPID	Independent Police Investigative Directorate	SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
JICS	Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services	SOGIE	Sexual Orientation Gender identity Expression
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights	SWEAT	Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Force
LASA	Legal Advice South Africa	TB	Tuberculosis
LRSA	Law Reform South Africa	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
MHRC	Malawi Human Rights Commission		
NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions		

The Message of the Chairperson



On behalf the Steering Committee of the Network of the African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), it is my pleasure to present to you our 2018 Annual Report and the plans for the next year.

This being the penultimate year of the implementation of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, we supported our members at national level in diverse ways based on the Five Goals we set out for ourselves and obtained numerous outcomes and results as attested at the end of every Goal in this report.

We also worked with other partners at the regional and international levels in activities driving the global human rights agenda in addressing local challenges.

One of such partnership is the hosting of the 13th Triennial Conference of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in Marrakech, Morocco, from October 10-12, 2018. The theme of the conference was *“Expanding the civic space and promoting and protecting human rights defenders, with a specific focus on women: The role of national human rights institutions”*.

Among other issues, the Conference resolved in the Marrakech Declaration¹ to contribute to the establishment of national mechanisms for protection of human rights defenders (HRDs). The conference was held at a time when some governments in Africa are muzzling outspoken NHRIs - which are state owned but autonomous HRDs - through budget cuts, delayed appointment of commissioners, arbitrary and unprocedural dismissal of Commissioners from office, among others.

Indeed, the establishment of national protection mechanisms for HRDs is one of the components of the NHRI.EU Phase II project. One of the areas of focus is addressing SDGs Indicator 16.10.1 on the number of NHRI that contribute to gender-disaggregated reporting on killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture of human rights defenders, and any other form of

¹https://www.asiapacificforum.net/media/resource_file/Marrakech_Declaration_2018_FINAL.pdf

threats to HRDs.

Based on the Marrakech Declaration, and as we have done before, we shall strive to ensure as the first line of defence, NHRIs are properly functioning towards delivery of their mandate as per the national and international provisions.

On another note, Africa was privileged to host the United Nations Intergovernmental Conference in Morocco, in which the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted. We grabbed the opportunity and held a side event, in which we sold our Migration Case for Support² to partners. As we seek to help States in implementing the GCM, we also look forward to giving migration prominence in our 12th Biennial Conference as well as the 2020-2024 strategic plan.

Given the prominence of challenges resulting from migration, we shall seek more partnership with other stakeholders to offer a human rights-based approach to the implementation for the GCM.

In yet another step of collaboration for the benefit of our members, we are also look forward to the NANHRI, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Development Programme tripartite partnership project (TPP) aimed at enhancing the compliance of the NHRIs with the Paris Principles in 2019.

Since NANHRI relies on the Secretariat in the implementation of the TPP projects and others, we need to strengthen the Nairobi-based office's financial and human resource capacity. I, therefore, urge our members to take charge of NANHRI through remittance of subscription fees and clearance of outstanding balances as shown at the end of this report.

² <https://www.nanhri.org/download/nanhri-migration-case-for-support/>

As I conclude, I take this opportunity to appreciate the immediate former Chairperson of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco (NHRC) and member of the Steering Committee (North Africa Subregion) Mr Driss El Yazami for the contribution he made to the human rights landscape in his country and Africa.

At the NANHRI level, Mr Yazami's contribution to the policy and decision making processes helped us grow and respond better to the needs of our members as well as the rights holders.

In the same breath, I welcome the current Chairperson of the NHRC Ms Amina Bouayach and the Chairperson of *la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du République Démocratique du Congo* Mr Mwamba Mwamus Mushikonge to the Steering Committee. Mr Mushikonge took over from the Chairperson of *la Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme (CNIDH) de Burundi* Mr Jean Baptiste Baribonekesa to represent the Central African Region.

Ms Madeleine NIRERE,

NANHRI Chairperson

The message of the Executive Director



On December 10, 2018, the world celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It was a celebration of the revolution this landmark document has caused in shaping binding and non-binding legal instruments at national, regional and international frontiers, especially on promotion and protection of human rights.

The 30 articles of the UDHR define upholding of human rights at interpersonal, society, national, regional and international spaces based on the universality and inherence of the rights by virtue of one being human despite their state or stateless status.

One of such articles is Article 13, which requires State and non-State actors to ensure the rights of individuals and groups of people are protected within and beyond boundaries of their countries. Instead of upholding this fundamental aspiration, States have, over time, tightened laws, rules, policies and regulations to control irregular migration to protect their interest.

As a result, human rights violations have heightened along mass movement corridors and countries of destinations for those who survive the harsh terrain. The focus of the state, through law enforcement agents, has been on controlling the mass movements without long-term strategies of dealing with socio-economic-cultural drivers behind irregular migration within Africa, or into Europe, Middle East and other destinations.

Those who manage to elude security forces die in transit camps, sold as slaves¹, fall into human traffickers, while others perish in the harsh Sahara Desert² conditions, Mediterranean Sea³ or the Red Sea⁴.

1 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-11-20/secretary-general%E2%80%99s-statement-reported-news-slavery-libya>

2 <https://www.voanews.com/a/thousands-of-african-migrants-die-crossing-the-sahara-desert/4712720.html>

3 <https://www.iom.int/news/mediterranean-migrant-arrivals-reach-2200-2019-deaths-reach-16>

4 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031582>

This situation may have informed the United Nations to convene an intergovernmental conference on December 10-11, 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco, in which the Global Compact on Safe, orderly and Regular Migration⁵ (GCM) was adopted by the more than 160 States represented.

Although the GCM is not a binding commitment, NHRIs have a role to play in supporting States in reviewing laws, policies and other legal impediments for a sustainable human rights based approach to the migration crisis⁶ instead of detention monitoring only.

This explains why the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) organised a side event on the CGM conference on December 9, 2019 in Marrakech. The meeting, which was also attended by other partners, discussed going beyond the detention camp monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, with the aim of collecting data to inform migration policies at national and regional levels.

Besides the policies of tackling economic, socio-political and cultural challenges in countries of origin, the meeting discussed cross-border collaboration and sharing of best practices especially alternatives to detention, joint cross-border operations for repatriation and rehabilitation.

⁵ https://refugeemigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

⁶ <https://www.oxfam.org/en/emergencies/refugee-and-migrant-crisis>

In helping the NHRIs to support the states in tackling irregular migration, the General Assembly of NANHRI in October, 2018 established the Working Group on Migration.

The year 2019 will be full of activities like the collection of information from the NHRIs and other actors working on migration in the continent. The NHRIs are expected to support the Working Group especially in providing information from time to time.

It is from such information that the Working group will determine opportunities, challenges and gaps as well as best practices in form of guidelines for strengthening systematic sustainable approaches to irregular migration

At national level, the NHRIs are also required to work with the civil society organisations and other stakeholders for a unified and sustainable approach to tackling migration.

Mr Gilbert Sebihogo

NANHRI Executive Director

Introduction

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) has over the last 11 years focused on cultivating a human rights culture on the continent through strengthening African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in fulfilling their human rights promotion, protection and advocacy mandates as defined by the Paris Principles.

Besides capacity building of the staff of the NHRIs, NANHRI has also been actively involved in facilitating cooperation, collaboration between and among the members NHRIs as well as linking them to regional and international human rights actors. All these are done to support States fulfill their human rights obligations.

To provide a more focused approach to achieving the above, NANHRI has over the years been guided by strategic plans, against which success is measured, challenges and opportunities are identified for better approaches in subsequent programmatic interventions.

Currently, the programmes of NANHRI are guided by the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, which was a response to the needs of the members as identified by an environmental scan in 2014. The needs are captured in Five Goals, on which the Institution's Five Objectives are also anchored. It is against these goals that the activities carried out from January 1 to December 31, 2018 were based on. This report, therefore, gives a detailed account of the activities implemented, the aim and objective, the extent to which the goals were met, challenges and opportunities thereof.

The activities in this report, which was compiled by the Secretariat, were made possible with financial and technical support of members (membership contributions), and partners such as the Arcus Foundation & Wellsprings Advisors, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI), Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), GIZ, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the European Union through the Danish Institute of Human Rights, the African Union Commission (AUC), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), among others. An audited financial statement is annexed to this report.

Goal 1: Strengthening of NHRIs; established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles:

Strategic Objective 1: All African States have NHRIs, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles by 2019

Goal 2: Enhanced respect and adherence to Economic, Social, and Cultural (ECOSOC) rights:

Strategic Objective 2: At least 75% of African States have articulate and operational core minimum standards on realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights.

Goal 3: Reduction of systemic impunity in Africa, particularly violations on rule of law, and Civil Liberties:

Strategic Objective 3: Improved governance in all African countries, particularly rule of law and protection of civil liberties by 2019 (All African countries by at least 50%.

Goal 4: Enhanced adaptive capacity of NHRIs to respond to emerging and thematic human rights issues:

Strategic Objective 4: Enhanced adaptability of NHRIs in responding to emerging and thematic human rights issues by at least 50% of NHRIs by 2019.

Goal 5: Improved institutional visibility, efficiency and effectiveness of the NANHRI Secretariat:

Strategic Objective 5: Critical Institutional systems established, and institutional efficiency and effectiveness improved in core service areas by 2019.

Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du République Démocratique du Congo receives 'A' Status accreditation



NANHRI Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo takes CNDH-RDC Commissioners through the Paris Principles and the GANHRI accreditation system during the January 7-10 mission in Kinshasa, DRC. Photo: Secretariat.

Goal 1: Strengthening of NHRIs; established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles:

Strategic Objective 1:

All African States have NHRIs, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles by 2019

The *Commission Nationale des droits de l'homme du République démocratique du Congo* (CNDH-RDC) became the latest African NHRI to be recognised as fully compliant with the Paris Principles, following its successful accreditation to "A Status" in May 2018.

The successful accreditation followed the technical support on offered to the CNDHRDC on January 7 -10, 2018 by NANHRI.

The technical support entailed knowledge sharing on accreditation requirements and process, with the Commissioners and staff of the

CNDHRDC. NANHRI is also provided assistance in the compiling of relevant documents for submission to the GANHRI sub accreditation committee.

A consultative meeting was held on January 10, 2018, brought together participants drawn from the CNDHRDC, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and over 20 representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Through the meeting, different stakeholders developed a common understanding on the mandate of the Commission and role of the actors in promoting its effectiveness.

La Commission nationale des droits de l'homme du Mali receives support in preparation for accreditation

On April 16-18, 2018, NANHRI and la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme du Niger co-facilitated a workshop on accretion for *la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme du Mali (CNDH)* in Bamako.

The meeting was attended by 15 commissioners and representatives of the Consultative Framework on Human Rights and civil society organisations.

The workshop entailed discussions on the mandate and functions of the CNDH according to the Paris Principles as well as the engagement with international and regional and sub-regional human rights systems, and other national human rights stakeholders. Strategic importance of partnerships with the executive, legislative and judicial arms of government and the civil society, was also discussed.

The training also offered an opportunity for the NHRI of Niger to share its experience on how it monitors the human rights situation in migration camp of Agadez, which is a common issue of concern.

NANHRI also took advantage of the workshop to discuss with commissioners about the Commission's needs against the support it receives from various donors.

While discussing NHRIs' financial needs with regard to support from donors, CNDH expressed concerns over the limited of resources, which negatively impact on the realisation of their mandate considering that the country is facing many challenges including radicalisation and irregular migration.

The workshop was organised with the financial support of the OIF through the AFCNDH, NANHRI, the MINUSMA Human Rights Division and the national human rights institutions, regional mechanisms and civil society section of the OHCHR.

La Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme d Madagascar receives technical support on accreditation



CNIDH- Madagascar Commissioners and other officials in a group photo after a session on GANHRI accreditation system during the November 4-9, 2019 mission in Antananarivo. Photo: Secretariat.

The Network of African NHRIs offered technical assistance to *La Commission Nationale Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme de Madagascar (CNIDH-Madagascar)* on the role of NHRIs as outlined by the Paris principles and the GANHRI Accreditation process from November 4-9, 2018.

The mission was made up of two parts. The first being a sharing of information and documentation on the Paris Principles and the GANHRI Accreditation system with all commissioners and staff of the CNIDH of Madagascar, and the review of documents and gathering of

the information to be used in filling in the statement of compliance with the Paris Principles.

They were taken through the Principles that govern the establishment and functioning of a NHRI as well as the GANHRI Accreditation system and the Rules of Procedures of the GANHRI Sub Committee on Accreditation.

Members and staff of the CNIDH understood the accreditation system and appreciated the role NANHRI plays in supporting the African NHRIs during the process.

NANHRI participates in meeting with partners on implementation of human rights decisions, recommendation in Oslo

NANHRI took part in the informal meeting of development partners on implementation of human rights decisions and recommendations in Oslo, Norway, on April 20, 2018.

The meeting discussed how to fill the gaps of implementation of international obligations and recommendations at the national level. These were the issues the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway wanted the development partners that support international and regional human rights systems to discuss.

- a) What happens to those human rights decisions and recommendations once they have been issued by international and regional human rights bodies and received by States?
- b) How do states understand the process, and to what extent are States' implementation supported by international community?
- c) What is the effect and impact of such (in 'b' above) support?

The actors invited were NANHRI, OHCHR, UNDP, other experts from the UN agencies, development partners including the representatives of the Governments of Norway, Germany, Finland, Universal Rights Group, DIHR and GANHRI.

Each organisation was given eight minutes to make a presentation on its work and the implementation gaps and how they can be addressed from their own perspective.

NANHRI made a presentation on its support to the African NHRIs in the implementation of decisions and recommendations issued by regional human rights bodies.

After the discussion, all the participants and especially development partners understood the need of having strong NHRIs as they are key to fill the implementation gap.

Liberia Independent National Commission for Human Rights gets capacity assessment

With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Network of African NHRIs conducted a capacity assessment of the Independent Commission of Human Rights (INCHR) –Liberia from July 13-17, 2018.

The Capacity Assessment Team comprising J.M. Aliro Omara from the Human Rights Centre Uganda and Gilbert Sebihogo from NANHRI facilitated the self-assessment process in which the Commissioners and staff of the INCHR participated in.

The scope of the assessment was limited to the examination of the capacity of the INCHR to implement its mandate that is, a capacity gap analysis and not an evaluation audit that assesses the effectiveness, successes or failures of the Commission. The assessment focussed on five core issues which were agreed upon by the Commission which include:

- a) *Institutional Arrangements:* This involved looking at the capacity of the Commission to develop, review and update its internal organization. It also looked at the legal framework, considering whether the INCHR has capacity to define a clear vision, mission, policies, rules and values that

facilitate its work.

- b) *Leadership:* This assessed the capacity of the INCHR to develop, communicate and provide direction on policies and strategies. This includes whether the leadership has the capacity to manage the affairs of the Commission: financial management, motivating and retaining skilled staff, among others.
- c) *Knowledge:* This looked at human resource competencies to execute the functions of the Commission: existence of knowledge and technical skills or required expertise within the Commission.
- d) *Accountability:* This looked at the existence and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework to monitor and evaluate performance, measure results; whether there exists practice standards, performance appraisal systems, among others.
- e) *Functional Capacities:* this inquired into issues that are directly linked to the functions of the Commission

NANHRI facilitates *Council National des Droits de l'Homme - Côte d'Ivoire* - Parliament workshop on Paris Principles



CNDH-CI Commissioners, legislators and other officials in a group photo after attending a session on reviewing the establishing legal framework to make the NHRI Paris Principles compliant on September 8-11, 2018. Photo: Secretariat.

The Network of African NHRIs, through the Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo, facilitated a workshop held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire from September 8-11, 2018. The workshop, which was attended by the *Council National des Droits de l'Homme - Côte d'Ivoire* (CNDH-CI) also brought together members of parliament to discuss the legislative aspirations on the institution's effectiveness and compliance with the Paris Principles.

The workshop aimed at identifying gaps within the enabling legislation and discuss the issues of concerns raised and recommendations issued by the GANHRI Sub Committee on Accreditation during the review of the CNDH-CI in its session of March 11-15, 2019.

The workshop also discussed the Belgrade Principles on the working relationship between NHRIs and parliament for effective human rights promotion, protection and advocacy.

On December 24, 2018, the Official Journal of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire published the reviewed establishing law for the CNDH-CI with the inputs from the workshop on compliance with the Paris Principles.

NANHRI and African Union adopt a joint action plan for strengthening the role of African NHRIs in preventing, combating corruption

The Network of African NHRIs and the African Union Commission (AUC) jointly organised the Second Policy Forum on the State of NHRIs in Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on November 23-24, 2019.

The Policy Forum, which was held at the African Union Conference Centre, focused on the role of NHRIs in the implementation of the AU Convention on the Preventing and Combating Corruption.

The Forum was attended by representatives from 35 NHRIs, members of the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), CSOs and the academia.

Out of the presentations and discussions, a joint action plan of strengthening African NHRIs based on the State of African NHRIs Report was adopted. The action plan spelt out the roles of the various stakeholders in preventing and combating corruption.

Outcomes from the validation and Policy Forum meetings

i) Comprehensive information existing/ validated concerning capacities and opportunities for African NHRIs with regard to the monitoring and influencing the decisions, concluding observations, recommendations of regional institutions, as well as documenting NHRI interaction with regional mechanisms.

ii) The members of the PRC committed to streamlining a human rights-based approach to the formulation of the African Union policy on preventing and combating corruption. This includes strengthening of key accountability institutions such as the African NHRIs, was achieved.



Participants of the Second NANHRI-AUC Policy Forum in a family photo on November 23, 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where they discussed the role of NHRIs in preventing and combating corruption. Photo: Secretariat.



NANHRI Executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo (extreme left) leads other dignitaries in opening remarks during the NANHRI-AUC Second Policy Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He said NHRIs are best placed in offering short and longterm solutions to complement states in preventing and combating corruption. Photo: Secretariat.

The present PRC members, who are States representatives to the AU acknowledged that the establishment of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights is not only an international standard, but also part of African human rights norms provided in the regional instruments.

At the end the Policy Forum, a joint AU and NANHRI Action Plan outlining steps to be taken by the two institutions in preventing and combating corruption was adopted.

iii) The African Union Advisory Board on Anticorruption (AU-ABA) and other relevant regional bodies committed to collaborate with NHRIs at national level in

preventing and combating corruption.

iv) Enhanced political will and support NHRIs by the African Union Member States: The Policy Forum underscored the necessity to eliminate corruption in Africa so as to safeguard resources required by government to fulfil the enjoyment of human rights by the citizens. It was agreed that further to the previous Policy Forum, the realisation of human rights goals is integral to sustainable development. It was thus reaffirmed that the existence of strong NHRIs, which are compliant with the internationally agreed principles on the status of NHRIs for the promotion and protection of human rights is a necessity in effective prevention and combat of corruption.

Results

- 1) The SCA accredited the National Commission on Human Rights of DRC gained 'A' status in its October 2018 report.
- 2) The CNIDH-Madagascar submitted all the required documents to the SCA for consideration in the March 11-15, 2019 session.
- 3) The Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire reviewed the establishing law, making the CNDHCI Paris Principles compliant.
- 4) After the Second Policy Forum in Addis Ababa, the PRC members committed to support human rights-based policies at the AU on preventing and combating corruption.
- 5) A joint NANHRI-AU action plan on preventing and combating corruption was adopted out of the Second Policy Forum.
- 6) From the Mali meeting, partners agreed to research on migration and adopt a strategy of supporting NHRIs in the West Africa Subregion in tackling irregular migration, and other issues of common concern (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mauritania). This could be extended to North Africa (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).
- 7) The meeting provided a platform for peer to peer learning between the Niger and Mali NHRIs, which is one of the work of NANHRI.

Challenges:

Scheduling of activities in the busy season of the year especially for activities that involve multiple stakeholders, poses participation, logistic and other challenges.

Lessons and recommendations

Activities that involve many actors need to be scheduled at the beginning of the year, to allow for consultative planning with key partners.

Goal 2: Enhanced respect and adherence to Economic, Social, and Cultural rights

*Strategic Objective 2:
At least 40% of African States have articulate and operational core minimum standards on realization of Economic, social, and Cultural rights.*

Kenya National Commission on Human Rights supported in following up implementation of decisions of the African Commission and African Court



A family that was displaced from the Mau Forest in Kenya prepares a meal in the open on an unidentified date. The ACHPR faulted the Government of Kenya's action of evicting the indigenous community from the forest complex, which they have called home for centuries. Photo: KNCHR

On March 1-2, 2018, NANHRI, in collaboration with Open Society Justice Initiative supported stakeholders including the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and other members of a taskforce established to lead the implementation of the decisions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights with regard to the indigenous communities in Kenya.

The role of the taskforce was to study the decision by the African Court and advice on its implementation while taking into consideration the implementation of the decision by the African Commission on the case of the Endorois Community.

In a landmark decision on indigenous rights adopted on February 2, 2010, the African Commission declared the expulsion of Endorois from their ancestral lands illegal. The African Commission found that the Government had failed to recognise and protect Endorois' ancestral land rights and failed to provide sufficient compensation or alternative grazing land following their eviction, or to grant restitution of their land, and similarly failed to include the community within the relevant development processes. It also made a series of wide-reaching recommendations for the Kenyan government to follow. While this decision was still unimplemented by the government, another case on the eviction of the Ogiek community from the Mau was referred to the African Court by the African Commission, in which the decision by the African Court was made.

Consecutively the government of Kenya formed the taskforce which consists of representatives from various government ministries.

In support of the role of the KNCHR in the process, NANHRI in collaboration with Open Society Justice Initiative supported a meeting of the taskforce members to prepare a roadmap and work plan for the completion of their mandate. The taskforce however failed to implement the work plan owing to delays in release of funds by the government by the end of their term. Remarkably, the new taskforce established to succeed the former is led by a representative of the academia and includes representatives of the civil society, both of which were the glaring gaps that led to the failure by predecessors. KNCHR continues to play a major role in the process.

Staff of African NHRIs trained on monitoring and reporting in relation to regional human rights treaties



Staff of African NHRIs who took part in the Naivasha, Kenya, workshop on monitoring and reporting on regional treaty bodies. Photo: Secretariat.

Twenty two staff from different African NHRIs were trained at the Regional Workshop on monitoring and reporting in relation to regional human rights treaties held on June 20-21 in Naivasha Kenya. The workshop aimed at strengthening the role of African NHRIs in supporting state accountability at sub-regional and regional levels through their participation in various treaty monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Participants were trained on the role of NHRIs and avenue for engagements with the African Commission on Human and

Peoples' Rights, African Court on Human and Peoples', the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Practical exercises included analysis of decisions of the African Court and determining possible roles that would have been played by the respective NHRIs in those circumstances.

The Workshop covered the application of various treaties in the monitoring and reporting. These include the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol); and the recently adopted Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In addition, the workshop discussed the integration of human rights monitoring in development agenda. This entailed understanding the convergence between human rights treaties and development agenda with practical experiences from Africa and other regions.

Participants indicated that their understanding on the monitoring and reporting improved as a result of the practical information and experiences shared in the workshop. This is expected to improve the quality of reports and the consistency of reporting to the regional mechanisms by NHRIs.

The workshop was organized as part of the Regional Africa Programme on implementation of human rights commitments in the region. The programme is implemented in partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law with financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

NANHRI-ARASA co-organise meeting on people living with HIV and key populations

NANHRI co-convened the third Regional Capacity Strengthening Convening for African NHRIs on September 3-6, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The convening was organised under the Global Fund Africa Regional Grant on HIV Removing Legal Barriers.

The objectives of the third Regional Capacity Strengthening Convening for National Human Rights Institutions included:

- a) Provision of a platform for NHRI representatives to engage in evidence informed discussions and identify their roles in advancing human rights-based responses to HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and tuberculosis (TB);
- b) To share lessons learnt and identify functional models learned on how NHRIs could protect the rights of People living with HIV and key populations, through monitoring the impact of criminal law on TB and HIV;
- c) To increase the capacity of NHRIs around key structural barriers to HIV, SRH and TB services, in order to strengthen their reporting and guidance to governments priority areas of focus;
- d) To evaluate the impact and outcomes of the convenings since 2016.

Results

- 1) Strengthened capacity on specific health and human rights issues such as HIV and TB criminalisation as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of key populations;
- 2) Increased monitoring and reporting on key structural barriers, which hinder impact access to HIV, SRH and TB services at national level and;
- 3) One Impact assessment of the regional convenings and their influence on NHRIs developed.
- 4) The Naivasha meeting on indigenous communities in Kenya resulted in the adoption of the roadmap which will enable the task force complete their assignment of enabling the government implement the decisions.

Goal 3: Reduction of systemic impunity in Africa, particularly violations of rule of law, and Civil Liberties

*Strategic Objective 3:
Improved governance in all African Countries,
particularly rule of law and protection of civil
liberties by 2019 (All African Countries by at least
50%)*

Council National des Droits de l'Homme de Côte d'Ivoire convenes a National Consultation on the implementation of decision of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

la Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme de Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with NANHRI convened a National Stakeholder Consultation on April 10, 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to review the implementation of the decision by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding the Granting of Nationality to Individuals at Risk of Statelessness.

The Consultative Meeting supported by NANHRI in collaboration with the Open Society Justice Initiative discussed the landmark decision by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the case of *Open Society Justice Initiative v. Côte d'Ivoire* (Ref: ACHPR/COMM/318/06), where the African Commission decided that "The Ivorian nationality Code does not take its source from ethnic and cultural diversity and from the historical dynamics of the creation of the population at independence that constituted the new State of Côte d'Ivoire" instead, "the vagueness of the law has conferred all discretionary powers to grant nationality to the relevant authorities" resulting in the refusal to issue "persons from the "Dioula" ethnic group or persons considered as such with documents attesting to recognition of Ivorian legal status". Tensions arising from lack of identification and arbitrary deprivation of citizenship were acknowledged by both the Linas-Marcoussis (2003) and the Ouagadougou (2007) Peace Agreements as the root causes of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

While the authorities have since initiated a nationwide birth registration program, known as *audiences foraines*, the birth certificates in question did not confer citizenship. Moreover, neither peace agreement dealt with the highly restrictive and problematic application of articles governing the qualification for Ivorian nationality.

The *CNDH-CI* in collaboration with civil society organisations has made a petition for the review of the special law n° 2013-653 enacted in September 13, 2013, which entails special provisions for the acquisition of the Ivorian nationality by declaration. This special law, which entered into force in 2014 regularized the situation of 10,000 people out of nearly 700,000 stateless individuals within the two years period, according to a study by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This was below expectations. Of significance, the 1998 Land Act does not address issues related to the right to vote.

This the Consultative Meeting was aimed at promoting the implementation of the African Commission decision using the Guidelines developed by NANHRI on the role of NHRIs in monitoring the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and judgments of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to foster collaboration among different state and non-state actors. This Meeting was graced by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, and was attended by sixty participants who included representatives of the Ivory Coast National Human Rights Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Government Ministries of the Republic of Ivory Coast, Central Administration, Nongovernmental Organizations and the media.

The meeting identified matters hindering the implementation of the decision of the African Commission. Recommendations to strengthen the role of *the CNDH-CI* in following up and influencing implementation of this decision, and other decisions of regional human rights bodies.

The meeting also identified institutions that need to undertake reforms towards the implementation of the said decision.

The Network of African NHRIs, in collaboration with the South African Human

South African Human Rights Commission hosts petty offences inception workshop



Participants of the South Africa Decriminalisation of Petty Offences inception workshop visit Johannesburg Female Prison. Photo: Secretariat.

Rights Commission (SAHRC) organised the Petty Offences Project Inception meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, from September 18-21, 2018.

The training brought together five selected NHRIs of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and South Africa with the aim of enhancing the capacity of the participants in advocating for decriminalisation of petty offences as per the international and regional standards through a peer-to-peer exchange.

The specific objectives included promoting the institutional management to actively engage in the campaign, build the capacity of the technical staff of the five NHRIs to undertake concrete steps within their mandate towards decriminalisation of petty offences in Africa.

NANHRI targets Heads of State on adoption of Africa Pre-trial Detention Day



NANHRI team meets H.E. Mrs Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs (second left) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May, 2018. Photo: Secretariat.s

The Network of African NHRIs visited the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs Minata Samate Cessouma on May 4, 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to seek strategic support in lobbying the Heads of States and Governments in Africa to adopt the Africa Pretrial detention Day.

The strategic support involves lobbying the AU department charged with the responsibility of drawing the agenda of the Heads of State Summit to include the day as one of the items for discussion.

As matter of priority, Commissioner Cessouma promised to contact the team responsible for setting the agenda for the Heads of State Summit, who will bring to the fore the importance of the day, which is largely commemorated annually by the African NHRIs on April 25.

The NHRIs have been carrying out various activities on this day based on the Yaoundé Declaration, which was the outcome of the 10th Biennial Conference of African NHRIs.

As part of its next steps under the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences project, NANHRI is working to determine who and how to approach the key actors in adding the item to the agenda of the Heads of States Summit. Thereafter, the AUC will guide and support NANHRI on tabling the agenda in the Summit.

Contributing to the widespread adoption of Africa Pre-Trial Detention Day is a positive effort from a human rights perspective. The commitment was recently echoed by African ombudsman institutions who in their Grand Bassam Declaration, pledged to work with NHRIs on advocating for this day and making it a focus of “our efforts to reduce the terrible numbers needlessly detained across the continent”.

Roping in the Heads of the States into the discussion on pre-trial detention is expected to give more impetus to the campaigns against the abuse of legal provisions to violate the rights of the vulnerable groups, such as poor women jobless youth.

Baseline Report on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences launched in Ghana



The ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Conditions of Prisons Maria Manuela (third right) joins representatives of the five NHRIs in launching the NANHRI Baseline survey on decriminalisation of petty offences in Africa. Photo: Secretariat.

The Network of African NHRIs launched the Baseline Assessment Report on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa during the October 3-4, 2018 Regional Conference hosted by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and co-organised by NANHRI and other partners which took place in Accra, Ghana. The report addressed the role of NHRIs as per the Paris Principles, gaps, challenges, lessons and opportunities of enhancing the role of NHRIs in the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa.

At least 33 participants, including the technical staff of the five NHRIs in this project, ACHPR Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, CHRAJ Deputy Commissioner, two NANHRI staff, representatives from

CSOs, Open Society Foundation - Human Rights Initiative, and Ghanaian media representatives attended the Conference.

Output

The Baseline study was launched, disseminated and the participants showed increased understanding of the role of NHRIs and the Principles as per the after meeting evaluation.

ACHPR Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa launched

The ACHPR Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences were launched in Africa in Banjul, the Gambia, during the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Commission.

Participating panelists at the launch included; Commissioner Soyata Maiga-Chairperson of the ACHPR, Commissioner Jamesina Essie L. King on behalf of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Mr. Pacharo Kaira, Chief State Advocate of Malawi- State representative, Mr. Chumile Sali APCOF – who made short remarks on behalf of CSOs - Ms. Louise Ehlers of OSF-HRI and Ms. Maureen Bwisa of NANHRI.

Meeting's output

ACHPR officially launched the Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa.

SAHRC holds Decriminalisation of Petty Offences meeting

The SAHRC held in-country national consultation meeting on November 22-23, 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa. The consultation brought together State and non-state actors in enhancing collaboration in building on existing interventions in pushing for legal reforms for decriminalisation of petty offences.

Meeting's output

- a) Enhanced partnerships and collaboration between NHRIs, state and non-state actors to build on existing interventions and increase the voice of the actors in pushing for law and policy reforms to decriminalisation of petty offences.
- b) Visit to Kgosi Mampuru II Central facility, a Prison located in Pretoria to ascertain and monitor the conditions of detention of petty offenders in the facility.

NANHRI compiles reports on prison congestion for advisory opinion by AfCHPR

In the fourth quarter of 2018, NANHRI worked with the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) to draft *amicus curiae* pleadings in support of Pan African Legal Union (PALU) advisory opinion before the AfCHPR on the compatibility of vagrancy laws with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other human rights instruments applicable in Africa.

Outcome

NANHRI enriched jurisprudence on the continent.

Results

1. NANHRI supported PALUs advisory opinion by filing *amicus curiae*.
2. A compressive report, the Baseline Assessment Report on Enhancing the Role of NHRIs in Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa, was published and launched during the Regional Conference on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Accra, Ghana.
3. The SAHRC national consultative meeting on Decriminalisation of Petty offences developed five National Action Plans and five Memoranda to effect policy reforms at national level.
4. NANHRI, as a member of the campaign partners working with five NHRIs, committed to lobbying States to successfully implement the Principles through National consultation with both state and non-state actors.
5. There was increased conversation within the conference and beyond on the role of the various stakeholders in the campaign of decriminalising petty offences in Africa. Visibility for NANHRI, partners, the NHRIs and other stakeholders was achieved through mainstream and social media. *Daily Nation*¹ and *The Star*² (*Daily Nation* has the biggest readership on print while second on online while *The Star* is third in both areas) published an article each. Local TVs in Ghana and newspapers carried articles.

1 <https://www.nation.co.ke/news/Petty-offences-blamed-for-case-backlogs/1056-4791438-lox92yz/index.html>
2 https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/10/03/jailing-petty-offenders-congests-prisons-lobby-group-says_c1829024

Challenges

- a) Due to limited funding, NANHRI realigned budget lines to accommodate consultancy fees; further the Baseline Assessment Report which is yet to be translated into French;
- b) Further, the rolling out of project activities was solely based on the official launch of the Principles by the ACHPR, as NANHRI was not allowed to share the actual Zero Draft Principles with implementing NHRIs, but merely shed light on the content of the Principles;
- c) The meeting on the inclusion of the pretrial detention into the agenda of the Heads of State Summit never secured timelines of action from the AU.

Lessons and innovation

- 1) Due to project budgetary constraints for NANHRI, the expectation was that the five implementing NHRIs to secure funding to convene national consultations in the fourth quarter of 2018 where only SAHRC managed to effect the consultations. It was agreed that the other four NHRIs in the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences project implement this Activity in the first quarter of 2019 by ensuring it is captured in their 2019 Work Plan, subject to availability of funds.
- 2) The Network, in collaboration with the KNCHR intended to visit Mathari Mental Prison in Nairobi on the Africa Pretrial Detention Day. However, this never materialised. The facility was under inspection at the time, therefore, it was a challenge to get approval for the visit. Early preparations for such visits are important in ensuring that if one facility is not available, another one is secured.

Goal 4: Enhanced adaptive capacity of NHRIs to respond to emerging and thematic human rights issues

*Strategic Objective 4:
Enhanced adaptability of NHRIs in responding to emerging and thematic human rights issues by at least 50% of NHRIs by 2019*

Malawi Human Rights Commission receives capacity building support on SOGIE



A group discussion during the SOGIE workshop of the Malawi Human Rights Commission. Photo: Secretariat.

At least 30 participants, most of whom were from the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), took part in the March 19 -21, 2018, sexual orientation and gender identity expression (SOGIE) workshop at Salima, Malawi.

Besides the Commission, the meeting brought together participants from the civil society organisations and the media to discuss effective ways of monitoring and responding to the SOGIE-related violence and discrimination. From the deliberations of the meeting, it was established that the foundation for complaints handling and investigations was lacking.

At the end of the meeting, the participants developed action points for addressing SOGIE-related violence and discrimination. The MHRC committed to changing the methodology of tackling and mitigating the risks the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons face in Malawi.

In general, participants were at ease to discuss and deliberate on intersex issues.

NHRIs, NGOs and Parliament discuss access to health right to vulnerable groups

A group photo of the participants of the workshop on the rights to health in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Secretariat.



NANHRI, in collaboration with the UNAIDs, IDLO, and other partners convened a regional stakeholders' conference on August 27-30, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the role of NHRIs and Parliament in protecting the right to health, especially for vulnerable groups, people living with HIV and other key populations.

Apart from securing the financial and legislative needs of the NHRIs for improved monitoring, Parliamentarians were challenged to ensure sufficient budgetary allocations to the health sector.

In particular, the conference reiterated the role and influence of NHRIs and parliament in promoting access to health services for all, including people living with HIV, vulnerable groups and other key populations particularly adolescent girls and young women and access to HIV testing for men.

NANHRI commences technical follow-ups on impact of SOGIE project



SOGIE technical follow-up meeting at the CHRAJ, Ghana in July 26-27, 2018.

Following rigorous capacity building workshops and in-country meetings on enhancing the capacity of the NHRIs of Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa and Ghana, in protecting the rights of LGBTI persons, the Network of African NHRIs embarked on a review of the SOGIE project.

The review involved the evaluation of the extent to which the NHRIs have institutionalised the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons, which was one of the main goals of this project.

Expected Results: Increased capacity of five NHRIs to respond to SOGI-related violence and discrimination.

i) Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

At the KNCHR, face to face interviews were held with technical staff from the Commission and Commissioner George Morara from May 21–23, 2018. For triangulation, interviews were also held with some representatives of CSOs working on addressing SOGI-related violence. Some of the key findings include:

1. The process is being led by specific individuals within KNCHR, hence a need to have a comprehensive staff training.
2. In the last one year, KNCHR has received 10 SOGI-related complaints. Remedy is being provided through public interest litigation cases where KNCHR is enjoined as *amicus curie*.
3. The Human Resources Policy and the Client Service policy specifically mentions that sex, sexual orientation, sexual and gender minorities are not discriminated against.
4. The complaints management system captures data disintegrated by sexual orientation and diverse gender identities.
5. The Commission has completed and published its research on Intersex Persons. The research has formally been presented to the Taskforce on Legal, Policy, Institutional and Administrative Reform on Intersex Persons in Kenya.

ii) Uganda Human Rights Commission

Similarly, face to face interviews were held with technical staff, the Chairperson and Executive Secretary of UHRC. Further interviews were also held with LGBTI organizing CSOs. The interviews were conducted on June 18 – 19, 2018. Below are some of the key findings:

- CSOs reported significant reduction in violence by police agents which could have been contributed to by the UHRC engagement with the police force. However, they were concerned about the silence of UHRC in targeted attacks towards CSOs working on LGBTI issues. Overall, UHRC has been able to train about 60 prosecutors and security agencies on equality and non-discrimination in collaboration with CSOs.
- UHRC in the last one year has not received any SOGI-related complaints. This is partly contributed by the fact that CSOs have not made it known to their constituents that the UHRC is open to receiving complaints and also in the past complaints lodged have not received remedy. UHRC claims that delays are due to huge back logs.
- UHRC's HR and Client Service Policy encompass discrimination in a general language without specific mentions of grounds of discrimination. A sexual harassment committee is in place, which is mandated to investigate complaints and provide appropriate remedy
- The UHRC complaints database is not disaggregated.
- Similar to KNCHR, the entire process and engagements are individual - led.

iii) Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana

A follow-up to the CHRAJ from July 26 to 27, 2018 involved interviews of 10 technical staff and senior level managers.

The purpose of the technical follow up was to assess the extent to which CHRAJ has integrated SOGIE-related responses within its institution to expand the protection space for LGB/ITGNC persons in Ghana. The period under assessment is October 2017 to July 2018, which is about nine months since the CHRAJ staff training on SOGIE and Human Rights.

The in-country workshop held in October 2017 identified interventions which CHRAJ would undertake to facilitate its human rights mandates of ensuring protection of the rights of LGB/ITGNC individuals in Ghana. These interventions were:

- Internal staff training on SOGIE and human rights
- Train key stakeholders on SOGIE issues.
- Strengthen and decentralise to regional offices its reporting system covering discrimination on the basis of SOGIE
- Draft a national LGB/ITGNC policy.

Of the above-listed activities, it was reported that CHRAJ had undertaken the internal staff training on SOGIE and human rights. It had also strengthened its reporting system covering discrimination on the basis of SOGIE and decentralised its SOGIE reporting system to the regional offices.

However, the Commission had neither trained key stakeholders on SOGIE issues nor drafted a national LGB/ITGNC policy.

iv) South African Human Rights Commission

Another technical follow-up meeting for the SAHRC was held in South Africa from August 20-24, 2018. Face to face interviews with seven technical and two technical senior level managers. Findings report is yet to be finalised were conducted.

The findings obtained from the follow ups would be utilised:

- As baseline information
- To inform strategies that NHRIs are to employ to augment their responses towards SOGIE-related discrimination and violence.
- To inform the next impactful activities for the next project cycle;

High level convening on SOGIE held in Accra, Ghana

At least 20 participants attended the NANHRI regional high level convening on SOGIE in Accra, Ghana, from November 19-21, 2018.

The convening involved participants drawn from the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC). The convening was also attended by members of civil society organisations (CSOs) which work on SOGIE issues as well as staff of NANHRI and a representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The convening was facilitated by the project's consultant, Lawrence Mute.

The convening's specific objectives were to:

1. Report on and discuss the extent to which the five participating NHRIs had integrated responses towards SOGIE-related violence and discrimination;
2. Serve as a learning platform for NHRIs on effective strategies to expand the protection space for sexual and gender minorities; and
3. Serve as a forum to consolidate project activities and strategies for the next project cycle.

NHRIs-CSOs interact during workshop on child rights in Bamako, Mali

The NHRI-CSO networking workshop organised as part of the 12th CSO Forum on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child held in Bamako, Mali, on April 23, 2018. This preliminary activity to forge relationships between NHRIs and CSOs is to be built upon to have impactful collaborations. The meeting brought together 11 NHRIs and 35 CSOs. The meeting organized by NANHRI in partnership with Plan International – Pan Africa Office (PAO) with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA).

In a different activity, the Communications department took the lead in the campaign on the Day of the African Child on June 16, 2018.

The campaign was carried in partnership with *Mtoto News* (a media house targeting children) and the Graca Machel Trust. Videos, social media cards, banners among other materials were published. A joint statement was published based on the theme, *#LeaveNoChildBehind*. Besides NANHRI Programme Officer the NHRIs of Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire contributed content for a joint video with a message on the role of everyone in securing the rights of children¹.

Pan African State Accountability Program review held

Pan African State Accountability Program (PASAP) Annual Review workshop was held from June 11 – 14, 2018 in Senegal. It emerged that there is need for NHRIs to have a targeted engagement with CSOs working on child rights through NANHRI. In the past year, the impact of NANHRI as a strategic partner was negligible. For the upcoming project cycle, it was proposed to have three sub-regional activities in the Eastern, Southern and Western region to have impactful engagement with CSOs around specific thematic areas.

1 <https://www.facebook.com/NANHRI/videos/1521147371327954/>

PASAP aims to support the strengthening of the institutional and technical capacity of CSOs working on children's rights in Africa to effectively hold States accountable and successfully engage in Child Right Monitoring (CRM) and advocacy at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels.

Ten NHRIs validate litigation capacity and online information centre reports on decisions of regional human rights instruments

At least 20 representatives from 10 NHRIs attended the validation of the baseline study on the existing capacity gaps and litigation opportunities on the monitoring and influencing the decisions, concluding observations and recommendations of regional human rights bodies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on November 22, 2018.

NHRIs represented were: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. The UN Special Rapporteur on discrimination against women was also in attendance. Three consultants, SIDA and RWI representatives and three NANHRI staff also attended the meeting.

NHRIs from five countries were involved in the baseline report validated. These were Kenya, South Africa, Sierra Leone, DRC and Cote d'Ivoire. The report covered communications and state reports before the ACERWC; judgments of the African Court; and judgments of sub-regional courts. It also looked at litigation at both national and regional levels, identified gaps and made recommendations to enhance NHRIs capacities.

The online information centre on the other hand contained findings from a survey involving NHRIs, regional and sub-regional bodies, and civil society organizations; and the technical proposal for the establishment of the information centre.

NANHRI holds regional meeting at the margins of the 62nd Ordinary Session of ACHPR to reflect on progress in implementation of the latter's decisions



Following presentations on the findings of the baseline and feasibility studies, participants discussed the recommendations and way forward on what NHRIs can do to actualise optimal engagements with the regional bodies. Recommendations were also made on sustaining a reliable online information centre which members could use for peer learning and exchange of information.

The feedback on the reports is being incorporated into the final version for publication.

Guest speakers address NHRIs during a side event on evaluating the progress of implementation of ACHPR decisions by four countries in Mauritania in April 2018.

Photo: Secretariat.

At least 48 representatives drawn from various stakeholders took part in evaluating the progress of the implementation of the ACHPR decisions by four countries including Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and DRC.

The April 23-24, 2018 meeting, which was held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, was attended by 42 representatives of NHRIs, three members from the ACHPR and three staff from NANHRI.

Decisions of ACHPR in the four countries were discussed through which participants evaluated the progress in the implementation vis-à-vis the contribution of the respective NHRIs.

NHRIs got an opportunity to reflect on the progress of the implementation of their commitments for following up on the implementation of the decisions of the ACHPR, the Ordinary Session was also used to assess the significance and impact of the Commission and its Special Mechanisms through presentation of Activity Reports, Consideration of State Periodic Reports, Panel discussions, and proposing how to move the human rights agenda forward

Participants also discussed the 10 human rights goals contained in the draft African Union action plan for implementation of the human and peoples' rights decade. In addition, NANHRI issued a Statement at the opening of the 62nd Ordinary Session of the ACHPR.

The 62nd Ordinary Sessions also provided discussions under various panels that were of particular interest to NANHRI:

- ❖ Launch of the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa:
- ❖ Relationship and cooperation between the ACHPR and NHRIs, NANHRI Session,
- ❖ APRM Country Review Reports to the Commission and;
- ❖ Launch of the ACHPR Human Rights Year Book: The Commission launched the African Human Rights Yearbook Volume 1 (2017) the first of its kind.
- ❖ Launch of the ACHPR Study on "HIV, the Law and Human Rights in the African Human Rights System: Key Challenges and Opportunities for Rights- Based Responses to HIV"

- ❖ Panel discussion on the implementation of the Guidelines for the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa;
- ❖ Panel on the abolition of the Death Penalty,
- ❖ Africa Peer Review Mechanism Country Review Reports to the Commission

NANHRI publishes factsheet for NHRIs on interaction with African human rights bodies

NANHRI developed a factsheet for the NHRIs' interaction with the African human rights system which detailed the NHRIs' level of awareness and engagements with the African Court.

The factsheets were printed and distributed during the online and capacity gaps assessment reports validation meeting in Addis Ababa on November 22, 2018.

This is part of the efforts by NANHRI to ensure comprehensive information exists concerning capacities and opportunities for African NHRIs with regard to the monitoring and influencing the decisions, concluding observations and recommendations of regional institutions, as well as regarding documenting NHRI interaction with regional mechanisms.

NANHRI Working Group on Migration elects officials, discusses terms of reference in Marrakech, Morocco



NANHRI working Group on Migration members meet in Marrakech, Morocco on December 9, 2018 ahead of the intergovernmental conference, which led to the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Photo: Secretariat.

Following the constitution of the NANHRI Working Group on Migration (WGM) in October 12, 2018 during the NANHRI General Assembly in Marrakech, Morocco, the five members of this group met for the first time on December 9, 2018 at the Regional Headquarters of the National Human Rights Council (NHRC) of Morocco.

The members elected to the WGM include the NHRI of Kenya - representing East Africa, the NHRI of Democratic Republic of Congo - representing central Africa, and the NHRI of Niger for West Africa. The NHRIs of Morocco and Zimbabwe represent the North and Southern sub-regions respectively.

The members elected the Chairperson of the NHRC Ms Amina Bouayach as the Chairperson while the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Mr Elasto Hilarius Mugwadi was elected to the post of the Vice Chairperson of the WGM.

In the meeting, the Working Group discussed its terms of reference for validation and adoption in the next General Assembly in March 2019.

The WGM also reflected on the development of a Working Group action plan for monitoring the implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which was adopted during the December 10-11, 2018 Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech.

In general, the WGM is expected to provide direction in promoting dialogue among actors on migration and human rights, at the regional level.

The members agreed on capacity building, advocacy, communication, fundraising and research as the five main areas of focus in the development of the action plan. For an effective action plan, a questionnaire will be developed and shared with member to define their areas of needs and their proposals.

Article 27 of the NANHRI Constitution allows the General Assembly to establish committees and ad hoc bodies from time to time. It is on this basis that the WGM was established.

The members also participated in the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech from December 10-11, 2018, which adopted the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

NANHRI holds side event on Migration in Marrakech, Morocco



*NANHRI team with partners from the European Union after the side event in Marrakech, Morocco, on December 9, 2018. In the meeting, NANHRI discussed its planned strategic interventions in ensuring safe orderly and regular migration through its members.
Photo: Secretariat.*

The Network of African NHRIs held a side event in Marrakech, Morocco, on December 9, 2018 with the aim of supporting State and non-state actors in the implementation of the United Nations GCM. The GCM was which was adopted by more than 160 states on December 10, 2018.

A [Case for Support](#), developed by the Secretariat, outlining the steps that NANHRI, in collaboration with the members, will take to ensure proper implementation of the GCM at regional level was distributed. The side event was organised by NANHRI and the NHRC, Morocco.

Results

- 1) Terms of reference of the Working Group on Migration discussed for adoption by the NANHRI General Assembly in March 2019. The leadership of the WGM was also elected.
- 2) After the SOGIE workshop in Malawi, participants meeting were generally comfortable discussing intersex issues.
- 3) A Communique to the 31st Ordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The communique gave a raft of recommendations on tackling child rights with regard to climate change, humanitarian crises, early marriage, technology, business, among other areas to ensure children are not left behind.
- 4) The ARASA meeting found out that some NHRIs are taking up activities of protecting the rights of key populations in Africa, an area that was dominated by CSOs.
- 5) The CHRAJ had undertaken internal staff training on SOGIE and human rights. It has also strengthened its reporting system covering discrimination on the basis of SOGIE and decentralised its SOGIE reporting system to the regional offices

Challenges

- 1) The disintegration of the intersex movement of Africa from the larger sexual and gender minority organizing may in the future necessitate having separate interventions that specifically address intersex issues, especially if the efforts being put at the regional level to have a specific resolution materialise.
- 2) From the CHRAJ, it was noted that the Commissioner has had several media engagements articulating the protection of LGB/ITGNC person in Ghana. One of the Regional Managers also has had a similar media engagements.
- 3) The CHRAJ had neither trained key stakeholders on SOGIE issues nor drafted a national LGB/ITGNC policy.
- 4) Key from SAHRC is that the Commission has utilise sports and the media as means of articulating protection for LGB/ITGNC persons. Further, SAHRC has published a paper on discrimination of LGB/ITGNC persons.
- 5) The disintegration of the intersex movement of Africa from the larger sexual and gender minority organizing may in the future necessitate having separate interventions that specifically address intersex issues, especially if the efforts being put at the regional level to have a specific resolution materialise.
- 6) The findings and recommendations of the online information centre and litigation gaps will lead to the development of a capacity building programme by NANHRI for its members. Countries: Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Sierra Leone and South Africa.
- 7) Delays were experienced in completion of the baseline study due to the slow response of some NHRIs.

- 8) The use of in-country researchers helped to save on time by the consultants instead of the earlier planned country missions

Lessons and innovations

1. Future baseline studies should anticipate use of in country consultants as opposed to an individual consultants to cover all countries. Different consultants ensure better quality and timely completion and also reduces on costs of travel.
2. As the donors are keen on having increased NHRI-CSO interactions, utilising existing spaces at the regional level is encouraged to forge the relationships and follow up to ensure that it translates into national action. Such interactions can enhance capacity in peer learning and joint interventions.

NANHRI participates in GANHRI Fuse training in Geneva, Switzerland

Goal 5: Improved institutional visibility, efficiency and effectiveness of the NANHRI Secretariat

*Strategic Objective 5:
Critical Institutional systems established, and institutional efficiency and effectiveness improved in core service areas by 2019*

On November 5-6, 2018, NANHRI participated in a training workshop that brought together all Regional Networks under GANHRI for a two-day training at the Centre d'Accueil Genève Internationale (CAGI) Geneva, Switzerland. The overall goal of the workshop was to introduce the Fuse platform to the regional networks to support collation and exchange of information between and among the members of GANNRI from regional to global levels. The target group was the management and technical staff in the communications or IT sector.

The training was based on the Knowledge Management Assessment needs of the GANHRI report of 2016, which established that there is no central resource for documents at GANHRI level. Sharing of information, knowledge, skills and experiences from the various experts available at GANHRI or regional levels is limited. To streamline this GANHRI organised this workshop for the technical teams from the regional networks to assist in bridging the gap and enhance sharing of information as well as improve interaction of the staff across the member networks of this global body through the Fuse platform.

There were 11 participants; two from NANHRI, three from ENNHRI, one from APF, one from the Morocco NHRI and three from DIHR. The American NHRIs were not represented.

Prior to this workshop, the members of the regional networks held a meeting on February 19, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland in which the online Fuse platform was introduced.

The establishment of the Fuse platform was based on the recommendations of the GANHRI Knowledge Management Assessment (KM) 2016 report. From that assessment, several proposals were made on how to enhance GANHRI communications and KM capabilities. The Fuse Platform was chosen as the best solution for GANHRI.



Representatives of the GANHRI regional networks in a group photo during the November 5-6, 2018 Fuse workshop in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Contractor took participants through the applications of the platform. The issue of language as a barrier in communication across the different regions was discussed. The platform accommodates the four GANHRI languages, English, French Spanish and Arabic.

The various roles on the Fuse platform were also discussed. The roles include:

Communication manager: The person responsible will act as the host, curator and administrator of the platform.

Sponsor: This will be executive level individual whose role will be to find resources (time and money) to support Fuse and recommend its use within the institution. They also provide monthly updates for the platform use.

Influencer: This is a person that others listen to and will be critical in promotion of the platform use.

Experts: These will be individuals who will be available on the platform to give answers to questions raised by users as well as provide content for the platform.

Participants were also taken through 'a day in the knowledge workers life'. This illustration demonstrated how an individual can use the Fuse platform through their work day – from home, through the commute and in the office. This illustration helped participants test the various functionalities and applications available on the Fuse platform such as communities, curation of internal and external knowledge, formal training options (class rooms, webinars and eLearning), mobile phone accessibility, news flows, searches, surveys, chats and discussions, reports and dashboards.

The participants then discussed the naming, branding, structure, users, principles and other elements of the fuse platform. It was agreed that the *url* should have GANHRI in it as the body is the unifier of all regional networks and NHRIs.

NANHRI Members participate in various meetings in Geneva, Switzerland

African NHRIs participate in Fuse workshop

The Network of African NHRIs took part in the GANHRI meeting on Knowledge Management system, the Fuse platform, on February 19, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The aim of the workshop was to bring GANHRI and the regional networks together to understand how the online Fuse platform works and how it can enhance collating sharing of information between and among the regional networks, and GANHRI.

NANHRI Steering Committee meets at UN Palais des Nations

NANHRI Steering Committee held a meeting on February 21, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was attended by the following members: NANHRI Chairperson (Rwanda), NANHRI Vice-Chairperson (Egypt), the NHRIs of Kenya, Morocco, Zambia and Uganda. Cameroon sent an apology. Other members were absent without apologies.

Among other issues, the meeting discussed the following:

i) 2018 workplan and funding

The Executive Director sought guidance and support from the SC in the implementation for the workplan as well as the NANHRI Strategic Plan.

In supporting fundraising, the SC expressed willingness to support the Secretariat to donor meetings for visibility and influence. In this respect, the members also suggested for the review of the NANHRI Resource Mobilisation Strategy to align it to the changing funding streams.

ii) Update on the NHRI.EU project Phase II

The Finance Officer presented details on the proposed NHRI.EU Phase II project. Members proposed that GANHRI manages Phase II project and the priority thematic areas of the NANHRI members such as migration and business and human rights be taken into account.

The SC also proposed a direct engagement with the EU on funding the NHRI.EU project.

NANHRI holds General Assembly meeting at UN Palais Des Nations

NANHRI Secretariat organised the General Assembly meeting at the Palais des Nations on February 21, 2018. The meeting was attended by many members.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed.

a) Finance

The 2017 audited financial report was presented by the NANHRI Finance Officer.

The Executive Director noted that the Secretariat is financially reliant of donors since of the available funding, only USD 60,000 is from membership fees.

The Secretariat was asked to prepare a comprehensive report on the state of arrears of the membership contributions for consideration of a waiver or write off.

After discussions, the 2018 Work Plan was adopted by consensus.

b) Discussion of proposed amendments to the GANHRI Statute

The members discussed proposed amendments to the GANHRI Statute, Rules of Procedures and General Observations of the SCA.

Further, the Membership was updated on the amendments discussed at the GANHRI Bureau meeting and which were not at this occasion presented for adoption by the General Assembly owing to the need for wider consultations between members. It was, therefore, agreed, that consultations on all the amendments would continue and a position paper be prepared and submitted by the NANHRI.

c) Support to NANHRI Sub Regional Networks and their role in supporting fundraising efforts

The NANHRI Executive Director reported that following the outcomes at the GA Meeting of November 2017, letters have been sent to the five sub regional representatives within NANHRI requesting them to highlight the kind of assistance/support they require from the Secretariat.

d) Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The Chairperson of the SDG Working Group, who is also the Commissioner of the CHRAJ Ghana, presented the terms of reference for discussion and adoption. The members of the WG are Ghana, South Africa, Cameroon, Mauritania and Kenya. Key areas discussed were:

- Quorum for meetings and decision making: For physical meetings, the quorum for deliberations shall be four members and the quorum for decision making shall be three members of the membership; for virtual meetings, at least four members are required. Decisions are by consensus.
- Frequency of meetings: at least two meetings annually

- Duration (tenure) of the WG on SDGs is two years in line with NANHRI practice. Leadership to be elected at the Biennial Conference

After deliberations by members, the terms of reference were adopted with amendments.

Staff trainings enhance the capacity of NANHRI Secretariat

i) Internal staff capacity

Danish consulting firm, StrategyHuset, alongside a representative from the DIHR facilitated a three day training on organisational structure from March 13-15, 2018.

The training linked the organisational strategies of NANHRI with the job descriptions of the staff and the actual work handled with the aim of strengthening the Secretariat. The new organogram, which, among other changes, replaced the Programmes manager with the Operations managers' post, was discussed. The "HOW" the management, administration and finance, programmes and communications work together to deliver on the vision, mission of NANHRI was elaborated.

Individual consultations with staff members to assess organisational strengths and weaknesses, changes to job descriptions to reflect a more accurate and ideal set of tasks, and several team discussions in which we further discussed organizational strengths and weaknesses, and planned for two upcoming activities in April and May, 2018: resource mobilisation and branding.



Staff of the NANHRI Secretariat tackle a group assignment during the monitoring and evaluation workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Secretariat.

ii) Resource mobilisation workshop

StrategiHuset Consultant accompanied by DIHR Project Advisor facilitated the resource mobilisation workshop from May 7-9, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The environmental and resource status of NANHRI were discussed. The Resource Mobilisation Strategy was also gauged against its strengths and weakness, with revisions being suggested to make it respond better to the changes in the resource mobilisation landscape and how it links to the programme work. Fund-winning proposal writing was also captured in the workshop.

Donor mapping, communication, and the process of preparation for a donor roundtable were discussed. Group work mock cases for support for funding were presented at the end of the workshop, the Secretariat agreed to develop a case for support for a donor roundtable at the end of the year. Out of the several topics suggested, the Secretariat agreed to draft a Case for Support on Migration.

The support to resource mobilisation and training from the onset included three key elements:

- 1) A pre-workshop status review of the existing Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) and the internal structural and capacity barriers hampering its implementation. This was connected to the module on change management and organisational development. This step allowed for a review fundraising practice and the current organisation of tasks, roles and responsibilities. It also helped identify the training needed to meet daily challenges and needs in resource mobilisation.
- 2) A training session of three days which provided both a theoretical and a practical input. The programme content took into account the request from staff to pay particular attention to fundraising pitch techniques
- 3) A continuous support to NANHRI staff which will allow for practical help to make sure the RMS is operationalized and that “things get done”. This may include:
 - On-line and skype-support to donor mapping, proposal writing and communication
 - Advice and support to the planning of a donor seminar.
 - Review of project applications and support to the application procedure.

iii) **Monitoring and Evaluation workshop**

The NANHRI Secretariat staff took part in the Monitoring and Evaluation workshop facilitated by StategiHuset from July 9-11, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The training focused on the needs of the members of NANHRI; how NANHRI responds to the needs and the results collected therein. Further, the workshop took the staff through the process of obtaining, measuring verifying and reporting the results. The NANHRI Monitoring and Evaluation framework was also reviewed to help the Secretariat in tracking outputs, outcomes, and reporting on the results.

NANHRI appeals for support for NHRIs on migration on 38th Session of Human Rights Council

The Network of African NHRIs issued a statement during the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council appealing for technical capacity in tackling irregular migration on July 5, 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

In a statement read on behalf of NANHRI by GANHRI Geneva Representative, the Network of African NHRIs said the members are uniquely positioned to collect and analyse information for sustainable approaches to migration, but they need further technical capacity strengthening.

The Network took the opportunity to highlight joint initiatives carried out with the NHRC, Morocco and other NHRIs in contributing towards the negotiations leading to the adoption of the GCM.

NANHRI Steering Committee Meets with Danish Ambassador in Addis Ababa

On May 4, 2018, the Steering Committee member Ms. Kagwiria Mbogori, the Chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) Chair led a mission to Addis Ababa.

The mission provided an opportunity for NANHRI to expand its presence and strategic contacts with potential partners. A key meeting was held with the Danish Ambassador, H.E Ms. Mette Thygesen. The Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa has a Regional mandate and thematic areas of interest that also mirror NANHRI's. This served as an exploratory mission aimed at holding discussions on potential areas of partnership.

At the joint meeting, a brief presentation was made on NANHRI's work and the

Ambassador also gave a brief overview of the Embassy's strategic interest and areas of interest in the region. While non-committal in the immediate term, the Ambassador indicated interest in further discussions on the planned liaison office for NANHRI in Addis and the SOGIE project. Another area of interest was the planned policy forum to be held in 2018, but she noted that owing to their budgetary cycle drawing to a close, no firm commitment.

NANHRI holds talks with H.E. Mrs Minata Samate Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs at the AUC, to deepen institutional collaboration

This meeting's main agenda was to find ways of further deepening NANHRI's collaboration and partnership with the AUC on areas of mutual interest and more importantly, the signed MOU between the two Institutions.

The existing MoU has already given NANHRI an opportunity to engage with Department of Political Affairs, as well as other regional treaty bodies such as the ACHPR and AfCHPR. Over the years, NANHRI has supported collaborations of the NHRIs and the treaty bodies towards the implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Study on the State of NHRIs in Africa, which also responds to the work of the African Union.

Already, NANHRI has issued various publications in support of the implementation of the decisions of the regional treaty bodies as well as guidelines on reporting on specific thematic areas.

Enhanced collaboration, therefore, means increased awareness of the role NHRIs can play in supporting the regional treaty bodies through joint activities for cultivation of a human rights culture in Africa.

KNCHR hosts NANHRI Steering Committee meeting in August, 2019



Steering Committee meeting in progress at the KNCHR offices in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Secretariat.

The KNCHR hosted the NANHRI Steering Committee (SC) meeting on August 30, 2018 in Nairobi.

This session provided the SC members an opportunity to discuss various strategic oversight issues for the Institution. Members took stock of achievements and challenges facing the Institution, focusing more on the financial viability and sustainability of NANHRI.

The SC, which is the second highest decision making organ of the Network of African NHRIs, among other issues deliberated on enhancing the capacity of the Secretariat through strengthened resource mobilisation.

The Secretariat briefed the members of the SC on the progress made in roping in more resources to enable NANHRI effectively sustainably respond to current and emerging human rights challenges on the continent through the members. Among the interventions is the trainings on resource mobilisation and monitoring and evaluation. Out of the trainings, the SC was briefed on the case for support for migration.

The SC also discussed the administration structure of the Secretariat for enhanced service delivery to the members as per its mandate.

Among those in attendance was the NANHRI Chairperson and Chair of Rwanda NHRI Ms. Madeleine Nirere, Vice Chairperson and Chair of Egypt NHRI Mr. Mohammed Fayek, Chairperson of the KNCHR Ms. Kagwiria Mbogori, Chairperson of Zambia Mr. Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga, and the Chairperson of the Uganda NHRI Mr. Med S. Kaggwa.

Communications department enhances NANHRI visibility

The Communications department of NANHRI supported the Secretariat in raising awareness of the various programmatic human rights interventions of the members and partners through diverse channels.

Newsletters

One of the channels includes the publication of four quarterly newsletters, which carry news articles contributed by members. More other articles are sourced from the Secretariat. The Message of the Director alluded to key human rights issues and steps NANHRI is taking to ensure timely response.

Besides, a supplementary newsletter on how the members celebrated the Africa Pretrial detention day was also published on the website, shared on social media and via emails to members.

For the purpose of branding and consistency, a template borrowed from the NANHRI 10th Anniversary (celebrated in Kigali, Rwanda in 2017) newsletter was adopted.

Website updates

Besides photos, reports, and other internal and external publications were posted on the website. The French website was also updated to mirror the English section. Articles were published from time to time depending on merging human rights conversations.

Regular updates of the website and posting of links to articles, reports, press releases may have resulted to the rise of traffic to the website in 2018.

At the same time, the French website, which has been dormant for a while, was regularly updated to almost reflect the English section. Many reports have also

been updated. Dead links on the website were also replaced. More other links to the websites of partners were included, to ease navigation by the audience from the homepage.

These may be some of the reasons contributing to the growing traffic to the NANHRI website. At the beginning of the year, the website was ranked among the top 20,000 sites in Kenya. As of December 15, 2018, the website has leapt to 9,763. This is according to Alexa Ranking, an online tool that ranks websites according to the number of visitors per day.

Branding

Reports generated from the programmes departments were designed as defined by the NANHRI Communications Policy and Strategy.

The reports include the English and French versions of the 2017 Annual reports, the Role of African NHRIs in the Realisation of the Principle of Complementarity with the Rome Statute, the Case for Support for Migration, the Malawi SOGIE in-country report, South African Decriminalisation of Petty Offences Inception Report, among others.

Banners for the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences, NANHRI Policy Forum, among others branded materials aimed to increase the visibility of NANHRI and the partners.

Communication improves documentation

The Communications department has been instrumental in documenting various activities of the Network of African NHRIs. This has been done through photos taken by the staff at diverse functions with the aim of capturing and telling the story of NANHRI and the members.

Besides external backups, internal critical documents are progressively being put together in the “public server”, a local areas network supported archive for the purpose of easing sharing of information as well as archiving.

Media coverage

Activities of the Network of African NHRIs received media coverage from various news outlets in 2018 based on press releases shared. Some of the activities include:

- The Star newspaper¹, The Ethiopian News Agency published articles on the Second Policy Forum. The ENA also broadcast a story on TV and radio. Milele FM, one of the top most listened radio stations in Kenya, aired a 2.49-minute story with a sound bite from the NANHRI Regional Mechanisms Programme Officer on November 25, 2018.
- The Star² and the Daily Nation³ published articles on the launch of the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences Baseline Assessment Report in Ghana. Other local media outlets in Ghana published the news.

¹ <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018-11-23-40-lobby-groups-pledge-to-support-african-governments-in-war-on-graft/>

² <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018-10-03-jailing-petty-offenders-congests-prisons-lobby-group-says/>

³ <https://www.nation.co.ke/news/Petty-offences-blamed-for-case-backlogs/1056-4791438-lox92yz/index.html>

Results

The above activities contributed to the following specific expected outcomes for NANHRI;

1. Media coverage and social media interactions increased visibility of the Network of African NHRIs, members and partners.
2. Increased understanding on the role of NHRIs in the Realisation of the Principle of Complementarity with the Rome Statute.
3. Over the last year, the average time audiences are spending on our website has increased by 13 per cent to reach 14min.07sec according to Alexa Ranking, a website that tracks and ranks traffic to various websites globally. Visitors to the website are also opening an average of six other pages, which in a 100 per cent increase over the last the months, according to the Alexa Ranking.
4. From the Fuse workshop, it was recommended that a Private Community on the Subcommittee on Accreditation be created upon approval of the respective authorities to ease access to information on the process of accreditation. This Community will be introduced to the SCA members in March, 2019. Before then, a mock-up of an SCA Community will be formed at regional level to test usability.
5. An open community on Sustainable Development Goals was also suggested at GANHRI level, to help in harnessing data related to this development agenda from regional to global level.
6. Establishing thematic working groups within NANHRI to engage with various human rights issues of relevance for Africa by coordinating common positions and responses to specific issues at both the regional and global levels.
7. Developing of guidelines and manuals for use by NHRIs in strengthening their capacities in various human rights thematic areas.
8. Prioritisation of resource mobilisation and identifying credible partners to collaborate with and synergize in the efforts for resource mobilization.
9. Capitalising on the existing relations with the AU organs and the signed MOU to deepen the engagement of NHRIs with the regional human rights mechanisms.
10. Identifying the priority human rights thematic areas for NANHRI to focus on and actively engaging members to realize the Network's objectives
11. There is increased support by AU bodies towards enhanced member states' goodwill for NHRIs strengthening;
12. It was noted that there is enhanced accessibility and interaction between AU organs and NHRIs at various levels;
13. It was observed and pointed out during discussions that generally, there is an increase in accelerated ratification and domestication of human rights treaties by African member states as a result of increased NHRIs involvement in advocacy processes;
14. The AUC affirmed that there is increased visibility of NHRIs and NANHRI in advocacy for respect, promotion and protection of human rights in the continent;
15. It was noted, however, that there is need for closer and enhanced partnership between the AUC and NHRIs/NANHRI in conflict resolution, management and peacebuilding on the Continent.
16. Through the contribution of the NHRC of Morocco, the African NHRIs contributed to the GCM, which was adopted in Marrakech in December 2018.

17. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway will avail USD 600 to support the tripartite partnership- through GANHRI, NANHRI and OHCHR in Africa and the funds be managed by UNDP.

Challenge:

1. The capacity of the Secretariat in French is still low, and with limited financial resources, most reports generated in English are not translated into French for publication on the French section of the website.
2. It is not easy to track the readership and get feedback on the NANHRI Quarterly Newsletters. For this reason, it is hard to determine the impact of the information shared.

Lessons and innovation

An electronic newsletter, which allows for inclusion of monitors of clicked links may help on determining the reach and readership of the newsletter. This may also drive more traffic to the website, while increasing visibility of NANHRI secretariat, the members and partners.

In giving a regional appeal to the media, NANHRI will include national examples in the press releases as a response to the feedback received from journalists.

NANHRI and other stakeholders should utilise the regional platforms availed by AU Human Rights bodies and other partners to share NANHRI's works and materials.

Conclusion

As the implementation of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan draws to an end, the Network of African NHRIs has responded in supporting the members in promoting, protecting and advocating for human rights in various thematic areas. Challenges and lessons have been learnt for a better approach in the future over the four years of the implementation. The challenges also presented opportunities for innovation in building the capacity of the Secretariat and the members in adaptively cultivating a human rights culture in Africa in the face of the highly dynamic situation on the continent.

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2018

		2018		2018		2017		2017
Income	Note	KES		USD		KES		USD
Member contributions		16,720,500		167,736		16,400,000		160,973
Grants and donations	8	34,043,178		341,515		78,875,517		774,196
Other income	9	7,842,481		78,674		5,421,507		53,214
Total income		58,606,159		587,925		100,697,024		988,383
Expenditure								
Administrative expenditure	10	36,146,027		362,610		30,661,430		300,955
Program expenditure	11	31,838,972		319,402		40,715,305		399,639
Total expenditure		67,984,999		682,012		71,376,735		700,594
(Deficit) / Balance for the year		-9,378,840		-94,087		29,320,289		287,789

NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2018

		2018		2018		2017		2017
	Note	KES		USD		KES		USD
Non-current assets	4							
Property and equipment		673,690		6,737		674,127		6,531
Total non-current assets		673,690		6,737		674,127		6,531
Current assets								
Accounts receivable	5	57,794,808		577,948		55,913,883		541,634
Cash and cash equivalents	6	34,482,670		344,827		49,085,257		475,487
Total current assets		92,277,478		922,775		104,999,140		1,017,121
Less: current liabilities								
Accounts payable	7	2,867,023		28,670		6,210,282		60,159
Net current assets		89,410,455		894,105		98,788,858		956,962
Net assets		90,084,145		900,842		99,462,985		963,493
Represented by:-								
General fund		88,050,422		880,505		97,428,825		943,788
Capital fund		673,690		6,737		674,127		6,531
Restricted fund		1,360,033		13,600		1,360,033		13,174
Fund balance		90,084,145		900,842		99,462,985		963,493

These financial statements were approved by the Steering Committee on_____2019 and signed by:-

.....
Mr Gilbert SEBIHOGO
(Network Executive Director)

.....
Ms Madeleine NIRERE
(Chairperson, Steering Committee)



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ISBN: 978-9966-1765-4-7

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NANHRI

This report is published by: The Network of African National
Human Rights Institutions
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