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

# UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

## TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

**THIRD QUARTER**
**1 July – 30 September 2024**

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## Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| AEC | African Economic Conference |
| AI | Artificial Intelligence |
| ARF | The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum |
| CBRNE | Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives |
| CFT | Countering the Financing of Terrorism |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| CT | Counter-Terrorism |
| CTED | Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate |
| EAG | Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism |
| ESAAMLG | Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group |
| ENVR | European Network of Victims' Rights |
| FIU | Financial Intelligence Unit |
| FTF | Foreign Terrorist Fighters |
| GCERF | Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund |
| GCTS | United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy |
| HRGS | UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technologies |
| IED | Improvised Explosive Device |
| INTERPOL | International Criminal Police Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| LACON | Legal Aid Council of Nigeria |
| MEL | Monitoring, evaluation and learning |
| MIND | Management Institute for National Development |
| MLP | Model Legislative Provision |
| MoE | Ministry of Education |
| NCTC | National Counter Terrorism Centre Kenya |
| NPO | Non-Profit Organization |
| NSS | National Security Service of Iraq |
| OICT | United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology |
| ONSA | Office of the National Security Advisor Nigeria |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| PCVE | Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism |
| PRR | Prosecution, Reintegration and Rehabilitation |
| PPSD | Public Private Sector Dialogue |
| PVE | Prevention of Violent Extremism |
| R/N | Radiological / Nuclear |
| TA | Technical Assistance |
| TIP | Trafficking in Persons |
| TUBSAN | National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Somalia) |
| UNCCT | United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICRI | United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute |
| UNOCT | United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism |
| UNODC | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime |
| UNOPS | United Nations Office for Project Services |
| UNRCCA | United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia |
| USAID | U.S. Agency for International Development |
| VoT | Victims of Terrorism |
| VoTAN | Global Victims of Terrorism Associations Network |
| WMD | Weapons of Mass Destruction |
| YADEN | Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network |
| YEEP | Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme |

## Executive summary and key highlights

In the third quarter of 2024, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) made significant progress in addressing the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, guided by the mandates given to it by Member States, by the General Assembly in its resolutions 71/291 (2017),  the 8th Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/77/298) and advice of its Advisory Board. These efforts are also aligned with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and successive reviews, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's (UNOCT) Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022 – 2025.

This report is structured to highlight UNCCT's contributions under the SPRF, demonstrating the Centre's dedication to being a results-driven Global Centre of Excellence, in line with principles of results-based management and reporting.

In the reporting period, from 1 July to 30 September 2024, UNCCT implemented 12 capacity building activities, including workshops and trainings as well as two high-level conferences that have increased the knowledge and skills in the area of youth-centered PCVE policy responses, awareness raising and support of victims of terrorism, capacity building on countering terrorist financing and anti-money laundering, developing CBRNE exercises and strategic communication on reintegration communication and border security management training of over 453 counter-terrorism professionals from 16 Member States.

**Resource Mobilization**

In Q3, UNOCT mobilized $4,186,387 in new pledges from seven funding partners, of which 33 percent or $1,390,628 were earmarked to support UNCCT programmes, as per the table below.

**Funding Partners providing contributions to UNCCT from 1 July to 30 September 2024**

| Funding partner | Amount | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| Germany | $373,175 | Global PRR Programme |
| USA | $493,750 | Border Security Programme |
| CRDF | $523,703 | Weapons Programme |
|  |  |  |
| Total | **$1,390,628** |  |

UNCCT is thankful for the continued support of its founding partner, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the other 38 funding partners that have provided critical political, technical, and financial support to UNCCT activities.  Due to the increasing demand from Member States for counter-terrorism

capacity-building and technical assistance from UNCCT, the Centre will need additional funding to support its activities in 2025. Since the funding listed below is strictly designated for specific programmes (earmarked), UNCCT is facing shortfalls in its core programming for its Global Programmes on the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (PCVE), Victims of Terrorism (VoT), Cybersecurity, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT). Without additional extra-budgetary funding, UNCCT will need to significantly reduce programming in these areas in 2025 and start to merge some of these programmes, which will decrease its capacity to deliver on its mandate and meet the increasing needs of Member States.

**Programme Highlights**

- In the PCVE and youth field, UNCCT's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Global PCVE Programme) successfully concluded its Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) with a Policy Dialogue for Africa held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 15 August. The event was the culmination of a series of capacity building activities and policy dialogues on youth engagement in PCVE policymaking in Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia which started in 2023. Thirty-nine young leaders (12 female, 27 male) from the three countries engaged with representatives from Member States, regional organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies. They shared their experiences, addressed regional challenges, and helped shape a comprehensive roadmap for youth engagement in PCVE policymaking, committing to a whole-of-society approach. By aligning YEEP's Regional Policy Dialogue with the International Youth Day on 12 August and with the Summit of the Future (20-21 September), UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme underscored its commitment to unite young leaders across borders and work together with key decisionmakers. To ensure sustainability of the YEEP Africa outcomes, the young participants joined the UNOCT Youth Alumni Network, fostering continued collaboration on global PCVE efforts. Partner Member States committed to incorporating the Alumni Network into their initiatives, providing dedicated funding for YEEP leaders to operationalize their ideas.

- To commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism, on 21 August, UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (Global VoT Programme), the Office of the UN Secretary-General and the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism organized a high-level virtual event entitled "Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators". The event highlighted the role of victims as peace advocates and featured a high-level segment and panel discussion. Leading up to the event, the "Memories" exhibition and "Legacy Project" videos were on display for the public at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event, broadcast on UN WebTV, received 3,072 views and significantly increased visibility for the victims of terrorism agenda among Member States.

- On strategic communication and reintegration, the Global PCVE Programme and the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (Global PRR Programme) held a strategic communication workshop in Erbil, Iraq, at the end of July. Co-organized with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the Government of Iraq and selected CSOs, the event gathered 50 participants (6 female, 44 male). The workshop enhanced participants' strategic communication skills to better support the reintegration of displaced Iraqis who return. Additionally, participants developed approaches on how to secure the buy-in of key Iraqi government agencies and CSOs into the reintegration communication process.

- In support of Member States' capacities to combat weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism, UNCCT's Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme held a workshop for South and Southeast Asian Member States in Bangkok, Thailand. Twenty-five participants (7 female, 18 male) from governmental authorities learned about developing CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) exercises and discussed regional threats. The workshop included a table-top exercise on chemical attacks with explosives and enhanced participants' abilities to develop their own national chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives exercises. The workshop and the virtual seminar which preceded it, contributed to improved capacities of Member States to prevent, prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks involving WMD/CBRNE materials in line with international obligations, standards and best practices.

- The UNCCT Border Security and Management Programme (BSM Programme), with the support of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section, played a key role in drafting the Addendum to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Good Practices in Border Security and Management. This Addendum, developed under the GCTF Border Security and Management Initiative led by Jordan, the United States, and UNOCT, was adopted by the GCTF Coordination Committee in September 2024. It includes 14 non-binding recommendations designed to integrate human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approaches into BSM strategies. The BSM Programme co-led the finalization of the draft of the Addendum and the drafting of the manual for the training of trainer's course which was developed to support implementation of the Addendum.

- In September 2024, the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute organized a workshop as part of the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences' (NAUSS) 2nd AI Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The event strengthened participants' understanding of the responsible use of AI in counter-terrorism efforts, in line with international standards, and fostered regional cooperation to mitigate the potential misuse of these technologies for terrorist purpose.

## Key facts and figures

**16**
Member States supported through capacity-building activities

**12**
Capacity-building activities delivered

**453**
Participants trained

**2**
High-level conferences on counter-terrorism-related issues

**797**
Participants in activities for consultations, advocacy, outreach, and special events

**33%**
Women participants in capacity-building activities

## Member States supported in the third quarter of 2024*

## Key implementing partners for UNCCT's work in the third quarter of 2024

**United Nations entities:**
- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

**Intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations:**
- Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum (ASEAN ARF)
- Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG)
- Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG)
- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
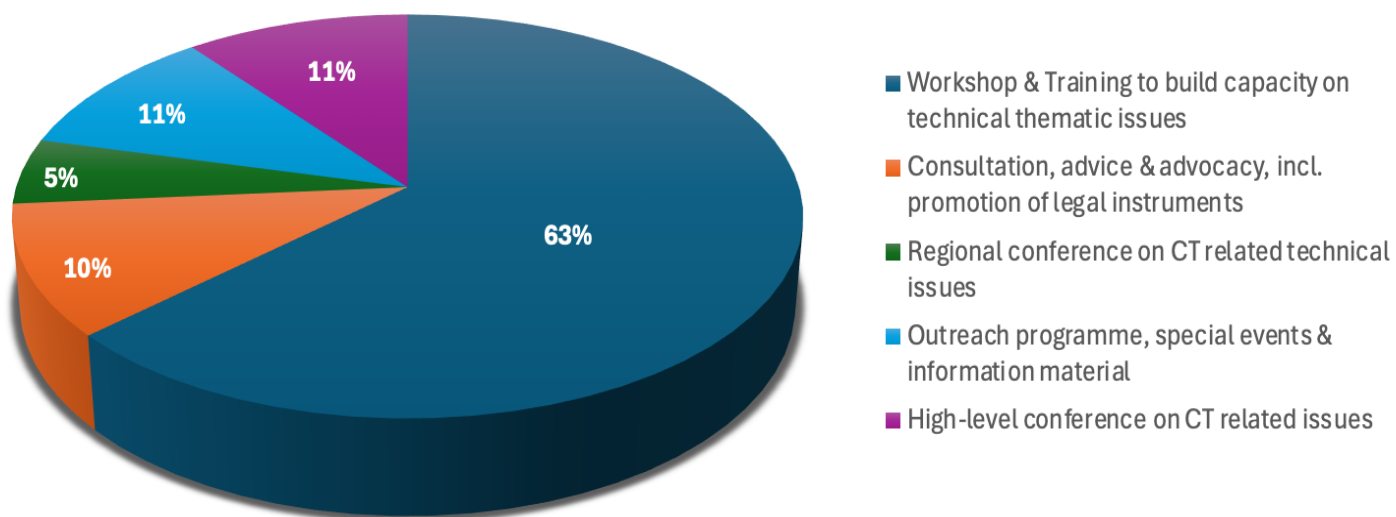- The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

**National institutions, agencies, CSOs and private sector companies:**
- African Economic Conference (AEC)
- Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)
- Kingdom of Morocco
- Management Institute for National Development (MIND)
- Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan
- National Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Somalia) (TUBSAN)
- Office of the National Security Advisor of Nigeria (ONSA)
- Spanish Victims of Terrorism Foundation (FVT)
- Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre
- The Shura Council of the State of Qatar
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Uganda Government National Counter Terrorism Centre
- United States Department of State, Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation, Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism (WMDT)
- Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network – East Africa (YADEN)

## Breakdown of activities

### UNCCT activities delivered by category



- 63% — Workshop & Training to build capacity on technical thematic issues
- 10% — Consultation, advice & advocacy, incl. promotion of legal instruments
- 5% — Regional conference on CT related technical issues
- 11% — Outreach programme, special events & information material
- 11% — High-level conference on CT related issues

*\* Human rights and gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout UNCCT programming*

# Overview of programme implementation under UNOCT's Results Framework (2022-2025)

## Strategic Goal 1: Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism

### Description of Goal

**UNCCT, in fulfilling its leadership and coordination roles, fosters the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation on CT/PCVE among all stakeholders. UNCCT works to ensure that the United Nations system is further unified in its focus and support to Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that Member States recognize the importance of tackling terrorism and that CT/PCVE programmes are coherent, duplication of interventions are avoided, and comparative advantages are fully leveraged, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. In line with its mandate, UNCCT also contributes to raising the visibility of, and mobilizing sustained funding for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.**

### Outcome 1.2: Relevant, effective, coherent, integrated, human rights-compliant and gender-responsive capacity development support provided by UNCCT at national, regional and global levels.

**Strategic Communication Workshop to support the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Iraqi Returnees**

From 29 to 31 July, the UNCCT Global PCVE Programme, in collaboration with the Global PRR Programme, conducted a strategic communication workshop in Erbil, Iraq. Co-organized with IOM for the Government of Iraq and representatives from selected CSOs, the event registered fifty participants (6 female, 44 male). Participants enhanced their knowledge and skills in strategic communication, focusing on gaining the support of key Iraqi government agencies and CSOs on the reintegration communication process. UNOCT presented best practice case studies in government communications for PCVE and shared frameworks from its "Reintegration Communication Toolkit".

UNCCT held bilateral meetings with Iraqi counterparts and the Global Coalition against Da'esh and explored potential areas of collaboration. The workshop also contributed to the further refinement of the Government of Iraq's draft communication strategy.

**YEEP Regional Policy Dialogue in Kenya**

From 14 to 15 August, the Global PCVE Programme's YEEP Africa Programme held the Regional Policy Dialogue in Nairobi, Kenya. The Global PCVE Programme aligned YEEP's Regional Policy Dialogue with the International Youth Day on 12 August, as well as the Summit of the Future on 20-21 September and underscored its commitment to unite young leaders across borders and work together with key decision-makers of Member States. This event concluded a series of capacity building activities which started in August 2023 in Nigeria.

At the event, 39 (12 female, 27 male) young leaders from Kenya, Nigeria, and Somalia engaged with representatives from Member States, regional organizations, CSOs and UN agencies on youth perspectives on PCVE policymaking. They shared their experiences, addressed regional challenges, and helped shape a comprehensive roadmap for youth engagement in PCVE and policymaking.

Theyoung leaders from Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia will join the UNOCT Youth Alumni Network, ensuring continued collaboration in global PCVE efforts. Partners have committed to sustaining the legacy of YEEP Africa by incorporating the Alumni Network into their initiatives, providing dedicated funding for YEEP leaders to operationalize their ideas, and actively involving them in strategic planning, thereby ensuring that young leaders' voices will continue to influence and drive PCVE policies.

The YEEP effectively enhanced capacities of young leaders and provided an important platform for them to engage with stakeholders. It enabled young leaders to present youth-developed PCVE recommendations to stakeholders and national decision-makers which is crucial for successful inclusion of young people in the design and implementation of national and regional PCVE initiatives.

**Launch of the Handbook on Countering the misuse of Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers for Terrorist Financing purposes in the Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) region**

On 9 September in New York, United States, the UNOCT-UNCCT CFT Programme hosted a hybrid launch event of its new handbook "Countering the Misuse of Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers for Terrorism Financing Purposes - A Handbook based on EAG Practices", under a joint initiative supported by Rosfinmonitoring and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) Secretariat.

The handbook aims to support efforts in EAG jurisdictions in combating the misuse of virtual asserts for terrorism financing by providing practical examples of effective measures based on EAG Member States practices. The objective of the handbook is also to harmonize practices between jurisdictions in the region to further enhance the effective implementation of FATF Recommendation 15 given the cross-border nature of virtual assets. Feedback from multiple

Member States highlighted the need for continued engagement by UNOCT/UNCCT with EAG member jurisdictions and more broadly with other FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), to ensure promoting consistent practices across member States and enhancing international cooperation. In the second phase of the project, UNOCT/UNCCT remains committed to supporting EAG member jurisdictions and other FSRBs jurisdictions in this critical sector in the coming years.

## Strategic Goal 2: Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism

UNCCT under the overall strategic umbrella of UNOCT, supports Member States through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaboration in support of complementary learning and information-sharing to create societal resilience to terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism. Global programmes and projects are offered across the peace and security, human rights and development pillars of the United Nations, and through interventions that support the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on "promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". Through an evidence-informed, human rights-based, gender sensitive and context-specific approach, interventions to build community resilience and cohesion, are designed and prioritized, including in consultation with local stakeholders.

**Outcome 2.1: Member States engaged and supported to effectively develop, implement and monitor their own PCVE strategies and action plans in human rights compliant and gender responsive approaches.**

**Coordination Meeting with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan on the roll-out of the teaching modules in the field of countering trafficking in persons and terrorism for secondary and tertiary education levels**

On PCVE education in schools, the Central Asia Unit held a coordination meeting with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan (MoE) on 17 July in Ashgabat. The meeting involved representatives of local universities and schools and was co-organized by USAID. The meeting focused on the teaching module series for secondary schools and institutes of higher educational, handed over by UNOCT, UNODC, and USAID/Winrock to the MoE last year. The goal of the meeting was to follow up on the implemented activity and to discuss further concrete incorporation of learning materials into national educational curricula.

The six representatives (2 female, 4 male) shared their feedback and suggestions on CT and Trafficking in Persons (TIP) learning modules. They decided to establish a government-led working group with the aim of drafting recommendations on the implementation of the content of the TIP and PCVE learning modules. Additionally, they proposed various joint events for the International Year of Peace and Trust 2025, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/266 (International Year of Peace and Trust, 2025), initiated by Turkmenistan.

**Outcome 2.2: Increased implementation of evidence-informed, coherent, context specific, human rights compliant and gender responsive PCVE initiatives by partners engaged and supported.**

**Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation for Strategic Communication Campaigns for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Uganda**

The UNCCT Global PCVE Programme in collaboration with the Uganda Government National Counter Terrorism Centre and UNODC conducted a workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation for Strategic Communication Campaigns on PCVE in Kampala, Uganda, from 17-19 September. Twenty-five participants (5 female, 20 male) from governmental agencies, civil society and the media developed monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks for their PCVE strategic communication campaigns. Participants enhanced their knowledge on the theoretical background and practical tools to monitor and evaluate the impact of their communications to address violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

This workshop was the capstone event of a 21-month partnership with Uganda on Strategic Communications for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and resulted in six campaigns focusing on reaching audiences in Acholi, Busiga, Kasese, Katwe, Masaka, Wakiso, and the surrounding regions, enhancing resilience to terrorist and violent extremist narratives.

**Outcome 2.3: Fostered collaborations, partnerships and networks in support of complementary peer learning and joint efforts on PCVE at global, regional and national levels.**

**Second and third phase of the online training of YEEP Africa**

From 1 to 31 July, the Global PCVE Programme in cooperation with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) conducted an 8- -week online training for 22 young people (10 female, 12 male) from Kenya. The workshop was part of YEEP Africa.

At the same time - from 1 to 19 July - a similar online training for 16 young people (10 female, 6 male) from Somalia was conducted.

The training increased participants' knowledge on PCVE and enhanced their skills in facilitating dialogues and collecting data from their peers on PCVE. The young participants are now equipped with the necessary tools to actively contribute to PCVE efforts in their communities.

**YEEP preparatory online trainings on developing PCVE policy recommendations**

As part of YEEP Africa, the Global PCVE Programme in partnership with NCTC Kenya and TUBSAN-PCVE Centre Somalia and in cooperation with GCERF, delivered two online trainings, supporting 40 young people (22 female, 18 male) from Kenya and Somalia, in their preparations for their national policy dialogues. The first online event held on 25 July focused on the use of strategic communication tools/techniques in the pitching of PCVE policy recommendations to key decisionmakers and policymakers during the national policy dialogues for Kenya and Somalia which were held in August 2024. This was complemented by a second training session which brought together 62 young leaders (34 female, 28 male) from the three countries: Kenya, Somalia and Nigeria for an introductory meeting and brainstorming session, in preparation for the regional policy dialogue which were to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in August 2024.

**YEEP Kenya Training and National Policy Dialogue**

From 6 to 8 August, the Global PCVE Programme organized the YEEP training and the National Policy Dialogue in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was co-organized by Kenya's National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), GCERF, and the Youth Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network (YADEN) East Africa. Fifty young leaders (29 female, 21 male) participated in the 2-day in-person training on data analysis, policy development and strategic communication.

The National Policy Dialogue, held on 8 August, provided a crucial platform for 22 young leaders from 17 counties across Kenya to engage in a dialogue on PCVE policy development with government officials, CSOs, and policymakers. Participants presented evidence-based PCVE policy recommendations, including the establishment of a Youth Sounding Board for the NCTC, the creation of a well-governed National PCVE Youth Network, and the promotion of youth-led demographic research to inform PCVE programmatic activities with unbiased data.

Stakeholders actively engaged with the youth-led recommendations and decided to include a youth representative in the Kenya PCVE Steering Committee. The young leaders networked with government representatives and learned about future opportunities in the PCVE space. Senior officials and policymakers gained insights into youth experiences and perceptions regarding the PCVE and prevention of terrorism in their communities. Participants shared best practices and lessons learned in youth-focused work on PCVE topics, enhanced their knowledge and commitment to a whole-of-society approach that is human rights-compliant, gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive, and evidence-informed.

Overall, the event improved the outlook of young people on contributing to PCVE efforts at all levels and empowered their inclusion and meaningful participation. Specifically, the National Policy Dialogue underscored the need for youth involvement in drafting the new National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism.

**YEEP Somalia National Policy Dialogue**

From 11 to 13 August, the Global PCVE Programme in collaboration with TUBSAN, GCERF, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNFPA, and the CSO MIND organized the YEEP National Policy Dialogue in Nairobi, Kenya.

The event brought together 16 young leaders from across the country alongside key representatives from the Somali government, including the Minster for Youth and Sports and the Deputy Minister for Information and Tourism, representatives of CSOs and international stakeholders.

This dialogue event provided a unique platform and enabled Somali youth leaders to share insights about their experiences and amplify the voices of their communities by proposing actionable youth-led PCVE policy recommendations to decisionmakers.

Discussions focused on enhancing youth participation in policymaking, with emphasis on youth, gender, governance, mental health, community, education and poverty.

Following the initiatives in Nigeria and Kenya, the Somali National Policy Dialogue marked the conclusion of the final phase of YEEP Africa's national-level implementation.

## Strategic Goal 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks

**Description of Goal**

**UNCCT and its partners support and enhance Member State capacities to prevent, manage and respond to terrorist attacks. Through strengthened regulatory, security, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, operating in accordance with international standards and in compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, Member States' abilities to deter, detect, disrupt, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorists are significantly, and demonstrably improved. This includes addressing the full spectrum of terrorism-related offenses, from the acquisition and use by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, to addressing the evolving linkages between terrorism and organized crime or the use of Internet and other information and communications technologies. This support is delivered through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaborations in support of complementary learning and information-sharing.**

**Outcome 3.1:  Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality standards.**

**ESAAMLG 7th Public Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD)**

From 30 to 31 August, the CFT Programme supported the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Secretariat in organizing the 7th Public Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) hosted by Kenya in its function as Chair of the ESAAMLG in Diani, Kenya. The PPSD is an annual platform for the public and private sectors to discuss anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT) matters affecting the region. This year's PPSD focused on terrorism financing including through new technologies and saw 600 participants (300 female, 300 male). UNCCT's CFT Programme assisted in the drafting of the agenda, the identification and the travel of experts, providing moderation and presentations in two panels dedicated to harnessing technologies for financing of terrorism purposes and funding CTED's participation. The event led to a new engagement with the East African Community (EAC) and the African Development Bank and support to the April iteration of the ESAAMLG Virtual Assets Experts meeting focusing on investigations and confiscations of crypto currencies.

**Outcome 3.2.  State institutions including security sector, law enforcement and regulatory agencies operating with improved capacities in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism-related offenses in accordance with the rule of law and human rights obligations; including on sexual and gender-based violence committed by terrorists**

**Third advisory mission on repatriation of adult Iraqi nationals in Al-Hol with alleged links or family ties with Da'esh**

From August 18 to 22, the European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility, managed by the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in collaboration with the UNCCT Global PRR Programme, conducted an advisory mission to Baghdad, Iraq. This mission aimed to support the Iraqi National Security Service (NSS) teams responsible for registering, interviewing, and screening Iraqi adults seeking voluntary repatriation from Al-Hol camp.

During the mission, Facility experts provided training on trauma management, responses to sexual violence, and programming language for database development. Additionally, the NSS received support in reviewing its interview procedures to ensure alignment with international human rights standards. All NSS personnel involved in interviewing or processing data of Iraqi

nationals from Al-Hol enhanced their understanding of applicable human rights laws, including privacy regulations through training provided by UNOCT.

In addition, the mission strengthened the NSS teams' capabilities in managing psychological aspects related to trauma and stress during interviews and screenings. Participants' expertise was further consolidated by incorporating good practices and enhancing their capacity to handle sensitive information while ensuring psychological protection for themselves and their teams.

Furthermore, the mission included meetings with various UN agencies to monitor and establish modalities for overseeing the repatriation process from a human rights perspective, in accordance with Mitigating Measure 2 of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).

**Outcome 3.3: Enhanced inter-agency coordination/cooperation and exchange of counter-terrorism information and good practices, both at the national (intercountry) level and regionally/internationally to deter terror attacks and manage responses while observing the rule of law, human rights obligations, and gender equality standards.**

**Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit Regional CBRNE Exercise and Exercise Programme Workshop for South and Southeast Asia**

From 9 to 12 July in Bangkok, Thailand, UNCCT's Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme, supported by UNCCT's Bangkok Office and in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation Office of Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism (WMDT), conducted a workshop for South and Southeast Asian Member States on the development of CBRNE exercises.

The workshop was attended by 25 participants (7 female, 18 male) from counter-terrorism agencies, law enforcement, arms control, intelligence, and other relevant authorities dealing with WMD and CBRNE issues. Participants learned the steps necessary for developing CBRNE exercises, discussed regional priorities, threats, and the risks of CBRNE terrorism in the two regions, and developed their own table-top exercises (TTX).

On the final day, a TTX on a chemical attack with an explosive's payload was conducted, with participants responding to injects and outlining the steps required for an effective response. This in-person workshop was followed by a virtual seminar, during which participants had the opportunity to present more details on TTXs developed with their teams.

As a result, the workshop enhanced the abilities of representatives of government agencies working in the counter-terrorism, law enforcement and other CBRNE related fields to develop national CBRNE exercises and methodologies tailored to their specific security challenges, thereby improving their capacity to prevent and counter potential terrorist attacks. According to

the post-assessment survey of the workshop, all participants plan to undertake follow-up actions to establish a CBRNE exercise programme or to incorporate their new knowledge into existing exercises.

**Addendum to the GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counter-Terrorism and Stemming the Flow of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters"**

The Border Security and Management (BSM) Good Practices initiative is designed to strengthen national and regional capabilities in countering terrorism, aligning with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions. The UNCCT BSM Programme, with the support of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS), played a key role in co-leading, along with the co-chairs of the GCTF FTF Working Group (Jordan and the United States), the finalization of the Addendum to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Good Practices in Border Security and Management.

Adopted by the GCTF Coordination Committee in September 2024, the Addendum includes 14 non-binding recommendations designed to update the BSM Good Practices framework document released in 2016 to include new requirements stemming from UNSCR and other relevant policy documents. The three main points touched are: the inclusion of human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approaches into BSM strategies; the sustainable use of new technologies for border security; and the involvement of border communities in drafting border security and management strategies. The Addendum is complemented by an Annex, which provides a compendium of international resources for border security and an overview of key actors providing technical assistance for the international community, as well as states seeking to improve their border security in line with UN Security Council commitments while protecting human rights and promoting rule of law approaches to integrated border security management. In parallel, UNOCT has developed a comprehensive Training-of-Trainers Manual, a practical, user-friendly resource to support practitioners, policymakers, and other experts wanting to use and implement the 2016 GCTF Good Practice Document and its Addendum.

**Consultation missions to Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) focus countries**

From July to September, the IBSM Secretariat (UNOCT, IOM, UNODC and INTERPOL) undertook consultation missions in four of the seven IBSM focus countries in West Africa: Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Niger, engaging with national authorities and partners to identify and review border security and management gaps, needs and priorities for the baseline assessment. In each Member State, priority areas for more rational funding from donors through technical assistance were identified, emphasizing geographic and thematic focuses. The missions included bilateral consultation meetings, stakeholder workshops for data collection and pre-validation of preliminary findings and donor briefings. These priorities and needs will be outlined in the full baseline assessment country reports, including recommendations on technical assistance,

particularly on strengthening institutional, infrastructural, and operational capacity and other sustainable solutions for better border security and enhanced national and cross border cooperation.

**UNOCT – U.S. State Department Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Virtual Seminar for South and Southeast Asia on CBRN Exercise Development**

On 21 August, the UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme organized an online seminar focused on the development of CBRNE exercises. This seminar was co-organized by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation, Office of WMDT. The virtual training enabled participants to apply the knowledge gained during the in-person workshop held in Bangkok in July, and to provide support in understanding and utilizing the shared material. Ten participants (5 female, 5 male) presented the TTXs they developed and received feedback on improving and implementing these exercises. The scenarios presented included:

- Contaminated water resources (Bangladesh)
- Radiological and nuclear attack during the Khmer New Year celebration (Cambodia)
- CBRNE preparedness tabletop exercise on public media response (Malaysia)
- Botulinum toxin attack during Pope Francis's visit (Timor-Leste)
- Release of a chemical substance via drone in a public park (Vietnam)

The seminar was the third event under the joint project conducted by the UNCCT and the U.S. Department of State's WMDT contributing to Member States to develop their own CBRNE exercise programmes.

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## Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

**Description of Goal**

**UNCCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims of terrorism. By engaging with victims and civil society organizations, UNCCT aims to ensure the impacts of terrorism on individuals, families and societies can be mitigated through the recognition, respect and protection of victims' rights and needs. This includes supporting Member States to be better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts, as well as the development of comprehensive and gender-sensitive assistance plans for victims of terrorism and their families. UNCCT also works to support the application of empirically validated and human rights compliant, age and gender responsive prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, with the aim of ensuring accountability and breaking the cycle of terrorism for the future.**

**Outcome 4.1:  The needs and human rights of victims of terrorism are addressed and promoted including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and children affected by terrorism.**

**Opening of "Memories" exhibition at UNHQ in the run-up to the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism**

From 23 Jul to 30 August, the Global VoT programme organized the `Memories' exhibition in the lobby of the UN headquarters in Newy York. The exhibition raised awareness of the public on the human stories that lie at the heart of each victim of terrorist attacks, as well as the long-lasting impact each terrorist attack has on surviving victims. The exhibition was organized in connection with the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (21 August). Fifteen panels displaying a personal story of a victim of terrorism from the VoT Programme's `Memories' campaign, and three screens playing video testimonies from victims of terrorism from the VoT Programme's `Legacy' project, were installed on the curved wall in the lobby of the UN Headquarters in New York for public viewing.

The exhibition, which is part of the Memories campaign, highlighted commonalities connecting victims across the world. It emphasized the importance of preventing terrorist attacks and the emergence of new victims. Since the exhibition was open to the public, it contributed to raising the profile of the UN's work on the international victims of terrorism agenda.

**High-level virtual event: International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism**

On 21 August in New York, United States., the Global VoT Programme, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and the Secretary-General's Office organized a high-level virtual event on the remembrance of and tribute to victims of terrorism, entitled `Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators'.

The General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/72/165, proclaimed 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. Its focus is to honour, remember and pay tribute to the victims of terrorism, stand in solidarity with them and promote and protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms. This year's International Day commemoration included a live virtual event featuring a high-level segment followed by a panel discussion with victims and survivors of terrorism. In the lead up to International Day, from 23 July to 23 August 2024, the `Memories' exhibition, alongside three `Legacy Project' videos, were displayed in the Visitors' Lobby of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event recognized the way many victims and survivors of terrorism use their experiences and journeys to create meaningful and positive change. In educating people about the long-lasting impact of terrorism and by honouring those whose lives were lost and those whose lives were forever altered, the event

provided a useful platform for victims to raise their voices and connect to other victims and survivors of terrorism.

The theme "Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators" emphasized the pivotal role of victims and survivors as agents of change and peace educators. It paid tribute to victims and survivors of terrorism across the world and to their efforts to transform their personal tragedies into collective strengths, emphasizing the importance of heeding their voices when they advocate for peacebuilding initiatives while also fostering dialogue and promoting understanding among diverse communities. The event was broadcast live on UN WebTV and received a total of 686 live views and 2,386 on-demand, totalling to 3072 views in the first days.

Key achievements from the day include greater unity among the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, increased visibility to victims of terrorism agenda, increased chances for victims and survivors of terrorism to raise their voices and perspectives on how the international community can support them and the sharing of best practices.

**Scoping mission in preparation for the launch of the Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism in Nigeria**

The Global VoT Programme conducted a scoping mission to Abuja, Nigeria, with the aim to prepare for the launch of the Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) to Support the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism. The mission took place from 19 to 23 August and was co-organized by UNODC and the Office of National Security Adviser (ONSA) of Nigeria which brought together 21 (8 female, 13 male) representatives from CSOs, such as Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON), the Youth Initiative Against Terrorism, Carefronting Nigeria, Women & Child Disaster Rescue Initiatives, Young Leaders Rights and Patriotic Initiative, and Spaces for Change.

The consultation addressed gaps and provided the ground for Nigeria's MLP project, ensuring comprehensive support for victims of terrorism in Nigeria. Further issues that were identified during the consultation included the lack of operationalization of the Victim Trust Fund outlined in the 2022 Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, the limited possibilities to address victims of terrorism issues through the angle of reintegration and rehabilitation of former terrorists and vulnerable people associated with terror groups, and the lack of support to reach victims and survivors of terrorism not associated with terrorist groups. Additionally, the consulted stakeholders addressed the problems of access to justice as well as medical and psychosocial support for victims. Nigeria's MLP National Assistance Programme, launched in November, will be based on the findings of these consultations.

**MENA/Africa consultation on plans for the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN)**

On 30 July, the Global VoT Programme, with the generous support of the Kingdom of Spain, held an online consultation for victims of terrorism and victims' associations across the Middle East and Africa to inform about the development of its Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN). The consultation was structured over four hours, with opening remarks from senior UNCCT management, a presentation of the work of the Global VoT Programme, and a series of moderated discussions. Eight (1 female, 7 male) participants from Mali, Cameroon, Nigeria, Libya, Uganda, Morocco, Iraq and Jordan provided feedback on the scope and structure of VoTAN as well as membership, sustainability, accessibility and inclusivity of the network. Participants also spoke on the key themes proposed for the UN International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, to be hosted in the Spanish city of Vitoria-Gasteiz from 8-9 October, and the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August. The VoT Programme gathered the different perspectives on VoTAN and will be use them for further programme development.

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### Strategic Goal 5: Promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts

**Description of Goal**

**UNCCT supports Member States and other partners to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote gender equality and women's empowerment while countering terrorism, in line with their international obligations, the outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and inspired by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. This is undertaken by ensuring that UNCCT's strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights and gender equality within CT/PCVE efforts. UNCCT and its partners will support women and girls' representation and leadership in CT/PCVE. UNCCT will also enhance its capabilities to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to ensure respect of human rights in the delivery of its CT/PCVE mandates and ensure that its CT/PCVE efforts are informed by context-specific gender analyses.**

**Outcome 5.2: UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to expanding the concern towards gender equality and women's empowerment within CT/PCVE efforts.**

**Workshop on 'The human rights aspects of investigations in counter-terrorism: the lawyers' perspective'**

The UNOCT Global Human Rights Programme supported by the UNOCT Programme Office in Baghdad, held a workshop on the human rights aspects of counter-terrorism investigations from a lawyer's perspective from 1 to 2 September in Baghdad, Iraq. The workshop is part of the "Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism: Capacity-Building Support To Law Enforcement And Intelligence Services In Iraq" project, implemented under UNOCT's Global Human Rights Programme.

The workshop emphasized the role of legal advisors in upholding human rights and the rule of law in counter-terrorism operations. The event brought together 35 Iraqi and international experts (7 female, 28 male) to share experiences and expertise, focusing on legal challenges and applicable human rights norms. Participants engaged in brainstorming sessions, case studies, and group work to enhance their knowledge of judicial independence, integrity, and practical strategies for investigating terrorism cases while ensuring human rights compliance.

A case study facilitated discussions on competing obligations, and a session with the Iraq High Human Rights Commission provided insights into criminal procedures and the Commission's role in safeguarding human rights. This highlighted the importance of compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms in terrorism cases.

Participants strengthened their understanding of key commitments under international and Iraqi law, such as the prohibition of torture, the right to legal representation, and the need to avoid prolonged detentions. Interactive exercises and discussions further solidified collaboration between counter-terrorism agencies and the Iraq High Human Rights Commission.

**Integration and promotion of human rights, gender considerations and gender mainstreaming in UNCCT activities**

In the third quarter of 2024, UNCCT continued to mainstream human rights and gender across its activities, with support from the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS).

The UNCCT Border Security and Management Programme, with the support of HRGS, contributed to the drafting of the Addendum to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management. The Addendum, which was developed under the GCTF Border Security and Management Initiative led by Jordan, the United States and UNOCT and adopted by the GCTF Coordination Committee in September 2024 formulates 14 non-binding recommendations aimed to integrate human rights-compliant and gender -sensitive approaches into BSM strategies. Human rights were further mainstreamed in the training-of-trainers developed to support the implementation of the Addendum.

HRGS also worked to propose the integration of human rights and gender aspects in Somalia's National Strategy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism for 2024-2027.