



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM  
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

# UNCCT ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**THIRD YEAR OF THE  
UNCCT 5-YEAR PROGRAMME**  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018



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Terrorist groups, foreign terrorist fighters, and radicalised individuals susceptible to extremist and hate-filled narratives still possess the intention as well as the organisational and financial capacities to continue to perpetrate acts of violence and to recruit additional followers. It is essential that Member States develop and deliver effective responses to these evolving terrorist threats that are equally or more agile, flexible, and vigilant.

Vladimir Voronkov,  
*Under-Secretary-General  
for Counter-Terrorism*



UN Photo

## Foreword

### by the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT and the Executive Director of UNCCT

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The current state of international affairs is often characterised as fractured and polarised leading to fears that multilateralism is under threat. However, despite the differences that may exist within the international community, in counter-terrorism matters, international consensus prevails over division and disagreement. In 2018, Member States adopted the 6th Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus in resolution A/RES/72/284 demonstrating their strong commitment to the implementation of the Strategy. The resolution called upon Member States, the United Nations and other organisations to “step up their efforts to implement the Strategy.” It further recognised the important role that the United Nations plays in the implementation of the Strategy, “especially in the area of capacity-building” and “stress[ed] the need to continue to provide tangible capacity-building assistance to Member States in counter-terrorism matters.”

The many recommendations included in the resolution reflect a shared understanding that terrorists are extremely adaptable, well-financed and retain an influence far beyond their territorial control. Terrorist groups, foreign terrorist fighters, and radicalised individuals susceptible to extremist and hate-filled narratives still possess the intention as well as the organisational and financial capacities to continue to perpetrate acts of violence and to recruit additional followers. It is essential that Member States

develop and deliver effective responses to these evolving terrorist threats that are equally or more agile, flexible, and vigilant.

This past year was a year of transition following the transfer of UNCCT into the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism established by General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/291. The important work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and its role in building the capacity of Member States to counter and respond to terrorism was both recognised and well appreciated in the resolution. Guided by its 5-Year Programme of Work, over the course of 2018 UNCCT has indeed stepped up its efforts as called for in the Review Resolution. UNCCT delivered more capacity-building activities in a greater number of beneficiary countries, 61 Member States in total, increased the number of thematic areas in which it works, expanded its work in existing areas and adapted its working methods and approaches to meet the needs of Member States. There were 20 global, 12 regional and 7 national projects and programmes, UNCCT's activities in support to victims of terrorism became a global programme, and UNCCT developed a new Weapons of Mass Destruction programme to address chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. Overall the Centre's budget increased significantly from \$14.7 million in 2017 to \$26 million in 2018 and expenditure increased from \$10.6 million as per the final financial statement for the year ending on 31 December 2017 to \$17.6 million during the same period, representing an increase by 66%. While the resources allocated to UNCCT programmes and projects in 2018 increased by 76.9%, signalling that the Centre's potential to deliver technical assistance has been continuously growing and its span of global and regional technical assistance has been further evolving through diversifying and venturing into new areas outlined in this report, the implementation rate of capacity-building projects decreased from 75% in 2017 to 69% in 2018 (equivalent of 64.8% at a project level), signalling that ambitions of the Centre should be commensurate with its evolving staffing needs and expertise. To address this situation, we have initiated a change management process with intention to determine an optimal staffing level required for UNCCT going forward, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/72/284, and to enhance projects scalability as well as strengthen managers' oversight role and staff members' accountability for deliverables and impact determined at the outset of each project.

Our partnerships with other regional organisations also expanded exponentially with new Memoranda of Understanding with regional organisations around the world such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the African Union, while our relationship with the European Union was reinforced through dialogue and joint activities. UNCCT's coordination, cooperation and collaboration with other UN entities was also strengthened. In line with Security Council resolution 2395, UNCCT enhanced its working methods with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) at the political and technical levels. An increasing number of UNCCT capacity-building activities were developed and implemented in consultation with CTED, while more joint missions took place. Joint project development and implementation with other UN Global Compact entities also expanded.



None of these improvements would have been possible without the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other donors who have made generous contributions to the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in support of UNCCT activities. Additional 13 contributions from donors complemented the contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Together, they provide the core and critical resources needed to implement UNCCT's 5-Year Programme of Work. Resource mobilisation was another key priority for 2018 and included the preparations for the launch of the first United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Consolidated Multi-Year Appeal which included several UNCCT projects in need of co-funding.

The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of UNCCT's organisation and operation and released a report with 12 important recommendations. Drawing on the lessons learned from 2018, I have a number of priorities for 2019. First, ensuring transparency and improving communication with Member States remain guiding principles for how UNCCT operates. This improved in 2018 with briefings to the UNCCT Advisory Board, quarterly briefings to Member States, increased engagement with Permanent Missions and the capitals, and the development of a communication and visibility strategy which includes a donor visibility strategy, as well as other communications and media activities. Second, our focus on building new partnerships will remain a priority, not only with Member States, but also with the private sector, civil society, academia and research institutes for a 'whole of society' approach, broader community outreach, and enhanced technical expertise.

2019 will be a pivotal year in the further development of UNCCT. Having past the mid-year point and in compliance with the OIOS audit recommendation, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will undertake a review of the 5-year Programme and report progress to the UNCCT Advisory Board to ensure that the Centre's focus areas reflect the evolving threat of terrorism and respond to the needs and priorities of Member States. In response to the 6th review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, UNCCT will further improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of UNCCT capacity-building projects and improve qualitative and quantitative reporting of the programme performance and impact of UNCCT activities. The change management process of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, including UNCCT, which began in 2018 will be completed in 2019 leading to more efficient business processes and enhanced implementation of capacity-building assistance. I am committed to implementing these changes and improvements in how UNCCT operates, and I trust that Member States will further benefit from the improved capacity-building assistance and expertise of the Centre to effectively counter the threats of terrorism and violent extremism.



Vladimir Voronkov,  
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism

Learning about best practices in monitoring and evaluation, developing indicators and baseline data, and applying monitoring and evaluation tools will enable UNCCT to better plan for and report on results and impact. Mainstreaming gender and human rights are among the key dimensions in the functioning of UNCCT and in particular in the design and implementation of capacity building activities. Effective delivery of UNCCT activities will continue to depend on sustainable and diverse resources, successful communications and visibility activities, and transparency of UNCCT operations and programmes, all of which are also outlined in this report.



## I. Introduction

Improved qualitative and quantitative programme performance and impact of UNCCT activities was one of the key recommendations from the 2018 OIOS audit of UNCCT. Even before the conclusion of the audit, UNCCT took steps to improve its reporting by updating its reporting format in the Progress Report covering January-July 2018. This 2018 Annual Report on the Third Year of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme continues this process with the aim of promoting transparency and accountability by providing a comprehensive overview of all UNCCT programmes and projects implemented in 2018, including substantive and financial performance at project level.

In 2018, UNCCT implemented 43 capacity-building programmes and projects, of which 4 were completed during the reporting period with 30 ongoing projects as of 31 December. These diverse projects address the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and respond to emerging terrorist threats and needs of Member States ranging from countering the financing of terrorism in cooperation with Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies, several youth-focused projects

on empowerment and skills development, to the strategic communications project. New or revised global programmes include a more comprehensive Border Security Management Programme seeking to support Member States address gaps in border security management in relation to counter-terrorism, a new Programme on Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute in relation to terrorist travel and an expanded Victims of Terrorism Support Programme. UNCCT also delivered unique human rights projects focused on human rights at borders in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and children associated with Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

The report elaborates on UNCCT programme of work and operations. The OIOS audit presented a unique opportunity to delve into the processes of how UNCCT functions, with the final audit report recommendations providing specific and clear actions that UNCCT needs to take. UNCCT enhanced its in-house capacity and skills by training staff on the PRINCE2 project management methodology necessary to ensure successful implementation of projects. UNCCT's commitment to further maximising impact on the ground and to promoting an 'All-of-UN' approach was supported by the further development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Learning about best practices in monitoring and evaluation, developing indicators and baseline data, and applying monitoring and evaluation tools will enable UNCCT to better plan for and report on results and impact. Mainstreaming gender and human rights are among the key dimensions in the functioning of UNCCT and in particular in the design and implementation of capacity-building activities. Effective delivery of UNCCT activities will continue to depend on sustainable and diverse resources, successful communications and visibility activities, and transparency of UNCCT operations and programmes, all of which are also outlined in this report.

The report also describes the important role of the UNCCT Advisory Board in supporting and guiding UNCCT's work and ensuring transparency and accountability. The Advisory Board met 7 times in 2018 at both Expert and Ambassadorial level with the 16th Board



16th Meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board in Riyadh

Photo: UNOCT\_KSA MOFA

meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres. Substantive discussions of the Board focused on four thematic issues critical to the Centre's operations and programming: (1) the future role and composition of the Advisory Board; (2) the Centre's future thematic and geographic priorities; (3) resource mobilisation in terms of sustainability, predictability and diversification; and (4) monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the Centre's programmes and projects. The Advisory Board stressed the need to respond to evolving priorities in a dynamic threat environment, to align the Centre's priorities with the assessments of other relevant UN entities, and to avoid overlap and duplication of work with other technical assistance providers within the UN. In terms of funding, Board members highlighted the need to sustain and diversify funding, to enhance transparency and management efficiency, and to effectively utilise existing resources through a more rapid and efficient development and implementation of projects that address the urgent priorities as identified by beneficiary countries.

**The 2018 Annual report is divided into seven sections:**

- **Introduction**
- Section II discusses **Programme Implementation** which includes:
  - a) an overview of the projects including budget and expenditure of each project, and
  - b) individual projects organised by Pillar, outcomes and outputs including a brief description of objectives, activities, and results/impact.
- Section III covers **Programme and Project Management** which includes:
  - a) the UNCCT audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services,
  - b) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework,
  - c) Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender, and
  - d) Key Challenges and Lessons Learned.
- Section IV discusses the **UNCCT Advisory Board, Outreach, and 'All-of-UN' cooperation.**
- Section V covers **Communications and Visibility.**
- Section VI provides information on **Resource Mobilisation and Financial Performance.**
- Section VII on **Conclusion and Strategic Priorities for 2019** outlining the Executive Director's vision for the way forward.

**Exhibit I**
**UNCCT 5-Year Programme Results Framework**
**Outcome 1: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Pillar I)**

Output 1.1: Preventing Violent Extremism

Output 1.2: Foreign Terrorist Fighters

**Outcome 2: Combatting Terrorism (Pillar II)**

Output 2.1: Counter-Terrorism Strategies

Output 2.2: Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Output 2.3: Border Security and Management

Output 2.4: Cyber Security

Output 2.5: Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism

**Outcome 3: Human Rights and Victims (Pillar IV)**

Output 3.1: Human Rights

Output 3.2: Victims of Terrorism

**Outcome 4: International Cooperation (Pillar III)**

Output 4.1: Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT)

Output 4.2: Supporting CTITF [Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities]

Output 4.3: Networks Related to Counter-Terrorism

Output 4.4: South-South and Triangular Cooperation





UN Photo / Rick Bajornas

## II. Programme Implementation

The reporting period covers the third year of the UNCCT Five-Year Programme (2016-2020), which guides the Centre's work across 4 broad outcomes, each related to the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and 12 underlying outputs (see Exhibit I). These outputs are key thematic areas where the Centre offers technical expertise and provides capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States, international and regional organisations, as well as civil society organisations in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. These focus areas are aligned with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its subsequent reviews, as well as the UN Security Council mandates.

### Project Overview

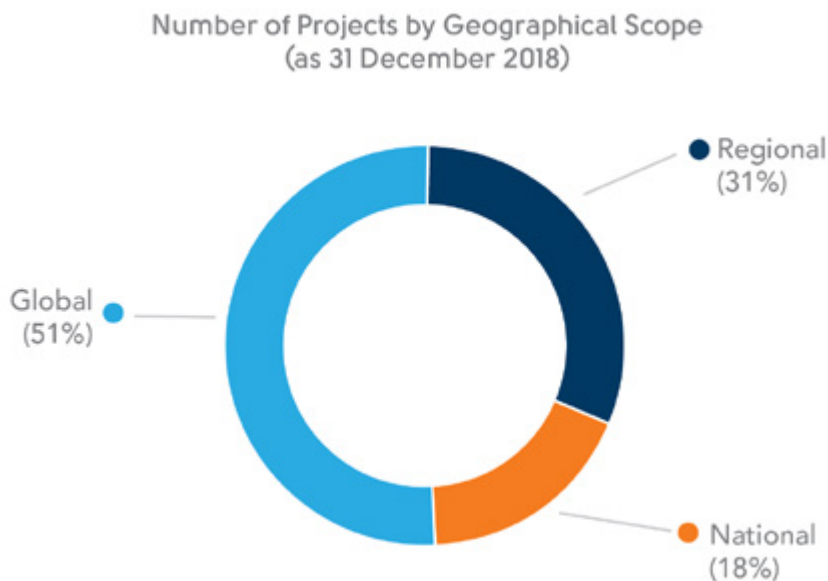
In 2018, UNCCT implemented 43 capacity-building programmes and projects, of which 4 were completed during the reporting period. As of 31 December, the Centre had 30 ongoing projects in the implementation phase, and an additional 9 projects in the

initiation phase. Projects in the initiation phase are those that have been approved at the concept stage and are in the process of being developed into full-fledged projects. Depending on the scale of the planned project this phase may include approved initial cost inducing elements, such as the recruitment of consultants to support with expertise and/or travel for beneficiary consultations through scoping missions. The finalised project documents are subject to their own approval process, and as such not all projects in the 'initiation phase' may lead to implementation of projects. The 39 UNCCT programmes and projects include 20 projects at global level, 12 projects at regional level, and 7 projects at national level.

## Exhibit II

### Number of Projects by Geographical Scope

(as of 31 December 2018)

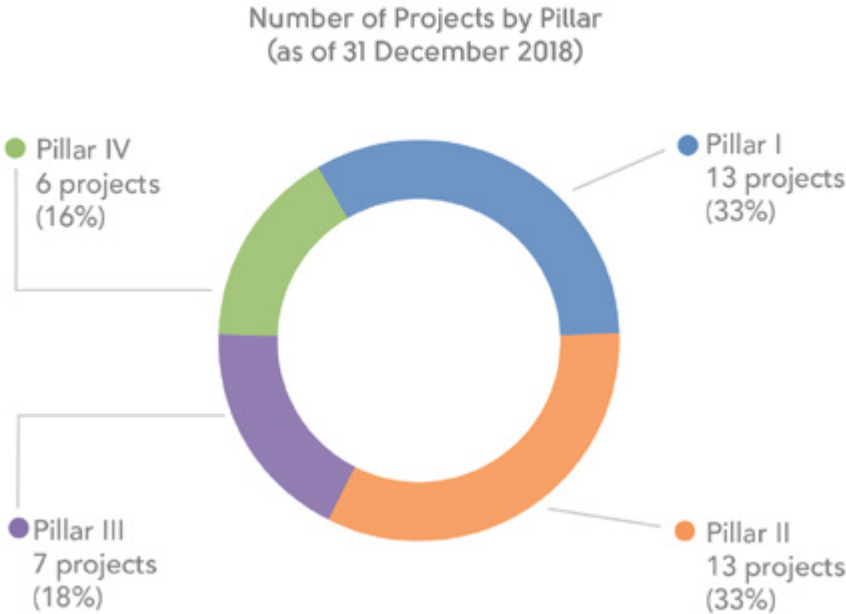


Of these 39 programmes and projects, 13 projects support conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism (Pillar I), 13 projects support counter-terrorism (Pillar II), 7 projects support building States' capacity and strengthening the role of the United Nations (Pillar III), and 6 projects support human rights and the rule of law (Pillar IV).



**Exhibit III**

**Number of Projects by Pillar (as of 31 December 2018)**



UNCCT initiated 15 new programmes and projects in 2018, and 10 of these advanced to the implementation phase during this period, while the balance remained in the initiation phase. These include multiyear programmes on countering the financing of terrorism, supporting the victims of terrorism, supporting the use of advance passenger information and passenger name record systems, preventing and responding to weapons of mass destruction/chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, and youth engagement and skills development.

The table in Exhibit IV details the description, duration, status, and geographical scope of all the Centre’s projects under each of the four Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the output that each project is contributing under the Centre’s 5-Year Programme, as well as budget and expenditure of each project.

## Exhibit IV

## Overview of the UNCCT Programmes and Projects in 2018 (in United States Dollars)

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR I</b>	<b>Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism</b>				<b>5,684,860</b>	<b>3,897,035</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2017-72</b> Facilitate Coordinated "One-UN" Support to Member States on PVE Policy-Making and Developing National and Regional PVE Action Plans	Provide coordinated UN PVE policy support to requesting Member States and regional organizations by helping them develop, harmonize, and implement executive or legislative frameworks through their national/ regional PVE Plans of Action	24 months (January 2018- January 2020) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	766,879	630,993	82%
<b>UNCCT-2015-38</b> Preventing Violent Extremism through Strategic Communications – Phase III	Enhance the understanding and awareness of strategic communications for PVE; support interagency coordination and planning platforms for strategic communications; improve technical strategic communication skills	18 months (October 2017- April 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	403,957	379,442	94%
<b>UNCCT-2017-71</b> Gender Mainstreaming in the Office of Counter-Terrorism	Mainstream gender in substantive work and operations	12 months (November 2017- October 2018) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	392,451	77,960	20%
<b>UNCCT-2016-75</b> Prevention of Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (UNCCT-UNESCO)	Support selected Member States in North Africa and the Middle East to empower young men and women to become key actors in PVE, including by mainstreaming PVE through non-formal and informal education and strengthening cooperation with online youth communities and the media to combat hate speech and violent extremism	24 months (April 2018- April 2020) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	1,968,955	1,968,955	100%

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR I</b>	<b>Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism</b>				<b>5,684,860</b>	<b>3,897,035</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2016-76</b> Promoting Dialogue, Tolerance and Openness through Media to Counter Narratives Associated with Terrorism in the Arab Region (UNCCT-UNESCO-LAS)	Dismantle conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism by creating a climate for enhanced dialogue, respect and mutual understanding through building the capacity of stakeholders, particularly youth and media professionals and leveraging the role of media	24 months (2019-2021) <b>Initiated</b>	Regional	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2017-59</b> Building Capacity of Technical and Vocational Training Institutes in Bangladesh	Provide knowledge, best practices, and capabilities to principals and teachers of technical and vocational training institutes in Bangladesh to enable their institutes' students to acquire entrepreneurial skills and have improved access to jobs so that they gain resilience against violent extremist propaganda and/or terrorist recruitment	10 months (December 2017-August 2018) <b>Completed</b>	National	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	371,588	317,737	86%
<b>UNCCT-2016-47</b> Support for Juvenile Offenders in Prisons in Pakistan	Contribute to juveniles in prison in Pakistan charged under terrorism-related offences to gain improved access to sustainable livelihood, job acquisition and job retention skills and thereby gain resilience against terrorist propaganda and terrorist recruitment	20 months (July 2017-January 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	National	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	116,056	2,884	2%
<b>UNCCT-2018-01-80</b> Building the Capacity of Technical and Vocational Training Institutes in Indonesia and the Maldives	Provide knowledge, best practices, and capabilities to principals and teachers of technical and vocational training institutes in Indonesia and the Maldives to enable their institutes' students to acquire entrepreneurial skills and have improved access to jobs so that they gain resilience against violent extremist propaganda and/or terrorist recruitment	6 months in Indonesia and 3 months in the Maldives (expected start in July 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	National	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	362,802	0	0

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR I</b>	<b>Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism</b>				<b>5,684,860</b>	<b>3,897,035</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2015-43</b> Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization in Prisons	Support participating countries in Asia, North Africa and the Middle East to implement prison-based disengagement programmes to dissuade extremists from violence, and to assist former violent extremist prisoners to reintegrate back into society	48 months (1 May 2018 to 30 April 2022) <b>Ongoing</b>	National	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	457,650	319,306	70%
<b>UNCCT-2018-01-90</b> Enabling Youth Entrepreneurship and Increasing Youth Employment Opportunities to Build Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Ethiopia	Enhance capacity of microfinance institutes and business development service providers to stimulate youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in Ethiopia, and thereby to strengthen the resilience of youth against violent extremism	18 months (July 2019-December 2020) <b>Ongoing</b>	National	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2018-01-81</b> Building Capacity of Youth in the (formerly) Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan through Employment Training and Psycho-Social Support	Provide training in vocational skills, life skills and psycho-social support to young adults adversely affected by terrorist violence in the (formerly) FATA to enable them to earn a decent living and safeguard them from the threat of radicalisation by terrorists and violent extremists	12 months (January 2019-January 2022) <b>Initiated</b>	National	Outcome 1 Output 1.1	72,377	72,377	100%
<b>UNCCT-2017-64</b> Enhancing the Capacity of States to Adopt Human Rights Based Treatment of Child Returnees	Assist Member States to develop comprehensive policies to support child returnees through a human rights based and gender-sensitive approach including through the development of a handbook on good practices	16 months (January 2018-April 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 1 Output 1.2	275,779	244,061	88%

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expendi- ture (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR I</b>	<b>Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism</b>				<b>5,684,860</b>	<b>3,897,035</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2017-67</b> Enhancing Member State Capacities to Exploit Social Media in relation to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (UNCCT-INTERPOL)	Support Member States to expand their networks, enhance their understanding of the FTF phenomenon, and increase their investigative capacities in relation to the exploitation of social media and other internet-based investigations on FTFs	12 months (April 2018- March 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 1 Output 1.2	496,366	127,381	25%
<b>UNCCT-2017-66</b> Enhancing Information Sharing on Foreign Terrorist Fighters among Member States (UNCCT-INTERPOL)	Enhance cooperation among Member States and increase the quality and quantity of available information to stem the flow of FTFs	12 months (July 2019- June 2020) <b>Initiated</b>	Global	Outcome 1 Output 1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR II</b>	<b>Preventing and Combatting Terrorism</b>				<b>5,027,466</b>	<b>3,121,077</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2017-69</b> Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase III	Provide coordinated UN system support to Central Asian countries to enhance capacity to fight terrorism and prevent violent extremism in a strategic manner, including through development of national and regional CT/PVE strategies upon their request, providing capacity-building assistance in the priority areas of concern, exchanging best practices, and cooperating and coordinating with regional and international organizations in their CT/PVE efforts in the region	36 months; (April 2018- May 2021) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 2 Output 2.1	1,573,423	1,462,294	93%
<b>UNCCT-2016-50</b> Facilitating the Development of a Regional Strategy for East Africa and the Horn of Africa to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism	Support the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for countries of the Horn of Africa and Tanzania to prevent violent extremism in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	24 months (January 2018- December 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 2 Output 2.1	52,131	8,502	16%
<b>UNCCT-2016-51</b> Facilitating the Implementation of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Southern Africa	Support the Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in the implementation of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Plan of Action for Southern Africa	24 months (January 2018- December 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 2 Output 2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-88</b> Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World (UNCCT-AIMC)	Support the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) and AIMC Member States in developing and implementing a regional counter-terrorism strategy for the Arab region based on the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as regional needs and priorities	60 months (January 2019- December 2023) <b>Initiated</b>	Regional	Outcome 2 Output 2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR II</b>	<b>Preventing and Combatting Terrorism</b>				<b>5,027,466</b>	<b>3,121,077</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2013-21</b> UNCCT List of Counter-Terrorism Advisors	Maintain an updated list of counter-terrorism advisors to provide timely capacity-building assistance to Member States, UN peacekeeping operations, UN special political missions and UN Country Teams as requested.	2013-present <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.1	207,642	186,729	90%
<b>UNCCT-2012-12</b> Terrorist Designations and Freezing of Assets - Phase II	Enhance the understanding, skills and experience of financial regulatory officials, ministries and private sector entities on international standards related to terrorist designations and asset freezing regimes	48 months (January 2015-March 2018) <b>Completed</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-78</b> Capacity-building Project on Countering the Financing of Terrorism through Effective National and Regional Action	Build capacity on freezing of assets with a stronger focus on FTFs financing, financial intelligence sharing, risk assessments, and public-private partnerships	15 months (March 2018-July 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.2	700,000	409,465	58%
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-82</b> Supporting the Use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data to Detect, Prevent, Investigate and Prosecute Terrorist Offences and Other Serious Crime	Build capacity to detect terrorists and criminals using API/PNR data, watchlists and enhanced information exchange through needs assessment, legislative assistance, institutional and capacity-building support, and information and communication technology expertise	60 months (1 October 2018-30 April 2023) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.3	427,727	130,152	30%

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR II</b>	<b>Preventing and Combatting Terrorism</b>				<b>5,027,466</b>	<b>3,121,077</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2017-68</b> Strengthening Member State Capacities in the Area of Border Security and Management to Counter Terrorism and Stem the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (BSM programme)	Enhance Member State capacities in border security and management, including through cross-border cooperation, responsible use of biometrics, development of border security and management strategies and action plans in the counter-terrorism context, and provision of BSM good practices and training	(48 months; January 2019- December 2022) <b>Initiated</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.3	998,570	507,521	51%
<b>UNCCT-2017-63</b> Aviation Security	Enhance the capacity of participating countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to prevent and counter threats to civil aviation through provision of training and quality assurance in accordance with international aviation security standards	36 months (February 2019- January 2021) <b>Initiated</b>	Regional	Outcome 2 Output 2.3	499,884	118,609	24%
<b>UNCCT-2017-58</b> Enhancing the Capacity of States to Prevent Cyber Attacks Perpetrated by Terrorist Actors and Mitigate Their Impact	Raise awareness of cyber threats posed by terrorists and enhance knowledge on potential solutions to increase the IT security and resilience of critical national infrastructure	18 months (January 2018- 2020) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.4	470,947	271,150	58%
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-79</b> Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (WMD/CBRN Programme)	Enhance capacities of Member States, International Organizations to prevent terrorists from accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials and to ensure that they are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, a terrorist attack involving such weapons or materials.	36 months (September 2018- August 2021) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.5	97,142	26,655	27%



Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR II</b>	<b>Preventing and Combatting Terrorism</b>				<b>5,027,466</b>	<b>3,121,077</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-79-A</b> Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Attacks in Iraq (under WMD/CBRN Programme)	Enhance Iraq's capacities to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack involving chemical and biological weapons or materials	15 months (June 2019-August 2020) <b>Initiated</b>	National	Outcome 2 Output 2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-79-B</b> Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan (under WMD/CBRN Programme)	Enhance the national capabilities of Jordan in the areas of preparedness and response to a terrorist attack involving CBRN weapons or materials	36 months (October 2019-September 2021) <b>Ongoing</b>	National	Outcome 2 Output 2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2018-02-79-C</b> Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (UNCCT-UNODC)	Promote adherence to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism through legislative assistance and judicial training, as well as outreach and capacity-building activities	36 months (January 2019-December 2021) <b>Initiated</b>	Global	Outcome 2 Output 2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR III</b>	<b>Building States' Capacity to Prevent and Combat Terrorism and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations System</b>				<b>1,971,099</b>	<b>1,486,113</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2017-74</b> Supporting Regional Efforts of the G5 Sahel Countries to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism (I-ACT)	Support the G5 Sahel countries in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the regional level through an 'All-of-UN' approach, in close collaboration with UNOWAS and the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat	25 months (April 2017-May 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 4 Output 4.1	742,870*	315,592	41%
<b>UNCCT-2018-03-85</b> Promotion of Sustainable Peace and Development through Building of Skills for Life and the World of Work in the Sahel (UNCCT-UNESCO under I-ACT)	Support peace and sustainable development through strengthening youth competencies, including through inclusive education policies, strengthening skills and values for socio-economic integration, and capacity-building of teacher trainers and teachers	12 months (May 2018-May 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 4 Output 4.1	126,729	126,729	100%
<b>UNCCT-2018-03-86</b> Strengthening Rule of Law-Based Criminal Justice Measures and Related Operational Measures Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism (UNCCT-UNODC under I-ACT)	Strengthen judicial and operational cooperation among G5 countries, and enhance capacity of their law enforcement and criminal justice officials to address legal and criminal justice challenges related to FTF and violent extremism in compliance with human rights, as well as to conduct investigation of terrorism and related cases	12 months (September 2018-September 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 4 Output 4.1	497,802	497,802	100%
<b>UNCCT-2018-03-87</b> Programme Coordination of the G5 Sahel Framework (I-ACT)	Support the programmatic needs of the regional I-ACT Framework through the recruitment and deployment of required professional and general service staff	24 months (January 2018-December 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 4 Output 4.1	474,545	396,022	83%

\* The I-ACT Regional Framework in the G5 Sahel is funded by the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund administered by the Executive Office of the Secretary General.

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expend- iture (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR III</b>	<b>Building States' Capacity to Prevent and Combat Terrorism and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations System</b>				<b>1,971,099</b>	<b>1,486,113</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2014-36</b> Enhancing the capacity of Mali's Security and Justice Sectors to Counter Terrorism (I-ACT)	Contribute to (1) enhancing the delivery of effective and efficient security and justice services in the field of counter-terrorism; (2) strengthening the capacities of law enforcement, prosecutors and judges to effectively detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism related offences with due respect for human rights and the rule of law; (3) fostering interagency counter-terrorism cooperation; and (4) developing and implementing a national counter-terrorism strategy	41 months (September 2014-February 2018) <b>Completed</b>	National	Outcome 4 Output 4.1	308,818	139,477	45%
<b>UNCCT-2017-73-a</b> Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism (seed project)	Raise awareness, increase knowledge and strengthen capability of Member States and relevant international and regional entities on collecting, recording and sharing of biometric information on terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters at the international level, and through the establishment of a Compendium of existing good practices and recommendations	12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.2	112,898	107,621	95%
<b>UNCCT-2017-73-d</b> National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies (seed project)	Develop national comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategy in light of Security Council resolutions 1963 (2010) and 2129 (2013)	12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.2	112,498	56,500	50%
<b>UNCCT-2017-73-h</b> Protection of Critical Infrastructure Including Internet, Vulnerable Targets and Tourism Security (seed project)	Develop Guidelines and a Compendium of Good Practices on the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks	12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.2	111,834	63,240	57%
<b>UNCCT-2017-73-i</b> Communications (seed project)	Counter terrorist narratives through the development of good practices, recommendations for effective monitoring and evaluation and toolkit	12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.2	113,068	0	0%

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expend- iture (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR III</b>	<b>Building States' Capacity to Prevent and Combat Terrorism and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations System</b>				<b>1,971,099</b>	<b>1,486,113</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2017-73-j</b> Legal and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism (CTED seed project)	Develop guidelines on the role of the military in supporting the collection, sharing and use of evidence for promoting rule of law and human rights compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism	12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.2	112,907	98,722	87%
<b>UNCCT-2019-02-79-D</b> Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge About Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism (UNCCT-UNICRI seed project)	Enhance knowledge and awareness of scientific and technological advances relevant to WMD terrorism through the preparation and dissemination of a research-based report	15 months (March/ April 2019- May/June 2020) <b>Initiated</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2013-24</b> Fostering International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Promoting Collaboration between National, Regional and International Counter-Terrorism Centres and Initiatives – Network Against Terrorism (NAT) Phase II	Strengthen collaboration between national, regional and international counter-terrorism centres and initiatives, and promote a global network against terrorism, including through the creation and maintenance of a web directory and international conferences	2013/ <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>UNCCT-2018-03-84</b> Fostering South-South Cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism	Enhance cooperation and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and good practices between Member States of the Global South on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism	24 months (January 2019- December 2020) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 4 Output 4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR IV</b>	<b>Ensuring Respect for Human rights and the Rule of Law as the Fundamental Basis of the Fight Against Terrorism</b>				<b>1,729,293</b>	<b>837,043</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2015-40</b> Training of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism	Enhance the understanding, skills and experience of law enforcement and security officials on international human rights standards in the counter-terrorism context	48 months (January 2015-December 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 3 Output 3.1	620,054	198,018	32%
<b>UNCCT-2017-65</b> Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism (under BSM programme)	Enhance awareness of border authorities on international human rights standards applicable to border security and management, including on screening, referral, interviewing, detention and removal	18 months (October 2017-April 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 3 Output 3.1	357,447	355,593	99%
<b>UNCCT-2013-14-REV</b> Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards in Screening and Controlling Persons at Borders in the Counter-Terrorism Context	Provide guidance to Member States on how to comply with international human rights standards in the process of screening and controlling persons at border crossings through the development of a handbook and pocketbook for border officials	12 months (June 2017-May 2018) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 3 Output 3.1	129,136	62,853	49%
<b>UNCCT-2014-31</b> Community Engagement Through Human Rights Led Policing	Start the process of building lasting trust-based partnerships between police officers and the communities they serve in order to enhance the CVE effort within those communities including by providing local police officers with an introduction to global best practices on PVE and community policing	October 2014-December 2019 (TBC) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 3 Output 3.1	97,350	107	0
<b>UNCCT-2017-55</b> Security Sector Reform in an Era of Terrorism/ Violent Extremism: Women's Rights in the Sahel Region (UNCCT-UN Women)	Strengthen capacity of the security sector across the G5 Sahel countries to protect and promote women's rights while preventing and countering violent extremism under the I-ACT Framework for the G5 Sahel	24 months; (December 2017-December 2019) <b>Ongoing</b>	Regional	Outcome 3 Output 3.1	N/A	N/A	N/A

Project Number, Name	Project Description	Duration/ Status	Scope	Outcome/ Output (5-Year Prog.)	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>PILLAR IV</b>	<b>Ensuring Respect for Human rights and the Rule of Law as the Fundamental Basis of the Fight Against Terrorism</b>				<b>1,729,293</b>	<b>837,043</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>UNCCT-2018-04-83</b> Victims of Terrorism Support Programme	Strengthen the capacity of Member States and civil society organisations to assist and support victims of terrorism in protecting and promoting their rights and needs	36 months (June 2018-May 2021) <b>Ongoing</b>	Global	Outcome 3 Output 3.2	481,697	189,287	39%
<b>UNCCT-2017-56</b> Good Practices Handbook to Empower and Strengthen Victims of Terrorism Associations to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism	Establish good practices on victims' role in preventing violent extremism; financial and non-financial assistance to victims; resiliency; and collaboration with Member States, that will better assist and protect the rights of victims, to be published in a handbook	9 months (June 2017-February 2018) <b>Completed</b>	Global	Outcome 3 Output 3.2	43,609	31,185	72%

	Budget Released (a)	Expenditure (b)	Imp. Rate (c)= (b)/(a)
<b>GRAND TOTAL, Pillars I through IV</b>	<b>14,412,824</b>	<b>9,341,375</b>	<b>64.8%</b>

## Project Objectives, Activities, Outputs and Impact

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### PILLAR I:

### Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism

Drawing on UNCCT expertise/assistance and programme support, Member States prevent and counter violent extremism and address the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon (Outcome I, UNCCT 5-Year Programme)

**Output 1.1:** Through UNCCT support, requesting Member States and the United Nations have an increased capacity to prevent and counter the appeal of violent extremism and its underlying causes

Through the latest Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June 2018 (A/72/284), Member States have stressed “the significance of a sustained and comprehensive approach, including through stronger efforts, where necessary, to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism”, and highlighted, inter alia, the promotion of tolerance and diversity, inclusion of youth and women, as well as engagement with local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter violent extremist narratives and address the drivers of violent extremism. The UN Secretary-General has instructed the UN system to place absolute priority on the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) as and when conducive to terrorism, based on national and regional priorities and ownership. PVE is an integral part of the mandate of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and a high priority area of the UNCCT programme of work. More than one quarter of UNCCT programmes and projects are dedicated to addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in collaboration with relevant UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities<sup>1</sup>. These include a global PVE programme that supports requesting Member States

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which was launched by the Secretary-General on 6 December 2018, is an agreed framework between the UN Secretary-General and the Heads of 36 United Nations entities, plus INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. Through the work of thematic Working Groups, it aims to strengthen a common action approach to coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations system.

and regional organisations in developing their PVE policies and national and regional plans, and a global initiative on youth engagement, skills development and employment facilitation to support young people to acquire skills to find and retain decent employment and gain resilience against violent extremism. Other UNCCT projects on PVE focus on strategic communications; youth empowerment through cultural heritage, education, and communications; social inclusion and tolerance through media information literacy and countering violent extremist narratives and hate speech; and management of violent extremist offenders and de-radicalisation in prisons.

**UNCCT-2017-72:** Facilitating Coordinated “One-UN” Support to Member States on PVE Policy-Making and Developing National and Regional PVE Plans

#### Status: Ongoing

The global PVE programme aims to provide support to requesting Member States and regional organisations in developing and implementing their national and regional plans of action to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE), as and when conducive to terrorism. It seeks to facilitate 'All-of-UN' support through a strategic partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and close coordination with other UN entities within their respective mandate, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN Women. Launched in January 2018 for an initial period of two years, the programme seeks to provide support for up to ten Member States and two regional organisations. In 2018, UNCCT supported two Member States, Sudan and Kyrgyzstan, upon the official request of the two Governments.



Photo: UNDP Oslo Governance Centre



During the reporting period, UNCCT partnered in and co-sponsored the organisation of the Oslo II Global PVE Conference on 23-24 May 2018 on 'Assessing Progress Made and the Future of Development Approaches to Preventing Violent Extremism'. In the margins of the Conference, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Development Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise and strengthen their partnership in support of Member States' efforts to develop and implement national PCVE plans of action.

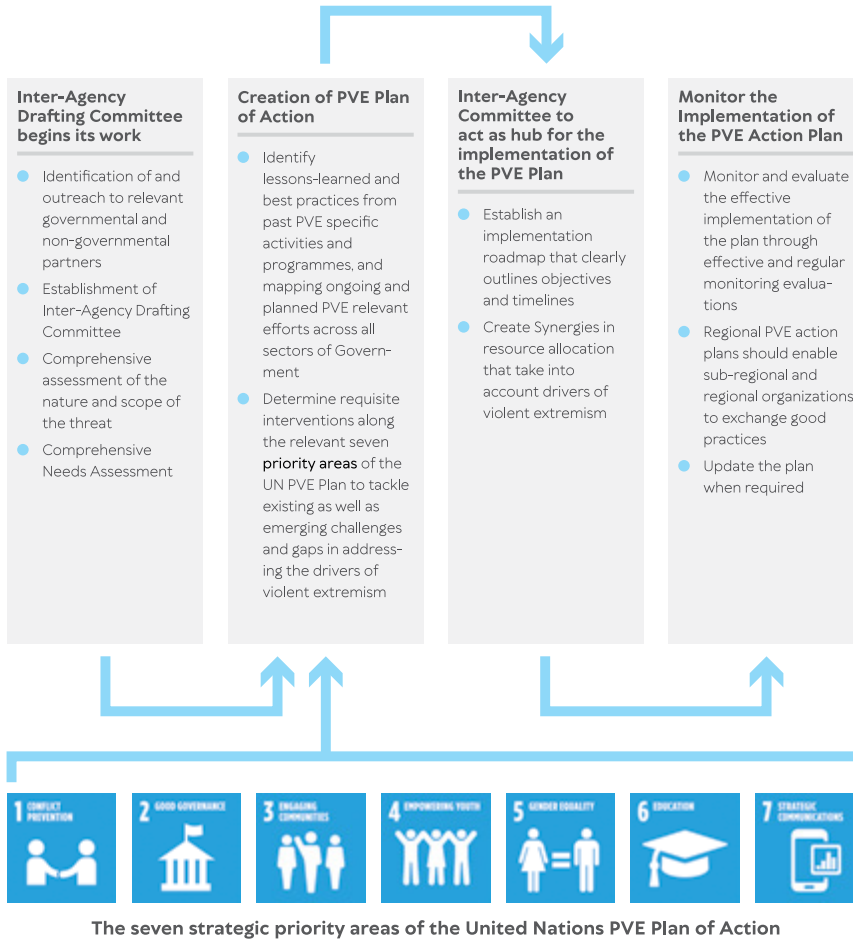
In September, the programme launched a *Reference Guide on Developing National and Regional Action Plans to Prevent Violent Extremism* during a side event in Geneva on the margins of the 39th Session of the Human Rights Council. The Guide presents overarching, procedural and substantive principles for consideration by Member States to design comprehensive and integrated PCVE action plans, in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and taking into account the UN PVE Plan of Action (A/70/674) and other documents. The guide was



translated into Arabic, French and Russian, and disseminated to Member States and regional organisations. The project contributed substantively to a UNDP-led study on lessons learnt by Member States in developing and implementing national PCVE plan of actions. This study is intended to complement the Reference Guide and is expected to be finalised in 2019.

In October and November 2018, UNCCT, together with UNDP, conducted joint scoping missions to Sudan and Kyrgyzstan, upon the official invitation of the respective Governments. During these missions, consultations were held with a broad range of governmental bodies beyond the security sector, including civil society organisations, on the nature of the terrorism threat and underlying drivers, existing national efforts and international support to address these drivers, applicable international standards and recommended good practices for an effective PCVE policy framework, and national needs where the United Nations could provide further support. UNODC, UN Women and UNESCO joined the missions, in coordination with the Offices of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Teams. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) also participated in the scoping mission to Kyrgyzstan. In the reporting year, UNCCT received a request for assistance from Benin and started planning for a scoping mission in 2019.

## Designing, Developing and Implementing National PVE Plans



Graphic from Reference Guide on Developing National and Regional Action Plans to Prevent Violent Extremism

### Results/Impact

The global PVE programme has contributed to the implementation of Output 1.1 of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme, as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its subsequent consensus reviews by the General Assembly (A/RES/70/291 and A/RES/72/284), which invites Member States to develop national plans of action to prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Through its scoping missions, the programme supported the identification of the capacity needs of requesting countries to prevent and counter the appeal of terrorism and provided policy guidance to effectively address the underlying drivers. These scoping missions which were jointly undertaken with relevant UN entities further helped develop and operationalise an 'All-of-UN' approach to engaging and supporting Member States in the development and implementation of their national PCVE plans of actions, both at headquarters and country level. Furthermore, the project has enabled UNCCT and UNDP to create synergies and strengthened action-oriented collaboration based

on their comparative advantages. Key activities and deliverables, such as the global PVE conference, the Reference Guide, and scoping missions, helped raise awareness of relevant UN documents, as well as applicable international standards and good practices for a 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach to PCVE, based on human rights and the rule of law.

In 2019, the project will work together with UNDP to finalise and publish the study on lessons learned in developing and implementing national PCVE action plans and will (co)organise regional workshops to facilitate the exchange of experiences in this area. In addition, the project will provide policy assistance to Sudan, Kyrgyzstan and Benin, and conduct further scoping missions and initiate support to other requesting Member States.

**UNCCT-2015-38:** Preventing Violent Extremism through Strategic Communications – Phase III

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**Status:** Ongoing

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UNCCT is implementing a multiyear project to strengthen the capacity of Member States, regional organisations and the United Nations to prevent violent extremism through strategic communications and to contribute to their efforts of developing and implementing effective policy and institutional frameworks in this regard. The project supports the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and its latest Review (A/72/284), which emphasises the need for action by the United Nations and Member States to develop stronger responses to terrorist exploitation of the Internet, social media and narratives. Further, it supports the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism which identifies 'strategic communications, the Internet and social media' as one of the seven priority areas, as well as Output 1.1 of UNCCT's 5-Year Programme, by enhancing the capacity of Member States and the United Nations to counter the appeal of violent extremism and address underlying causes of extremism.

Phases I and II of the project (March 2016–October 2017) resulted in the design of a UN approach to PVE strategic communications and a methodology for UNCCT to strengthen the United Nations and Member States' capacities. In 2018, the Centre worked on implementing Phase III of the project focused on supporting Member States, regional organisations and the United Nations through (1) 'StratCom101' awareness-raising and basic training on PVE strategic communications; (2) advice to develop an appropriate inter-ministerial institutional framework to support PVE strategic communications in a coordinated manner; and (3) technical support to potential beneficiaries on how best to implement a communication framework around PVE through specialised training.



UN Photo

To ensure the effective delivery of Phase III, UNCCT focused its work on understanding local needs and knowledge gaps. This included conducting scoping missions to Morocco (28-31 March), Jordan (11-13 April), Indonesia and Bangladesh (28 July-10 August), Djibouti and Ethiopia (17-20 September), and the Philippines (10-14 December), where UNCCT engaged with diverse stakeholders from national governments, regional organisations, the UN entities, civil society, the private sector and local media. The Centre also participated in a workshop with the Government of the Philippines and UNDP on 13-14 December and supported the finalisation of the Government's National Action Plan for PCVE through the provision of technical expertise on strategic communications.

UNCCT delivered two 'StratCom101' sensitisation trainings in Trinidad and Tobago for a total of 70 government and civil society representatives to enhance awareness and understanding on PVE through strategic communications. The government officials' workshop was delivered on 9-10 April in partnership with the Office of the Ministry of National Security, and included 40 representatives from the Prime Ministry as well as security and social services related Ministries. The civil society training workshop was held on 11 April with the participation of 30 civil society representatives from across youth, women's empowerment and faith-based organisations. Key issues that were discussed included opportunities for official communications to be aligned and coordinated with the national PVE strategy, the need to ensure gang violence issues do not become inaccurately conflated with counter-terrorism and PVE vulnerabilities, and the need to take into account effective crime prevention strategies when designing PCVE interventions locally.

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## Results/Impact

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Through scoping missions to seven countries and 'StratCom 101' trainings, UNCCT has raised awareness of strategic communications as a PVE intervention and helped Member States gain enhanced knowledge and awareness of effective strategic communications for PVE. In Trinidad and Tobago, participants in the 'StratCom101' workshop identified the need to employ strong institutional responses to more effectively use strategic communications as a PVE intervention, and emphasised the need for greater collaboration with civil society to improve the reach and impact of government communications on PVE. Further, as a result of UNCCT's technical assistance in this area, strategic communications measures have been included as specific intervention measures in the PCVE actions plans of the Philippines and in Trinidad and Tobago.

This project supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) on countering the narratives used by terrorist groups and amplifying positive and credible alternatives, including by leveraging global good practice. In 2019, UNCCT will work with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to establish and strengthen direct linkages between the work undertaken within the framework of resolution 2354 and Phase III of the project, including through the inclusion of CTED in the Centre's capacity-building activities with Member States.

The positive feedback obtained from beneficiaries during scoping missions and trainings have clearly demonstrated that there is both a need and an appetite for capacity development in PVE through strategic communications. These activities have enabled the Centre to gain a better understanding of the local and national context, as well as important insights into the different communication approaches and key channels of each Member State, and their subsequent impact on audience reception of PVE-related messages. They further highlighted the importance of developing and providing tailored capacity-building assistance for requesting countries and guided the Centre's work in this direction.

In 2019, the project will continue to refine and develop capacity-building activities with Member States, regional organisations and the UN system. The project will continue to focus on delivering capacity development support that is tailored to meet the needs of the local communication environment in beneficiary countries. The project will also expand its delivery of capacity-building assistance to diverse countries and regions, including Iraq, South Asia, South-East Asia, the G5 Sahel, and East Africa within the framework of UNCCT's support to the implementation of the Regional PVE Strategy of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

**UNCCT-2016-75:** Prevention of Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (UNCCT-UNESCO)

**Status:** Ongoing

The project was officially launched at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 24 April in the presence of UNESCO's Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, and the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov. The launch event demonstrated the importance of preventing violent extremism through youth empowerment, and established dialogue between policy makers and youth. It also underscored the commitment of UNESCO and UNCCT to undertake special joint efforts with a view to promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, as well as inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue with the youth in North Africa and the Middle East, so as to counter a proclivity towards violence and radicalism and the appeal of violent extremism. As a result of various communication outreach efforts in relation to the launch event, more than 50 news articles have been published in media outlets in 10 countries, and relevant social media content received 31,8M impressions on social media, including through #YouthPVE.



Image: UNESCO\_project life chatfacebook

During the reporting period, the project conducted a series of cultural heritage activities as well as media and information literacy (MIL) trainings for journalists and media organisations in Jordan, Morocco, Libya and Tunisia.

At the regional level, on 16-20 July, 12 youth leaders from the four countries participated in three World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) action camps at UNESCO World Heritage sites in Morocco. These activities aimed at understanding the concept of prevention of violent extremism and its causes, and analysing the structural, social, and psychological elements that might



influence young people into joining violent extremist groups. In addition, Les Assises du Journalisme, an annual gathering of media professionals organised by Journalism & Citizenship, Open Media Hub, Canal France International (CFI) (the French media development agency of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs), Union de la Presse Francophone Internationale, Reporters without Borders, and UNESCO, was held from 15-17 November, with participation from all project countries. During this event, a workshop was organised to strengthen the capacities of 12 young Libyan journalists in the area of conflict-sensitive reporting and countering hate speech. In addition, a MIL workshop was held for secondary and university Tunisian students focusing on countering hate speech and prevention of violent extremism. A temporary radio station, Radio FM-AIR, led by young journalists from several Arab countries provided live coverage of the event in French and Arabic. The radio station was unique in its approach as it gathered young people from the region to strengthen their abilities in reporting on stories linked to migration, human rights, gender, stereotypes, media and information education, the prevention of violent extremism, and addressing hate speech. Before the radio programming, over 20 young journalists received training using the materials and pedagogical tools that were developed for the project.



Image: UNESCO

At the national level, MIL trainings were conducted for community media organisations working with youth, youth organisations and social development organisations in all countries. In Jordan, UNESCO Amman Office and the Media Diversity Institute (MDI), using a 'training of trainers' approach, hosted a workshop from 2-5 September for 15 participants from seven civil society organisations to strengthen their MIL capacities. In October, these civil society organisations implemented six awareness sessions in their own communities that reached 73 young people. During the reporting period, UNESCO and MDI finalised a draft handbook entitled 'Do you speak MIL? Media and Information Literacy: A Handbook for Civil Society Organizations in Jordan'. Trainings for 24 journalists from different media outlets were organised in July to strengthen capacities on data journalism and proper data planning. Furthermore, UNESCO Amman Office and Journalists for Human Rights

completed a series of workshops for 89 volunteers and staff from Annaja7 Radio on professional reporting related to human rights, gender, and violent extremism. In November, workshops on self-expression through art were held. The creative workshop was led by Omar Al Abdallat, the renowned Jordanian singer-songwriter, and benefited 17 young artists from across Jordan who learned about the history of cartoons and famous artists who used them to advocate for global harmony. As follow-up, a technical seminar was held on 18 November with the participation of 100 young women and men, civil society organisations, and journalism and media students on 'Media, journalism and culture for human rights: sharing of experiences', which focused on exploring UNESCO's approach to human rights in the field of media, journalism, and culture. The implementation of a capacity development programme for 15 young Jordanians in December on PVE-related topics helped to empower youth through interactive and self-learning mechanisms focusing on the social – emotional learning model to enhance key dimensions relating to essential life skills.

In Libya, implementation of activities has been slow due to the security situation. On 23-27 December, capacity development activities were held on fostering youth civic engagement for the prevention of violent extremism. These included 'Training of Trainers' workshops with the participation of 27 young people (including four women) from different governorates in Libya.

In Morocco, UNESCO and its partners, Chair Fatima Mernissi from the Université Mohamed V and the Haute Ecole de Management, launched an initiative 'Fertilization of knowledge for bringing together art and research' that seeks to use art and research as powerful tools for preventing dogmatism in relation to identities and cultural diversity. The first phase took place on 14-17 November in Tétouan with the participation of 57 artists, architects, students and researchers. A series of conferences, workshops and debates were held on 3-7 December in Rabat with the participation of 79 artists, dancers, actors, students and researchers, focusing on performing arts as a mechanism to explore movement, ideas, and memories in contemporary society. Also in Morocco, the project delivered MIL trainings that reached more than 60 young journalists, including a training in Marrakesh on 1-4 December. In November and December, consultations were held with relevant stakeholders to advance the integration of MIL to different curricula in the country. To develop a partnership to launch a comprehensive media campaign, consultations were held in December with the main radio for youth in the country, Hit Radio. Preparations were also underway for a national consultation to be held in February 2019 on preventing violent extremism through education, which would be based on the results of an expert study conducted in 2018.

In Tunisia, a seminar was organised in July at the National Library of Tunis called 'Youth and Exclusion: What is the Role of Education, Science and Culture?' The seminar gathered 40 participants from youth organisations,



academia, the media, the Embassy of Canada in Tunis, and national institutions to explore the links between exclusion and violence, and to discuss the social inclusion of youth through education, science, culture, and the media. A webinar and conference cycle have been developed with the LEAD Association led by young professionals and law students who aim at strengthening the academic system in Tunisia. The programme will start in February 2019. A new initiative is also being developed with the youth-led organisation Edifices et Mémoire to promote youth's story telling about the history and heritage of their own cities, which would target Le Kef and Kerouan in the pilot phase. As part of this initiative, a field survey for 1000 high school students and 400 university students was completed and was pending analysis at year's end.

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### Results/Impact

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In the implementation of the project, UNESCO has ensured a youth focus and allowed young participants to drive the activities towards innovative solutions to advancing tolerance. The activities have been designed to promote youth empowerment, and as such the project has supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security, as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its subsequent reviews. To ensure sustained impact of capacity-building assistance, the project has held a series of cultural heritage and MIL training activities. The cultural heritage activities have helped young people to better understand cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, the marginalisation of youth, and cultural and civic expression. MIL trainings have raised awareness of young journalists on addressing misinformation on media platforms and the importance of investigating trending news and locating its source, the ethics of journalism, MIL concepts, the effects of media on emotions, benefits and risks of the Internet, cyberbullying and hate speech. Young journalists were provided with the necessary reporting training to ensure that information is transmitted to the public in an ethical and professional manner.



Image: UNESCO Youth

In Jordan, a total of 209 individuals including 64% women and 36% men benefited from the initiatives undertaken in 2018. During that year, 20 capacity development workshops and trainings were carried out for diverse target audiences. As a result of the MIL trainings, 8 stories were prepared regarding accurate data journalism, online harassment, early marriage, gender and human rights sensitive reporting, PVE and media. In Libya, the Training of Trainers workshops helped participants to develop critical thinking and non-violent communication, to build knowledge on active citizenship and media information literacy, to gain understanding of human rights and tactics on countering hate speech, and to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue. These workshops also helped participants to develop a 'graduation project', which allowed participants to design their own initiatives and articulate their thoughts and perceptions on how to peacefully live together and counter violent narratives. In Morocco, the 'Fertilization of knowledge for bringing together art and research' initiative provided academia and youth with innovative tools and processes involving arts and research to prevent dogmatism in regard to identities, helped to promote cultural diversity, and created links between artistic practices and academic research in social and human sciences. As a result of MIL trainings, in the 2018-2019 school year, a select group of master students will have an opportunity to be certified in Media Information Literacy.

**UNCCT-2016-76:** Promoting dialogue, tolerance and openness through media to counter narratives associated with terrorism in the Arab Region (UNCCT-UNESCO-LAS)

**Status:** Initiated

UNCCT and UNESCO, in partnership with the League of Arab States, has jointly developed a two-year project on promoting dialogue, tolerance and openness through the media to counter narratives associated with terrorism. The project aims to leverage the role of media in creating a climate for enhanced dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding, by fostering media and information literacy among 240 youth, developing advocacy campaigns, and improving journalistic standards, knowledge and awareness among 260 media professionals. In December, the project was approved by the Executive Director of UNCCT to begin implementation, following the recommendation of the Programme Review Board of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. The three implementing partners are expected to sign a Memorandum of Understanding at a launch event in early 2019.

**UNCCT-2017-59:** Building Capacity of Technical and Vocational Training Institutes in Bangladesh

**Status:** Completed, Quarter 3

This project aimed to promote youth employment through capacity-building of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions in Bangladesh. In 2018, the Centre, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Ministry of Education and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), organised four capacity-building workshops in Dhaka, Chittagong and Cox’s Bazar, which trained 204 principals and senior teachers from TVET institutions in both the public and private sector on leadership development, management, curriculum enhancement, industry linkages, and entrepreneurship. Nearly 25 per cent of the participants were women. Through these workshops, the project sought to provide participants with enhanced awareness of international best practices related to prevention of violent extremism, including through youth engagement, as well as knowledge tools and technical know-how on youth skills development, employment facilitation, and youth satisfaction.

**Results/Impact**

The workshops helped technical and vocational training institutes in Bangladesh to better understand best practices related to preventing violent extremism through TVET institutional management, industry linkages, employment facilitation, and entrepreneurship, and to take these good practices into account in their daily functions managing TVET institutions. In addition, the project strengthened partnerships between UNCCT, the Government of Bangladesh, and ILO on relevant PVE and counter-terrorism activities, and enhanced awareness of each implementing partner on how youth unemployment causes resentment and grievances which could potentially make youth vulnerable to terrorist radicalisation and recruitment.

Workshops provided material on employment good practices as well as prevention of violent extremism and included direct engagement with youth. Many of the participants reported that the workshops were beneficial in three ways. One, they exposed TVET schools to ILO best practices on institute management. Second, they inculcated a deeper understanding of PVE priorities in TVET schools’ leadership. Finally, they helped bring TVET principals into contact with key youth organisations and other civil society actors and promoted TVET institutes’ engagement with youth groups and civil society organisations. In light of the very positive feedback received from beneficiaries and the Government of Bangladesh, UNCCT, in partnership with ILO, is exploring the expansion of its youth initiative to the Maldives and Indonesia.

“The resources for engaging youth, developing skills, and getting relevant jobs was very rich. This workshop will be very helpful for youth to get jobs so that terrorism can be reduced. This is the demand of time.”

“I am now better informed about the role of TVET sector in youth employment and empowerment.”

“The most useful aspects of this workshop are preparing young people for the world of work.”

— Participants in TVET workshop held in Chittagong, Bangladesh in February 2018

**UNCCT-2016-47:** Support for Juvenile Offenders in Prisons in Pakistan

**Status:** Ongoing

In 2015, UNCCT, in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) of the Government of Pakistan, conducted a national needs assessment workshop which concluded that most prisons in Pakistan lacked the necessary resources to provide life, soft, and vocational skills to juvenile inmates, which would help them to gain resilience against radicalisation in prisons and to attain a stable livelihood once released. Responding to this critical need, UNCCT launched a project in October 2017 that provides capacity-building support to four prisons in three provinces in Pakistan. The project provides vocational training to juveniles apprehended on violent offences to provide them with opportunities to earn a livelihood and to build resilience to radicalisation in prison settings.



Photo: ILO – UNOCT

During the reporting period, UNCCT worked in close collaboration with PMYP to identify the prisons for skills training to juvenile offenders. Haripur and Mardan prisons in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Quetta District Jail in Balochistan, and Youthful Offenders Industrial School (YOIS) in Hyderabad were selected. Facilitated by PMYP and provincial Home Departments, consultations were held with the prison administrations of identified prisons. All juveniles in the facilities were interviewed and their academic level and aptitude for vocational training were identified. The juveniles expressed interest in three types of trainings for employment as tailor, electrician, or motorcycle

mechanic. The Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTAs) at provincial level were contacted and requirements for training equipment, material and trainers were identified with them. Procurement of the training equipment and material was done through UNDP Pakistan while the trainers were selected through TEVTAs.

In 2018, the project delivered three-month trainings in the trades of electrician and tailoring for 32 juveniles in Haripur prison; motor cycle mechanic and tailoring trainings for 40 juveniles in Quetta prison; tailoring and electrician trainings for 24 trainees in YOIS Hyderabad; and tailoring and basic electrician training for 50 juveniles in Mardan Prison. In Mardan prison, just under half of the juveniles trained were girls.

UN Photo / Harandane Dicko



### Results/Impact

UNCCT's collaboration with PMYP facilitated access to the provincial Home and Prisons departments and high security prisons and enabled the Centre to deliver skills training to juvenile inmates. According to the assessment of trainings conducted at Haripur and Quetta prisons and YOIS Hyderabad, all trainees found the trainings relevant and useful. Almost all of them expressed desire for trainings longer than three months, and considered skills training more beneficial than other opportunities available in prisons.

The trainings also had a catalytic effect on the prison administrations in the provinces. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, trainings provided training material to the Skills Development Centre at Haripur prison, which will enable the continuation of training even after the completion of the project. The Balochistan TEVTA is considering taking some training material to another prison to undertake similar skills training on their own initiative. Similarly, the Sindh TEVTA has expressed interest in taking the training equipment and material to other prisons to expand skills training. Such initiatives of local partners are expected

to contribute to the sustainability of the project's impact on strengthening youth engagement and inclusion.

A key challenge in project implementation was differences in organisational capabilities of TEVTAs. Frequent changes in the senior leadership of some TEVTAs delayed matters and impacted the efficacy of project delivery. Another challenge was related to uncertainty of the length of imprisonment of juvenile inmates. For instance, courts may release juvenile inmates standing trial at any time. Convicted inmates generally remain in prisons for a longer and more clearly specified time but are occasionally released early by superior courts. While this is always a welcome development, these circumstances made the number of inmates in a given prison uncertain. Therefore, while the trainings were planned for a larger number based on the average population per prison, a lesser number could actually complete the trainings. An important post-training challenge is the inability of the prison authorities and UNCCT to trace the whereabouts of trained juveniles who have been released. This situation makes it difficult to follow up on trainees and assess the impact of trainings. Going forward, it should be considered if the provincial level TEVTAs could be tasked to ensure that juveniles released early are able to finish their training and follow up with those that were released.

**UNCCT-2015-43:** Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization in Prisons

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**Status:** Ongoing

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This project aims to strengthen the resilience of societies against violent extremism and radicalisation to violence while respecting human rights standards, by increasing the capacity of selected Member States to effectively manage violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) and prevent radicalisation in their prisons. It is a joint initiative with UNODC and CTED, and is co-funded by the European Union, UNCCT, Japan, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The project seeks to enhance the capacity of prison administrations to systematically assess the risks and needs of VEPs, as well as to deliver interdisciplinary disengagement interventions. It also aims to improve the social reintegration prospects of former VEPs through the provision of post-release services. Implementation of this project is foreseen in Kazakhstan, Tunisia and a third beneficiary country.

The project, which is also part of the UN Capacity Building Implementation Plan to Counter the Flow of FTFs, will support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its latest Review (A/72/284), which "expresses concern about the danger of recruitment and radicalization

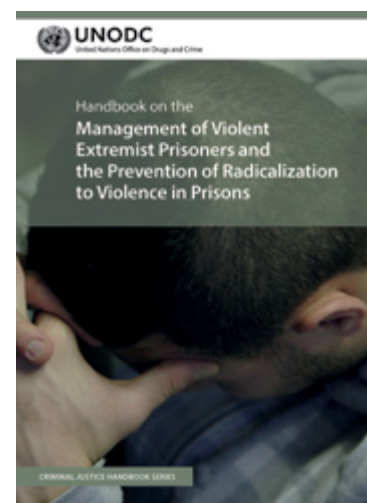


to terrorism, including in prisons”, and “calls upon law enforcement and criminal justice authorities to better counter the threat of returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, to counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism and radicalization to terrorism, and to enhance efforts to implement deradicalization programmes.” It also contributes to the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2396 (2017), which calls upon Member States to, inter alia, address radicalisation to violence and terrorist recruitment in prisons.

On 2 February, UNCCT convened a Technical Coordination Meeting in Brussels, during which Kazakhstan and Tunisia were selected as pilot countries due to the challenges in their prison systems as related to the safe, secure and humane custody of VEPs, as well as the willingness of national authorities to receive capacity-building support in this area. At the request of the Government of Tunisia, an introductory country visit was undertaken in Tunis on 10-13 September, during which two prison facilities accommodating VEPs were assessed, and a series of consultative meetings were held with national and regional actors working on prison reform.

To facilitate the launch of the project in Kazakhstan, UNCCT, CTED and UNODC conducted a joint scoping mission to Astana on 17-21 September. The mission met with national agencies from the criminal justice sector, civil society actors and academia involved in the rehabilitation and reintegration of VEPs, as well as with representatives from UN Women and the UN Country Team in Astana. These discussions focused on three key areas, namely: (1) security and safety mechanisms, risk and needs assessments within the Kazakh prison system; (2) disengagement interventions targeting VEPs; and (3) social reintegration efforts for former violent extremist offenders.

The scoping mission was followed by a ‘High-Level Roundtable on the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Prisons’ in Kazakhstan, which took place on 5 December in Astana, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Prison Committee of the Ministry of Interior. More than 100 participants from different state bodies, civil society and international organisations attended this meeting. This event formally launched the project, and provided an opportunity to distribute the *UNODC Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*, which was developed in consultation with UNCCT and CTED and which will be used as a technical tool to support project implementation.



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## Results/Impact

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Through the delivery of several preliminary activities, UNCCT and its implementing partners were able to lay the groundwork to ensure that project implementation in Kazakhstan and Tunisia was effectively aligned with national needs. The introductory visit to Tunisia allowed CTED, UNODC and UNCCT to better understand the specific challenges and constraints facing prison staff in the country, as well as to review the applicable legislation, policies and prison management practices. It also served as the basis for organising a comprehensive scoping mission to Tunisia in 2019, which would seek to facilitate coordination and cooperation with national prison authorities and other relevant actors in the country, with the aim of identifying the Tunisian Government's needs and priorities with regard to the management of VEPs and preventing radicalisation in prisons.

The findings of the Kazakh scoping mission were instrumental in developing a workplan for UNCCT, UNODC and CTED in line with the country's needs and priorities. The mission report findings and the country work plan were endorsed by national stakeholders at the Astana High-Level Roundtable. At this meeting, participants confirmed the need to take all appropriate actions to maintain a safe and humane environment within the Kazakh prison system, to develop interventions to prevent radicalisation in prison settings, to improve risk assessment tools to understand violent extremist behaviour, and to develop tailored and gender-sensitive strategies to counter terrorist narratives in line with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

In 2019, UNCCT will strengthen engagement with the two selected pilot countries, including through development of training materials and delivery of training workshops for frontline prison staff, as well as prioritise the selection of the third pilot country, in close consultation with CTED and UNODC.

**UNCCT-2018-01-90:** Enabling Youth Entrepreneurship and Increasing Youth Employment Opportunities to Build Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Ethiopia

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### Status: Initiated

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Ethiopia is the second most-populous country in Africa with a median age of 19. Despite the strong potential of its young population, according to the World Bank, the secondary school enrolment rate is 36 per cent, youth unemployment is over 25 per cent, and the majority of youth live in rural, underserved, and significantly marginalised areas. To support the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia to strengthen the resilience of its youth against violent extremism, UNCCT, together with the Qatar-based non-governmental



UN Photo



organisation Silatech, initiated the development of an 18-month project in December that aims to leverage the microfinance sector and its reach in rural areas to stimulate youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in borderland communities in South and South-East Ethiopia. The project will train staff in microfinance institutes to deliver sustainable loan products to young men and women. It will also deliver training-of-trainers workshops to business development service providers to create a sustainable ecology of local actors that can support young entrepreneurs with fair micro-finance credits, business development advice and mentorship. In 2019, the project plans to deliver a needs assessment study to identify gaps and opportunities for leveraging microfinance institutes to stimulate youth entrepreneurship and employment, as well as up to four trainings for staff in microfinance institutes.

**UNCCT-2018-01-81:** Building Capacity of Youth in the (formerly) Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan through Employment Training and Psycho-Social Support

**Status:** Initiated

The UNCCT-PMYP Needs Assessment Conference in 2015, mentioned above, identified the need to support youth affected by terrorist attacks in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan, now merged with neighbouring Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts. Under this project, UNCCT plans to offer vocational training and psycho-social support to around 150 young people from the tribal agencies. The project is expected to commence in 2019 and will be implemented in partnership with the FATA Development Authority (FDA).

Under the project, UNCCT and its partners will organise a six-month skills training in vocational trades that would be determined based on local market and business demand. During this phase, trainees will be provided with psycho-social support and taught life skills by trained psychologists. This will be followed by a three-month on-the-job training for the male trainees, whereas the female trainees are expected to practice their skills at home. The project would therefore be spread over 12 months. The trainees will be identified by FDA on the basis of vulnerability to radicalisation, need for rehabilitation, age and gender distribution.

**Output 1.2:** Via UNCCT support, requesting Member States have an increased ability to understand and address the Foreign Terrorist Fighters phenomenon

While the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Syria and Iraq has diminished due to ISIL's military retreat and strengthened border security measures by Member States, foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) that remain in conflict zones, return to countries of origin or nationality, and travel or relocate to third countries continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. In response to the evolving FTF phenomenon, Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) establishes and reinforces international obligations related to border security and information sharing, including the use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and advance passenger information (API), biometrics, and watchlists. The resolution calls for strengthened judicial cooperation and implementation of appropriate prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies for FTFs and their accompanying family members. The sixth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy further highlights "the importance of strengthening international cooperation on information-sharing, border security, investigations, judicial processes, extradition, improving prevention and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, preventing radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, developing and implementing risk assessments on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families, and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts." To support requesting Member States in their efforts to address the threat posed by FTFs, UNCCT is implementing projects to increase States' ability to identify, track, and disrupt FTF mobility through enhanced information sharing and their capacities on the use of social media and the Internet for investigations related to FTFs. The Centre also supports States in adopting human rights based treatment of children associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Furthermore, the Centre's programmes/projects on border security and management, API/PNR, countering terrorist financing, and cyber security are all designed to address the evolving FTF phenomenon.

**UNCCT-2017-64:** Enhancing the Capacity of States to Adopt Human Rights Based Treatment of Child Returnees

**Status:** Ongoing

With ISIL's loss of territory in Iraq and Syria and the degradation of its capabilities, a number of foreign terrorist fighters and their families are returning to their countries of origin or relocating to a third country. At the same time, many family members and children accompanying foreign terrorist fighters are confined in conflict affected areas that are often in a dire humanitarian situation. This project focuses specifically on children with family members suspected of having links with terrorist organisations. It aims to produce a Handbook that provides a summary of international human rights and humanitarian standards, to support Member States' compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law in the treatment of such children. The Handbook covers several issues, including: (1) key principles to protect the rights of children under this category while addressing States' security concerns; (2) human rights considerations for children placed on watch lists; (3) nationality and risk of statelessness; and (4) detention with and separation from their parents.



Following desk research and close consultations with relevant UN agencies, UNCCT held an Expert Meeting with 30 participants, including UN experts, civil society representatives, legal scholars, and judges, in April in New York to seek guidance on the legal research required for the preparation of the Handbook. The legal research was undertaken based on the outcome of the expert meeting. Subsequently, two regional consultative meetings were held, one for South-East Asia with 35 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia Thailand and the Philippines, and another for Europe with 40 participants from France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Of the 105 participants, 65 were women. The consultative meetings aimed to share the outcome of the expert meeting on relevant international standards, and to identify good practices and challenges to be highlighted in the Handbook. UNCCT also organised a side event during the High Level Segment of the United Nations General Assembly in September to raise awareness of the situation of children accompanying or associated with foreign terrorist fighters, including those remaining in conflict zones.

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### Results/Impact

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The project contributes directly to the implementation of Security Council mandates, especially under resolution 2396 (2017), which underscores the need for Member States to prosecute, rehabilitate, and reintegrate foreign terrorist fighters and their families, while noting that children may be especially vulnerable to radicalisation to violence and in need of particular social support.

During the reporting period, participants in the Centre's regional consultative meetings shared good practices and challenges at the national level concerning children linked with suspected foreign terrorist fighters, which UNCCT will reflect in the Handbook. During this period, the Centre completed the draft Handbook, and circulated the document to the participants of the Expert Meeting and relevant UN agencies for comments.

The final regional consultative meeting for the Middle East and North Africa will take place in January 2019 in Amman, Jordan. The Handbook will be finalised after a validation meeting planned in April 2019 in New York. This Handbook is expected to assist Member States in ensuring the human rights of children accompanying or associated with foreign terrorist fighters. A human rights-based treatment of such children is critical to help their effective reintegration into society, and to prevent their marginalisation and stigmatisation which may lead to further radicalisation in the future.

**UNCCT-2017-67:** Enhancing Member State Capacities to Exploit Social Media in relation to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (UNCCT-INTERPOL)

**Status:** Ongoing

In 2018, UNCCT launched the implementation of a joint project with INTERPOL to enhance the capacities of participating Member States to use information on the Internet and social media to counter and prevent the FTF phenomenon. This 12-month project seeks to enhance Member States’ access to information and digital evidence on FTFs, including digital identifiers in INTERPOL’s FTF alerts, and to increase their capacity to exploit FTFs’ use of online communications, through the delivery of three regional workshops for Member States in South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia.

On 9-10 July, UNCCT, together with INTERPOL, organised a regional capacity-building workshop for South-East Asian countries in Hanoi, Viet Nam. All ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, were represented. 22 government and civil society representatives, including three women, participated in this exercise. Substantive presentations included the evolving FTF phenomenon and its gender dimension, FTF use of the Internet and social media, including the gender aspect and gendered narratives, and human rights considerations when exploiting social media and the Internet to prevent and counter the FTF phenomenon. A civil society organisation shared its experience in using online communications infrastructure in its prevention efforts. Practical training sessions of the workshop addressed open source intelligence tools for investigators and a case presentation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).



On 17-19 December, the Centre held a workshop in Istanbul for Member States of the Middle East and North Africa. Twelve Member State officials, including two women, from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia participated in the workshop. Similar to the July workshop, the Centre delivered presentations on the evolving FTF phenomenon and its gender dimension, FTF use of the Internet and social media, including gender-specific narratives, and human rights considerations when using the Internet and social media for investigations related to FTFs. Two civil society organisations presented their prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration efforts, including through social media. UNODC delivered presentations on preserving and obtaining electronic evidence with and without mutual legal assistance, based on *the Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders*, jointly developed with CTED. UNODC and INTERPOL also delivered trainings on the exploitation of online open sources and open source intelligence tools.

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## Results/Impact

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This project supports the implementation of the sixth biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/72/284) and resolution 2396 (2017), which note terrorists' exploitation of information and communications technologies, including the Internet and social media, and the need for the international community to globally counter these activities. During the reporting period, UNCCT successfully held two capacity-building workshops that were attended by a wide range of Member State officials, including police, intelligence, counter-terrorism as well as Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Technology. These workshops contributed to building awareness and understanding of government officials and civil society representatives on FTFs' exploitation of the Internet and social media for terrorist purposes and the use of these technologies to prevent, identify and disrupt terrorist activity, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. In the evaluation surveys distributed at the end of the Hanoi workshop, the majority of participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the relevance and quality of training they received. One participant commented, "The workshop is such a good practice. Kudos to UN and INTERPOL." Another participant commented, "Open source investigation techniques are very useful for Foreign Terrorist Fighters and social media crime because in my country, 66 per cent [of the] population use Facebook and Instagram. The workshop should [be] maybe 3 or 4 days." 91 per cent of participants noted that the workshop improved their understanding of best practices on accessing and using digital evidence and information from Internet providers. To improve such capacity-building workshops, many participants suggested to increase the content and scope of training and to allocate more time for training.

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91 per cent of participants noted that the workshop improved their understanding of best practices on accessing and using digital evidence and information from Internet providers.

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"The workshop is such a good practice. Kudos to UN and INTERPOL."

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"Open source investigation techniques are very useful for Foreign Terrorist Fighters and social media crime because in my country, 66 per cent [of the] population use Facebook and Instagram."

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— Participants in social media workshop held in Hanoi, Viet Nam in July 2018



In 2019, the Centre will work closely with INTERPOL in the delivery of additional capacity-building workshops in the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia, as well as the joint production of a Handbook in this field. Further, the Centre will expand its capacity-building assistance to requesting countries in South-East Asia.

**UNCCT-2017-66:** Enhancing Information Sharing on Foreign Terrorist Fighters among Member States (UNCCT-INTERPOL)

**Status:** Initiated

Member States, through the latest Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/72/284), have stressed the importance of strengthening international cooperation to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including through enhanced operational and timely information-sharing. Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) further “calls upon Member States to improve timely information sharing... on foreign terrorist fighters, especially among law enforcement, intelligence, counterterrorism, and special services agencies...” To respond to this immediate need, UNCCT has worked closely with INTERPOL to develop a project that aims to enhance the ability of Member States to prevent and counter the FTF phenomenon through enhanced information-sharing, specifically as related to information pertaining to prisoners charged with terrorism offences and biometric data. The Centre plans to launch the implementation of the project in the first half of 2019, through a global launching conference that will help raise awareness and map out Member State requirements in this area. This will be followed by the delivery of three regional workshops in Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa region, focusing on gathering and sharing information related to prisoners, as well as biometric data to intercept the movement of FTFs. The project will also support Member States in identifying the type of required information as well as the appropriate mechanism to receive, hold, and transmit information.

**PILLAR II:****Measures to prevent and combat terrorism**

Drawing on UNCCT expertise/assistance and programme support, Member States and regions counter terrorism in a strategic manner, combat the financing of terrorism, and prevent the travel of terrorists and cyber terrorism (Outcome 2, UNCCT 5-Year Programme)

**Output 2.1:** Via UNCCT support, requesting Member States and regions have in place holistic and integrated counter-terrorism strategies based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The multidimensional nature and transnational scope of the terrorist threat requires that counter-terrorism responses are coordinated, both at national and regional levels, and engage all of society and all of government. Regional and national counter-terrorism strategies provide useful frameworks for involving and coordinating both government and non-government actors, identifying gaps and capabilities, setting strategic objectives and priorities, building commitment, and monitoring actions and processes. UNCCT is working actively with national and regional partners, the Global Compact entities, and relevant Global Compact Working Groups, in particular the National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies Working Group, to develop and implement inclusive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars.

In this regard, the Centre is supporting regional organisations to implement the regional counter-terrorism strategies in Southern Africa, Horn of Africa and Tanzania, and Central Asia. Its global PCVE programme (see programme UNCCT-2017-72 above) provides policy guidance and technical assistance to requesting Member States and regional organisations in the development of PVE action plans based on national and regional priorities. The Centre has also initiated a new project to support the development and implementation of a new updated regional strategy for the Arab region.



**UNCCT-2017-69:** Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (Phase III)

**Status:** Ongoing

The third phase of the Joint Plan of Action towards a comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Central Asia was formally launched at a High-Level Conference on 30 April in Ashgabat with the participation of representatives from five Central Asian countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as CTED and UNRCCA. At this conference, all Central Asian countries reaffirmed their readiness and commitment to closely cooperate and coordinate with each other to tackle the common threat of terrorism in the region through the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA).

During the reporting period, UNCCT and UNRCCA, in partnership with other regional and international organisations, including UNODC, UNDP, OSCE, and International Organization for Migration (IOM), organised a number of regional activities in support of the JPoA to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. The first activity was a regional coordination meeting in Istanbul on 23 February where 14 practitioners from eight regional organisations shared information on their efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. This activity enabled the mapping of all CT/PVE activities in the region, the identification of potential synergies and complementarities, and exchange of good practices and lessons learned. As an outcome of the meeting, a *Mapping of Counter-Terrorism Initiatives in Central Asia* was prepared. The Mapping is available on the website of UNRCCA. (<https://unrcca.unmissions.org/mapping-pve-and-ct-initiatives-central-asia-0>).

Second, UNCCT and UNRCCA organised a two-day regional workshop in Astana on 21-22 May on 'Addressing Drivers of Violent Extremism and Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism' with approximately 70 participants from Central Asian countries, regional and international organisations. The workshop was a follow-up to the Secretary-General's visit to Central Asian States in 2017 that reviewed the implementation of the JPoA. It provided an opportunity for government representatives to present their progress and challenges in addressing the drivers of violent extremism and for international and regional organisations to present their areas of support. It included moderated discussions around thematic areas of relevance to the region, and exchanges of good practices and lessons learned in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism at national and regional levels. As a result, UNRCCA finalised and published a policy brief on *Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism* ([https://unrcca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/final\\_astana\\_report\\_eng\\_1.pdf](https://unrcca.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/final_astana_report_eng_1.pdf)).



Photo: UNOCT

The third and final activity was a regional border security and management training in Ashgabat on 15-19 October, which contributed to the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in border security and management in the context of stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters. This activity was undertaken in light of CTED's country specific assessments of Central Asian countries as well as its recommendations to address regional gaps in the areas of border management. Twenty-three participants from relevant government agencies learned how to better utilise new technologies to improve customs control and combat illicit trafficking, as well as inter-agency cooperation and coordination, and how to better assess and respond to existing needs for countering terrorism at the border.

In addition to these regional activities, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism developed a Matrix in which it mapped activities against CTED recommendations in Central Asia. The Office has also worked with OSCE to identify which CTED recommendations have been and will be considered and which still need additional work. To enhance the impact of delivery, UNCCT held consultations with Central Asian States to ensure that the Centre's capacity-building assistance met their counter-terrorism needs and priorities. On the basis of these consultations, the Centre developed a detailed work plan for the implementation of the project with relevant outputs, activities, action points tailored to reflect the priority thematic issues and capacity-building needs of Central Asian States. Specifically, the Centre identified three common thematic areas, which will be the focus of the Centre's capacity-building support in 2019. These include: (1) combating the financing of terrorism; (2) cyber security; and (3) border security management.

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## Results/Impact

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In the framework of the Joint Plan of Action countries from the region have made progress on regional and cross border cooperation to specifically counter the financing of terrorism, enhance border security, and jointly respond to the transnational threat of terrorism. The regional events organised jointly by UNCCT and UNRCCA generated considerable interest. They enabled an assessment of the implementation of the JPoA, and identified common concerns and challenges in the region in counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

The regional coordination meeting set a good foundation for meeting the increasing need to coordinate resources available for capacity-building in Central Asia and for establishing partnerships to ensure coordinated outcomes and tangible impact from technical assistance. It provided a mapping of programmes, projects, and activities that are and will be implemented in the region, as well as available tools and manuals. It also provided an opportunity to learn about the comparative advantages of regional organisations and their expertise, internal capacities as well as good practices in counter-terrorism and PVE. Participants including Member States indicated that this exercise helped them to gain a better understanding of activities and responsibilities for technical assistance in the region and to better align and plan ongoing activities towards improving regional cooperation.

The second event on *Addressing Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism* enabled participants to review existing efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, discuss drivers of radicalisation and terrorism in the region, exchange good practices and lessons learned in implementing Pillar I of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia at both national and regional levels, and share good practices from outside the region.

The third activity on Border Security and Management helped participants to familiarise themselves with the latest tools to assess risks and improve border security, and helped to increase their capacities in reinforcing their border controls and preventing the movement of FTFs. Ninety-two per cent of participants found the training to be very useful and satisfactory.

**UNCCT-2016-50:** Facilitating the Implementation of a Regional Strategy for East Africa and the Horn of Africa to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism

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**Status:** Ongoing

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In 2018, UNCCT worked closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support the implementation of the regional PVE Strategy for countries of the Horn of Africa and Tanzania, which was developed by IGAD with the support of UNDP and launched in 2017. UNCCT undertook a mission to Djibouti in March to meet with the representatives of IGAD Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) to discuss how UNCCT can support the implementation of the regional PVE Strategy, to define and prioritise capacity-building activities in potential thematic areas of cooperation to support the Strategy's implementation, and to present the Centre's projects on PVE through Strategic Communications and on cyber security as possible starting points. During these consultations, ICEPCVE welcomed the Centre's proposal to provide support on strategic communications (see project UNCCT-2015-38 above).

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**Results/Impact**

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The scoping missions and consultations helped IGAD to prioritise the aspects of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that are most relevant to the needs of the countries in the Horn of Africa. These missions also helped strengthen relations and collaboration between UNCCT and ICEPCVE.

**UNCCT-2016-51:** Facilitating the Implementation of the Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Southern Africa

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**Status:** Ongoing

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In 2018, UNCCT continued to support the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in the implementation of the regional counter-terrorism strategy for Southern Africa. This Strategy was adopted at the SADC Heads of State Summit in August 2015 in Gaborone, Botswana, following a regionally-owned process that UNCCT supported through the provision of expertise and funding under a project implemented during 2013-2015. It is modelled on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and aligned with the *2013 Bogota Guiding Principles for Counter-Terrorism Strategies*. The Strategy and Plan of Action establishes a framework to prevent and counter the spread of terrorism to the region.

UNCCT, in close cooperation with SADC, facilitated the designation of Counter-Terrorism Focal Points in each of the 15 SADC countries. A workshop on 'Human Rights at International Borders', jointly organised by SADC, UNCCT, and OHCHR, was held in Gaborone, Botswana on 4-6 July, within the framework of the Centre's support to the implementation of the SADC regional counter-terrorism strategy. In addition, bilateral consultations were held with representatives of SADC in Botswana and with stakeholders from the Government of Botswana to discuss forthcoming cooperation to expedite the implementation of the regional strategy, including the identification of capacity gaps in Southern Africa, and facilitation and joint organisation of capacity-building workshops on priorities identified by SADC countries in the regional counter-terrorism strategy and its roadmap. In 2019, UNCCT plans to co-organise a meeting of Counter-Terrorism Focal Points with SADC to discuss priorities and possible options to strengthen SADC capacity in counter-terrorism and PVE.

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### Results/Impact

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As foreseen in the Roadmap of the Regional Strategy, UNCCT, through consultations with national authorities and SADC officials, supported the designation of Counter-Terrorism Focal Points in 8 out of 15 SADC countries given that four countries already had designated focal points. The designation of Focal Points contributed to facilitating the implementation of the Regional Strategy at the national level and to enhancing related reporting to the SADC Secretariat. The workshop on human rights at borders received positive feedback from participating border officials and helped raise awareness of key legal standards on human rights, interception, rescue and immediate assistance, screening and interviewing, detention, and removal (see project UNCCT-2017-65 below).

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**UNCCT-2018-02-88:** Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World

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### Status: Initiated

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In April 2018, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Riyadh which calls for cooperation "with respect to relevant projects and other initiatives to support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars", and the development of "joint activities to build the capacity of the Member States of the League of Arab States in the field of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism."



Photo: UNOCT/UNCCT

As the first capacity-building initiative under this agreement and responding to an official request of AIMC for technical assistance, UNCCT developed a project to support the development and implementation of a regional counter-terrorism strategy for the Arab region based on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars. The project will be implemented jointly by UNCCT and AIMC over a period of five years (January 2019-December 2023) and will consist of two phases: the development phase (April 2019-March 2021) and implementation phase (April 2021-December 2023).

The first phase of the project is dedicated to the development of a new updated regional counter-terrorism strategy based on the needs and priorities of the Arab region, as well as a plan of action to facilitate the implementation of the strategy, through the delivery of a project launch meeting with senior officials from the AIMC Member States and five regional consultative workshops with Arab officials and expert working groups. The second phase will support the implementation of the regional counter-terrorism strategy and its action plan through: (1) the provision of institutional and technical capacity building; (2) the conduct of research studies and sharing of good practices in identified regional priorities; and (3) the promotion of international cooperation and outreach. The UNCCT-AIMC project will be formally launched at the 36th Annual Session of the AIMC that will be held in Tunis, Tunisia on 3 March 2019.



**Output 2.2:** Through UNCCT assistance, requesting Member States and regions have in place policies, legislation and trained officials to counter the financing of terrorism

Combatting the financing of terrorism is a core component of counter-terrorism. Terrorist groups explore and use new and innovative means to raise, channel and access funds to sustain their operations. To address the evolving terrorist financing typologies, the Security Council has strengthened the international legal framework through the adoption of several resolutions, such as resolution 2133 (2014) on kidnapping and hostage taking by terrorists, resolution 2178 (2014) on suppressing the financing of FTF travel and activities, resolution 2195 (2014) on preventing terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime, and resolution 2199 (2015) on preventing terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq from benefiting from trade in oil, antiquities and hostages and from receiving donations, among others. Member States are required to criminalise terrorist financing, enhance domestic and international cooperation, prevent the movement of funds across borders, improve monitoring of financial flows, freeze terrorist assets, prevent ransom payments, and suppress illicit trade and trafficking in persons, cultural goods and other natural resources. To support Member States’ implementation of the international legal framework and to strengthen the resilience of their financial systems against the terrorist threat, UNCCT provides capacity-building assistance on counter-terrorist financing practices, with increased focus on the integration of financial intelligence and risk assessments, and promotion of cooperation between the public and private sectors.



**UNCCT-2018-02-78:** Countering Financing of Terrorism through Effective National and Regional Action

**Status:** Ongoing

This project builds on the work and achievements of UNCCT's previous capacity-building project on 'Terrorist Designations and Asset Freezing' that was implemented from 2015-2017. In 2017, UNCCT reviewed the asset freeze project to identify areas where the Centre could better meet the emerging needs of Member States and to ensure sustained impact of capacity-building assistance. To effectively respond to the evolving terrorist threat, the current project substantively expands the focus of technical assistance and training beyond the singular focus on terrorist designations and asset freezing. It includes preventive and other complementary dimensions including by enhancing the use of financial intelligence, national risk assessments and coordination between the public and private sector.

In 2018, UNCCT engaged closely with Tunisia, Mauritius, and Mongolia to deliver capacity-building activities at national level. UNCCT also supported the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) in developing its regional counter-terrorist financing Operational Plan.



The UNCCT-CTED 'National Capacity-Building Workshop on the Implementation of Terrorist Designation and Asset Freezing Regime under UNSCR 1373 (2001)' took place in Tunis, Tunisia on 3-5 July. This was the second phase of a capacity-building programme on terrorist designation and asset freezing. The first



phase included a national roundtable in Tunis in January 2017, organised by UNCCT in close cooperation with CTED, which facilitated the adoption of a Governmental Decree by Tunisia in January 2018 for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on terrorist financing.

The second phase of the programme was designed to support national authorities in Tunisia to effectively implement the Governmental Decree through the development of practical skills for the elaboration of terrorist designations, in compliance with international human rights requirements. The workshop was attended by approximately 35 participants from the Presidential Office, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Religious Affairs, National Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as the Central Bank, the Financial Market Council and the Supervisory Authority for Microcredits. Experts from the Intelligence Fusion Centre of Belgium, the Directorate General of the Treasury of France, and the Russian Federation's financial cell (Rosfinmonitoring) took part in trainings as presenters, along with UNCCT and CTED.

In October, UNCCT convened capacity-building workshops for Mongolian officials in Ulaabaatar, Mongolia and for Mauritian officials in Port Louis, Mauritius. Both workshops focused on key elements related to the implementation of targeted financial sanctions, asset freezing, coordination with law enforcement, and liaison with the private sector.

During the reporting period, UNCCT engaged with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), including the ESAAMLG, on the identification of needs and delivery of capacity-building support. ESAAMLG requested UNCCT's assistance on the development of its regional counter-terrorist financing Operational Plan as a priority step in promoting more effective efforts at regional and national levels on countering the financing of terrorism. The request for support came from the recommendation of the FATF to all FSRBs to develop their own regional plans and actions on countering terrorist financing. Responding to a critical need, UNCCT collaborated with the Secretariat of the ESAAMLG and the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) of the Government of South Africa to convene a regional meeting for member jurisdictions of the ESAAMLG to identify priority focus areas and draft a regional counter-terrorist financing Operational Plan. Consultations were held at the FIC Headquarters in Pretoria, South Africa on 18-19 July, with participation from Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The Operational Plan was developed and subsequently adopted at the ESAAMLG Ministerial Plenary Meeting held in Seychelles in September.



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### Results/Impact

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The ESAAMLG leadership appreciated UNCCT's support to the development of the ESAAMLG Counter-Terrorist Financing Operational Plan. Without the Centre's timely response to the request of ESAAMLG, the plan would have been delayed by more than a year. In 2019, UNCCT and ESAAMLG plan to focus on the implementation of the Operational Plan through a number of regional workshops.

UNCCT engagements at the national level have strengthened partnerships with relevant national authorities on countering the financing of terrorism. This training has helped national authorities, including the National Commission on Counter-Terrorism, to designate entities and individuals to undertake asset freeze and other targeted sanctions. In Mauritius, the Centre was requested to return for a follow-up training on reducing the vulnerability of non-profit organisations (NPOs) from terrorist financing abuse. To respond to this request, the Centre has expanded the project's thematic focus to NPO sector as well. This expansion helps address FATF assessment methodology Immediate Outcome 10 on the protection of the NPO sector from terrorist financing abuse. Similarly, in Mongolia, based on participants feedback following UNCCT's training on targeted financial sanctions and asset freeze, the Centre is planning to organise a follow-up workshop in the first quarter of 2019 to further deepen the understanding of the terrorist financing threat and to help promote national coordination.

**Output 2.3:** Based on UNCCT assistance, requesting Member States and regions have improved border security and management, including through enhanced inter-agency and international cooperation

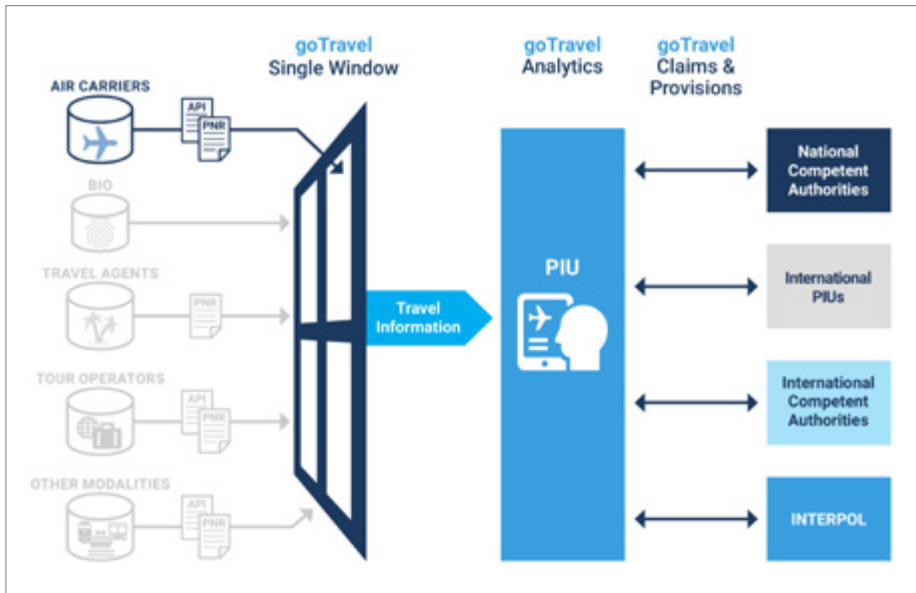
Ensuring effective border security and management is essential for preventing and countering the flow of suspected terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters across land, air, and maritime borders, as well as the illicit cross-border movement of arms, ammunition, explosives, hazardous materials, goods and cargo that may be used for terrorist purposes. Despite enhanced measures taken by Member States in the last few years to strengthen border security, especially in light of the evolving FTF phenomenon, capacities among States in this area differ and gaps exist in the collection, use and sharing of passenger data, effective control of identity papers and travel documents, screening processes, technical equipment and trained border personnel, and coordinated border management. UNCCT supports Member States and regional organisations in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions such as resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017), through the provision of tailored technical assistance on aviation security, advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) systems, border security and management good practices, cross-border cooperation and information sharing, and border management strategies, among other issues.

**UNCCT-2018-02-82:** Supporting the Use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data to Detect, Prevent, Investigate and Prosecute Terrorist Offences and Other Serious Crime

**Status:** Ongoing

This global programme seeks to build the capacity of Member States to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist offences and related travel by using API and PNR data, watchlists and enhanced international information exchange in accordance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), as well as other international law obligations. This new initiative is coordinated by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and implemented through an 'All-of-UN' approach in partnership with UNCCT, CTED, UNODC, ICAO, and the UN Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT).

The programme has an estimated budget of USD 12 million per annum over an initial five-year period and is co-funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India and the State of Qatar. It mainly targets Member States most affected by the FTF phenomenon, and builds on UNCCT's recently concluded API project, as well as the experience and expertise of Member States that are already implementing or have implemented national API and PNR systems. It further benefits from the Travel Information Passenger (TRIP) system, an IT software solution to detect terrorists and serious and organised criminals using API and PNR travel data developed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and which is now promoted as 'goTravel'.

At the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of UNCCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Stef Blok, signed an Administrative Agreement to transfer ownership of the TRIP system to the United Nations to support capacity-building efforts in compliance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017). The Agreement was signed in the presence of the UN Secretary-General, the Dutch Prime Minister, and the UN Legal Counsel.

The transfer of the TRIP system was preceded by a series of on-site technical reviews undertaken by OICT, which aimed at analysing and further configuring the software in preparation for its deployment to recipient Member States. Following the approval of the full project document, the initial six-month inception phase of this initiative began on 1 October, during which the Office sought to develop the criteria for the selection of beneficiary countries, in close consultation with CTED, mobilise resources to support programme implementation, agree on an accountability framework with all the implementing partners, and ensure alignment with similar capacity-building initiatives through consultations with Member States.

Additionally, a series of technical discussions were held to ensure the successful start of the implementation phase of the programme in early 2019. Key among these was 'the First Meeting of the Expert Panel on the Prevention, Detection and Investigation of Terrorist Offences and Related Travel using API and PNR Data', which was held on 17 December in New York. The meeting facilitated a result-oriented discussion to better understand and address two key issues: existing conflict of laws inhibiting the international transfer and processing of PNR data; and human rights concerns pertaining to the collection, transmission, use, retention, and sharing of such data, including data protection and the right to privacy. The meeting was attended by 35 experts, 14 of whom were women. They included experts from 7 Member States, including Australia, Canada, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, as well as 8 entities, namely, CTED, the European Commission, INTERPOL, IOM, OHCHR, OICT, UNODC, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

The programme will be officially launched in May 2019 in New York. Additional meetings of the Panel of Experts will be held in 2019 to facilitate further discussions on conflicts of law and human rights concerns as well as other issues, including the selection of beneficiary countries. Following its official launch, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will coordinate the joint delivery of this programme, which foresees a flexible four-tiered implementation approach based on the different stages of readiness of Member States, which includes (i) the assessment, coordinated by CTED, and selection of beneficiary countries most affected by the FTF phenomenon and the production of a tailor made roadmap for national implementation; (ii) the provision of legislative assistance by UNODC; (iii) institutional set-up and capacity-building support to national passenger units by UNCCT, UNODC (TPB and AIRCOP) and ICAO; and (iv) the provision of technical expertise by OICT, including the deployment, installation and maintenance support to countries that will adopt the 'goTravel' system, and support by ICAO to ensure cooperation with the industry.

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### Results/Impact

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In resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council built on resolution 2178 (2014) by creating new international obligations to strengthen border security and information sharing. In addition to reaffirming its previous requirements on API, the Security Council called on Member States to "develop the capability to collect, process and analyse, in furtherance of ICAO standards and recommended practices, PNR data and to ensure PNR data is used by and shared with all their competent national authorities, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

The joint efforts of the above-mentioned entities will provide a solution to interested Member States to facilitate their collection, processing and

transmission of passenger data, thus enabling them to comply with the API and PNR related requirements under Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), and better use international watchlists from INTERPOL and enhance international information exchange. This initiative is therefore expected to have a significant practical impact on the capabilities of beneficiary Member States and the broader international community to curb the mobility of FTFs, as called for in resolution 2396 (2017). It is also an example of how the Office is partnering with other UN entities to develop and implement meaningful multi-year initiatives through an 'All-of-UN' approach.

At the margins of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism participated in a meeting with the PNR Like-Minded Group, which was convened by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and discussed the need for an international standard to regulate the collection, use, processing and protection of PNR data, as called for by resolution 2396 (2017). The Office also participated in a subsequent meeting convened by the Netherlands on enhancing interoperability between API and PNR systems for counter-terrorism purposes. Both meetings served to identify how the Office could further complement these ongoing initiatives with the aim of enhancing the capability of Member States to use passenger data.

The First Expert Panel Meeting was instrumental in bringing together experts to better understand existing conflicts of law and human rights concerns pertaining to the collection, transmission, use, retention and sharing of passenger data, with a view to determine how the project could support the development of a universal legal standard that resolves these issues, as well as how it could be implemented in the absence of a global solution at this time. The Expert Panel has since been institutionalised to ensure quality control and quality assurance in the implementation of this new initiative and will seek to convene on a quarterly basis. Its first meeting was immediately followed by the First Programme Management Team Meeting on 18 December, which provided an opportunity for all the project partners to agree on the implementation methodologies for the successful launch and implementation of this initiative, as well as to ensure alignment with similar capacity-building initiatives.

**UNCCT-2017-68:** Strengthening Member State Capacities in the Area of Border Security and Management to Counter Terrorism and Stem the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (BSM programme)

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**Status:** Initiated

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Building on the lessons learned through the Border Security Initiative (BSI), jointly implemented with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and finalised in September 2017, UNCCT completed the design of a new comprehensive programme that aims to strengthen Member States' capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) through improved border security and management. Through a combination of core activities and targeted capacity-building projects, this global BSM programme seeks to address a number of key border security gaps, which have been identified as a result of the previously concluded Border Security Initiative and consultations with Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities:

- Lack of good practices relating to BSM and modes of cross-border transportation in the context of counter-terrorism
- A need to expand cross-border cooperation and information sharing, including the responsible sharing of biometric data
- Lack of border management strategies based on risk and needs assessments that address counter-terrorism and specific issues related to FTFs
- Lack of training and courses on BSM as it relates to counter-terrorism
- Lack of minimum standards of technical equipment required to detect and intercept the movement of FTFs across borders

The core capacity-building activities and projects envisaged within the BSM programme include: (1) Provision of thematic expertise to Member States, regional bodies, and/or Global Compact partners to enhance awareness, understanding, and capacity of BSM; (2) development and dissemination of cross-border travel cycle modules pertaining to air, maritime, railway and bus travel; (3) development of tailored training modules based on the UNCCT-GCTF developed *Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen National and Regional Capacities in Countering Terrorism* and their joint delivery with Global Compact partners in regional forums; (4) delivery of national and regional training workshops to build the capacity of frontline officers at high-risk international airports to address threats posed by FTFs; and (5) delivery of regional workshops to strengthen awareness, knowledge and capacity of Member States to use and share biometric data in a responsible manner.



In 2018, UNCCT developed specialised capacity-building projects in the identified priority areas, including airport interdiction training (AIRCOP) and biometrics. UNCCT trained and sensitised 96 participants on BSM through a number of workshops including a five-day regional training on 'Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen National and Regional Capacities in Countering Terrorism', jointly organised with UNODC and IOM in Ashgabat in October 2018 under the Centre's project 'Comprehensive

Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia' (see project UNCCT-2017-69 above), and three regional workshops held in Northern Africa, the G5 Sahel, and South-East Asia within the scope of the Centre's project 'Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism' (see project UNCCT-2017-65 below). At the same time, UNCCT contributed to the development of a joint publication with CTED and the Biometrics Institute entitled *United Nations Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter-Terrorism*, which was published in June 2018.

UNCCT will officially launch the global BSM programme in the first quarter of 2019.



**UNCCT-2017-63:** Aviation Security

**Status:** Initiated

To support Member States to prevent and counter terrorist threats to civil aviation in line with the requirements of Security Council resolution 2309 (2016), UNCCT developed a new Aviation Security project during the reporting period, in close coordination with CTED and ICAO. The development of this new initiative was very timely considering the adoption by ICAO of its Global Aviation Security Plan (GASep) in November 2017. In resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council welcomed the approval of the GASep, noting that it provides the foundation for all stakeholders in the civil aviation industry to



work together to enhance aviation security worldwide. The aim of the new project is to enhance the capacity of target countries to provide aviation screening across their national civil aviation infrastructure, consistent with the minimum standards required by ICAO and the EU.



UN Photo

The project builds on the positive results and lessons learned from the aviation security project in Nigeria, and will continue to support and focus on Nigeria in its first phase, while also identifying new beneficiary countries. To facilitate the launch of the project in Nigeria, UNCCT undertook a scoping mission to Abuja on 11-14 June, during which a series of meetings were held with senior officials from the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and the Federal Ministry of Transport. Given Nigeria's growing aviation security sector, the scoping mission was instrumental in building consensus among national authorities on the need to make optimal use of the 35 national officials who had previously received Training of Trainers training as Master Trainers in order to strengthen the provision of aviation security training in the country.

A follow-up country visit was undertaken to Abuja, Lagos and Port Hancort in November and December, during which UNCCT delivered on-the-job training and mentorship support to 35 Master Trainers that had received training through the previous 'Aviation Security project in Nigeria', with the aim of improving their delivery of Training of Trainers training. UNCCT also assessed all training spaces allocated by the Government in both Abuja and Lagos, and reviewed existing national aviation security training materials and schedules, in close consultation with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN),

the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and ONSA. The purpose of these assessments was to identify how the project could strengthen the country's national civil aviation security quality control programmes, specifically in relation to aviation security recruitment, training and certification.

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### Results/Impact

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The scoping mission undertaken in June identified additional areas through which UNCCT could provide further capacity-building support to Nigeria given its growing aviation security sector. Key among these is the introduction of training for handlers of explosive detection canines, the provision of training on new screening equipment, as well as support towards enhancing landside security of key airports around the country. These elements have been incorporated into the project and will inform the delivery of assistance to Nigeria and other beneficiary countries.

The follow-up country visit to Nigeria in November and December was instrumental in ensuring that the Master Trainers who had previously received training had the necessary support and mentorship as they delivered the Training of Trainers training to their compatriots. A UNCCT expert was therefore available on-site in Abuja, Lagos and Port Harcourt to observe the Master Trainers as they delivered training, as well as answer their questions, which ranged from the technical and operational aspects of aviation security to the logistical and administrative aspects of organising training sessions.

Going forward, UNCCT will continue to support Nigeria and explore how the project can best be replicated in other Member States. Therefore, additional scoping missions will be undertaken to identify new beneficiary countries, in close coordination with CTED, ICAO, and requesting Member States.



**Output 2.4:** Through UNCCT support, requesting Member States are better able to prevent terrorist cyber-attacks, and mitigate the effects and expedite recovery should they occur

Terrorists seek to exploit digital space to recruit and incite individuals to carry out attacks, steal identities and data, extort money, cause fear, damage critical infrastructure, and disrupt government operations. The increasing sophistication and transnational nature of cyber threats requires Member States to have the necessary legislative, regulatory, enforcement and technical capabilities to prevent and address cyber-attacks, and to strengthen international collaboration in this area. The 6th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/72/284) highlights “the increasing use, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts”, and encourages cooperation among Member States, international, regional and subregional organisations, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to address this issue. The resolution further calls upon States “to share information and experience in order to prevent, protect against, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from damage from terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure facilities.” UNCCT, through its cyber security project, seeks to strengthen the prevention, readiness, prosecution, response, and mitigation capabilities of requesting Member States against potential cyber-attacks perpetrated by terrorist actors.

**UNCCT-2017-58:** Enhancing the Capacity of Member States to Prevent Cyber-Attacks Perpetrated by Terrorist Actors and Mitigate their Impact

**Status:** Ongoing

Cyber-attacks could have wide-ranging effects potentially leading to death and destruction. Several terrorist organisations, including Al-Qaida and ISIL (Da’esh), have expressed a clear intent to build offensive cyber capabilities that would allow them to carry out attacks on critical infrastructure. There is an immediate need to enhance Member States’ security and resilience against cyber-attacks, including their ability to recover and restore systems should attacks occur, as well as bringing those responsible to justice.

In 2018, UNCCT launched a project that seeks to (1) build awareness and understanding of cyber threats, (2) enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and investigate cyber-attacks perpetrated by terrorists and mitigate their impact, and (3) improve the sharing of information and expertise in

this field. The project includes two awareness-raising events for countries in South-East Asia and Africa, as well as capacity-building workshops for three Member States in each region. Preparations for the project's launch have continued during the reporting period, and project activities will begin in the first half of 2019.

**Output 2.5:** Through UNCCT support, requesting Member States and International Organisations have enhanced capacities to prevent terrorists from accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials, and are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, terrorist attacks involving such weapons or materials

The prospect of non-state actors, including terrorist groups and their supporters, gaining access to and using WMD/CBRN materials is a serious threat to international peace and security. Terrorist groups have tested new ways and means to acquire and use more dangerous weapons to maximise damage, including weapons using CBRN materials. With advancements being made in technology and the expansion of illegal and legal commercial channels, including on the dark web, some of these weapons have become increasingly accessible. The reported use of chemical weapons on civilians by terrorist groups in Syria, the attempt to use ricin as a weapon of terror in Germany and the lockdown of two nuclear power plants in Belgium under suspicion of an attempt by ISIL (Da'esh) to attack, infiltrate or sabotage the facilities have demonstrated that the threat is real.

The concern about WMD/CBRN weapons has been recognised at various levels throughout the UN System. The Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* launched in May, identified WMD/CBRN weapons as one of its three priorities. The Security Council has addressed this threat on several occasions, including resolution 1373 (2001), resolution 1540 (2004) and resolution 2325 (2016). The General Assembly, under Pillar II and Pillar III of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, has recognised the need to prevent and respond to WMD/CBRN terrorism. More recently, through the sixth Review of the Global Strategy, the General Assembly has called upon all Member States to "prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery... and [encouraged] cooperation among and between Member States and relevant regional and international organizations for strengthening national capacities in this regard."

UN Photo



**UNCCT-2018-02-79:** Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (WMD/CBRN Programme)

**Status:** Ongoing

In 2018, UNCCT launched a new global multi-year programme that aims to enhance the capacities of Member States, international organisations, and UN entities to prevent terrorist organisations from accessing and using WMD and/or CBRN materials, and to ensure that they are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, a terrorist attack involving such weapons or materials. The programme seeks to achieve this goal by enhancing the visibility of UNCCT activities; strengthening strategic partnerships with members of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact; advancing knowledge and understanding of the threat; implementing capacity-building projects to support Member States; and supporting the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks.

#### (1) Visibility

The WMD/CBRN Programme was presented during several events at the international level including meetings, seminars, congresses and colloquiums organised by the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementations Support Unit (ISU) of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization (WHO), and INTERPOL.



## (2) Partnerships

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), a platform composed of 88 Member States and six international organisations and chaired by the Russian Federation and the United States of America. In addition, UNCCT delivered several briefings to and enhanced coordination with the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), a partnership composed of 30 Member States that coordinates capacity-building programming in this area. Finally, the Centre strengthened coordination with the Group of Experts of the Security Council 1540 Committee, IAEA, INTERPOL, OPCW, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), UNODA, UNODC and WHO.

## (3) Threat/risk analysis

In order to advance knowledge and understanding of the global threat and risk of terrorist groups accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials, UNCCT engaged in exploratory discussions regarding the possibility of conducting a global study on the subject with international partners such as the BWC ISU of UNODA, the Group of Experts of the Security Council 1540 Committee, INTERPOL, OPCW and WHO. In addition, the Centre, together with INTERPOL and UNICRI, organised a side event on the margins of the 'Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention' in the Palais the Nations in Geneva in December, which convened more than 75 participants from Member States and international organisations. The side event focused on the risks and benefits posed by emerging technologies and analysed the preventive and response measures related to WMD and CBRN terrorism. This event represented a great opportunity to advance the understanding of the level of threat posed by misuse of emerging technologies, a trending topic that is on top of the international agenda.



#### (4) Capacity-Building

During the reporting period, UNCCT developed three multi-year pilot projects to support Member States in prevention, preparedness and response to WMD/CBRN terrorism, including:

- *Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare for and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan*, in partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- *Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq*, in partnership with the Department of State of the United States of America
- *Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*, in partnership with the EU and UNODC

These projects will be reported separately in the section below.

#### (5) International Inter-Agency Coordination

UNCCT co-organised a workshop to develop the third phase of the project 'Ensuring Effective Inter-Agency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks', to be implemented by the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks, in close cooperation with the Government of Canada, IAEA and OPCW. Additionally, the Centre provided technical expertise for the development of a new Working Group project on 'Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism'. Both projects will be implemented during 2019-2020.

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### Results/Impact

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With regard to the first strategic objective on *visibility*, UNCCT was present and actively participated in events at the international level, through the delivery of statements, videos, and presentations. These contributed to increasing the visibility of the WMD/CBRN programme as well as the Centre at the international fora. In terms of the second objective on *partnerships*, the programme effectively coordinated activities with relevant WMD/CBRN actors in the international community as well as the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities. Regarding the third objective of *threat/risk analysis*, the programme commenced the design of a research study on the global threat and risk of terrorist groups accessing and using WMD/CBRN materials focusing in particular on capabilities, vulnerabilities, impact and the



relevance of new technologies, which will serve as a basis for programme implementation going forward. On the fourth objective pertaining to *capacity-building*, the programme developed three pilot projects to support Member States in line with the Global Strategy and strategic priorities, thematic areas, geographical scope and needs of Member States, international organisations and UN entities. As regards the fifth and final programme component on *inter-agency coordination*, the programme supported the coordination and development of projects of the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks through the provision of technical expertise and guidance.

The intended impact of the programme is to contribute to making the world safer and more secure from WMD/CBRN terrorism through the implementation of the WMD/CBRN provisions of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this regard, the programme will support Member States to implement enhanced policies, practices, procedures for the prevention, preparedness and response to WMD/CBRN terrorism and to operate with improved awareness, knowledge and understanding of the threat and risk. Through this programme, international organisations and UN entities are expected to support Member States in the prevention, preparedness and response to WMD/CBRN terrorism in a more informed and coordinated manner, in line with the 'All-of-UN' approach.



**UNCCT-2018-02-79-A:** Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq (under WMD/CBRN Programme)

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**Status:** Initiated

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The reported alleged use of chemical weapons, including mustard gas, by ISIL during the protracted conflict in Syria demonstrates that the group may have obtained the tools and know-how to manufacture and use weapons of mass destruction. ISIL has also reportedly sought out personnel with technical expertise to expand its programmes involving CBRN materials. Concerns have been voiced by a number of national law enforcement agencies regarding the potential development and use of biological weapons by ISIL. Despite recent successes of Iraq against ISIL, violent extremism, terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters continue to pose a threat to both Iraq and the region, increasing the relevance of concerns about WMD/CBRN terrorism.

The project aims to enhance Iraq's capacities to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack involving chemical and biological weapons or materials. The project will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach, focusing on biological and chemical security, investigation, intelligence sharing, security culture in academia, and CBRN response. To this end, a series of workshops and conferences will be held to raise awareness and knowledge of chemical and biological security, and to address investigation and intelligence sharing. The project will integrate information into a database tracing the chemical and biological expertise of foreign terrorist fighters and terrorists and deliver a training course on CBRN response.

The project will be implemented over the course of 16 months, in partnership with the Department of State of the United States of America and in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq. Moreover, international organisations and UN entities will be regularly informed; and activities will be coordinated with their respective projects and programmes.

In 2019, project activities will include the development and dissemination of the database, training on CBRN response, a conference on chemical and biological and security culture, and drafting of the national biosecurity strategy. UNCCT and the US Department of State are working on finalising the legal and financial arrangement of this joint project to commence implementation in 2019.

**UNCCT-2018-02-79-B:**

Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan (under WMD/CBRN Programme)

**Status:** Ongoing

The project aims to enhance the national capabilities of Jordan in the areas of preparedness and response to a terrorist attack involving CBRN weapons or materials. More specifically, the project will include identification of Jordan's CBRN resilience, preparedness, and consequence management needs through self-assessment; delivery of a CBRN training course for first responders based on NATO's international training curriculum; organisation of a field and virtual reality exercise; identification of lessons learned from this exercise; and issuance of recommendations for the future.

The 36-month project, which began in October 2018, is jointly implemented with NATO. The project will coordinate its activities with regional and international organisations as well as UN entities, including the EU and members of the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks.

The first project activity took place in Belgrade, Serbia on 8-11 October, where two representatives from Jordan attended the consequence management field exercise "SRBIJA 2018", jointly organised by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response and Coordination Centre (EADRCC) and the Ministry of Interior of Serbia, to improve interoperability in international disaster response operations. In 2019, UNCCT will focus on organising a ceremony in New York to launch the project and a scoping visit to Jordan, as well as preparing the self-assessment methodology and delivering a workshop to facilitate such assessment.



**UNCCT-2018-02-79-C:** Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

**Status:** Initiated

There have been several attempts by terrorists to gain access to and use radiological or nuclear weapons or materials. In 2016, it was reported that ISIL had been monitoring a senior scientist working at a nuclear research facility in Belgium, which resulted in the lockdown of two nuclear power plants as a counter-measure against suspected attempt to attack, infiltrate or sabotage these facilities. More recently, in June 2018, it was reported that ISIL had seized 40kg of low enriched uranium from scientific institutions at the Mosul University in Iraq.

To support the efforts of the international community in addressing the threat from nuclear terrorism, this project will seek to promote the universalisation and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). Together with the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, ICSANT serves as the primary tool for ensuring that there is no safe haven for those that commit or seek to commit acts of terrorism involving radiological or nuclear materials. These Conventions provide a basis for the harmonisation of criminalisation provisions across jurisdictions, thus enhancing the framework for and facilitating international cooperation. However, these instruments can only realise their full potential through universal ratification.

This joint initiative with UNODC, which will be implemented for a period of 36 months, aims to promote adherence to the International Convention through legislative assistance and judicial training led by UNODC, and outreach and capacity-building activities led by UNCCT. Specifically, UNCCT will seek to enhance coordination and coherence across the UN system and raise awareness through a high-level meeting and workshops for policy-makers, legislative bodies and representatives of non-governmental organisations. The Centre will conduct a special study to better understand the causes of delay in the ratification of the Convention and its effective implementation. It will also deliver capacity-building activities in border security and management.

The project will ensure coordination with relevant initiatives, experts, and organisations, including the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, GICNT, Group of Experts of the Security Council 1540 Committee, the IAEA, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UNICRI, UNODA, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The project will start in 2019, and during its first year of implementation, the project will develop its methodology, conduct a workshop for policymakers and legislative bodies, organise a workshop in border management, design the special study, and initiate the preparations of the high-level event.

**PILLAR III:**

## **Measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard**

Drawing on UNCCT expertise/assistance and programme support, Member States, UN entities and other stakeholders cooperate to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism (Outcome 4, UNCCT 5-Year Programme)

**Output 4.1:** I-ACT is promoted and expanded to cover additional requesting Member States and priority gaps are identified and addressed in a coherent manner by relevant CTITF [Global Compact] entities

In 2018, UNCCT continued to implement and promote an integrated, strategic and system-wide approach to capacity building for the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through its Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative. I-ACT supports requesting governments and regional organisations in their implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a coordinated and coherent manner. This initiative seeks to strengthen coordination, coherence, and information-sharing among Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities that participate in capacity-building activities under the I-ACT Framework, as well as to improve their joint analysis of counter-terrorism and PVE needs of Member States and regional organisations, including through organising and facilitating joint missions. I-ACT is currently implemented at the national level in Mali, and at the regional level in the G5 Sahel region. The Regional I-ACT Framework for the G5 Sahel responds to the Security Council's request by resolution 2195 (2014) to expand the I-ACT programme to the G5 Sahel region to ensure an 'All-of-UN' approach in the delivery of technical assistance in counter-terrorism and PVE. This Framework consists of several strategic, mutually supportive, and gender-sensitive projects that mainstream human rights, which are implemented in close cooperation with the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel. During the reporting period, the I-ACT Unit of UNCCT continued to deepen its partnerships with beneficiary countries through regular consultations and conducted its work in line with the priorities identified by these countries and the region.

**Regional I-ACT Framework**

**UNCCT-2017-74:** Supporting the Regional Efforts of G5 Sahel Countries to Counter Terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism

**Status:** Ongoing

This UNCCT project, implemented in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat, was launched in April 2017 under the regional I-ACT Initiative for the G5 Sahel to help implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism in the G5 Sahel region. The project’s key thematic areas are based on the needs assessments conducted by CTED and other UN entities, and are aligned with the priorities established by the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger). These focus areas are: (1) preventing violent extremism; (2) border management and cross-border cooperation; (3) rule of law and criminal justice; and (4) overall counter-terrorism coordination. The project actively engages government officials of the G5 Sahel countries from relevant agencies involved in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, and civil society organisations from the G5 Sahel region. It further complements and mutually reinforces the support provided by the rest of the UN system through the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), as well as the support of bilateral partners to the G5 region.

**Results/Impact**

A key project output is to ensure that the *regional counter-radicalization cell (CELLRAD)*, established within the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel in 2016 to implement the recommendations of the May 2015 Niamey Declaration, is fully operational. In this regard, UNCCT continued to support the operationalisation of the CELLRAD and its national antennas. On 26-27 April, the Centre, in close



UN Photo



collaboration with UNOWAS and the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat, helped organise the Second Meeting of Ministers of Religious Affairs of G5 countries in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the work of the CELLRAD. The meeting served as an opportunity to validate a study commissioned by the G5 Sahel and UNOWAS to identify community indicators of radicalisation and violent extremism. This study and identified indicators are a key tool for the CELLRAD and its national antennas to identify patterns, anticipate radicalisation, and thwart possible recruitment by violent extremist groups.



UN Photo

Another output under the regional I-ACT framework is the development of a Handbook on good practices for community resilience in the G5 Sahel region. During the reporting period, UNCCT, following close consultations with the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat and UNOWAS, recruited a consultant to support the drafting of this Handbook. The Handbook will provide shared experiences and lessons learned on community resilience in the G5 Sahel from selected communities, including cross-border communities, and authorities of the G5 Sahel countries, and will be developed through direct engagement and regional workshops with community members. Following further consultations with various communities in G5 Sahel countries, UNCCT will organise a regional workshop in March 2019 in Nouakchott, Mauritania, to share practical experiences and lessons learned on community resilience in the G5 Sahel. This will be followed by a validation workshop in May 2019. The Handbook will be subsequently printed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders, and will help complement the Centre's support to the CELLRAD.

During the reporting period, UNCCT helped improve the capacity of the G5 Sahel countries to prevent and counter terrorism. On 4-6 September, the Centre held a regional capacity-building workshop for law enforcement officials in Nouakchott, Mauritania on best practices regarding intra-agency and inter-agency cooperation to address and prevent kidnapping for ransom.



A total of 40 participants, including officials from all countries of the G5 Sahel, and representatives from UNOWAS, UNODC and IOM took part in the exercise. As part of the South-South approach, two officials from Kenya were invited to share their good practices and expertise in this area.

On 6-8 November, UNCCT held a regional workshop for G5 Sahel countries on 'Preventing Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E)', in partnership with the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat, UNESCO, and UNOWAS, in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The workshop gathered 52 participants, including 18 women, from G5 Sahel countries, Kenya and Nigeria invited as observer to promote the South-South initiative, the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat, the International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF), UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and UNICEF. The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to discuss their perspectives, exchange information and best practices, and put forward practical proposals, which are expected to be reflected in *the G5 Sahel Integrated Strategy on Youth* that is currently being developed.

**UNCCT-2018-03-85:** Promotion of Sustainable Peace and Development through Building of Skills for Life and the World of Work in the Sahel (UNCCT-UNESCO under I-ACT)

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**Status:** Ongoing

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Launched in May 2018, this project is the initial phase of a programme that aims to support peace and sustainable development through strengthening youth competencies. The project seeks to (1) promote inclusive education policies in favour of disadvantaged groups within society; (2) strengthen the skills, attitudes, and values of young people to increase their socio-economic integration; and (3) build the capacity of teacher trainers and teachers to enable learners to acquire basic knowledge and the values of 'living together'.

In May, the project held a consultative meeting in Bamako, Mali, during which priorities and needs of beneficiary countries were identified and country results frameworks were developed to finalise the programme document. 48 participants, including five women and four youth, attended the meeting from Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal, as well as from the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat, the national antennas of the CELLRAD, and the G5 Sahel Coordination of Journalists (CoJ-G5 Sahel). A senior UNCCT consultant participated in the meeting and provided technical expertise.

In December, a group of 69 national education experts and stakeholders, including 24 women, met in Burkina Faso, to reflect on the principles, values,

knowledge, and competencies that civic and citizenship education can instil among learners. They identified key challenges in implementing civic and citizenship education in terms of institutional arrangements, curricula, and teacher training and practices. The meeting findings will contribute to designing future capacity-building interventions on global citizenship education and prevention of violent extremism through education. In addition, during September-December, two rapped newscasts were produced in Burkina Faso and Mali to provide key messages on PVE and culture of peace. In Mauritania, the project developed the methodology and data collection tools as a preparatory step to conduct a research study on the prevalence and forms of school violence.

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### Results/Impact

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The project is the initial phase of a wider programme, which is implemented in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and Sustainable Development Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. In this regard, the project has brought together a number of experts in order to identify key challenges in implementing civic and citizenship education in terms of institutional arrangements, curricula, and teacher training and practices in Burkina Faso. This will support the development of future capacity-building interventions on global citizenship education and PVE-E. This project will also help spread messages of peace through rapped newscasts in Burkina Faso and Mali.

In this connection, the key activities planned under the project in 2019 include: (1) broader dissemination of the rapped newscasts in Burkina Faso and Mali; (2) development of the methodology of a research study on the prevalence and forms of school violence in Burkina Faso and Niger; (3) promotion and management of the web platform *Learning to Live Together Sustainably*; and (4) adaptation of *Teacher's Guide for Peace and Resilience Building in the Sahel and Surrounding Countries* to Niger's national context. A second phase of this project has been submitted in the first United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Consolidated Multi-Year Appeal for 2019-2020.



**UNCCT-2018-03-86:** Strengthening Rule of Law-Based Criminal Justice Measures and Related Operational Measures against Terrorism and Violent Extremism (UNCCT-UNODC under I-ACT)

**Status:** Ongoing

International judicial cooperation in criminal matters remains a key element in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, especially in the Sahel where these growing threats are increasingly transnational in nature. In this regard, the project aims to (1) strengthen judicial cooperation among the G5 Sahel countries; (2) enhance capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice officials to address legal and criminal justice challenges related to FTF and violent extremism; (3) enhance national capacity for human rights compliance in criminal justice responses to terrorism and violent extremism; (4) strengthen operational cooperation among the G5 Sahel law enforcement and intelligence authorities; and (5) enhance operational capacity to conduct complex investigations and apply special investigation techniques on the investigation of terrorism and related cases.

While activities under this project will be implemented in 2019, progress was made during the reporting period to lay the necessary foundation for the successful implementation of the project through the organisation of two key events. One was the 8th Annual Meeting of the Sahel Judicial Cooperation Platform (the Sahel Platform), composed of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad, which took place on 25-27 September in Dakar, Senegal, to identify challenges and exchange best practices on current cooperation cases, including the effective handling of requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition. 20 participants, including the Sahel Platform focal points and substitutes, representatives of the G5 Sahel and INTERPOL, and UNODC experts attended the meeting.

The second event was the sub-regional seminar for Sahel countries on the development of Plans of Action to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism held on 23-25 October. As part of a series of meetings with national stakeholders involved in counter-terrorism efforts, UNODC assisted national partners in Burkina Faso and Mauritania in developing a list of the operational objectives to be achieved and an adequate division of labour among criminal justice actors. The objective of this seminar was to present the lessons learned from this experience to other G5 Sahel countries, including the methodology, results, challenges, and best practices, to explore opportunities to replicate such action plans in other countries and to initiate discussions on the establishment of a regional network of cooperation between judicial and investigation units specialising in counter-terrorism.

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### Results/Impact

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In 2019, UNCCT will collaborate with UNODC on organising (1) a national training workshop on building terrorism cases for investigators, prosecutors and investigating judges; (2) the first sub-regional meeting of the specialised counter-terrorism judicial and investigative units for the establishment of a regional network; (3) a national training workshop on witness protection for investigators, prosecutors, and investigating judges in charge of terrorism cases; (4) a high-level meeting that would result in a MOU between the Sahel Platform and the G5 Sahel to support the operationalization of judicial cooperation; and (5) the first sub-regional workshop of the integrated structure between the Sahel Platform and the G5 Sahel. Through these activities, the Centre will seek to increase and operationalise regional judicial cooperation, and strengthen the capacity of criminal justice and law enforcement officials of the G5 Sahel countries to build terrorism cases.

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**UNCCT-2018-03-87:** Programme Coordination of the G5 Sahel Framework (I-ACT)

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### Status: Ongoing

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The regional I-ACT Framework consists of eight regional, mutually reinforcing, gender and human rights sensitive projects submitted by UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, ICAO, IOM, and UNCCT, and implemented in cooperation with UNOWAS and the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat. This project supports the programmatic needs of the regional I-ACT framework through the recruitment and deployment of required professional and general service staff. UNCCT has two Programme Management Officers based in New York and in Nouakchott, respectively. The Centre's field deployment has helped strengthen cooperation with the G5 Sahel countries, and other key partners in the region.

## National I-ACT Framework

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**UNCCT-2014-36:** Enhancing the Capacity of Mali's Security and Justice Sectors to Counter Terrorism (I-ACT)

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### Status: Completed/Quarter 4

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In 2018, UNCCT continued to assist Mali in strengthening the capacity of its security and justice sectors to counter terrorism under the national I-ACT Framework. In close cooperation with the Government of Mali, the United



Photo: MINUSMA-Marco Dormino

Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), CTED, UN Country Team, particularly UNDP Mali, and other relevant stakeholders, UNCCT supported the development of a comprehensive national policy on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism in Mali entitled *Politique Nationale de Prévention et de Lutte Contre l'Extrémisme Violent* and its *Plan of Action* for 2018-2020. The National Policy encompasses five pillars: prevention, protection, prosecution, response, and social cohesion.

On 29-31 January, UNCCT held an interagency coordination workshop in Bamako with the participation of approximately 70 representatives from the government, security forces, civil society, and the United Nations. The opening ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Mali, Mr. Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga, the Minister of Religious Affairs and Worship, Mr. Thierno Amadou Oumar Hass Diallo, senior government officials, members of the security forces, the diplomatic corps, civil society representatives, MINUSMA and UNDP officials, and the national press. During this workshop, participants highlighted that Mali and the region is at a critical turn, and that the workshop presented an important opportunity to set the foundation for necessary progress in counter-terrorism and PVE efforts. The workshop enabled participants to review the National Policy and to prioritise its objectives and activities in five thematic working groups focusing on the five pillars of the Policy. Furthermore, participants developed recommendations aimed at supporting the implementation of the Policy, including on communication mechanisms, the role and participation of communities, the involvement of young people and women as facilitators in de-radicalisation efforts, and resource mobilisation.

The National Policy was approved on 26 February through a presidential decree and launched on 10 July at a launch event organised with the support of UNCCT, and attended by more than 300 people, including government officials, the diplomatic corps, local defence and security forces, civil society representatives, and UN officials.

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## Results/Impact

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The project supported the delivery of the key output – the development of the National Policy and Plan of Action on counter-terrorism and PVE for Mali. The 'All-of-UN' support ensured a participatory process in the development of the National Policy, and the adoption of a balanced approach to integrate key issues into the document, including on gender, human rights, rule of law, and victims of terrorism. The cumulative and coordinated support from UN agencies to the drafting process also helped ensure the timely completion of this policy document. During the interagency coordination workshop in January 2018, UNCCT received very positive feedback from participants who stressed the need to expedite the implementation of the National Policy. Going forward, upon the request of the Government of Mali, UNCCT will support government efforts to establish effective interagency coordination mechanisms to support the implementation of the National Policy and its Action Plan.

**Output 4.2:** Relevant CTITF [Global Compact] entities have an enhanced capacity, within their mandate, to address terrorism and violent extremism, including in particular through joint efforts

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) was established by the Secretary-General in 2005 and endorsed by the General Assembly in 2006 through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288) "to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system." The General Assembly, through resolution A/RES/71/291 adopted on 15 June 2017, established the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to "transfer the current Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, together with their existing staff, as well as all associated regular and extrabudgetary resources, out of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, into the Office of Counter-Terrorism."

The establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was the first reform initiative of the UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres who stressed the need to bring together all relevant UN agencies at the highest level to foster an 'All-of-UN' partnership in counter-terrorism through a more effective coordination framework. To this effect, the Secretary-General, in February, signed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which establishes a set of guiding principles aimed at significantly improving the coordination and coherence of the UN system to support Member States in their implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Coordination Compact is an agreement between 36 UN entities that support Member States on countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism according



to their respective mandates. The Compact was signed by the heads of these entities, as well as INTERPOL and WCO, as a symbol of their commitment to coordinate activities at Headquarters and in the field. This document also provides a common framework for monitoring and evaluation to help assess the impact of UN efforts in this area.

On 6 December, the Secretary-General launched the first meeting of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee, which supports the implementation of the Coordination Compact, during which he announced that the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Task Force would now replace CTITF. During this meeting, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, noting that the Coordination Committee would function through the Global Compact Working Groups, emphasised that it was essential to revitalise and reform these Working Groups so that they can operate more efficiently and reflect developments in the UN counter-terrorism architecture, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will provide secretariat support to the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the revitalised Global Compact Working Groups will further strengthen cooperation and coordination among the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Task Force entities in the joint development and implementation of capacity-building projects.

### **UN FTF Capacity Building Implementation Plan**

Pursuant to the Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2015/11, UNCCT developed a United Nations capacity building implementation plan for countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in close consultation with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and CTED. Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) requested the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to review and update the FTF Implementation Plan to ensure that it supports Member States in their efforts to implement the priorities in the resolution, including the establishment of effective API systems, the development of PNR capabilities and biometric data systems, the improvement of judicial procedures and cooperation, and the development of comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.

The latest version of the Plan released in June 2018 has 40 projects by 12 entities, including UNCCT, CTED, UNODC, OHCHR, UNODA, UN Women, the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, UNESCO, IOM, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO, formerly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/DPKO), ICAO, and INTERPOL, with a total budget of USD 94.7 million. More than half of these projects are focused on the tail-end of the FTF lifecycle, namely, border security and information sharing, judicial measures and international cooperation, and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in line with resolution 2396 (2017).

During the latest update of the Plan, which included consultations with implementing Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and donors, 10 unfunded projects were



removed, and 7 new projects were included on supporting counter-FTF efforts in Somalia (DPO), strengthening criminal justice systems to address the FTF threat (UNODC), and mainstreaming gender into the efforts to counter FTFs (UN Women). In 2018, 7 projects were completed by UNCCT, CTED, UNODC and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). There are currently 8 active UNCCT projects under the Plan, including programmes and projects on prison de-radicalisation, information sharing on FTFs, the use of social media and the Internet, border security and management, PVE and youth empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, human rights based treatment of children associated with or accompanying FTFs, women's rights in the Sahel region, and prevention of the acquisition of arms and ammunition by terrorists (phase II). The update process contributed to significantly raising the funding rate from 41 per cent to 68 per cent (USD 65 million). UNCCT contributes 10 per cent (USD 10 million) of the total budget.

During meetings to revitalise the Global Compact Working Groups, the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Task Force entities agreed to hand over the FTF Plan to the newly established Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring & Evaluation. This move is expected to increase advocacy for joint fundraising for this 'All-of-UN' Programme addressing the full life-cycle of the FTF phenomenon, and to improve monitoring and evaluation of the projects implemented under the FTF Plan, as requested by Member States.

#### **UNCCT-2017-73: Seed-Funding for Global Compact Working Group Projects**

UNCCT initiated seed funding to select projects developed by the 12 UN Inter-Agency (Global Compact) Working Groups for 2017-2018 with a total budget of USD 1,356,000. The seed funding is intended to incentivise the work of the Working Groups, promote coordination and coherence and allow for additional fundraising for projects. It also provides the Chairs of the Working Groups with more flexibility to address programmatic needs, within the overall strategic framework of their Annual Work Plans. The initiative creates shared responsibility among Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Task Force entities within the different Working Groups and leverage their resources and expertise to promote an 'All-of-UN' approach in project development and implementation.

In 2018, the Programme Review Board of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has approved seed funding for nine (9) project proposals in the thematic areas of border management and law enforcement, protection of critical infrastructure, legal and criminal justice responses, promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law, national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, countering the financing of terrorism, preventing and responding to WMD attacks, communications, and gender-sensitive approach to preventing and countering terrorism. A proposal in the area of supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism is under consideration. During the reporting period, work was undertaken within the scope of five seed projects, as outlined below.

**Exhibit V**

**Overview of 2018 seed projects**

<p><b>UNCCT-2017-73-a</b> Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism (seed project)</p>	<p>Raise awareness, increase knowledge and strengthen capability of Member States and relevant international and regional entities on collecting, recording and sharing of biometric information on terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters at the international level, and through the establishment of a Compendium of existing good practices and recommendations</p>	<p>12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Output 4.2</p>
<p><b>UNCCT-2017-73-d</b> National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies (seed project)</p>	<p>Develop national comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategy in light of Security Council resolutions 1963 (2010) and 2129 (2013)</p>	<p>12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Output 4.2</p>
<p><b>UNCCT-2017-73-h</b> Protection of Critical Infrastructure Including Internet, Vulnerable Targets and Tourism Security (seed project)</p>	<p>Develop Guidelines and a Compendium of Good Practices on the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks</p>	<p>12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Output 4.2</p>
<p><b>UNCCT-2017-73-i</b> Communications (seed project)</p>	<p>Counter terrorist narratives through the development of good practices, recommendations for effective monitoring and evaluation and toolkit</p>	<p>12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Output 4.2</p>
<p><b>UNCCT-2017-73-j</b> Legal and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism (CTED seed project)</p>	<p>Develop guidelines on the role of the military in supporting the collection, sharing and use of evidence for promoting rule of law and human rights compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism</p>	<p>12 months (subject to extension) <b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Output 4.2</p>
<p><b>UNCCT-2019-02-79-D</b> Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge About Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism (UNCCT-UNICRI seed project)</p>	<p>Enhance knowledge and awareness of scientific and technological advances relevant to WMD terrorism through the preparation and dissemination of a research-based report</p>	<p>15 months (March/April 2019-May/June 2020) <b>Initiated</b></p>	<p>Global</p>	<p>Outcome 4 Output 4.2</p>

**UNCCT-2017-73-a:** Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism

With UNCCT seed funding and under the Global Compact Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement related to Counter-Terrorism, chaired by CTED, a project was developed which aimed to raise awareness, increase knowledge and strengthen the capability of Member States to collect, use and share biometric data on terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters in a responsible manner. Under this project, a Compendium of recommended practices for the responsible use and sharing of biometrics in counter-terrorism was developed in association with the Biometrics Institute. The Compendium was officially released and presented during the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in June 2018. The Compendium provides key principles and recommendations for consideration by Member States and other partners when implementing actions related to biometric data at the national and regional levels. A four-month extension of the seed funds from 1 January 2019 will be used to produce and print a leaflet of the Compendium and have it translated into all official UN languages.

**UNCCT-2017-73-d:** Developing National Comprehensive and Integrated Counter-Terrorism Strategy in light of Security Council Resolutions 1963 (2010) and 2129 (2013)

The seed funding project implemented by the Global Compact Working Group on National and Regional Strategies seeks to advise and support requesting Member States on the steps to be taken to develop a comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategy, through the temporary on-site presence or visit by qualified experts. In 2018, an expert consultant was engaged under this project to support the Government of Iraq in the development of a comprehensive strategy and to provide advisory support. The consultant will be deployed for technical and advisory visits to Iraq over the course of 2019.

**UNCCT-2017-73-h:** Development of Guidelines and a Compendium of Good Practices on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure against Terrorist Attacks

This seed project, implemented by the Global Compact Working Group on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure Including Internet, Vulnerable Targets and Tourism Security, developed and published the *Compendium of Good Practices for the Protection of Critical Infrastructures against Terrorist Attacks* in June. This Compendium was designed as a tool to support a wide range of actors, including policy makers, law enforcement authorities and private sector stakeholders with

responsibilities for designing, improving and implementing policies and measures to protect critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks, in compliance with Security Council resolution 2341 (2017). The underlying practical and legal challenges faced by States are examined from the perspective of current and potential solutions adopted by specific governments and organisations. In line with resolution 2341 (2017), the Compendium does not focus on any particular infrastructure type but highlights common principles, processes and methodologies that countries are encouraged to translate into concrete strategies as well as action plans and measures focusing on specific areas. The Compendium draws on case studies to provide concrete examples and implementation options, including examples of sector-specific mitigation measures.



**UNCCT-2017-73-i:** Countering Terrorist Narratives: Good Practices, Recommendations for Effective Monitoring and Evaluation and Toolkit

This seed project, implemented by CTED within the scope of the Global Compact Working Group on Communications, in consultation with UNCCT, seeks to support Member States in the implementation of Security Council resolution 2354 (2017). The project seeks to gather best practices, provide evidence-based recommendations for effective monitoring and evaluation, and produce a tool kit to guide Member States and other key stakeholders in their efforts to develop counter and alternative narratives. The Programme Review Board approved the project in August and a consultant was recruited late 2018 to prepare key findings based on desk review and produce a compilation of best practices as well as a comprehensive report and toolkit.

**UNCCT-2017-73-j:** Development of Guidelines on the Role of the Military in Supporting the Collection, Sharing and Use of Evidence for Promoting Rule of Law and Human Rights Compliant Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism

This seed project aims to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism by facilitating the use and the admissibility as evidence of information preserved, collected and shared by the military. This project is led by CTED and UNODC,

in close consultation with the member entities of the Working Group on Legal and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland in addition to the seed funding provided by UNCCT. The project has been implemented in close collaboration with the International Center for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT).

One key output is the development of guidelines for practitioners on this topic. In preparation of the first draft which was presented to the Working Group in June 2018, a number of activities have been implemented in 2018. First, in April 2018, CTED organised a high-level expert meeting, attended by around 40 international experts (including prosecutors, military actors and expert representatives of international, regional and national organisations), to discuss related challenges and existing practices and exchange ideas on the development of the guidelines. Second, the ICCT, in consultation with CTED, developed a questionnaire for policymakers, military practitioners and counter-terrorism prosecutors to facilitate development of the guidelines. Third, CTED informed the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the development and the status of the UN guidelines at the closed briefing in May 2018. And finally, in September 2018, CTED organised a joint side event with UNODC and the International Association of Prosecutors on 'Collection, Use and Sharing of Evidence for the Purposes of Criminal Prosecution in Terrorism Cases' during the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

At year's end, the guidelines were undergoing the technical editing and design phase. An extension of the seed funds will be used to translate the guidelines into all six official UN languages, as well as for printing and distribution.

**UNCCT-2019-02-79-D:** Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge About Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism

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**Status:** Initiated

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New scientific developments and emerging technologies are transforming life, industry, and the global economy in positive ways. At the same time, some of these technologies, such as synthetic biology, artificial intelligence, drones and additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, present significant potential for misuse by terrorist groups. ISIL is known to have already used drones to deliver explosives in Iraq and Syria and there are reports that the group has considered using the same technology to deliver chemical weapons. ISIL has also conducted fundraising using bitcoins on the dark web, the same marketplace that has been used to buy and sell radioactive materials in the past. It is therefore crucial for Member States and international and

regional organisations to keep up with the speed, complexity and innovation of advancements in science and technology to foresee potential risks and to determine how such advances can be most effectively applied to global counter-terrorism efforts, such as detection of illicit trade, cost-effective medical counter-measures, among others.

The project seeks to enhance knowledge and awareness of scientific and technological advances relevant to WMD terrorism through the preparation and dissemination of a research-based report. The report will first consider how advances in science and technology could augment or enhance terrorist capabilities to acquire and/or deploy WMD, to raise awareness about rapidly evolving WMD terrorist threats. The report will then identify innovative technology solutions that could be applied to countering WMD terrorism, to help inform strategic investments in counter-terrorism technologies. Finally, the report will conclude with strategic recommendations for concrete follow-up actions.

This project will be implemented over a period of 15 months by UNICRI within the framework of the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Terrorist Attacks and in close cooperation with UNCCT, the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee, OPCW and UNODA. The project will draw on the cumulative experience and technical expertise of operational experts of the Global Compact Working Group to help identify key emerging technologies and support the development of realistic risk scenarios based on relevant case studies. In 2019, the project will develop its methodology, hold two workshops to discuss risks and technology solutions, and begin drafting the report and recommendations.

**Output 4.3:** Through UNCCT support, professional linkages between relevant global, regional and national counter-terrorism centres have been enhanced

Information sharing and exchange of good practices is essential to the fight against terrorism. There is a need to leverage the expertise available in the centres of excellence, training centres, resource institutions, think tanks and Government-sponsored entities and initiatives dedicated to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as conducive to terrorism. UNCCT seeks to respond to the growing need for strengthened information exchange and cooperation among counter-terrorism centres and institutions at the global, regional and national levels, as well as to improve collaboration between these institutions and the United Nations. In this regard, the Centre is working actively on maintaining and enhancing digital platforms and initiatives to facilitate the collection and sharing of counter-terrorism and PVE information and expertise among Member States and UN entities.

**UNCCT-2013-24:** Fostering International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Promoting Collaboration between National, Regional and International Counter-Terrorism Centres and Initiatives (Network Against Terrorism, Phase II)

**Status:** Ongoing

UNCCT seeks to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation and collaboration both within the UN and among counter-terrorism centres at global, regional and national levels through the 'Network Against Terrorism' (NAT) digital platform. The NAT is an online custom software accessible to Member States and counter-terrorism centres that includes four separate portals on UN technical assistance programmes and projects related to foreign terrorist fighters, prevention of violent extremism, the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) Initiative, and a fourth portal on counter-terrorism centres, experts, projects and publications. The NAT seeks to serve as an online resource hub for counter-terrorism focal points of Member States and UN entities on counter-terrorism and PVE activities, projects, and programmes, and to facilitate the sharing of experience, expertise, and best practices in counter-terrorism and PVE. The web portal has more than 200 users and contains over 600 projects. Following a soft launch in 2017, the NAT was officially launched on the margins of the United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism in June 2018.

In 2018, UNCCT made enhancements to the four portals to improve and expand their functionality, design and presentation, and to increase performance in terms of usability and accessibility. Following its official launch, the NAT has seen an increase in the volume and sharing of data, and participation in the web portal increased by 433 per cent. Going forward, the Centre will explore options for an integrated digital information sharing platform with improved performance and functionality.

**Output 4.4:** Through UNCCT support, South-South and triangular counter-terrorism capacity building cooperation has been enhanced

Countries in the Global South are among those most affected by the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. Many of these countries are actively implementing innovative counter-terrorism measures as well as initiatives that address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism at local, national and regional levels, and possess a wealth of expertise and experience in counter-terrorism and PVE. Yet, these counter-terrorism and PVE approaches and expertise are not sufficiently known or shared between



developing countries, and the potential of South-South cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism is not fully realised. UNCCT is therefore committed to advancing South-South cooperation in the counter-terrorism context through its global project targeting interested countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and designed to strengthen the sharing of knowledge, expertise and good practices across the Global South in the field of counter-terrorism and PVE.

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**UNCCT-2018-03-84:** Project to Foster South-South Cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism

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**Status:** Ongoing

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This project aims to help promote and strengthen the exchange of expertise in the field of counter-terrorism and PVE between experts from selected countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and to enhance capacities to design and implement related policies and mechanisms. The initiative will help build new partnerships, strengthen institutional and technical capacities, improve the exchange of experience and know-how among developing countries and respond to their specific challenges in counter-terrorism and PVE. It will further seek to mainstream South-South cooperation into the activities, policies and projects of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities.

During the reporting period, UNCCT finalised the framework for the South-South Cooperation project, in consultation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The project will be undertaken in two phases. The inception phase will include a scoping of pilot countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean to map and identify relevant best practices in counter-terrorism and PVE, as well as subject matter experts and Centres of Excellence. The implementation phase will include the operationalisation of a digital knowledge sharing platform and a Forum of Experts; publication of a handbook of counter-terrorism and PVE best practices available in the Global South; and mainstreaming of South-South cooperation into the activities and projects of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Global Compact Entities. The project is funded by the Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund and will be launched in January 2019.

**PILLAR IV:**

## **Measures ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism**

Drawing on UNCCT expertise/assistance and programme support, Member States ensure respect for human rights as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism (Outcome 3, UNCCT 5-Year Programme)

**Output 3.1:** Through UNCCT support, requesting Member States have access to good practices on ensuring respect for human rights while countering terrorism and are enabled to apply them

Counter-terrorism measures may interfere with or restrict human rights and consequently generate or fuel grievances that may create the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its subsequent reviews, as well as several General Assembly and Security Council resolutions underscore the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in accordance with States' obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. UNCCT supports requesting Member States in implementing their human rights obligations under international law in the context of counter-terrorism. The Centre's technical assistance in this regard includes human rights training of law enforcement officials, developing human rights training modules for border officials and delivering regional trainings, producing publications on key human rights principles applicable to screening at borders, developing a handbook on key principles to ensure the human rights-based treatment of children accompanying or associated with foreign terrorist fighters, and mainstreaming human rights into all areas of the Centre's programme of work.

UN Photo / MINUSMA



**UNCCT-2015-40:** Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law, and the Prevention of Terrorism

**Status:** Ongoing

The global project of the Global Compact Working Group on Human Rights, co-implemented by OHCHR and UNCCT, seeks to strengthen the knowledge, experience and skills of law enforcement and security officials to comply with international human rights while countering terrorism. Through its four phases, the project aims to build their capacity in the areas of pre-trial and detention. Trainings are held for law enforcement and security officials under Phase I and Phase II. The project's Phase III will implement a Training of Trainers Programme to integrate the international training curriculum into the curriculum of national police training academies, and Phase IV will monitor and evaluate the project. The international training curriculum, implemented in Phase I and Phase II, consists of a five thematic modular course that includes detention, human rights framework, use of force, special investigative techniques, and investigative interviewing.

During 2018, the project, in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa of OHCHR, held two trainings in Cameroon, one in Maroua on 26-30 March and the second in Kribi on 2-6 April. Approximately 50 officials, consisting of gendarmerie, police, prosecutors, judges, including three vice presidents of the Military Court of Appeal, prison

officials, human rights instructors at the Advanced Police Academy, officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, and members of the National Human Rights Commission attended Phase I and Phase II trainings.

During the reporting period, the start of Phase III of the project was implemented in Nigeria, Cameroon and Tunisia. Phase III focuses on implementing a Training of Trainers programme that will adapt the international training curriculum to the national context and integrate it into the curriculum of national police training academies for each participating Member State. National legal consultants in Nigeria and Cameroon worked on adapting the international training curriculum to the national context, taking into account national laws, and developing a Training of Trainers programme. A national gender expert was also hired for Tunisia to conduct research into how to mainstream gender considerations into the Training of Trainers programme.

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## Results/Impact

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The project contributes to the implementation of Pillar IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides that all counter-terrorism measures must comply with human rights. The human rights trainings for Cameroonian law enforcement, security, judicial, and human rights officials were constantly monitored and evaluated, both with daily feedback and an evaluation questionnaire at the end of the training. According to this feedback, many participants commented that the good initiative should be multiplied as such a forum is very rare.

A senior level meeting with Cameroonian representatives from the gendarmerie, police, prosecutors, judges, prison officials, as well as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice was held on 9 April to inform the Government of Cameroon on the outcomes of the two trainings and to discuss the project's next steps. To this effect, the Government agreed to continue the implementation of the project and recommended to implement Phase III of the project in 2019, which is a training of trainers programme that aims to further build the capacity of police trainers who were already trained under Phase I and Phase II.

Legal consultants in Cameroon, Tunisia and Nigeria drafted research reports on the national human rights legal frameworks and how these principles could be integrated into and shape the international training curriculum to the national context. The adapted curriculum will be used by national police academies to strengthen their training curriculum so that national police cadets have enhanced knowledge, understanding, and skills on how to comply with national and international human rights whilst countering terrorism. In addition, the consultant in Tunisia looked at how gender considerations could be incorporated into the international training and will support the integration of gender into the newly adapted national training curriculum.

**UNCCT-2017-65:** Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism (under BSM Programme)

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**Status:** Ongoing

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This project, which is a joint initiative of UNCCT and OHCHR, aims to assist Member States in complying with international human rights standards in their border security and management, thus filling an important gap in existing tools and practices to protect human rights at borders while countering terrorism. During the reporting period, the Centre developed a three-day training module for border practitioners on how to comply with international human rights standards while performing their official responsibilities. The module is based on the *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders* produced by OHCHR in 2014, which provides a comprehensive overview of applicable international human rights standards at borders. The module contains six sections: (1) introduction to human rights, including basic human rights concepts and rights at risk at borders; (2) individuals facing vulnerable situations at borders, including in the context of migration; (3) rescue, interception and immediate assistance, including when and how force may be used by officials; (4) screening and interviewing with role play exercises to put into practice relevant human rights concepts; (5) avoiding detention and inadequate conditions of detention; and (6) human rights based-removal to the country of origin and steps to protect human rights in the return process.

In 2018, the draft module was piloted during four regional trainings organised for countries in South-East Asia (11-13 June), Southern Africa (3-5 July), G5 Sahel (3-5 September), and Northern Africa (13-15 November). The training covering Southern Africa was held within the overall framework of UNCCT's support to the implementation of the Southern Africa regional counter-terrorism strategy with the support of SADC. The Sahel regional training was undertaken with the support of the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat with the participation of all five countries. A total of 100 individuals from 26 countries, including 35 women, took part in these trainings.

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**Results/Impact**

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The project, which is part of UNCCT's Border Security and Management programme, contributes to the implementation of Pillar IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides that all counter-terrorism measures must comply with human rights.

During the reporting period, the project made substantial progress in developing a human rights training module for border practitioners. Participants in regional trainings mainly came from border security agencies and counter-terrorism organisations of their countries. Participants from almost all countries expressed desire to have the same training delivered at the national level. While all six training sessions were found useful, the first session on introduction to human rights was particularly popular among participants, which signalled the limited opportunities available for border security officials to learn about human rights. The session on screening and interviewing, which included practical exercises, was also of particular interest. During the training workshops, participants shared their challenges in the performance of their daily operations and provided important feedback in terms of issues to focus. This feedback from participants and the questions and issues they have raised during the trainings are being used by UNCCT to further revise the training module. Overall participants indicated increased awareness and understanding about international human rights standards applicable to their daily work which is expected to contribute to better compliance with such standards by border officials, especially in the counter-terrorism context.

UNCCT plans to finalise, translate, and publish the module by June 2019 as a joint publication of OHCHR and UNCCT. The Centre is also considering the implementation of the second phase of the project to develop a tailored programme at the national level for requesting countries to deliver human rights trainings to national authorities involved in border security and management using the module being developed.

**UNCCT-2013-14-Rev:** Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards in Screening and Controlling Persons at Borders in the Counter-Terrorism Context

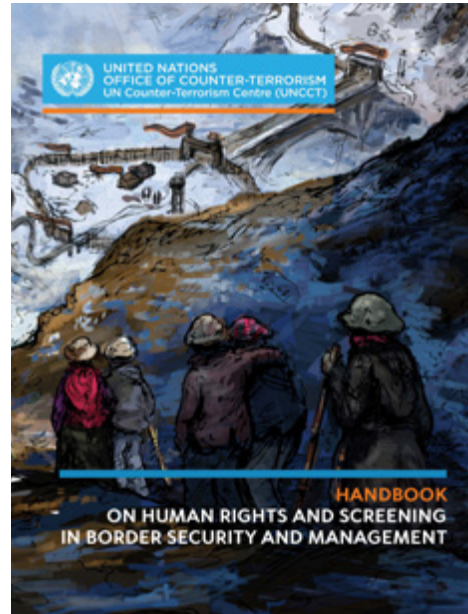
**Status:** Ongoing

The return and relocation of foreign terrorist fighters have increased the importance of screening of individuals at borders using various methods, including automated screening and face-to-face screening. At the same time, such screening practices may have human rights implications, including on the right to privacy and the principle of non-discrimination. This project provides in-depth guidance to policy makers as well as practitioners in requesting Member States on how to comply with international human rights standards in the process of screening persons at borders.

During the reporting period, UNCCT finalised and published a Handbook, the main project output, which summarises relevant international human rights

"All the topics we learned about today were very important and eye openers. As border officials we have to apply them."

— Participant in the human rights workshop for the Southern Africa region held in Gaborone, Botswana in July 2018



law and key factors to be considered by Member States while undertaking a screening process. The Handbook covers several issues at the policy level, such as location of screening, and criteria for entry and visas. It also covers human rights guidance on specific screening practices, such as automatic screening, face-to-face screening, and screening to identify foreign terrorist fighters. The target audience for the Handbook are border authority officials, policy makers, and trainers in relevant fields. In addition, the Centre produced a Pocketbook which summarises the key principles identified in the Handbook, such as non-discrimination and right to privacy. This product, which includes graphic aids, enables beneficiaries to easily access key

human rights principles and standards applicable to border screening. The Pocketbook seeks to encourage relevant officials on the ground to familiarise themselves with relevant international human rights principles as much as possible.

In 2018, UNCCT undertook missions to Indonesia, the Philippines, and Mauritania to understand how screening is done on the ground and to identify good practices and challenges. Based on the input from the field as well as relevant UN agencies working in this area, the Centre completed both the Handbook and the Pocketbook, which were translated into French and Arabic and printed.

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### Results/Impact

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During the reporting period, UNCCT delivered the two key project deliverables. The Handbook and Pocketbook are expected to increase the awareness of policy makers and practitioners on relevant international human rights standards to screening, and to encourage screening policies and practices that are more compliant to such standards. These publications will contribute to building the capacities of border officials to ensure human rights compliant border security and management, as called for by a number of Security Council resolutions, such as resolution 2178 (2014) and resolution 2396 (2017). To maximise the use and impact of the Handbook and Pocketbook, these will be distributed during trainings that will be held under the Centre's project 'Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism' (see project UNCCT-2017-65 above), as well as in other relevant capacity-building and outreach events.



**UNCCT-2014-31:** Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism Through Community Engagement through Human Rights Led Policing

**Status:** Ongoing

The project aims to develop a training module on community policing and resilience and is jointly implemented with the United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) of DPO. UNCCT has collaborated with DPO to ensure that project activities are aligned with DPO's efforts to develop a UN system-wide guide on community policing, and to ensure that the project contributes to strengthening PVE efforts at community level. In 2018, UNCCT and OROLSI worked together to develop a generic training module on human rights-based community policing to prevent and counter violent extremism. In 2019, UNCCT will explore the best implementation modalities for the training, with likely pilot testing in a few Member States, subject to agreement with OROLSI.

**UNCCT-2017-55:** Security Sector Reform in an Era of Terrorism/ Violent Extremism: Women's Rights in the Sahel Region (UNCCT – UN Women)

**Status:** Ongoing

UN Women and UNCCT are implementing a project to enhance the capacity of security sector actors in the Sahel region to protect and promote women's rights while preventing and countering terrorism. The project aims to ensure that counter-terrorism units across the G5 Sahel region strengthen and uphold women's rights through a number of key activities dedicated to mainstreaming women's rights, including research on gender sensitivity and national training workshops. Although the project has received a no-cost extension to December 2019 due to delays in implementation, several start-up activities were undertaken during the reporting period, including outreach to key partners, creation of a project coordination team, and finalisation of terms of reference and recruitment process for required expertise to conduct research, prepare relevant documentation and hold national training workshops.

Planned activities in 2019 include the finalisation of recruitment of consultants, research and analysis on human rights compliance and gender sensitivity of the security sector, development of a Guidance Note on human rights and gender equality for security forces tailored to counter-terrorism units, development of

tailored gender and human rights training modules, and delivery of five national level trainings on gender and human rights for security sector actors across the region. Through these activities, the project is expected to strengthen the capacity of the security sector in the G5 Sahel countries to protect and promote women’s rights while preventing and countering violent extremism.

**Output 3.2:** Through UNCCT support, Member States have enhanced capacity to provide support to victims of terrorism, including by strengthening their voices

The General Assembly, through its resolution on the Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/72/284), recognises “the role that victims of terrorism can play, including in countering the appeal of terrorism, and [emphasizes] the need to promote international solidarity in support of victims of terrorism.” It further encourages States to include building resilience of victims and their families in their national counter-terrorism strategies, “including by providing victims and their families with proper support and assistance immediately after an attack and in the long term and sharing on a voluntary basis best practices and lessons learned related to the protection of victims of terrorism, including regarding the provision of legal, medical, psychosocial or financial support.” Promoting and protecting the rights of victims of terrorism and addressing their needs is a top priority for UNCCT. The Centre’s global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme seeks to strengthen solidarity with the victims of terrorism and raise awareness of their experiences, to strengthen victims’ voices and their role in preventing and countering violent extremism, and to increase the capacities of Member States and civil society organisations to assist and support victims of terrorism.



Photo: UN DGC Video

### UNCCT-2018-04-83: Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

#### Status: Ongoing

The Victims of Terrorism Support Programme was launched by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and UNCCT Executive Director during Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2018. The Support Programme aims to stand in solidarity with victims, strengthen victims voices and their role in preventing and countering violent extremism, establish stronger mechanisms to provide practical resources to victims, and strengthen the capacity of Member States and civil society organisations to assist and support victims of terrorism in protecting and promoting their rights and needs. The Programme brings together existing activities on victims implemented by UNCCT as well as new activities. These include the integration of victims of terrorism into national and regional strategies, capacity-building workshops for victims, documentaries, handbooks and guidelines, and the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.



During the reporting period, 20 guest interviews were held and hosted by the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, including interviews with victims from France, Mali, Iraq, the United States, and Afghanistan. On 26 June, UNCCT organised an event, 'Standing in Solidarity with Victims of Terrorism' on the occasion of the Counter-Terrorism Week, where the Mali documentary, *Seeking Justice in the Face of Terrorism in Mali*, and the *Handbook of Good Practices to Assist, Support and Empower Victims of Terrorism Organizations in Africa and the Middle East* were launched. An interactive roundtable discussion with victims and victims' associations from Mali, France, Iraq

and the United States preceded the launch of the Handbook to discuss the importance of tools such as the Handbook in assisting civil society organisations to better support victims of terrorism. The event was broadcast live through UN WebTV and is also available on the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.

UNCCT organised an exhibition, 'Surviving Terrorism: Victims' Voices', which was displayed at the Visitors' Lobby of the UN Secretariat from 1 August to 4 September to commemorate the first International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The exhibition featured the personal stories of 16 victims and representatives of victims' associations, as well as two documentaries profiling victims from Mali and Norway. The interviews provided an opportunity to understand the resilience and strength of victims and the importance of hearing their voices, and were produced in English, Arabic, French and Pashto. The exhibition was made available for viewing on the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and 14 United Nations Information Centres displayed all or parts of the exhibition.

The exhibition was launched by the Secretary-General on 17 August, and co-organised by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, CTED, and the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Belgium, Iraq, Nigeria and the United States. The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Saikal, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and the Deputy Executive Director of CTED, Mr. Weixiong Chen, delivered remarks. Four victims of terrorism and a victims' association representative from Afghanistan, Belgium, Iraq, Nigeria, and the United States were keynote speakers. Over 200 guests attended the event, with representation from more than 67 Member States. The launch was webcast live by UNWebTV.



UN Photo



UN Photo

On 20 August, UNCCT organised a brown bag discussion at UN Headquarters with the participation of 40 individuals from Member States, regional organisations, and Global Compact entities on the theme, 'Surviving Terrorism: Victims Voices – sharing the experiences of terrorism'. Panellists included victims from Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria and a victims association representative from the United States. The panellists discussed the impact of terrorism and their experiences and explored how the United Nations and Member States can better support victims, as well as how to raise awareness on victims' issues through the International Day. Forty people attended, including from Member States and organisations such as Greece, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Kazakhstan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Morocco, Malaysia, and the European Union, as well as from Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, including CTED, OHCHR, ODA, and DPO.

In 2018, UNCCT continued to raise awareness, advocate and outreach to both Member States and civil society on victims' issues. UNCCT established a civil society network in February that includes victims associations from Africa, the Middle East, North America and Europe. The network aims to bring together victims associations, stand in solidarity with these organisations, coordinate activities, especially around the International Day, and support civil society activities on victims.

The UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal continued to increase both its content and viewing figures during the reporting period. In 2018, there were 271,120 page views, an increase of 35 per cent from 2017 figures. New content, such as the guest interview series, relevant news, and multimedia coverage of victims' events, was regularly uploaded to the Portal. During this period, a major spike of users was registered after car bombings, shootings, kidnappings, and suicide bombing attacks in Nigeria, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. The most visited page continued to be the *English Homepage*, with approximately 40 per cent of page views, followed by the *English Directory of Support Organisations* page.



Under the global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, an exploratory meeting with civil society organisations in the Asia-Pacific region was held on 6-7 November in Tokyo, as the first activity to develop *Guidelines and Principles for Victims' Associations* to better support victims in the region. Twenty participants from Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, China, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, and South Korea participated in this meeting, in addition to UN Women and UNODC, to determine the focus of the guidelines and the issues most relevant to the Asia-Pacific region.



The Guidelines and Principles to be developed will have been 'tried and tested' by a number of victims' associations in the region, international organisations, and victims themselves so that they present the best approach towards helping to realise and protect victims' rights and needs. Further, these will provide a good repository of information and good practice for victims associations and indicate where actions can be implemented in the best interest of victims. The Guidelines and Principles will provide support and guidance on four topics that victims associations address almost on a daily basis: (1) assistance and support for victims of terrorism; (2) protection of the rights of victims of terrorism; (3) collaboration between civil society and Member States to assist, support, and protect victims of terrorism; and (4) participation of victims of terrorism in decision-making processes. The meeting also sought to identify the participation of relevant civil society organisations in the forthcoming expert group meetings that will be held in 2019.

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### Results/Impact

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With the launch of the global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, UNCTD has further expanded its work on and for victims of terrorism and broadened and strengthened its outreach and advocacy work to strengthen Member States and civil society efforts on victims of terrorism. Through its awareness raising

campaigns, use of multi-media, and resource tools, such as the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, UNCCT was able to contribute to greater awareness and understanding on the need to uphold the rights of victims and support their needs. The documentary on Mali, the public exhibition to commemorate the International Day, the discussions and interviews have all contributed to a greater awareness on victims, and its outcomes have helped to shape the Victims Programme to make it more relevant and timely to victims' needs. The Programme has contributed to Pillars I and II of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its subsequent review which has further emphasised the importance of victims as an important actor in preventing and countering violent extremism. The global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme will continue to build on its activities from 2018, with the development of *Guidelines and Principles* for victims associations in the Asia-Pacific region, documentaries and interviews, as well as the enhancement of the Support Portal, amongst other activities in 2019.

**UNCCT-2017-56:** Good Practices Handbook to Empower and Strengthen Victims of Terrorism Associations to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism

**Status:** Completed, Quarter 3

A validation conference on *this Handbook of Good Practices to Empower and Strengthen Victims of Terrorism Associations to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism* was held in Accra, Ghana from 31 January to 2 February. This conference brought together 20 experts and victims from Africa, the Middle East, North America, and Europe to comment and agree on the good practices developed during the four closed expert group meetings held in 2017 that focused on four thematic areas, including: (1) preventing violent extremism; (2) building and sustaining resilience at the community and individual level; (3) outreach and advocacy; and (4) financial and non-financial assistance for victims of terrorism. The Handbook was launched during the Counter-Terrorism Week at the UN Secretariat on 26 June.

### Results/Impact

During the reporting period, the project was successfully finalised with the production and publication of the Good Practices Handbook. The Handbook is currently available in English and will be translated into French and Arabic. It has been disseminated to Member States and shared with a broader readership through its publication on the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism website and the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal. The publication was the first official UN publication in this area and will serve as basis for other region-specific handbooks that will be developed under the global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme.





UN Photo

### III. Programme and Project Management

#### UNCCT Audit by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) covering the period from January 2016 to July 2018 and published its report 2018/121 on 6 December 2018.

OIOS found that UNCCT has made important advances in establishing processes and systems for the management of its activities. The audit report made recommendations to improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in areas of strategic planning and organisation, resource mobilisation, and project management.

The audit team ascertained that since the appointment of Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and the transfer of UNCCT into the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in 2017, a number of important steps were taken, including the establishment of structures for better planning and oversight of the UNCCT programme, mechanisms for enhanced coordination and coherence of UNCCT activities with those of other UN partners, and improved relations with donors.

The report made twelve (12) recommendations to further improve efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of UNCCT capacity-building projects. These recommendations included a review and update of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme, as well as an updated operational workplan for its implementation; enhanced tracking of UN counter-terrorism projects and activities to catalogue mandates and programmes of relevant counter-terrorism actors and to analyse gaps or overlaps; and that UNCCT work with Member States to review the role, membership, working methods and reporting needs of the UNCCT Advisory Board.

In addition, the OIOS audit recommended improving qualitative and quantitative reporting of the programme performance and impact of UNCCT activities; finalising a strategy and plan for sustainable resource mobilisation for all activities; and clarifying the structure of the Office as well as the roles of individual project managers within UNCCT.

The OIOS audit further recommended that standard operating procedures for the development and approval of new UNCCT projects be promulgated, that a plan be established for UNCCT staff to be equipped with the necessary skills to manage UNCCT projects; that UNCCT implement an enhanced system to track and manage its projects; and that UNCCT implement a mechanism to record and disseminate project results, lessons learned and good practices gained from the management and implementation of UNCCT capacity-building projects.

The Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, in his capacity as Executive Director of UNCCT, accepted all of the recommendations and has established a task force to ensure the implementation of all recommendations according to an established timeframe that has been communicated to OIOS.

Upon the conclusion of the audit exercise, the UNCCT Advisory Board was briefed on the outcomes of the audit in 2019 and commended the auditors for their research, their engagement with stakeholders, and their deep analysis which resulted in a timely and valuable audit report that will aid in the delivery of the UNCCT programme of work.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) monitors and measures the progress and impact of its 5-Year Programme (2016-2020), based on the ‘Programme Results Framework’ developed in May 2017. The Programme Results Framework measures UNCCT’s contribution to the implementation by Member States of all four Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Framework is based on four (4) outcomes corresponding to each Pillar of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and twelve (12) outputs that each correspond to an outcome and comprise several projects. These outcomes and outputs measure progress against five core activities in the UNCCT 5-Year Programme:

- Promotion of the *Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, and information sharing on international norms, standards and good practice
- *Strengthening the capacity of requesting Member States* (individual, organisational, institutional) and other entities (regional organisations, civil society organisations, and media)
- *Strengthening institutional frameworks* (at the national, regional levels and multilateral levels, with technical support to legislation/policy/strategies and plans/systems and procedures)
- *Improving cooperation* on implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (regional, South/South, triangular, state-society, multilateral)
- *Improving coherence and coordination in the UN system* for delivering the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (‘All of UN’)

### The Programme Results Framework utilises five Outcome Indicators

Outcome Type	What is being measured?
“Improved Effectiveness of UNCCT to...”	Change in UNCCT effectiveness (a measure of the extent to which an objective is achieved) as a service provider.
“Enhanced awareness and capacity of recipients to...”	Measures change in personal/ organisational capacity, achieved by recipients through using UNCCT services.
“Enhanced institution framework (policy, strategy, legislation, mainstreaming HR etc.) ...”	Measures contributions to strengthening institutional frameworks, achieved by recipients through using UNCCT services.
“Improved cooperation between ...”	Measures increased cooperation, supported/ facilitated by UNCCT services.
“Improved coherence/coordination within the UN system to...”	Measures increased cooperation within the UN system.

### The Results Framework uses eight Output indicator types

Indicator Type	What is being measured?
Number of Member States, Regional Orgs and Civil Society Orgs that request and receive UNCCT support.	Demand for UNCCT products UNCCT response and # of activities Type of entities requesting and receiving UNCCT support
Level of recipient <b>satisfaction</b> with the relevance and quality of UNCCT support.	Beneficiary perception of the quality and relevance of UNCCT products
Percentage of recipients that perceive they have <b>improved knowledge and skill</b> after participating in a UNCCT activity.	Quality and relevance of UNCCT products Promotion of UNGCTS norms/standards Strengthening capacity of individual officials
Percentage of recipients reporting they <b>use good practice/are better able perform their duties/ develop policy, laws, plans and/or programmes</b> , 6-12 months after participating in a UNCCT activity.	Promotion of UNGCTS norms/standards Strengthen capacity of individuals and organisations
Number of recipient Member State/ Regional Orgs developing <b>policies, laws, plans and programmes</b> that integrate GCTS standards and good practice.	Promotion of GCTS norms/ standards/good practice Organisational and Institutional development
<b>Number of (new) instances of cooperation</b> among Member States at the regional level that request and receive UNCCT support, to develop integrated counter-terrorism strategies.	Promotion of GCTS norms/standards Strengthen of regional organisations Strengthen regional policy and cooperation frameworks/organisations Strengthen regional action
<b>Improved coherence and coordination</b> in delivery of capacity building assistance within the United Nations' system	Strengthen "All of UN" coherence and quality of services. Leveraging UNCCT resources
<b>New instances of cooperation</b> (South/South and triangular, regional, web-based information sharing between centres)	Strengthen cooperation, based on GCTS standards and good practice.

### UNCCT Performance Assessment

In 2018, UNCCT has continued to use the Programme Results Framework to monitor and measure the progress of its programmes and projects. During the reporting period, the Centre aimed to increase the number of countries that receive coordinated technical assistance for the integrated and balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and to strengthen engagement with Member States, international, regional and subregional organisations, UN entities, and civil society through capacity-building efforts. In this regard, UNCCT provided capacity-building support to 61 Member States that reached over 2,600 individuals. This support included the delivery of 63 capacity-building workshops and activities benefiting a total of approximately 1,545 individuals, and the organisation of 13 outreach events with total of approximately 1,097 participants. In 2018, UNCCT supported the development of seven (7) key products, which include: a good practices handbook to support victims' associations in Africa and the Middle East; a handbook and pocketbook on human rights legal standards related to screening of individuals at borders; a reference guide on the development of national and regional plans of action to prevent violent extremism as and when conducive to

terrorism; and a United Nations Compendium on the responsible use of biometrics in counter-terrorism, in collaboration with CTED and the Biometrics Institute.

During the reporting period, the Office onboarded a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer to support performance assessment of the UNCCT programme of work against the Programme Results Framework, to review the effectiveness of the Results Framework in monitoring the implementation of the Centre's 5-Year Programme, and to identify any new monitoring and evaluation requirements that may emerge as the UNCCT programme evolves and expands in line with the needs and priorities of Member States. The M&E Officer provided guidance to project managers to ensure projects have effective M&E frameworks in place and that these support the Centre's programmatic outputs and outcomes. In addition, a performance management template with performance indicators was developed and circulated to project managers, to systematically collect performance data of UNCCT programmes and projects. With the recruitment of the M&E Officer, the focus going forward will be to sharpen the results orientation of UNCCT programmes and projects by establishing results-based systems, guidelines and processes for carrying out Monitoring and Evaluation across all programmes and projects.

### **Evaluation**

In 2018, the M&E Officer undertook consultations with relevant UN agencies to deepen knowledge of the conduct of evaluations that would provide input for the design and development of an Evaluation Policy in 2019 to be used for all capacity-building projects. The Evaluation Policy will seek to promote accountability for results achieved by providing a framework for conducting evaluations that accurately report on the performance of projects. Specifically, this Policy will provide a set of criteria to qualify a project to undergo evaluation. Through these evaluations, data will be generated to measure, assess, and analyse the progress towards achieving the outcomes and performance indicators of UNCCT as set out in the Work Plan of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the UNCCT Programme Results Framework. This Policy, in addition to ensuring accountability and oversight for performance and results, will promote a culture of using evidence from evaluations to support organisational learning. Through the timely incorporation of recommendations and lessons learned into decision-making processes, evaluations will improve programming of projects in the Office to make them more efficient and effective.

### **Monitoring**

In 2018, the Programme Review Board (PRB) continued to function as an internal oversight mechanism to ensure that programmes and projects are properly aligned with the UNCCT 5-Year Programme and Member States priorities, complement and support existing UNCCT and UN system-wide projects, and are implemented in an efficient and effective manner. A total of 81 agenda items were considered by the PRB during 2018, for which the PRB recommended approval of 44 activities which carried

financial implications. Going forward, the PRB will review project performance against quarterly and annual targets and provide guidance on project implementation matters.

Twice during the reporting year, UNCCT undertook a portfolio review of existing UNCCT projects, during which project managers made presentations to Under-Secretary-General Voronkov on the progress of implementation of their respective programmes and projects. Individual project briefings with the senior management provided an opportunity to present key challenges in the delivery of programmes/projects and to identify potential solutions to resolve these challenges to ensure timely and effective implementation.

To ensure transparency and accountability, UNCCT produced one (1) Progress Report covering the first half of the reporting year (January-July), and one (1) Quarterly Project Highlight Report covering the third quarter (July-September), which provide information on the status of implementation of programmes and projects during the reporting period. The Centre has revised the structure of these reports to make it more concise and user-friendly and to include a dedicated section providing a financial overview, with a view to increasing focus on the results and impact achieved in the implementation of projects.

### **Internal M&E Capacity**

During the reporting period, UNCCT worked to improve its internal capacity to undertake effective monitoring and evaluation. As such, the M&E Officer engaged project managers to take stock of existing M&E capacity to guide the development of an M&E training programme. A training programme was developed to equip project managers and programme assistants with relevant skills and practices to better undertake monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects in a sustainable way. In 2019, the M&E Officer will deliver M&E training to UNCCT staff that will focus on basic M&E concepts and tools, including the use of data gathering instruments to obtain data on performance indicators. These include pre-activity surveys to assess capacity factors prior to the implementation of capacity-building workshops, indicator tracking tables to collect programme and project management data, end-of-activity surveys with participants as well as follow-up surveys (6-12 months after activity) based on the identified capacity factors to document the use of the knowledge obtained from the workshops.

### **Use of Results**

The strengthened monitoring and evaluation framework, together with enhanced evaluation capacities, will enable UNCCT to continually learn lessons to further improve project delivery. A lessons learned framework will be developed to collect, share and disseminate lessons both on substantive and project management related issues. The lessons will be used in the development of new projects and shared regularly among project managers. These measures will promote a culture of monitoring and evaluation, strengthen programme management and oversight, and improve the delivery of programmes and projects.



## Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender

The Centre continued to strengthen its efforts to support Member States to implement Pillar IV of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy – measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. As summarised above, an increased number of projects were implemented this year, focusing on human rights considerations in particular areas of counter-terrorism, such as border security and management and addressing the situation of children in relation to the foreign terrorist fighters' phenomenon. In the process of project implementation, the Centre also strengthened its working relationships with key human rights actors, such as OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and civil society organisations active at the global, regional and local levels. During the High Level Segment of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, the Centre organised a side event 'Ensuring the rights of children of foreign terrorist fighters' to raise awareness of the situation of such children. Panellists included the Executive Director of CTED, representative of OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur, and the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Centre also made efforts to better comply with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. For example, a human rights session was included in a workshop on the use of social media for terrorism investigation organised by UNCCT and INTERPOL in Hanoi, Viet Nam, to ensure that the participants are also aware of implications of such investigative techniques on the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. The plan for the coming year is to systematise these efforts so that all activities are vetted in terms of human rights implications and mitigation measures be included where feasible.



Photo: UNOCT



The Centre also continued its efforts to mainstream gender in all areas of its work. In early 2018, the Centre organised a side event with UN Women on 12 March during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which focused on advancing women's participation and leadership in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism to take stock of the progress and challenges in advancing these efforts and to highlight the perspectives of civil society leaders for consideration during the 6th Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The event was very well attended, highlighting UNCCT's commitment to gender mainstreaming. Internally, the Centre organised briefings for all project managers on the concept of gender and gender-related considerations in the counter-terrorism and PVE context, as well as on how to better integrate gender and gender-specific issues in project development and management. The Centre also prepared a draft guide on the gender-marker system to classify UNCCT projects based on the degree of gender-mainstreaming. The marker system once established will serve to determine and monitor whether a project responds effectively to the different needs of gender in the counter-terrorism context. Less progress on gender mainstreaming was achieved without a full-time gender advisor. This recognition led to the creation of a new P4 gender advisor staff position with recruitment expected to be completed early 2019. The position will enable the Centre to mainstream gender in a sustainable manner.

## Key Challenges and Lessons Learned

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2018 was the first full programme year for UNCCT since the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in June 2017. Through the appointment of Mr. Voronkov as Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, UNCCT has benefitted from a full-time Executive Director who is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General. This has allowed clear executive management focus on the day-to-day work of the Centre. Through Mr. Voronkov's engagement with Member States, including during visits to countries, the work of UNCCT has been highlighted, resulting in enhanced attention to its capacity-building efforts. This in turn has generated more requests for capacity-building assistance, as well as funding for new projects.

The high expectations of Member States for the Office to deliver on all five of its mandates have impacted the implementation of UNCCT's programme of work as UNCCT has been aligning its staffing level, capacity and technical skills to accommodate an expanded portfolio of work. UNCCT staff have also supported key mandated issues relating to policy leadership and coordination and coherence. The increased interest in UNCCT capacity-building support, as well as the successful mobilisation of additional donors, has required project managers to focus on both project implementation of ongoing projects and new project development. The current restructuring of the Office of Counter Terrorism and UNCCT takes into consideration the need to better support project development, including through new dedicated surge capacity and partnership teams. In recognition of this increased work load, the recruitment of additional human resources has accelerated throughout 2018 with five (5) new UNCCT positions focused on capacity building. As noted in its previous Annual Report, UNCCT has sought to address issues relating to the use of consultants by increasingly recruiting expert staff to support the implementation of its capacity-building activities. There are significant advantages in this regard, including better retention, better representation of UNCCT, continuity of expertise resulting in the improved contribution these new colleagues make to UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence in their fields. It was anticipated that the transition would be impacted by the competitive recruitment process, which requires time for the creation of new posts, application period, screening and testing, process review and approvals, and finally on-boarding. As a result, this has impacted the planned start-up of some projects.

With its steady growth the Centre has continued to learn lessons on practical aspects of its programme implementation. The Centre seeks to draw on these lessons learned to continuously improve project delivery to ensure impact on the ground. Responding to requests from Member States, UNCCT has increased the development of large-scale multi-year thematic programmes that can be used to deliver country specific capacity-building on key areas such as countering the financing of terrorism, border security and management, API/PNR use, support for victims of terrorism and human rights. This allows for a nimbler response time to requesting Member States as there is no need to develop a new project for individual requests for assistance. While it is the decision of the donor to earmark their funding for specific projects or to make an unearmarked contribution to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, UNCCT continues to engage in dialogue with all

Member States on the advantages and disadvantages of earmarking funding to ensure that the most effective assistance can be provided with allocated funds.

Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2395 at the end of 2017, CTED and UNCCT have taken a number of measures to step up the level of cooperation on programmatic issues. As detailed elsewhere in the report, this has inter alia led to the joint development and implementation of several projects. CTED is also consulted on the design and development of UNCCT country specific projects and thematic programmes to ensure that they respond to CTED's technical assessments. During the reporting period, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism worked to develop a matrix of all CTC recommendations to Member States over the past three years. There are more than 400 of these (not including recommendations from some late-2017 CTED assessment visits that had not yet resulted in specific recommendations). UNCCT is analysing how best to integrate CTED recommendations into UNCCT activities to address identified gaps and working with CTED to identify potential partnerships with relevant entities that are best placed to support Member States in the implementation of these recommendations, e.g. UNODC/TPB, INTERPOL, and IOM, as well as non-UN entities, regional organisations and civil society organisations. However, there is also a concern that the volume of recommendations would make it impossible for UNCCT to respond to all the needs. In this regard, the 5-Year Programme, guidance from the UNCCT Advisory Board and from the Member States in question, and consultations with CTED have all proven useful means to prioritise which CTED recommendations the Centre should focus on.

The Centre continues to rely on partners such as UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for logistical support in implementing project activities in the field. Not all processes allow for smooth implementation of such activities without field support and the Centre will continue to work with relevant departments and offices to ensure that this does not compromise the effective delivery of capacity-building support. The project support arrangements with the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), UNDP and UNOPS allow the Centre to maintain project ownership, as well as policy and substantive lead, but tasks partners with most of the logistical aspects of project implementation such as travel of meeting participants, organisation of workshops and trainings, interpretation, etc.

Based on lessons learned, the Centre has stepped up its efforts to ensure collaboration and synergies between its various projects and programmes. As illustrated in this report, UNCCT experts have supported the implementation of each other's projects by sharing their specific expertise across pillars. For example, UNCCT human rights and border security and management experts worked together to address the issue of human rights at borders and supported implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia. Likewise, UNCCT staff working on FTF use of social media used the UNCCT expertise on gender to add this important element in the capacity-building efforts for Member States. The experts working on countering the financing of terrorism supported other colleagues engaged in counter-terrorism strategy development.

The Centre is building on lessons learned in 2018 by incorporating them in project risk assessments and mitigation plans.



UN Photo / Stuart Price

## IV. UNCCT Advisory Board, Outreach, and 'All-of-UN'

### UNCCT Advisory Board

The UNCCT Advisory Board consists of 21 Member States and the European Union as Guest Member, and provides advice to the UNCCT Executive Director on the Centre's operations and its programmes, projects, and proposals. The Board, chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Yahya Al-Mouallimi, convenes quarterly at the level of Permanent Representatives and experts. The Board's members are appointed by the UN Secretary-General for three years. The term of the current membership was extended for another three years in April and will expire in April 2021. In 2018, the UNCCT Advisory Board met twice at the Ambassadorial level on 17 April and 25 October, and convened five expert level meetings on 7 February, 4 April, 8 May, 24 August, and 17 September.

The 16th meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 17 April, with the participation of the United Nations Secretary-General,

Mr. António Guterres, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General underscored the need for a sustained focus on prevention, the need for the Centre's programmes and projects to adapt to meet the changing needs of Member States for counter-terrorism capacity-building support, and the need to continue to expand and diversify the Centre's donor base to ensure sustainable and predictable funding. UNCCT Executive Director, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, provided an overview of the Centre's programming and highlighted the key principles that guide its work: responsiveness to emerging terrorist threats and needs of Member States; focus on maximising impact on the ground; commitment to promote an 'All-of-UN' approach; ensuring diversification of resources; commitment to transparency and accountability; and mainstreaming human rights and gender.

Subsequent briefings by Nigeria, Pakistan and UNRCCA provided further insights on the impact of the Centre's work at national and regional levels, including in areas such as border and aviation security, advance passenger information, technical and vocational education and training for youth, and regional counter-terrorism strategy development and implementation. The substantive discussions of the Advisory Board focused on four thematic issues critical to the Centre's operations and programming: (1) the future role and composition of the Advisory Board; (2) the Centre's future thematic and geographic priorities; (3) resource mobilisation in terms of sustainability, predictability and diversification; and (4) monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the Centre's programmes and projects.

The deliberative process that began in Riyadh continued with a number of expert level meetings throughout the year, during which Advisory Board members shared their preliminary assessments on the four discussion themes and discussed in further detail the issues of 'priorities' and 'funding' based on working papers produced by the Centre. In addition, it was agreed to hold focused discussions on the issue of monitoring and evaluation in early 2019, following the publication of the audit report by the OIOS.

In terms of priorities, Board members agreed with the current priorities of the Centre, as set out in its 5-Year Programme, and welcomed the Centre's intention to adjust the focus on some areas, such as on FTFs to reflect the phenomenon of returning and relocating FTFs and the role of youth, women and family in addressing violent extremism, and API/PNR to reflect new Security Council requirements. They also welcomed the Centre's approach to develop new projects in specific areas that warrant action such as terrorist use of new technologies, including information and communication technologies, drones, and WMD/CBRN materials. They stressed the need to respond to evolving priorities in a dynamic threat environment, to align the Centre's priorities with the assessments of other relevant UN entities, and to avoid overlaps and duplication of work with other technical assistance providers within the UN.

In terms of funding, Board members highlighted the need to sustain and diversify funding, to enhance transparency and management efficiency, and to effectively



utilise existing resources through a more rapid and efficient development and implementation of projects that address the urgent priorities as identified by beneficiary countries.

The UNCCT Executive Director is addressing the issues raised by the Advisory Board members and took immediate steps to implement them where possible. As such, Mr. Voronkov directed UNCCT to increase implementation, strengthen transparency and accountability, enhance outreach and visibility, and continue to assess the impact of its programmes and projects. In line with the recommendation of the OIOS, and taking into account the views and recommendations of the UNCCT Advisory Board, the Centre will review and revise its 5-Year Programme in 2019, to ensure that its programme of work fully supports the implementation of the 6th biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions. Through continued dialogue and collaboration with the Advisory Board, the Centre will continue to improve its working methods to ensure greater implementation and impact in the field.





## Consultations with Member States

UNCCT has continued to benefit from the engagement of Mr. Voronkov as Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of UNCCT. His interaction with Member States through visits, briefings and bilateral meetings served to highlight the work of UNCCT, mobilise co-funding for UNCCT projects, and offer support to Member States through existing or new UNCCT projects. In 2018, Mr. Voronkov delivered four (4) quarterly briefings to Member States, including to update Member States on the activities of UNCCT, as mandated by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its review resolutions. He briefed the Security Council eight (8) times during the year.

To better support Member States in concrete, tangible and action-oriented ways Mr. Voronkov held 329 high-level bilateral meetings in New York including with Heads of State and Government, of which 61 took place during the United Nations General Assembly in September and 45 during the High-level Conference organised in June. Mr. Voronkov visited 25 countries (three in Africa, 11 in the Asia-Pacific region, two in Eastern Europe, nine in Western Europe and others), eight of which were visited jointly with the Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of CTED, Ms. Michèle Coninx. These visits allowed more in-depth consultations on specific counter-terrorism issues and possible avenues of cooperation and priority areas such as supporting victims of terrorism, border security and management, countering the financing of terrorism, youth engagement and supporting human rights.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is also heeding the call from the General Assembly to develop and sustain close partnerships between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organisations. The Office has developed and is strengthening cooperation frameworks with a growing number of them, including with the African Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Those cooperation frameworks will allow strengthened support to requesting Member States in their implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



Photo: UNOCT

## Cooperation with United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities

In line with Security Council resolution 2395 (2017), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED have strengthened collaboration in a number of areas, such as designing and developing criteria to select countries that will benefit from the new joint project on Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data. The Office and CTED have worked together to develop counter-terrorism programming for Iraq, following the first UNOCT-CTED visit to Iraq in March. Furthermore, the Office has benefited from CTED's country-specific and regional assessments to guide and prioritise its capacity-building assistance, in consultation with beneficiary countries. For instance, it has aligned its project plan to support Central Asian States in the implementation of their Joint Plan of Action to better reflect CTED recommendations. UNCCT project managers also routinely consult with relevant colleagues in the development of new projects in advance of presentation to the Programme Review Board. In addition to conducting eight joint country visits in 2018, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED leadership have met regularly, often on a weekly basis, and monthly coordination meetings were held between senior teams of both entities to review progress and priorities.



Photo: UNOCT

The Office has also strengthened its partnerships with UNDP, UNODC and DPO as well as with ICAO and INTERPOL through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding, which provide a basis for cooperation on capacity-building and joint projects with UNCCT. The 'Framework for DPKO/OROLSI-UNOCT Strategic Partnership Regarding Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism' aims to better enable DPO/OROLSI and the Office to assist Member States in meeting the requirements of relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on terrorism and peacekeeping. Through a new strategic partnership, UNCCT and UNDP have developed

a global policy programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) to provide coordinated PCVE policy support to requesting Member States (see programme UNCCT-2017-72, Section II). In addition, the Office Resource Mobilisation Team facilitated the receipt of a grant from the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission (DEVCO) for a joint 'EU-UNOCT-UNDP-UNODC PVE programme for Asia', EU STRIVE ASIA. In December, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism signed the contribution agreement with the European Commission for the implementation of the 48-month project.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

## V. Communications & Visibility

During the reporting period, increasing the communications, visibility and outreach of UNCCT has been a key priority. Significant amount of work has been undertaken in 2018 to respond to the expectations of the UNCCT Advisory Board to improve the transparency, visibility and accountability of the Centre. Efforts in this regard support one of the core mandates of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, which is to increase the visibility, advocacy and resource mobilisation for United Nations' efforts to counter terrorism.

To improve communications and visibility, the Office developed a comprehensive communications and visibility strategy and plan that seeks to enhance the visibility of UNCCT and donors, as well as the transparency of information related to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. The strategy provides a more strategic and coordinated approach to communications to further strengthen the impact of previous communications efforts. The strategy includes quarterly briefings to Member States, highlighting the vital contribution of UNCCT in reports, statements and visibility



activities, and incorporating communications as part of the UNCCT project proposals with concrete deliverables including events, media engagement, promotional materials, publications and other potential communications products. In addition, the strategy seeks to promote UNCCT through outreach events such as side events on the margins of key conferences and 'Speaker Series', web-pages with updated information on UNCCT's work and project web stories, media engagement, social media, publications, and dissemination of promotional materials in capacity-building activities.

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov continued to promote the programmes and projects of UNCCT during country visits and bilateral meetings with Member States, including on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September and in briefings to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and regional meetings. Mr. Voronkov participated in the open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on Central Asia on 2 July, during which he highlighted the role of UNCCT in the adoption and the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action to support the implementation the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. He also briefed Member States on the activities of UNCCT during the quarterly briefings on 17 July and 18 December in New York and on the occasion of the Executive Briefing on 11 September, hosted by Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Mr. Michael Moller.

To further enhance visibility of UNCCT, the Office is expanding its online presence. In September, a twitter account (@UN\_OCT) was launched, which features specific tweets on the key activities and events of UNCCT. By the end of December, the handle counted 1,448 followers and the goal is to expand social media presence. In addition, the website is in the process of being revamped to present UNCCT content in a more user-friendly and organised manner.



In 2018, 6 press releases were issued that made specific reference to the work of UNCCT including with regard to the meeting of the Advisory Board in Riyadh in April, and UNCCT's collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the area of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR). In 2019, the Office will continue to issue press releases in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications and the UN Information Centres in order to increase the footprint of UNCCT in the media. Press releases will be issued on the occasion of country visits and key project events and activities to demonstrate the impact of programmes and projects in accordance with the communications strategy of the project.

Also in 2018, UNCCT produced several key publications. The 2017 UNCCT Annual Report was published in March and circulated to UNCCT Advisory Board members ahead of the Ambassadorial level meeting in Riyadh in April. Other publications developed in collaboration with partner UN entities included a good practices handbook to support victims' associations in Africa and the Middle East, a handbook and pocketbook on human rights legal standards related to screening of individuals at borders, a reference guide on the development of national and regional PVE plans of action, a joint publication with CTED and the Biometrics Institute on the responsible use of biometrics in counter-terrorism, and a UN Compendium of best practices on the protection of critical infrastructures against terrorist attacks. In September, the report of the High-Level Conference of the Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States which took place on 28-29 June at the UN Headquarters in New York was published, acknowledging the generous contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in support of UNCCT. The report was disseminated during the High-Level Segment of the United Nations General Assembly.

During the reporting period, UNCCT organised several outreach events which were promoted through the media, including social media, and which contributed to enhancing the Centre's visibility. One major event was the UNCCT side event on WMD organised in Geneva in December during which the UNCCT logo was used in all event documents, UNCCT promotional materials were distributed, and a webpage was developed. One of the tweets featuring the invitation and logos generated 22,005 impressions and the video related to the event recorded 2,473 views with 32,742 impressions. The event was also reported in the UN Innovation Network Quarterly Update. Other events organised in 2018 included:

- A Brown Bag lunch with a presentation of the Global Terrorism Index 2017 (January)
- A side event with UN Women during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women with a focus on women's participation and leadership in CT and PVE (March)
- The launch of the project on PVE through Youth Empowerment in Paris with UNESCO (April)
- 'Standing in Solidarity for the Rights of Victims of Terrorism' side event to screen the documentary on Mali and to launch the Good Practices Handbook to Support Victims Associations in Africa and the Middle East, promoted by the



UN Department of Global Communications through its social media accounts, including Facebook and Twitter (June)

- A side event on 'FTF Returnees: Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration' joint organised with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the margins of the High-Level Conference (June)
- The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 17 August including month-long multimedia exhibit (August-September)
- A brown bag lunch with victims of terrorism (August)
- A panel discussion on 'Ensuring the Human Rights of Children of Foreign Terrorist Fighters' held on the margins of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (September)
- A High-Level side event on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly dedicated to cross-border peace initiatives and entitled 'Resilience and devolution: the experience of Kenya and Ethiopia, and the Horn of Africa in the prevention of violent extremism and conflict' (September)
- A side event in Geneva on 'Understanding, preventing and addressing the risk of misuse of CBRN science and technology by terrorist groups and other non-State actors' (December)

In 2019, the Office will continue its efforts to improve its visibility which will further enhance the transparency of its activities. The Centre's digital presence will be strengthened through the revamping of the website and the strategic use of social media, and through collaboration with the Department of Global Communications and the UN Information Centres to expand outreach to the media at the global, regional and local levels. In addition, the Office will develop compelling stories and attractive communications products targeting various audiences. The Centre will also strengthen its partnership with civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, and the UN entities on communications matters.



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Starts now in NYC: high-level #CSW62 event on building women's leadership to counter terrorism & #PreventViolentExtremism. Watch: [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org) & take part using #WomenAgainstTerrorism

CSW62: PANEL DISCUSSION

The United Nations  
Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

**ADVANCING  
WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP AND  
PARTICIPATION**

Monday, 12 March 2018, 8:15-9:30 a.m.

To watch the live webcast, please visit <http://webtv.un.org>

**#WomenAgainstTerrorism**



UN Photo / Manuel Elias

## VI. Resource Mobilisation & Financial Performance

### of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism continued expanding and diversifying its financial resources to finance its critical counter-terrorism activities and initiatives in support of and requested by Member States. The Secretary-General, in his speech at the UNCCT Advisory Board in Riyadh, underscored the need to continue to expand and diversify the Centre's donor base to ensure sustainable and predictable funding. The UNCCT Executive Director further highlighted his commitment to the diversification of financial resources and ensuring greater predictability of funding.

In the reporting period, 13 contribution agreements were signed with Member States, including with two new donors, India and Russia. A further project for South-South

Cooperation was approved by the Peace and Security Fund (China) which is managed by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. In 2018, the Trust Fund received USD 11,728,409 (see Exhibit VI) in cash contributions.

The increase in Member States' financial contributions allowed the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to expand its reach both geographically and thematically and showed a growing interest and confidence of Member States in UNCCT's operations across the globe. For example, the latest contribution of the Netherlands of USD 5 million and the in-kind donation of the software (valued at USD 11.5 million) gave the Office a unique tool to launch a new global PNR programme aimed at strengthening Member States' capacities to stem the flow of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters with UNCCT's strong support at the initiation phase of the programme.

In the reporting period, UNCCT redoubled its efforts to obtain un-earmarked funding through engaging Member States to co-fund its various projects and initiatives. This allowed the Centre to cover a broader spectrum of its thematic and geographic areas, while maintaining the consistent implementation of the 5-Year Programme. During this period, the Centre's funding base increased significantly, which contributed to enhancing the sustainability of Centre's staffing and programmatic activities. UNCCT continues to be heavily reliant on extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of its mandate.

The respective Member States expressed their interest in supporting capacity-building projects in a number of priority areas, in particular FTFs, PCVE, border management, API/PNR, human rights, victims of terrorism, strategic communications, civil society engagement, and promoting the comprehensive implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The received contributions allowed UNCCT to increase its geographical reach and the scope of activities in Central and South-East Asia, MENA, G5 Sahel and CARICOM.

As part of the process to diversify funding and to improve the predictability and sustainability of resources in line with its mandate, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism initiated a process for coordinating and launching the first consolidated Multi-Year Appeal to donors with Global Compact entities. The Appeal is a platform which consolidates CT and PCVE projects across the UN system in need of new or additional funding and presents a coordinated picture of resource needs to donors. The preparation of the Appeal began with a call for proposals to Global Compact entities including UNCCT across the 4 pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. UN entities submitted their proposals which the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism reviewed and where there was overlap or duplication, the Office asked submitting entities to revise or consolidate proposals. The Office prepared the Appeal consisting of 60 projects which was subsequently launched in February 2019.

## Exhibit VI

### Overview of contributions and pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in 2017-2018

(in United States Dollars)

Donor	Contribution Received (USD) in 2017	Balance of pledges (USD) in 2017	Contribution Received (USD) in 2018	Balance of pledges (USD) in 2018	Total for 2017	Total for 2018
United Arab Emirates	350,000	-	-	-	350,000	-
Belgium	-	-	88,305	96,544	-	184,849
Canada	582,705	592,139	239,478	333,923	1,174,844	573,401
European Union	-	-	-	8,555,784	-	8,555,784
Germany	-	-	131,689	-	-	131,689
India	-	-	550,000	-	-	550,000
Japan	920,512	-	1,800,000	-	920,512	1,800,000
Kazakhstan	300,000	-	-	-	300,000	-
Korea	330,000	-	330,000	-	330,000	330,000
Netherlands	-	-	5,681,818	-	-	5,681,818
Norway	-	-	426,230	942,878	-	1,369,108
Qatar	250,000	-	-	75,000,000	250,000	75,000,000
Russia	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	2,000,000
Saudi Arabia	333,334	-	-	-	333,334	-
Spain	-	35,545	103,639	-	35,545	103,639
Switzerland	20,000	-	215,000	35,000	20,000	250,000
United Kingdom	587,935	330,763	162,250	60,297	918,698	222,547
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,674,486</b>	<b>958,447</b>	<b>11,728,409</b>	<b>85,024,426</b>	<b>4,632,933</b>	<b>96,752,835</b>
China (EOSG)	921,880	-	-	-	921,880	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,596,366</b>	<b>958,447</b>	<b>11,728,409</b>	<b>85,024,426</b>	<b>5,554,813</b>	<b>96,752,835</b>

\* In-Kind Contribution: The Netherlands provided an in-kind contribution to the Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record Data programme which is valued at USD 11,500,000 in 2018.

UNCCT continued to duly inform donors of the progress made in the implementation of the projects. The respective donors received progress updates through flash, quarterly and annual reports submitted by programme managers in line with the provisions of the contribution agreements. The timely reporting facilitated communication channels with UNCCT's donors and focus on UNCCT's programme implementation. The expanded scope and diversity of the projects sent a positive message to the Member States about UNCCT's priorities and focus areas. UNCCT quarterly and annual reports are now shared with all donors and will be made available on the Office website.

### Exhibit VII

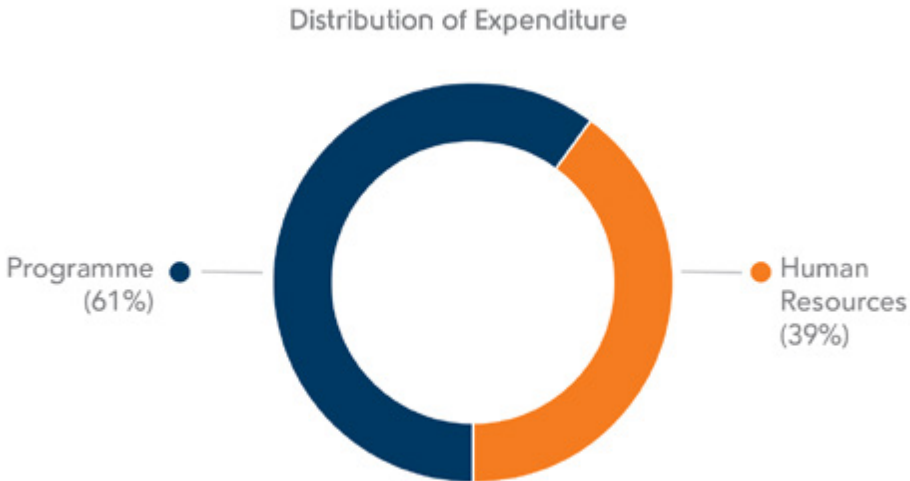
#### Financial Performance of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism

Pillar	Pillar Description	Consumable Budget (a)	Consumed Budget (b)	Implementation Rate (c) = b/a
Pillar I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	9,733,952.96	7,102,770.97	73%
Pillar II	Combatting Terrorism	8,324,315.32	5,026,625.61	60%
Pillar III	Supporting International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism	3,911,796.18	3,083,521.02	79%
Pillar IV	Human Rights and Victims	3,778,524.53	2,425,389.07	64%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25,748,588.99</b>	<b>17,638,306.67</b>	<b>69%</b>

The total consumable and consumed budget amounts for each of the four pillars, outlined in the above exhibit, represent overall performance of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter- Terrorism.

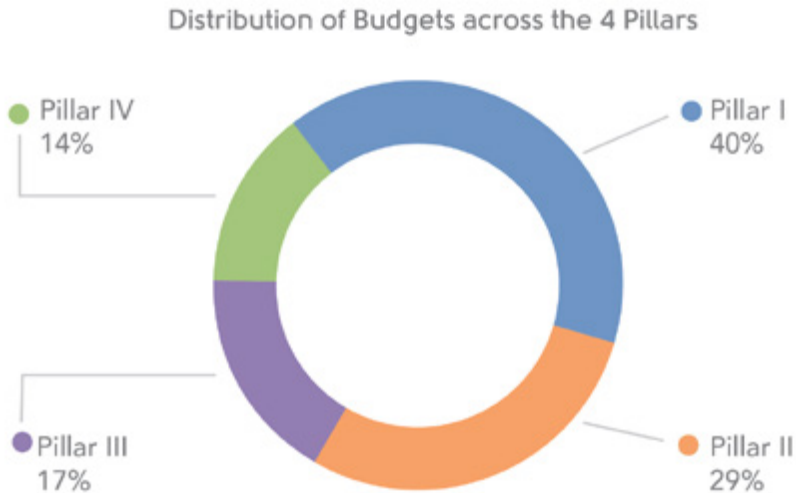
**Exhibit VIII**

**Distribution of Expenditure in the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism**



**Exhibit IX**

**Distribution of Budgets across the 4 Pillars in the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism**





UNCCT in 2019 will build on the improvements to monitoring and evaluation undertaken as part of the Centre's response to the recommendations of the OIOS audit report. In this regard, the Centre will provide training to all staff on developing better monitoring and evaluation frameworks for their programmes and projects. The Centre will also establish structures and mechanisms for better collection and use of relevant monitoring and performance data, as well as for the accumulation and analysis of lessons learned.



UN Photo / UNHCR / Caroline Gluck

## VII. Conclusion & Strategic Priorities for 2019

2018 saw a notable expansion in UNCCT's capacity-building programmes and projects to support requesting Member States in the balanced and comprehensive implementation of all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The 6th Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy welcomed the Centre's work in building the capacity of Member States to counter and respond to terrorism, and encouraged States to collaborate with the Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities, including through the development, funding and implementation of capacity-building projects. As detailed in this report, the breadth of the Centre's engagements with Member States was significant and would not have been possible without the active partnerships developed with Member States and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities for the effective delivery of capacity-building support and expertise.

2018 was also a year where considerable thought and attention was given to improving the Centre's working methods and delivery. Mutually reinforcing initiatives generated

useful guidance for the Centre in this regard. This included the deliberative process that started with the UNCCT Advisory Board meeting in Riyadh in April 2018, which continued through subsequent follow-up meetings at both Ambassadorial and Expert level. Furthermore, in response to the 6th Review of the Global Strategy, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of UNCCT initiated a comprehensive change management process in October 2018, which would further streamline the Centre's work as an integral part of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. In addition, the comprehensive audit undertaken by OIOS resulted in 12 important recommendations to help guide the Centre's efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and transparency of the management of its capacity-building work.

Building on these initiatives and deliberations, UNCCT in 2019 will first and foremost focus on ensuring the full efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of its operations and processes that will entail a set of organisational and process improvements. These will include enhancements of the Centre's working modalities where capacity-building work will be organised by Pillars (Pillars I&IV, Pillar II and Pillar III), a review of the role and composition of the UNCCT Advisory Board, enhancements in the visibility of UNCCT's work, a review and update of the 5-Year Programme, and the development of new Standard Operating Procedures for the development, approval, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.

Another strategic priority for the Centre in 2019 will be to ensure greater implementation of capacity-building programmes and projects across all four pillars of the Global Strategy that yield tangible and sustainable impact on the ground. In this regard, the Executive Director has set an ambitious target to increase the implementation volume by at least 25% compared to 2018. Increasing project delivery will require the continued growth of the Centre where the focus on recruiting more subject matter experts has already reaped benefits. The launch of new global multi-year programmes in 2018 will pave the way for quicker implementation in 2019. As such, the programmes on border security and management, CBRN/WMD terrorism, addressing the terrorist threat to cyber, API/PNR, and countering the financing of terrorism will be in full gear. Each of these programmes is already ensuring real and positive impact in Member States. 2018 was a pivotal year for the support of the United Nations to victims of terrorism delivered through the UNCCT. This work will continue in 2019, taking into account the useful Member State initiatives in this regard, with planning to be initiated for a major Victims of Terrorism Congress to be held during the High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2020.

In addition, the Centre's work on API/PNR that started in 2016 will be launched as a global programme of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism with expanded programme funding from a variety of new donors. The Programme Management Team of the Office coordinates this programme with UNCCT as well as CTED, UNODC, OICT and ICAO by applying the 'All-of-UN' methodology. The programme governance structure ensures necessary oversight by the Office and enables the programme to make full use of the mandates and expertise of its partners, with the aim to undertake

high quality assessments and deliver effective and efficient implementation and capacity-building initiatives. The programme will seek to strengthen constructive dialogue and further explore partnerships with beneficiaries of the programme and broader UN partners with local presence and specific expertise such as INTERPOL, OSCE, IOM, WCO, and IPU.

To ensure sustainability and impact on the ground, the Centre will move ahead with a new initiative to establish a Training Cell which will develop and deliver a series of trainings for both Member States (with a focus on Africa) and staff, including on the establishment of and skills development for national inter-agency counter-terrorism fusion cells. The Centre's new global programme on South-South Cooperation on PCVE and counter-terrorism will also move into the implementation phase in 2019, with the hope and expectation that this initiative will open new avenues for UNCCT to support Member States and for Member States to support each other.

A coordinated and coherent system-wide approach on the ground and at Headquarters is necessary to effectively respond to requests from Member States for capacity-building assistance. In the delivery of its projects and programmes the Centre will continue to expand its use of 'All-of-UN' programming, developing and implementing projects in an integrated manner that leverages the competencies and resources of Global Compact entities, consistent with their mandates. Where relevant and necessary, the Centre will build on the work being done by relevant UN entities, in particular those with field presences in the respective Member States.

UNCCT will also continue to expand partnerships beyond the Global Compact, as it has done with a range of regional organisations in 2018, to leverage resources and enhance advocacy and engagement in counter-terrorism. The Centre will also be strengthening its engagement with civil society to ensure two-way engagement with these important voices at the national and global level, starting with the development of a strategy that will seek to leverage best practices of other Global Compact entities and Member States.

Human rights has always been at the core of the Centre's work, and the Centre continues to be one of the main providers of capacity-building assistance within the United Nations System to support Member States to comply with international human rights law while undertaking counter-terrorism measures. As part of its commitments to the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, the Centre will be onboarding dedicated resources to support adherence and to ensure that human rights is mainstreamed across all of its capacity-building work. In addition, UNCCT will strengthen the gender dimension of its programming, by ensuring gender-responsive planning and interventions. The Centre will be recruiting a full time Gender Officer to support gender mainstreaming across all four Pillars of the Centre's work, and to develop new projects specifically addressing gender issues.

In support of efforts to ensure transparency in its work, UNCCT will prioritise expanding communications with Member States and other stakeholders and enhancing the visibility of its capacity-building work, including through a re-designed UNCCT

component of the Office website, new communications products, active use of social media platforms, and the mainstreaming of innovative communication approaches within the projects and activities undertaken, in close collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communications, other Global Compact entities and partners. As always, enhanced visibility of UNCCT activities will need to take into account the security and safety of project beneficiaries and United Nations staff and consultants.

And finally, UNCCT in 2019 will build on the improvements to monitoring and evaluation undertaken as part of the Centre's response to the recommendations of the OIOS audit report. In this regard, the Centre will provide training to all staff on developing better monitoring and evaluation frameworks for their programmes and projects. The Centre will also establish structures and mechanisms for better collection and use of relevant monitoring and performance data, as well as for the accumulation and analysis of lessons learned.

Both the changes to the structures and working modalities of UNCCT and the anticipated increase in implementation will require the continued support of and cooperation with Member States. An increasing number of Member States and regional organisations are showing their trust in the Centre, both by providing required funding for its capacity-building work, and by requesting capacity-building support and engaging in partnerships for the full implementation of the Global Strategy. The Centre will honour this trust by delivering impactful capacity-building assistance with partners both within and outside the United Nations in support of common efforts to ensure a future without terrorism.

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