

Human Rights promotion and rule of law

The result of activity by UNIOGBIS in the promotion of human rights and the rule of law has been reflected in a number of developments, some of which are mentioned below.

- The percentage of crimes reported to police and other law enforcement agencies that have been investigated or followed up increased from less than 20% in 2010 to 35% in 2012.
- There has been an increase in human rights treaties ratified by Parliament.
- Mechanisms for monitoring the human rights situation, including the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, have been established and are functional.
- A national human rights commission has been created and a capacity-building programme for its staff has been established.
- The capacity of national human rights institutions on the Paris Principle and other international human rights standards has improved through training workshops organized for members of the National Human Rights Commission on their role and mandate.
- The Ministries of Justice, Interior and Defense published 2 reviews of national legislation to eliminate discrepancies between international standards and national laws;
- A witness and victims' protection programme has been established. This supports rule of law, human rights protection and the fight against impunity.
- A human rights monitoring network has been established in eight regions as well as in Bissau, supported by regular monitoring missions to the regions and public reporting.
- Technical support has been provided for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations and is monitored at national level.
- New legislation has been adopted to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system and promote respect for the rule of law (The draft legislation on witnesses and special persons protection, a crucial element in addressing organized crime and fight against impunity, was adopted by the Council of Ministers early January 2012);
- Cooperation among various parts of the criminal justice system has started through the organization of a workshop involving all the institutions concerned and key recommendations on the follow-up have been defined. This cooperation will continue with the revision of necessary laws.
- A National Forum for Criminal Justice has been established.
- Penitentiary services have been strengthened and a correction approach launched. Two new prisons in Bafata and Mansoa were rehabilitated and equipped. A capacity-building programme for prison guards was implemented. However, the newly rehabilitated prisons outside Bissau have no more capacity to respond to current and future needs and the two

detention centres in Bissau are overcrowded while criminality and human rights violation are increasing.

- A draft law criminalizing human trafficking, including children and female excision was adopted in 2011.