Protection of women and children, including from sexual violence

During the reporting period, UNODC has continued to contribute to efforts made in Africa to reinforce the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence, by supporting the reinforcement of criminal justice responses to violence against women and of juvenile justice. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, UNODC’s assistance has focused on strengthening criminal justice systems and responses to violence against women and girls. In 2015, in Egypt, UNODC, in cooperation with the Prosecutor General’s Office, developed training and procedural manuals on the appropriate handling of such cases. During the reporting period, UNODC has reviewed the Cape Verdean draft law on alternatives measures to detention for individuals aged 16-21. In Chad, UNODC provided legal advisory services and policy advice on justice for children and violence against children. In Nigeria, UNODC is revising its comprehensive project on justice reform to focus efforts on support to the implementation of the recently adopted legislation in the area. One of the key objectives of the project remains to reinforce juvenile justice, in collaboration with UNICEF. In Southern Africa, UNODC cooperates at national and regional level with the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) partners in order to address gender-based violence (GBV), which is a priority area for SADC Member States. Progress towards the establishment of a One-Stop Centre in Namibia was made in 2015, along with the development of a GBV hotline. In Ethiopia, an initiative to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services to at least 50 vulnerable children per year commenced in late 2015, focusing on education, vocational training, care and psychosocial assistance. UNODC will provide capacity building for social workers and teachers involved in the rehabilitation of young offenders and vulnerable children. Further, UNODC partnered with UNICEF and the Federal Supreme Court Child Justice Project Office to conduct a national child justice assessment at regional and federal levels.

Extremism and terrorism

During the reporting period, UNODC has continued to provide support the reinforcement of the legal regime against terrorism in Africa, and developed its activities aiming at addressing the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) and violent extremism phenomena. In the MENA region, in March 2015, UNODC launched a five-year initiative on criminal justice responses to FTF. In West Africa, UNODC has supported the assessment of the FTF challenges in the Sahel countries. In Niger, UNODC organised a workshop in April 2015 for representatives of the Nigerien
ministries and members of civil society to discuss security concerns in prisons in the context of a recent increase in the number of alleged Boko Haram members arrested, which allegedly created unprecedented security problems in prison administration. The workshop also discussed the draft social reintegration plan and debated the need for the establishment of a comprehensive social reintegration programme in Niger. During the reporting period, the second phase of the UNODC programme on strengthening Nigeria’s legal regime against terrorism was completed and the third phase was launched. In Eastern Africa, UNODC is working to counter violent extremism in prisons, as well as providing legislative assistance to incorporate counter-terrorism provisions, training prosecutors and judges, while focusing on human rights and the criminal justice response to terrorism in the region. Additional work towards the development of a regional prosecutor’s network included work on mutual legal assistance, extradition laws and prisoner transfer laws, focusing on both transnational organized crime and counter-terrorism.

Human Trafficking

In August 2015, UNODC launched a dedicated Regional Strategy for West Africa 2015-2020 to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) and the smuggling of migrants. In line with the strategy, new activities were initiated in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia to enhance the capacity of national taskforces/committees established in these countries to respond more effectively to trafficking in persons in line with the national plans of action and to train border officials to detect and respond to trafficking cases. UNODC supported Nigeria in drafting the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act and continued to reinforce victim assistance responses. UNODC provided support to Ethiopia and Djibouti to counter and investigate trafficking in persons, and assisted in the review of Djibouti’s law on TIP and in the drafting of Ethiopia’s legislation on TIP, which was adopted on 6 July 2015. In Kenya, UNODC trained officers from the National Police Service and prosecutors on building TIP case files, and a National Referral Mechanism on TIP is under development to better coordinate actions to address TIP and bridge the gap between victims and assistance providers. In Somalia, a legislative assessment was conducted and TIP legislation has been drafted in Somaliland and Puntland for review by authorities. Further, UNODC trained police and prosecutors in Mauritius, and conducted a TIP/SOM assessment in Comoros. UNODC has continued to support the implementation of the Arab Initiative against TIP in partnership with the League of the Arab States. In Southern Africa, UNODC supports SADC Member States to improve investigation, prosecution and adjudication of TIP, enhancing identification of victims and improving data collection and reporting on TIP. In 2015, a UNODC-supported Regional Data Collection system was rolled out in six countries (Lesotho, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe). Further, in 2015 UNODC continued to support SADC Member States in finalizing TIP legislation (Swaziland, Namibia), developing implementing regulations (Lesotho, Seychelles, Swaziland), drafting and validating national action plans (Zimbabwe) and developing SOPs to guide referral and assistance of victims (Seychelles, Swaziland).
**Illicit Trafficking**

UNODC continued to assist countries in combating illicit trafficking under the framework of the Airport Communication Project and the Global Container Control Programme, both of which were implemented jointly with the World Customs Organization. UNODC had a leading role in supporting the G5 Sahel Member in developing the documentation for the Security Cooperation Platform their Heads of State adopted in November 2015. The Platform is expected to facilitate regional cooperation between law enforcement agencies on issues related to terrorism and transnational organized crime. Under its project aimed at addressing the drug problem in Nigeria, UNODC has supported the adoption in 2015 of the new phase of the National Drug Control Master Plan (2015-2019) and is now focusing on supporting its implementation. During the reporting period, UNODC launched a project aimed at strengthening Regional Cooperation and Border Control against Illicit Trafficking in the MENA region.

**Guinea Bissau**

To support Guinea-Bissau, further efforts were made to enhance the capacities to address the threats related with human trafficking, notably the protection of more vulnerable groups (women and children). A specialised training of trainers on trafficking in human beings was organized in Bissau, 30 November - 4 December 2015, by UNODC jointly with the Portuguese Observatory Portuguese of Trafficking in Human Beings. The 32 trainees are now with the technical knowledge to further replicate the training inside.

Guinea-Bissau, those capacity building actions are envisaged to take place during 2016, with technical assistance from UNODC. Special focus during the training was made to the dimensions of victim protection and gender sensitive interventions during the detection and investigation of human trafficking cases, to ensure adherence to full respect for human rights.

Furthermore, UNODC is supporting the refurbishment and equipment for a special unit inside Judicial Police to enhance the investigative capacity and allow a more victim friendly environment.

In the context of the West Africa Coast Initiative, UNODC has continued providing support to the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU). Of note in 2015, a police forensics and drug laboratory became operational in Bissau through support from UNODC and making use of regional expertise. This laboratory benefits all Law Enforcement Agencies of Guinea Bissau.
## Resources

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