

# **UNCCT ANNUAL REPORT 2021**



SIXTH YEAR OF THE UNCCT 5-YEAR PROGRAMME

**JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021** 

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"The restructuring of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, including the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, has enhanced the ability of the United Nations system to support Member States in implementing the Strategy in a more comprehensive, balanced and results-oriented manner. We will continue to make our capacity-building assistance better coordinated, more effective and tailored to the specific needs of Member States."

#### **António Guterres**

Secretary-General of the United Nations



**UN Photo** 

### **Foreword**

# by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and Executive Director of UNCCT

I am proud to present the 2021 Annual Report of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), which serves as the final report of UNCCT's 5-Year Programme for the period of 2016 to 2020 – extended to 2021. The Centre has made enormous strides in the development and consolidation of its mandated activities in response to Member State needs to implement the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy and other relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

In 2021, the Centre marked its 10th anniversary and made considerable advances as a global Center of Excellence for capacity building assistance to Member States benefitting over 150 member states, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNCCT's establishment, made possible by the generous contribution of a total of \$110 million by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, helped place the United Nations at the forefront of the global response to terrorism. The Centre works within the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's (UNOCT) broader mandate, and benefits from enhanced access to diplomatic and operational support provided by UNOCT. The Centre continued to focus on positioning itself as a Centre of Excellence for state of the art capacity-building support to Member States, promoting the balanced and coordinated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and building academic and civil society fora

and networks. UNCCT's expertise continues to be requested by Global Compact entities, Member States as well as by other partners.

As UNCCT enters a new programming cycle for 2022-2025, the Centre has steadily evolved its strategic orientation and its technical capacities. It grew from 36 projects in 2016 to 48 programmes and projects in 2021. UNCCT is now focused on sustainability and impact, which entails continuation of project consolidation and effectiveness, as well as expansion of its thematic expertise. Moving forward, UNCCT's work will be guided by the Programme Framework as part of UNOCT's Strategic Plan and Programme Framework for 2022-2025.

The Centre also continued to increase its donor base in the past year. I would like to thank the governments of all our donors for their generous contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism.

In keeping with its role as a global Centre of Excellence, UNCCT remains committed to continued learning. The Centre identified good practices and lessons learned from the extended 5-Year Programme of Work and incorporated these into the new Programme Framework to ensure enhanced results-based systems for planning, delivery of UNCCT's mandate, and evidence-based reporting of its results.

We will continue to strengthen UNCCT cooperation and coordination activities, both within and beyond the United Nations, including through the Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. We will also continue to support the United Nations joint efforts to meet the priority needs of Member States, based on the technical assistance needs identified by CTED, with a strong focus on human rights and gender mainstreaming.

The Centre will also enhance and consolidate its current programmes to ensure the delivery of impactful and more cost-effective and coherent capacity-building through an 'all-of-UN' approach. To this end, we will continue to work in close coordination with other UN entities operating in Member States, as well as strengthen our cooperation with regional bodies and other providers of technical assistance.

I look forward to continuing our close engagement with the Advisory Board and the broader UN membership.

I will use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Abdallah Y. al-Mouallimi, as the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, as well as to all members of the Board for the valuable guidance and support they have provided to the Centre over the reporting period.

**Vladimir Voronkov** 

blefoures

Executive Director, UN Counter-Terrorism Centre Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism



UN Photo/Mark Garten

## **Executive Summary**

Terrorism is an evolving and enduring threat that requires coordinated and collaborative actions among global, regional, and national partners. Preventing and addressing terrorism in today's world necessitates a flexible, results-focused approach based upon sound policies, underpinned by respect for human rights and the principle of gender responsiveness. The global terrorism landscape in 2021 saw a number of trends that led to emerging and compounded threats which presented new challenges and risks. Although terrorists remained constrained by international travel restrictions related to the COVID-19, it did not prevent them from continuing attacks or even gaining territory, particularly in parts of Africa. Terrorists became increasingly sophisticated in the use of information technologies and social media to spread their ideologies, disseminate disinformation, and to incite and recruit individuals to commit terrorist acts. Furthermore, the interplay between terrorism, weak governance, armed conflict, and organized crime continued to complicate an already difficult state of affairs in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) is fully committed to supporting Member States to address these challenges in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), which the General Assembly adopted by consensus in 2006 (A/RES/60/288). Fifteen years later, that consensus still holds, with the General Assembly adopting a landmark resolution on the occasion of its seventh review of the Strategy. It called for Member States to tackle the new and emerging threats posed by the rise in terrorist attacks on the basis of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, and elevated the importance of upholding human rights while countering terrorism and including civil society as part of a whole-of-society approach that encompasses a gender perspective.

At the seventh review of the GCTS (A/RES/75/291) in June 2021, there was a heightened acknowledgement of UNCCT's role in multilateral counter-terrorism efforts. It recognized the important work carried out by UNCCT and its Advisory Board, chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Centre's efforts towards becoming a centre of excellence in building the capacity of Member States to counter and respond to terrorism. UNCCT was created in 2011 thanks to the generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of a total of \$110 million and later complemented with co-funding from 31 additional donors. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remained the largest donor in 2021, accounting for 69 per cent of the total contributions for UNCCT. Since its establishment, the Centre has evolved steadily, both in strategic orientation and technical capacity, to achieve programme integration and expansion. Its integration in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in 2017 has enabled it to benefit from enhanced political, management, communications, administrative, and logistical support in the delivery of its mandate.

The year 2021 was a pivotal one of transition and growth for UNCCT as the Centre completed its 5-Year Programme of Work (2016–2020) and further consolidated its position towards becoming a global centre of excellence in building the capacity of Member States to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism (CT/PCVE). The Programme results framework (Annex 1) outlines four outcomes, each aligned with a GCTS Pillar, to ensure focus and impact in complementarity with the work of other United Nations (UN) partners. In line with the outcomes of the General Assembly's review of the GCTS, the Programme was extended until July 2021, upon consultation with the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board and Member States.

Over the extended 5-Year Programme timeframe from 2016 to 2021, UNCCT implemented around 85 programmes and projects. Its overall portfolio grew from 36 projects in 2016 to 48 programmes and projects in 2021. By the end of 2021, UNCCT had consolidated its programmes and projects into 10 global programmes, enabling the delivery of CT/PCVE technical assistance and capacity-building in a more coherent and synergetic manner. Through these global programmes, as well as regional frameworks, and national projects, UNCCT has made significant strides in concluding the 5-Year Programme with the achievement of its 13 outputs. This has enabled UNCCT to garner extensive experience and build upon the lessons learned to respond to the growing need for strategic and impactful capacity building to requesting Member States in CT/PCVE. In particular,

UNCCT has increasingly tailored its programmes to be flexible and adaptive to local needs and contexts, as well as ensured focus on the delivery of concrete results.

During the reporting year, UNCCT supported 156 Member States through 318 capacity building activities, reaching 9,282 people. Following the recommendation of the Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler International Cooperative (KPMG) evaluation in 2020, UNCCT has shifted towards a business model facilitating more on-the-ground work in order to increase impact and reduce costs, allowing donor funds to go further. As such, the Centre has been able to broaden its engagements and strengthen coordination with partners, enhance programme effectiveness by tailoring approaches to local and regional contexts, and create new opportunities for cost savings and resource mobilization. The COVID-19 pandemic remained a major challenge throughout 2021; however, UNCCT capitalized on the transformation of its business model by embracing the innovative use of technological solutions to continue delivering CT/PCVE programmes through online and hybrid modalities, reaching a greater number of beneficiaries than prior to the pandemic. The number of capacity-building activities increased from 146 in 2019 to 318 in 2021, a 118 per cent increase despite the pandemic.

Partnerships have been at the centre of UNCCT's undertakings at all levels. Since its inception and throughout the 5-Year Programme, UNCCT has cultivated strong partnerships with a wide range of counter-terrorism actors to promote global counterterrorism cooperation and support Member States, international, regional and subregional bodies and UN entities in the implementation of the GCTS. UNCCT has taken a proactive approach to promote knowledge exchange among CT/PCVE actors by continuing to serve as a convenor of global and regional centres of expertise working on CT/PCVE. UNCCT also continued to engage with civil society to ensure that its valuable insights and expertise, including local knowledge, inform the Centre's programming initiatives and actions. During the second United Nations Counter-Terrorism (CT) Week in June 2021, UNCCT organized a series of side events with civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen existing relations and foster new networks. The Centre organized the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 20 August and a special commemorative event on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, garnering over 300 delegates at both events to focus on the rights and needs of victims. In 2021, UNCCT, in coordination with 15 UN entities and acting as Co-chair along with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), launched a Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq third Country National Returnees. UNCCT's strong leadership and engagement in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact ("Counter-Terrorism Compact") working groups, as Chair and Co-chair, has contributed significantly to international cooperation in CT/PCVE. UNCCT has also continued to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a modality for the delivery of its global thematic programmes.

At the global level, UNCCT disseminated global good practices in border security management (BSM) to enhance intra- and inter-agency and cross-border cooperation; promoted the UN compendium of use and sharing of biometrics; and supported the development of BSM strategies in counter-terrorism. UNCCT pioneered innovative knowledge products which were made available to Member States, covering artificial

intelligence, use of the internet for counter-terrorism investigations, trends in terrorist use of the internet, and development of national cybersecurity strategies.

In 2021, UNCCT continued to demonstrate the strength and effectiveness of its coordination function, particularly at the regional level, by actively engaging with partners on the development and implementation of counter-terrorism strategies. A 10-year review of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) regional strategy for the implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia was concluded, which provided the basis for the development of an updated JPoA for endorsement by Central Asian States. UNCCT also provided technical support to Arab Members States, in cooperation with the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC), to develop a new Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy. In the effort to counter terrorist financing, UNCCT worked closely with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) to adapt technical assistance support to Member States to develop and implement Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regional operational plans.

At the national level, UNCCT has increased Member States' knowledge and skills in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) strategic communications, empowered young leaders to make PCVE policy recommendations, promote interreligious dialogues, and counter hate speech. The Centre worked with Member States and regional organizations in the design and implementation of regional and national PCVE action plans. UNCCT supported the development of Tajikistan's 'Strategy and Action Plan on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2021–2025', which was approved in June 2021. To counter Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (WMD/CBRN) terrorism, UNCCT provided targeted support to Member States, such as Iraq and Jordan, to enhance their capacities to prepare national response plans. The Centre also developed risk and needs assessment tools under the violent extremist prisoner (VEP) programme, coupled with dedicated training to prison staff, that were piloted in prisons throughout Kazakhstan.

Notably, 2021 marked the end of a major milestone for UNCCT as it prepared itself to embark on the next phase of strategic priorities under a new UNOCT vision. During the reporting year, UNOCT developed its Strategic Plan and Programme Framework (SPPF) for 2022-2025, which provides strategic direction for the Office and its programme of work over the next four years. A key institutional priority is to enhance an internal 'results culture' by having robust governance mechanisms to ensure programmes and projects are monitored and evaluated systematically based on an organization-wide results framework, a recommendation made by the 2020 KPMG external evaluation of UNCCT. UNCCT's work will be guided by a number of UNOCT strategies and policies launched in 2021, including in gender mainstreaming, evaluation, and resource mobilization, which are expected to enhance its programme quality, achieve flexible, diversified, and sustainable funding, and ensure accountability and transparency.



UN Photo/Manuel Elías: UN Headquarters, New York

# I. UNCCT – Global Centre of Excellence

### Six Years in Review

Since its establishment in September 2011, UNCCT has achieved impactful results in supporting Member States to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

UNCCT's establishment, made possible by the generous contribution of a total of \$110 million by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, helped place the United Nations firmly at the forefront of the global response to the transnational threat of terrorism. UNCCT supports Member States, international and regional organizations, CSOs, and other global, regional, and national counter-terrorism actors in the implementation of the GCTS and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The Centre works within the broad political mandate of the UNOCT and benefits from enhanced access to the Office's diplomatic, substantive and operational support. The Centre also benefits from strategic guidance provided by the UNCCT Advisory Board consisting of 21 Members appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General.

#### **INFOGRAPHICS 1**

#### **UNCCT 6-Years at a glance**



2016

5th review of the GCTS

Launch of UNCCT 5-Year Programme 2016-2020

12th and 13th UNCCT Advisory Board meetings

2017

Transfer of UNCCT to UNOCT

UNOCT Under-Secretary-General appointed as UNCCT Executive Director

14th and 15th UNCCT Advisory Board meetings

Establishment of Programme Review Board ensuring UNCCT programmes/ project strategic alignment



2018

OIOS audit of UNCCT informing systemwide change management

6th review of the GCTS

Output on countering WMD/CBRN terrorism added to 5-year Programme

16th UNCCT High-Level Advisory Board meeting with participation of the UN Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia

17th UNCCT Advisory Board meeting

First UN High-Level Conference on CT noting Saudi Arabia's contribution to the UN TF for CT



# 2019

Launch of the first UN Multi-Year Appeal for CT (2019-2020)

Establishment of a new Programme Management Unit

Launch of new UNCCT webpage to enhance visibility

18th UNCCT Advisory Board meeting



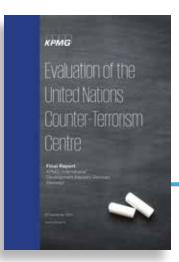
# 2020

Adaptation to online capacity building in response to COVID-19 pandemic

19th-21st UNCCT Advisory Board meetings

KPMG Evaluation noting the benefits of UNCCT transfer to UNOCT

First (virtual) CT Week, with online UNCCT Expo



2021

7th review of the GCTS

Extension of UNCCT 5-year Programme until July 2021

22nd UNCCT Advisory Board meeting

Second UN High-Level Conference on CT

Integration of UNCCT and SPIB leadership

Development of UNOCT SPPF for 2022-2025 including five UNCCT Criteria of Excellence



UNCCT's 5-Year Programme (2016–2020) was implemented to respond to the growing demand for strategic, targeted, human rights compliant, and gender-sensitive capacity-building in support of Member States' efforts in the implementation of the GCTS. The Programme was extended to July 2021, in consultation with the UNCCT Advisory Board, to align the development of the new SPPF for 2022–2025 with the outcomes of the seventh review of the GCTS concluded in June 2021. Through the implementation of the 5-Year Programme, UNCCT has consolidated its efforts towards becoming a leading global Centre of Excellence by Member States. This has been seen by:

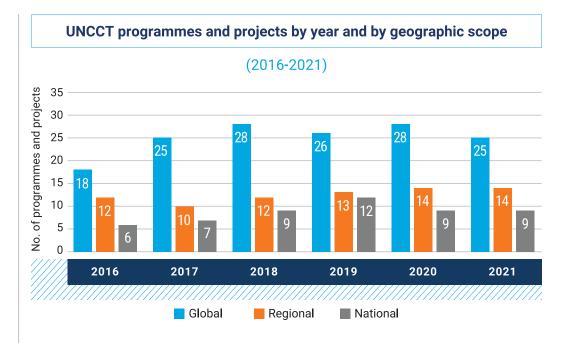
## 1. Recognition and endorsement of UNCCT's mandate and strategic role by the General Assembly

At the seventh review of the GCTS in June 2021, there was a heightened acknowledgment of the Centre's role in multilateral counter-terrorism efforts. The review resolution recognized the important work carried out by UNCCT and its Advisory Board and the Centre's efforts towards becoming a centre of excellence in building the capacity of Member States to counter and respond to terrorism. It further "encourage[d] Member States to collaborate with UNCCT and to contribute to the implementation of its activities, including through the development, funding and implementation of capacity-building projects in order to mobilize a stronger and more systematic response to terrorism at the national, regional and global levels." As noted in the 2020 KPMG evaluation of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme, the establishment of UNOCT in 2017 enhanced the Centre's access to political and diplomatic support as well as resources to develop critical policy and systems and procedures, while maintaining the Centre's unique identity and strategic high-profile role. The evaluation further indicated that UNCCT has benefited from its transfer to UNOCT, enabling its "deeper integration into the United Nations' counter-terrorism architecture" (KPMG Evaluation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, 2020, p.7).

# 2. Consolidation and expansion of capacity building and technical assistance support to Member States in the fight against terrorism

During the span of the extended 5-Year Programme, UNCCT steadily evolved, both in its strategic orientation and technical capacity. The Centre's programme portfolio grew from 36 active projects in 2016 to 48 programmes and projects in 2021. Over the course of the six years from 2016 to 2021, UNCCT implemented around 85 programmes and projects.

As recommended by the UNCCT Advisory Board and Member States, UNCCT has consolidated its individual projects into ten global thematic programmes in 2021. Typically, each global programme consists of a portfolio of projects sharing a common theme and operating at global, regional, and national levels. The programmes have served as key engines for the Centre's CT/PCVE capacity-building efforts, ensuring added coherence and synergies across technical fields, and have received high interest and requests for assistance from Member States. They include: BSM; Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN; Support to Victims of Terrorism; CFT; Cybersecurity and New technologies;



Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR); and PCVE. Additionally, a joint UNCCT-Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS) has been established. With respect to gender and human rights, a dedicated Global Human Rights Programme was approved in 2021, as well as the concept note for a Global Gender Programme. These have been developed to strengthen internal capacities for gender and human rights mainstreaming to ensure that the Centre's responses are human rights compliant and gender responsive.

From a regional perspective, UNCCT has delivered significant results in supporting Member States to develop and implement regional counter-terrorism strategies based on the GCTS. These include: assisting the AIMC and its Member States in the formulation of the new Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy; supporting Central Asian countries in drafting and implementing a regional Joint Plan of Action (JPoA), in support of the implementation of GCTS in Central Asia; engaging in a joint European Union (EU) – UN initiative against Violent Extremism in Central Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia (STRIVE Asia); and providing expert support to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the development of its counter-terrorism strategy. This work built on earlier UNCCT support for the development of strategies with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), as well as with countries in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). UNCCT's fruitful engagement with the AIMC serves as a model for working with a sub-regional organization, which UNCCT will seek to replicate and adapt for support in other regions.

At the national level, UNCCT has scaled up its assistance to Member States in their implementation of the GCTS. The Centre has worked to bring global best practices in CT/PCVE to local contexts by tailoring its responses to the needs of requesting countries. This has been effectively carried out by promoting and implementing the principle of co-design with beneficiaries, as demonstrated by UNCCT's PCVE programme. In Burkina Faso, UNCCT has adapted its activities to meet the specific capacity-building needs in the local

context, taking into consideration Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) assessments. In Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, UNCCT has provided substantive support in the development of new CT/PCVE strategies and action plans, which are now being implemented. The Centre has also disseminated global good practices in BSM and worked closely with Member States in enhancing intra-agency and inter-agency cooperation nationally.

Between 2018 and 2021, the number of Member States provided with technical assistance and capacity-building support increased from 61 to 156, marking a 156 per cent increase.

## 3. Strengthened operational delivery through expanded field presence and outreach

In response to increased demands from Member States, UNCCT has been reorienting targeted operations away from its New York headquarters to ensure closer proximity of expertise and programming support to beneficiary countries and other counter-terrorism actors. In 2021, the Centre further expanded its outreach by leveraging UNOCT field presence in 13 countries, with personnel deployed to Ashgabat, Tashkent, Baghdad, Bangkok, Brussels, Budapest, Doha, Madrid, Manila, Jakarta, Nairobi, Ouagadougou, and Rabat. By being on the ground, UNCCT can better understand the specific terrorism challenges in the region and deliver more impactful tailored solutions. As many donor countries maintain diplomatic presence in these cities, UNCCT is also able to ensure regular interactions and cooperation on funding opportunities that make the Centre's programmes more sustainable.

#### **INFOGRAPHICS 2**

#### **UNOCT Field Presence in 2021**



At the time of this report being issued, the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi, Kenya has also been established. Located on the premises of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), where over 30 UN Agencies are operating, the programme office is expected to contribute immensely to collaborative UN inter-agency CT/PCVE work in the African continent. UNOCT's



offices in Nairobi and Rabat, the latter focused on specialized counter-terrorism training, together with the possible establishment of a programme office in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2022 will further strengthen the Centre's capacities to deliver technical and capacity-building assistance in the Middle East, Africa and beyond.

#### 4. Innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic

UNCCT responded to the unprecedented and broad-scale impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by transforming its business model to ensure it is continuously 'fit-for-purpose'. The pandemic has shown the vulnerability of societies to the ever-increasing reliability on the Internet and other information and communication technologies. UNCCT has responded to some of these threats, for instance, through the development of a COVID-19 Crisis Communications Toolkit that addresses and responds to hate speech



Photo/UNCCT: UNCCT Director Mr. Jehangir Khan attending the Nairobi programme office launch event, March 2022

and misinformation. Cybersecurity and new technologies are the next frontier in the fight against terrorism and UNCCT aims to better prepare Member States in responding to this constantly evolving threat.



The Centre adapted effectively to the pandemic environment by adopting online and hybrid training modalities which allowed the delivery of a greater number of capacity-building activities. As such, the number of capacity-building activities increased from 146 in 2019 to 318 in 2021, a 118 per cent increase despite the pandemic. The total number of participants in UNCCT's activities almost doubled, from 5,011 in 2019 to 9,282 (6,059 males, 3,116 females, 18 gender not listed and 89 do not want to say) in 2021. In addition, UNCCT contributed substantially to the development of the UNOCT Connect & Learn platform, launched in 2021. This digital platform provides an innovative online tool with foundational and specialized eLearning activities for groups of experts to collaborate and share knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned on various CT/PCVE topics. The platform's online access has contributed to expanding UNCCT's programmatic outreach including in the field.

#### 5. Enhanced visibility and communications

UNCCT has strengthened its corporate value, brand, and visibility by implementing its Communications and Visibility Strategy and by actively promoting its events, programmes, projects, and results through dedicated communications activities and innovative multimedia products which also provide due recognition to donors. As a result, the UNCCT branding is recognized and used on a systematic basis to reflect its corporate identity towards a Global Centre of Excellence and to provide visibility to donors and partners.

## 6. Amplified human rights compliance and gender responsiveness

UNCCT has undertaken critical steps to mainstream human rights and gender across all its programming. The Centre has benefited from dedicated human rights and gender capacities as well as internal mechanisms, such as the use of gender markers, to ensure its programmes are human rights compliant and gender responsive. The development of the Global Human Rights Programme, the Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, and the concept note for the Global Gender Programme in 2021 are major milestones

#### UNCCT BRANDING & COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS



towards this important undertaking. Further efforts made in this regard include a publication entitled "Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer's Guide", launched by UNOCT/UNCCT jointly with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This capacity-building tool was developed to support Member State authorities, particularly border officials, in adopting a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to border governance. Furthermore, UNOCT/UNCCT, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and CTED, engaged close to 120 diverse stakeholders from government security and law enforcement agencies, civil society representatives, and UN actors to develop recommendations on gender sensitive screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (SPRR) approaches for Boko Haram-Associated Persons, which will be made available to Member States following a consultation process with relevant UN entities.

#### 7. Sustainable, flexible, and diversified funding

By the end of 2021, UNCCT had received generous contributions amounting to \$159.8 million from 32 donors. This accounted for 56 per cent of the total resources of \$286.8 million mobilized by UNOCT for the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism from 35 donors. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remained the largest donor to UNCCT, with a

total contribution of \$110 million or 69 per cent of the total contributions allocated to UNCCT, while the remaining 31 donors contributed \$49.8 million or 31 per cent. UNCCT has been efficiently utilizing funds towards capacity-building of Member States, and the contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is expected to be exhausted by the end of 2022. Looking forward, UNCCT's funding approach will be guided by the UNOCT Resource Mobilization Strategy launched in December 2021 to secure sustainable, diversified, flexible and predictable funding. UNCCT relies on the support of current donors to sustain and/or increase financial contributions to deliver the Centre's programme of work within the scope of the UNOCT SPPF for 2022–2025.

### **Newly Established Criteria Of Excellence**

Following the expansion and consolidation of programmes to support Member States' efforts in the implementation of the GCTS and other relevant UN counter-terrorism mandates, UNCCT is currently focused on enhancing coherence, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact of its technical and capacity-building assistance. This entails continued consolidation of the Centre's programmes, strengthening and expanding its thematic expertise, and building a strong 'results culture' to institutionalize results-based management approaches across programme oversight and performance management. The Centre has contributed significantly to the development of the new UNOCT SPPF, which will guide its results-based programming, monitoring, and reporting over the next four years.

In an effort to solidify its status as a global centre of excellence, UNCCT has developed five criteria of excellence in its Programme Framework under the new SPPF (see Table 1) to guide and inform the Centre's work and operations as it embarks on its new strategic programming cycle. To remain relevant, effective, and efficient, UNCCT will actively and continuously seek feedback from Member States and relevant stakeholders on its performance against these criteria.

#### TABLE 1

#### **UNCCT's Criteria of Excellence**

Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	Criterion 5
Providing specialized expertise and technical assistance across the spectrum of PCVE and CT substantive areas covering the lifecycle of terrorism.	Fostering meaningful collaborations through convening and leveraging capacities.	Supporting relevant, coherent, integrated, human rights compliant and gender responsive responses through a systems-approach to capacity-building.	Advancing knowledge in CT and PCVE.	Enabling complementary peer learning.



Photo/UNCCT: 16th Advisory Board Meeting of UNCCT held in Riyadh

# II. Governance, Oversight, and Management

The governance structure of UNOCT consists of: (i) the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism as Head of Office, concurrently serving as the Executive Director of the UNCCT and as the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of the Counter-Terrorism Compact; (ii) the Senior Management Team, consisting of the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, Director of UNCCT, other Director-level Chiefs of UNOCT Branches<sup>1</sup>, and Chiefs of Sections; and (iii) the UNOCT Programme Review Board. The Executive Director of UNCCT is supported by the UNCCT Advisory Board, consisting of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chair and 20 other Member States as members, and the EU as guest member, which provides guidance to the Executive Director on the Centre's annual programmes and budgets, while the Executive Director is responsible for managing all operations of the Centre.

UNOCT Branches or organizational units consist of: Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG); United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT); Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB); Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB); Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS); and Strategic Planning and Programme Support Section (SPPSS).

Since the establishment of UNOCT through General Assembly resolution 71/291 in June 2017, transferring UNCCT into the newly created Office, the Office has taken steps to ensure coordination and complementarity between UNCCT and SPIB, its two capacity-building arms, such as through the implementation of joint projects and collaboration on events and outreach to Member States. UNOCT has continuously developed and streamlined its internal structures, processes, and controls, to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of its mandated functions of policy leadership, coordination, capacity-building, advocacy, visibility, and resource mobilization. This work has entailed updates on strategies, policies, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to address the emerging programme and operational needs of the Office and to strengthen Results Based Management (RBM) approaches.

Notably, in 2021, UNCCT contributed substantially to the development of the UNOCT SPPF for 2022-2025, which provides strategic direction and the programme of work for the Office over the next four years. The Strategic Plan presents the vision and mission of the Office realized through five strategic goals, sets out the key pathways to operationalizing the mission, and establishes key institutional priorities including building a 'results culture', delivering 'fit for purpose', field-based implementation, stronger coordination and coherence, human rights and gender responsiveness, and ensuring sustainable and diversified funding. The Programme Framework under the SPPF, as communicated to the UNCCT Advisory Board, reflects the Office's approach to capacity-building to support Member States in the implementation of the GCTS and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, building on the results and good practices achieved by UNCCT's 5-Year Programme (2016-2020), and serves as the next iteration of UNCCT's programme of work. To operationalize the SPPF, the Office also developed a results framework, guided by a theory of change and setting indicators of performance, as a planning and monitoring tool to measure and report on the delivery of its mandated functions. The results framework will enable UNCCT to monitor and assess the outcomes and impact of its technical and capacity-building assistance, provide the basis for resultsbased performance reporting, and support efforts aimed at greater accountability and transparency.

During the reporting year, the first Resource Mobilization Strategy was developed and launched to secure sustainable, diversified, flexible and predictable funding and ensure the Office has a solid financial footing to deliver on the commitments outlined in the SPPF. At the same time, the Office developed new policies on the Programme Review Board (PRB) mechanism, evaluation, and gender mainstreaming (see below), as part of the broader institutional efforts to streamline and strengthen internal processes and results-based programme management. Furthermore, UNOCT issued two new SOPs on the organization, roles, and functions of the Office of the Under-Secretary General (OUSG), and management of resource mobilization and donor relations, as follow up to recommendations from external evaluations and internal assessments, and to align work processes with new Secretariat directives.

### **UNCCT Advisory Board**

On 3 April 2021, the Secretary-General extended the membership of the UNCCT Advisory Board and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's chairmanship for another three-year term.

The Advisory Board, chaired by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is composed of 21 members, as follows:

#### TABLE 2

#### **UNCCT Advisory Board Members**

1. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Chair)	8. France	15. Pakistan
2. Algeria	9. Germany	16. Russian Federation
3. Argentina	10. India	17. Spain
4. Belgium	11. Indonesia	18. Turkey
5. Brazil	12. Morocco	19. United Kingdom
6. China	13. Nigeria	20. United States of America
7. Egypt	14. Norway	21. European Union (guest)

The Advisory Board convenes at the Ambassadorial level and holds technical (expert) level meetings as needed. The 22nd Advisory Board meeting at the Ambassadorial level was held in May 2021 under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Y. al-Mouallimi, during which UNCCT briefed Board members on programme achievements in 2020 and the SPPF (2022-2025), and delivered a presentation on UNOCT's field presence. The Advisory Board commended UNCCT on the results achieved in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, including the record number of participants from 175 countries engaged through its capacity-building work. The Board stressed UNCCT's key role in the implementation of the GCTS in a



balanced manner; welcomed the Centre's dynamic response to adapt the SPPF to emerging terrorist threats; and encouraged UNCCT's further profiling as a centre of excellence. The Board also expressed appreciation for the Centre's programme expansion to bring expertise closer to beneficiaries through UNOCT field presence outside of New York, including in Africa, and advised on a more in-depth analysis on the criteria for locations and cost-savings that could be achieved. Ensuring predictable funding and sufficient regular budget to UNCCT towards the implementation of the GCTS was a key theme underlined by the Board.

A number of Advisory Board members emphasized the importance of the protection of human rights in countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism, and encouraged UNCCT to continue expanding on human rights as a cross-cutting priority area in its programming.

As a follow up to the Ambassadorial level meeting, the Advisory Board convened an expert level meeting in September 2021. This meeting focused on UNOCT programme offices and other field presences outside of New York. The members of the Advisory Board noted the value of bringing UNOCT/UNCCT programming closer to beneficiaries and underlined the advantages of a field-based approach in the design and delivery of impactful and cost-effective capacity-building programmes tailored to beneficiaries' needs and local and regional contexts.

### **Programme Review Board (PRB)**

The PRB is the primary internal control and governance mechanism within UNOCT, with the UNCCT Director and Deputy Director serving as members. The purpose of the PRB is to exercise senior strategic guidance and oversight over programmatic activities to ensure the effective and efficient release and management of extrabudgetary funding provided to UNOCT in fulfilment of its mandate. The PRB reviews programme and project documentation to ensure alignment with UNOCT's strategic priorities; provides direction and guidance on programme relevance and performance; monitors implementation to ensure programmes achieve intended results; and updates and advises the Under-Secretary-General on pertinent actions. In exercising its functions, the PRB is guided by the principles of strategic alignment, needs and results focus, comparative advantage, gender and human rights mainstreaming, and resource stewardship. All UNCCT programmes and projects are subject to PRB reviews and recommendations to initiate implementation, continue delivery in cases where there are planned changes to approved tolerances, and to formally close the programme or project.

During 2021, the PRB held a total of thirteen meetings in which it considered 82 agenda items concerning new project and programme proposals, modifications or extensions to existing projects, presentations on the progress of existing projects and programmes, and requests for seed funding. The PRB issued 82 recommendations in 2021 pertaining to overall UNOCT programmes and activities, of which 62 pertained or related to UNCCT programmes or activities. During 2021, the PRB recommended approval of overall UNOCT activities with a total value of \$34.3 million, a figure which includes the budgets of multi-year projects and programmes extending beyond 2021-2022. Of this amount, the amount relating to UNCCT programmes or activities totalled \$18.3 million.

### **Evaluation Policy**

In line with its commitment to ensuring and strengthening accountability and transparency of its work, UNOCT launched its first Evaluation Policy in March 2021. The Policy provides the overall framework for planning and conducting evaluations, to increase coherence and efficiency in generating and using evaluative knowledge for organizational learning and effective RBM. The policy was produced following an extensive consultative process within UNOCT and defines the roles and responsibilities of staff involved in the evaluation process.

Following the launch of the Evaluation Policy, the Organizational Evaluation Plan for 2021-2022 was approved by the Under-Secretary-General. This comprised project evaluations to be conducted during the specified period, namely, the final evaluation of the project "Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law" and process and outcome evaluation of the programme "Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism". The evaluation exercises were underway at the time of reporting and the evaluation results will be provided in the 2022 UNCCT annual report.

### **Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan**

UNOCT launched its Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan in December 2021, following a long organization-wide effort led by the UNOCT Gender Adviser, based in UNCCT. These documents represent a key milestone and set the framework and direction for UNOCT to fulfill its mandate related to gender, as set out by the GCTS. The Policy consolidates the values, roles, responsibilities, and action points to enhance gender mainstreaming in programmatic and policy performance areas; strengthen UNOCT's institutional capacity to deliver results on gender equality within the realms of CT/PCVE; increase resource mobilization efforts for gender mainstreaming; develop partnerships for gender equality; and promote knowledge and visibility on gender equality in CT/PCVE to donors, Member States, international and regional organizations, UN entities, CSOs, and other institutional partners.

### **Programme Management**

In 2021, the UNCCT Programme Management Unit (PMU)<sup>2</sup> continued to provide integrated programme management support to programmes and projects implemented by UNCCT and SPIB. The overall aim of PMU is to support the Office in developing its 'results-culture' by moving from an overreliance of output and activity-based reporting towards outcome-based performance results.

During the reporting period, PMU's support to UNOCT's RBM system encompassed the following three levels.

<sup>2</sup> PMU is composed of both UNCCT and SPIB staff allowing an integrated operational team capable of catering to the programmatic and financial support needs of the Office.

#### Strategic level

PMU supported the development of UNOCT's SPPF and results framework, including UNCCT's Programme Framework, for 2022-2025. The Programme Framework will anchor the continuing attention paid by the Centre to ensure accountability and transparency by reinforcing its monitoring and evaluation efforts and enshrining a results-based culture to maximize performance. The Programme Framework is supported by a common Results Framework with UNOCT's programme of work, developed in close consultation with the United Nations University. Moving forward, PMU will be tracking the Centre's performance on its capacity-building work as articulated in the Results Framework.

#### Governance level

PMU contributed inputs to the development of the PRB Policy and the SOP on management of resource mobilization and donor relations. It will also support the development of a consolidated SOP on programme management in 2022 and related guidelines for its operationalization.

With the aim of creating greater internal coherence in programming, PMU developed working definitions of programmes and projects and revised the categorization of existing programmes and projects.

In line with the Secretary-General's management reform and data strategy initiatives to strengthen UN's programme delivery, PMU supported the Centre's transition to UMOJA's Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution as a programme management tool. Further supporting the Centre's integrated and harmonized information and knowledge management system internally and with the Counter-Terrorism Compact, PMU contributed to the design of the Project Matrix of the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group of the Global Compact.

#### Operational level

During the reporting period, PMU monitored programmatic performance and financial management of UNCCT and SPIB projects and programmes, and provided quality assurance, performance review and reporting to ensure that projects continue to be implemented efficiently and effectively in line with donor requirements.

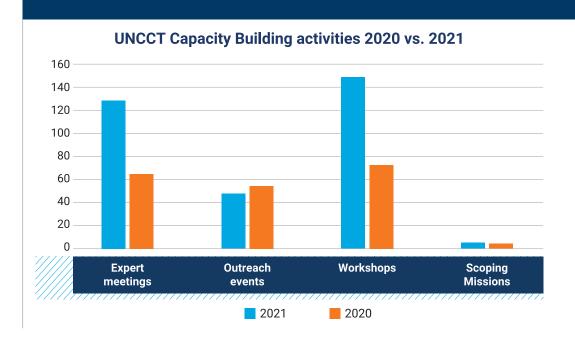
PMU continued to support programme managers across the lifecycle of project implementation providing guidance on programme/project design, implementation, monitoring, financial tracking, donor reporting, and closure. This support included consolidating and reviewing annual budget cost plans and their midpoint review, and providing guidance on the formulation of budgets and identification of financial inconsistencies.

Moving forward, PMU will continue its support to programme managers within UNCCT as primary clients towards the strengthening of the Office's RBM system allowing the Centre to deliver on its new institutional priority towards a greater 'results-culture'.



Photo/UNCCT: UNOCT-UNCCT and the Government of Iraq Joint National Workshop on "Countering the Financing of Terrorism: Terrorist Financing National Risk Assessment", Cairo, Egypt, 5-7 December 2021

# III. Programme Achievements



#### **INFOGRAPHIC 3**

#### 2021 UNCCT Facts and Figures



156 Member States

supported



Capacity building activities delivered



9,282
People trained in capacity building activities



Programmes and projects implemented



Regional CT/PCVE strategies and national action plans assisted



Technical
materials on best
practices and
thematic topics
disseminated



Implementing partners in delivering capacity development



Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups chaired or co-chaired

#### **GCTS PILLAR I**

# Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism

#### **UNCCT Results Framework Outcome 1: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism**

Pillar I of the GCTS "Address[es] the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism". It calls upon all Member States and the UN system "to pursue and reinforce development and social inclusion agendas at every level as goals in themselves, recognizing that success in this area [...] could reduce marginalization and the subsequent sense of victimization that propels extremism and the recruitment of terrorists."

UNCCT's 5-Year Programme results framework Outcome 1: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in relation to the GCTS Pillar I consists of two outputs: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF).

The Programme contributes significantly to Member State implementation of a number of Security Council resolutions, including by responding to its resolution 2178 (2014) that makes explicit the link between violent extremism and terrorism and recognizes the need for prevention: "violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism", requires collective efforts, "including preventing radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups and becoming foreign terrorist fighters". Programming under Pillar I is directly aligned with the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and supports the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security and 2354 (2017) on a comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives, as well as reviews of the GCTS by the General Assembly (A/RES/70/291 and A/RES/72/284).

#### Output 1.1

#### **Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism:**

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

In 2021, UNCCT consolidated its PCVE work into a new Global PCVE Programme. The Programme aims to enhance individual, community, and national resilience to violent extremism, and to reduce the threat of terrorism. It covers six portfolio areas – strategic communications, youth, policy assistance, education, mental health, and new frontiers – reinforced by three cross-cutting areas covering coordination and partnerships, and human rights based and gender sensitive programming.



UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme has enhanced the coherence of PCVE efforts and allowed for increased synergies across the different portfolio areas. UNCCT has been able to establish a technical niche in PCVE that is well-recognized globally among Member States and CSOs. UNCCT's commitment to the principles of co-design has proven to be highly effective in ensuring that this Programme remains relevant and adaptable to Member

States' needs. Notably, UNCCT has been able to garner the best global PCVE knowledge and practices to transform them into locally tailored approaches for delivery in the field.

During 2021, the most substantive results have been achieved under the youth, strategic communications, and policy assistance areas. Progress has also been made on the development of the new frontiers portfolio.

#### **Key result 1**

Young people empowered to engage in policy dialogues and media campaigns to prevent and counter violent extremism



Photo/UNCCT

The Global PCVE Programme's youth portfolio aims to empower young people to contribute to PCVE efforts within their local communities. Its landmark initiative has been the Youth Engagement **Empowerment** and Programme (YEEP), which concluded its pilot phase in 2021, following successful delivery in Australia, Sudan, and Sweden. The YEEP programme's peer-to-peer (P2P) model promotes effective youth engagement by enabling youth to rise as leaders in their own communities, to take ownership of their own initiatives, and to become the programme's primary implementing partners.

Across the three pilot countries, youth specialists from the Global PCVE Programme trained and coached 35



young leaders throughout the year, who then delivered 19 workshops on the topic of PCVE to 263 of their peers. In total, 298 young people between the ages of 14 and 30 were reached, of which 58 per cent (173) were female and 42 per cent (125) were male.

In February and September 2021, UNCCT supported the organization of policy dialogues to empower young leaders in the three pilot countries to engage with government officials in PCVE policy making at the national level. These dialogues were effective in building trust and led to concrete recommendations on:

- 1. Support to front-line and youth workers through training in violent extremism prevention.
- Better funded and co-designed psychosocial support for vulnerable youth to violent extremism.
- Increasing places of worship in public spaces to promote opportunities for interfaith
  and cross-cultural awareness. With the successful conclusion of the YEEP Pilot,
  UNCCT has planned an expanded YEEP, to be delivered on a regional basis.

Under the project "Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia" (STRIVE Asia): A Joint EU-UN Partnership", UNCCT organized a regional youth engagement event in partnership with the JPoA and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in October 2021. The event was attended by 34 youth leaders and 5 experts from Central Asia (22 female and 17 male), which featured discussions on sustainable youth engagement and challenges and opportunities for youth and women in relation to the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism in Central Asia. This event, premised on respecting the twin principles of "Do no harm" and "Do maximum good" led to a set of PCVE recommendations elaborated by young leaders for the implementation of the NAPs. These recommendations will be further honed during a planned follow-up event in 2022 with the engagement of the Youth Ministries and/or Committees of respective Central Asian States to result in a roadmap on Central Asian Youth's engagement in NAPs implementation.





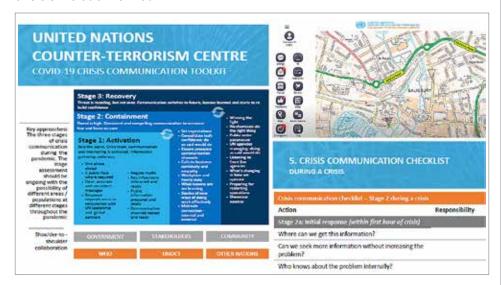
#### **Key result 2**

Member States' capacities to counter hate speech conducive to violent extremism and to counter terrorist narratives enhanced through tailored strategic communication training

The Global PCVE Programme's strategic communication portfolio aims to increase beneficiaries' knowledge and skills in PCVE strategic communication so that they can better counter violent extremist narratives and combat terrorist use of hate speech.

#### Innovative and interactive PCVE strategic communication products

In 2021, UNCCT developed and launched a suite of PCVE strategic communication products, including an introductory self-paced course, to assist beneficiaries to effectively manage communications during a crisis to build community resilience. UNCCT piloted an innovative digital crisis communications platform and Toolkit in a virtual workshop with the Philippines Government in December 2021, which tested the knowledge and skills of participants through an easy-to-use and interactive crisis simulation format.



To add to its core curriculum, UNCCT designed a new training module on using communications to counter hate speech conducive to violent extremism, misinformation, and fake news. The Centre also completed the drafting of a 'Reintegration Communications' Handbook, to support communities and governments to reintegrate returned foreign terrorist fighters and their families through communications.

The newly developed products complement the Global PCVE Programme's strategic communications portfolio, which aims to strengthen the capacity of Member States, civil society, UN entities, and regional organizations to use strategic communications to prevent the appeal of terrorism.

In 2021, the portfolio delivered tailored strategic communication trainings to government representatives, civil society representatives, and journalists, including the following core modules: (i) Situation and environment analysis; (ii) target audience analysis; (iii) stakeholder identification and mapping; (iv) setting the right strategic communication objectives; (v) building and utilizing a coherent narrative; (vi) measurement and evaluation; (vii) proactive communications (including campaigns and interventions); and (viii) reactive communications (including issues management and crisis communication). These have been carried out in numerous Member States, including Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, and Sudan, in partnership with other UN entities – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) – and local CSOs.



Photo/UNCCT

In addition, UNCCT provided strategic campaign development support to the Sawab Center, the joint United States (US)/United Arab Emirates (UAE) Digital Communications Hub to Counter Extremist Propaganda, in December 2021. UNCCT has also partnered with the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies (KFCRIS), based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to exchange knowledge and best practice in PCVE Strategic Communication. A joint webinar featuring UNCCT's Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Network (EDIN) was delivered in December 2021. Following its success, UNCCT and KFCRIS have proposed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in 2022.

#### **Empowering Dialogues and Interfaith Networks (EDIN) Project**

Throughout 2021, UNCCT in partnership with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) delivered a successful pilot of the EDIN Project, reaching 20 young religious leaders and media makers from 12 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe.

As a result of their participation in the Project, 82 per cent of participant survey respondents reported an increase in their understanding of inter-religious dialogue, with many participants reflecting positively on the opportunity to meet other practitioners. Following the pilot, young people have been able to counter divisive narratives in their local communities - as one participant reflected, "in the past year, I've been putting some of what I've learned about peaceful communication into practice writing articles about interfaith topics in [my country]. Thanks to the training I received, I was able to present issues in a way that was really promoting peace."

EDIN aims to provide young religious leaders, representatives of faith-based organizations and young media makers with a peer-to peer learning space and build their capacity to counter terrorist narratives online, using efficient communication tools and strategies to reach their communities.



#### **Key result 3**

Member States and regional organizations supported to develop best-practice policies, strategies, and action plans to prevent and counter violent extremism

The Global PCVE Programme's policy assistance portfolio aims to support Member States and regional organizations with technical assistance in the design and implementation of PCVE regional and national action plans.

UNCCT provided technical assistance to the drafting of the AIMC Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which focuses on addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. UNCCT's inputs ensured that the preventive dimension of the Strategy aligned with international best practice (see Output 2.1).

In Sudan, UNCCT collaborated with UNDP and the Sudan National Commission for Counter-Terrorism (SNCCT) to develop a joint timetable of deliverables as part of a work agreement for the drafting of a Sudan PCVE NAP<sup>3</sup>. UNCCT supported the preparation of the work agreement, which outlined the NAP process and clarified expectations among key partners.

Under the project "Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia" (STRIVE Asia): A Joint EU-UN Partnership", UNCCT delivered PCVE NAP capacity building to parliamentarians in Central Asia. This was carried out in partnership with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, UNOCT's Parliamentary Engagement Office in Doha and UNRCCA. UNCCT raised awareness of international standards and good practices in the development and implementation of PCVE NAPs. Specifically, in Tajikistan, UNOCT/UNCCT provided and consolidated UN's technical inputs to Tajikistan's Strategy and Action Plan on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2021-2025, which was approved in June 2021. Most of UN's technical inputs were integrated into the Strategy and Action Plan.

UNCCT also worked on developing a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Guide for PCVE regional and national action plans. The Guide will support Member States and regional organizations to monitor their NAPs and evaluate the impact of their PCVE work and encourages the exchange of learning with the wider PCVE field to improve the evidence base underpinning policy and programme development. The Guide will be converted into training modules and will be available in print and online in 2022.

In addition, UNCCT completed a ground-breaking analysis of the role of migration and violent extremism in Southeast Asia, including the role of gender responsive PCVE initiatives. This study, which is currently in the peer review phase, has contributed to advancing the evidence base on PCVE in Southeast Asia and its findings will be used in 2022 to shape the delivery of a series of high-profile policy-based workshops in the region whose outcomes will support the objectives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) PCVE Regional Plan of Action.

#### **Key result 4**

Generated discussion on the nexus between violent extremism and two new frontiers, video games and climate security

The Global PCVE Programme's New Frontiers portfolio aims to explore and generate dialogue around emerging areas of PCVE research and practice. Throughout 2021, UNCCT

<sup>3</sup> The Sudan PCVE NAP, which was expected to be finalized in 2022, has been put on hold following a military coup in the country and the suspension of UNCCT operations.

has led a number of initiatives to generate discussion on the nexus between violent extremism and two new frontiers: video games and climate security. These include:

- Ongoing research with leading academics at Queen's University Ontario,
   Canada and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany into the potential intersection between violent extremism and video games.
- Completion of an Expert Roundtable event on Video Games and Violent Extremism
  in December which promoted discussion of the challenges and opportunities in
  further exploring the nexus between violent extremism and video games.
- UNCCT partnered with the Global Center for Combatting Extremist Ideology (Etidal), based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to conduct research on extremist activity on gaming-adjacent social media platforms to inform overall findings and development of recommendations for the video games project.
- Preparation of a Discussion Paper in December 2021 on the nexus between violent extremism and climate security, shared with the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact's Working Group on PCVE.

## Output 1.2

#### **Foreign Terrorist Fighters:**

Via UNCCT support, requesting Member States have an increased ability to understand and address the FTF Phenomenon

Throughout 2021, UNCCT supported requesting Member States in addressing the threat posed by the return of FTFs and their accompanying family members from conflict zones to their countries of origin, in line with the requirements set out by Security Council resolutions 2322 (2016) and 2396 (2017). General Assembly resolution 75/291 on the seventh review of the GCTS further "calls upon all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters".



UN Photo/Stuart Price

In 2021, UNCCT continued to support Member States in their efforts to enhance information sharing on the FTF phenomenon. This effort was supported by the UNCCT project on "Enhancing Information Sharing on Foreign Terrorist Fighters Among Member States."

#### **Key result 1**

Participating Member States gained an enhanced understanding of recent developments relating to the FTF phenomenon, enhanced capacity on the use of International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) databases and other tools, and expanded information sharing and networks across regions.



participation With the of over 30 Member States, UNCCT and INTERPOL convened a two-day hybrid launch event of the "Enhancing Information Sharing on Foreign Terrorist Fighters" project in Prague, Czech Republic, in August 2021. The event provided Member States with an enhanced understanding of the importance of strengthening international cooperation to address the threat posed by FTFs, including on information-sharing, border security, and investigations. Regional breakout sessions focused on the particular situation and needs in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and

Europe, respectively. Meeting participants endorsed four recommendations including: 1) to host regional investigation coordination meetings; 2) to utilize INTERPOL tools for improved information sharing; 3) to call for more biometrics data sharing; and 4) to organize multi-regional workshops to enable closer inter-regional information sharing.

In follow-up, UNCCT and INTERPOL organized a three-day hybrid regional workshop in Stockholm, Sweden, in December 2021, with the participation of 12 Member States, which featured a roundtable discussion on best practices in enhancing information sharing on FTFs and useful presentations on changing and evolving threats and movement patterns of FTFs. INTERPOL shared success stories of intercepting FTFs through its policing capabilities and briefed on its implementation of the GCTS. In-depth discussions were held on specific issues, including on border management and security, detection of returnees and FTF movements, countering the financing of FTFs, and the use of joint regional investigative coordination. Finally, the event explored the way forward, and how to foster inter-regional partnerships on FTF information sharing. Additional regional workshops will be held in 2022.

## **GCTS PILLAR II**

## **Preventing and Combatting Terrorism**

#### **UNCCT Results Framework Outcome 2: Combatting Terrorism**

Pillar II of the GCTS focuses on 'Measures to prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by denying terrorists access to the means to carry out their attacks, to their targets and to the desired impact of their attacks.' As such, it addresses some of the most fundamental aspects of the fight against terrorists, including border security, the financing of terrorism, terrorist use of weapons and the internet, and the need for international cooperation to address these issues. Likewise, measures to prevent and combat terrorism have also been the main focus of the vast majority of Security Council resolutions on the threat of terrorism to international peace and security, including resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 2178 (2014), 2325 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019), 2482 (2019), and 2617 (2021).

Outcome 2 of the 5-Year Programme covers five areas that are highlighted in Pillar II of the strategy, namely counter-terrorism strategies, CFT, BSM, cyber and New Technologies, and WMD/ CBRN/Small Arms and Light Weapons.

In line with GCTS Pillar II, UNCCT has developed flag-ship programmes to build Member States' capacity to comply with the strategy, the review resolutions, and the relevant SC resolutions. The work is highly appreciated by Member States for its high flexibility and adaptation to their specific needs, including as identified by CTED, in the fight against terrorism and continuously changing terrorist tactics. It has also been recognized by both the General Assembly and the Security Council, which has requested the Office to develop the above-mentioned programmes to meet Member State demands.

## Output 2.1

## **Counter-Terrorism Strategies:**

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

In 2021, UNCCT continued to support Member States in the development and implementation of comprehensive regional and national strategies for countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, in line with the GCTS. UNCCT further expanded its field presence to better gauge regional and national needs, capacities, and expectations, as well as to enhance sustainability of capacity-building assistance in a strategic manner.

In Central Asia, UNCCT has played an instrumental role in assisting five Member States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – to achieve a common vision in CT/PCVE, thereby strengthening collaboration among them towards the implementation of the shared 10-year regional strategy and GCTS. In addition, UNCCT

has supported all five Central Asian countries in developing new strategies on countering terrorism and violent extremism, in collaboration with international organizations. CTED encouraged relevant States in the region to continue undertaking efforts to develop and implement comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies that engage a wide range of stakeholders in the society, and in accordance with SC resolutions 1963 (2010), 2129 (2013) and 2395 (2017), as well as the GCTS.

In the Middle East and North Africa, UNCCT continued its engagement with the AIMC Secretariat and Member States of the Council with a view to developing a comprehensive regional counter-terrorism strategy for the region, in line with the GCTS and relevant international obligations and standards. UNCCT held relevant consultations and expert-level meetings with Member States and continued the drafting process of the strategy.

#### **Key result 1**

Development of an updated Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) to further advance the implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia

2021 marked the 10-year anniversary of the JPoA regional strategy, supported by UNCCT, for the implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia. Essential to the JPoA effort is the effective coordination with Central Asian Member States, UN system partners, and international and regional institutions that led to increased cooperation on CT/PCVE issues at the regional level.





A ten-year review of the JPoA was concluded, which found that the JPoA leveraged the added value of the United Nations, through UNCCT and UNRCCA, in four ways, by:

- 1. Bringing a regional perspective, while drawing from best practices from not only the region but around the world.
- 2. Supporting a political approach that relies on building and promoting consensus and cooperation among States and with civil society organizations
- 3. Providing a platform for cooperation and coordination among regional and international organizations working in Central Asia.
- 4. Building national and regional capacities to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

Based on the review of the regional strategy, UNCCT and UNRCCA supported the development of an updated JPoA for endorsement by Central Asian States in 2022. At the same time, in 2021, through UNCCT and UNRCCA support, Tajikistan developed and adopted its national CT and PCVE strategy and action plan. The document combined a whole-of-government approach with a whole-of-society approach to CT and PVE priorities. In addition, regular coordination meetings were held with Member States, regional and international organizations, and civil society representatives to exchange information on security and terrorism-related issues.

#### **Key result 2**

A new Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy developed through strong cooperation with the AIMC and technical support to Arab Member States

In 2021, UNCCT continued its excellent cooperation with the AIMC to provide technical support to Arab Member States for the development of a new Arab regional counter-terrorism strategy in support of efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism in the Arab region.

Based on the request from Arab Member States, the new regional strategy was drafted to fully conform with the GCTS, while responding to their context-specific needs and priorities. The strategy will serve as an important tool to converge national and regional efforts to address terrorism and prevent violent extremism effectively and collectively. Furthermore, it will support compliance with rule of law and human rights standards and provides a comprehensive set of guidelines to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including through conflict resolution, developmental, socio-economic, and educational measures.

The development of the strategy followed an analytical and consultative process with Member States where regional policies and instruments on counter-terrorism were analysed against international instruments and the GCTS. The new strategy, adopted by the AIMC at the time of reporting, is aligned with relevant international instruments and standards. UNCCT will continue to work with the AIMC Secretariat in 2022 and 2023 to develop an implementation plan to support Arab Member States in operationalizing the strategy at the national and regional levels, through tailor-made capacity-building and policy support, and in line with national needs and regional priorities. The implementation plan is expected to be adopted in March 2023 by the Arab Ministers of Interior.

#### Output 2.2

#### **Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT):**

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

The UNCCT Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme) was launched in 2020 and aims to strengthen Member State and other relevant stakeholders' capacities to detect, prevent and counter the financing of terrorism, in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, other international law obligations, and the FATF recommendations. Drawing on CTED and FATF assessments, the Programme prioritizes and supports those requesting States identified to be in urgent need of capacity-building actions due to strategic deficiencies and/or implementation gaps in their legal and operational counter financing terrorism frameworks.



Photo/UNCCT: Conference on "Countering the use of Cryptocurrencies to Finance Terrorism" in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 3 December 2021

The CFT Programme incorporates the requirements of the SC resolution 2462 (2019), and is articulated around five main pillars: (1) comprehensive need assessments of priority States, under the guidance of CTED; (2) awareness-raising at national and regional level on pressing CFT topics and emerging trends; (3) legislative assistance to Member States, in compliance with international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and refugee law; (4) enhancement of Member States' operational capacities to effectively detect, prevent, and disrupt terrorist financing through capacity-building assistance; and (5) support to the development of a new CFT and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) integrated software "goFinTel", in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), for the benefit of the Member States' Financial Intelligence Units.

The CFT Programme is being implemented through an 'All-of-UN' approach led by UNCCT, in close partnership with CTED, UNODC, OICT, INTERPOL, the 1267 Monitoring Team and other partners. In 2021, the CFT Programme engaged with CTED on the prioritization of countries and recommendations to better tailor the technical assistance plan for Member States. For example, UNCCT participated in a virtual country visit led by CTED in October 2021, a first for the Programme. In addition, the CFT Programme worked closely with FSRBs to ensure that technical assistance brought to Member States is fully aligned with their respective regional operational plans on CFT and coordinated with other technical assistance providers to avoid duplication of work. In 2021, despite the continued challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFT Programme was able to deliver 15 in-person or virtual consultations, capacity-building workshops, and trainings events (national and regional) to over 45 Member States.

#### **Key result 1**

Assisted Member States have better understanding of terrorist financing risks and an updated capacity-building action plan outlining priorities to be undertaken in order to detect, prevent, and combat terrorism financing

At the regional level, UNCCT implemented activities with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), and the EAG in support of their respective technical assistance action plans to their member jurisdictions addressing AML and CFT-related risks.

In this regard, UNCCT, together with ESAAMLG, developed a regional action plan for technical assistance, focusing on three priority actions derived from the ESAAMLG regional operational plan, namely: (i) enhancing domestic cooperation and information sharing; (ii) developing a clear understanding of the FATF guidelines on conducting risk assessment of the non-profit sector; and (iii) engaging parliamentarians in countering the financing of terrorism. The CFT Programme together with ESAAMLG further delivered five capacity-building workshops to member jurisdictions in 2021 to enhance the understanding of Member States of the CFT-related risks and how to implement a risk-based approach to address those identified risks.

At the national level, UNCCT supported the organization of two national workshops for Iraqi authorities as part of the first technical assistance plan for the country. These workshops covered the main shortcomings and deficiencies identified by MENAFATF and CTED on conducting terrorist financing risk assessments and identifying and



Photo/UNCCT: Regional capacity-building workshop on "Investigation of Terrorist Financing: the Importance of parallel Financial Investigation", in collaboration with the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) and hosted by The Egyptian Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Combating Unit (EMLCU). Cairo, Egypt, 3-5 October 2021



mitigating terrorist financing risks. In 2021, Iraq adopted the 2021-2023 National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT) Strategy, in which the first main objective was to conduct a national risk assessment. The workshops helped to operationalize the capacity of Iraq's national authorities and relevant stakeholders to conduct the first national risk assessment on AML/CFT, complementing IMF's support in this regard. As a result, Iraq has requested a new CFT technical assistance plan for 2022-2023.

#### **Key result 2**

Assisted Member States have improved operational measures and capabilities to investigate, prosecute and convict on terrorism financing in compliance with their obligations under international laws

In 2021, the CFT Programme organized national trainings for Iraq, Mongolia, Morocco, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Tajikistan on the protection of the non-profit sector against terrorist abuse, terrorist financing investigations, and virtual assets. These technical assistance activities were largely implemented though collaborative ventures

and coordination across a range of Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and were focused on achieving concrete impact on the ground towards the upgrading of national ratings by the FATF and FRSBs.

UNCCT and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) jointly conducted a training on "Protecting Non-Profit Organizations from Terrorist Financing Abuse". Under the UNCCT and NAUSS partnership, the CFT Programme also co-organized a workshop on "The risks of financing terrorism through digital payment methods"



in Cairo, Egypt. The workshop raised awareness and shared experiences on countering the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism and served as a pilot activity supported by the Egyptian Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Combating Unit (EMLCU).

The first in-person scoping mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina was conducted to explore the possibility to engage and support the country in its efforts to develop and implement policies related to CFT. visit resulted The has recommendations for the ongoing national strategy review process by UNCCT as a key capacity-building provider for Bosnia and



Herzegovina. The first activities under the CFT Programme will start in 2022 aimed at improving the operational capabilities of the country.



The CFT Programme coordinated UN efforts, co-led with the Netherlands and Morocco, in the organization of four Expert Group Meetings (first one was convened in 2020) under the GCTF Initiative on the Impact of CFT Measures on Humanitarian and Civic Space. Each Expert Group meeting had 100 attendees each, including representatives from 30 Member States and 40 CSOs. The initiative led to the adoption of a publication by the GCTF Ministerial Council in October 2021 which serves as a supporting tool publicly available for practitioners to use as guidance for ensuring the non-profit sector is protected against terrorist abuse.

The CFT Programme organized two conferences in 2021 on countering the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism. The first one was convened

in Moscow in September and attended by 30 participants from nine Member States from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The second was held in December as the first full-scale in-person event with 45 Moroccan participants at the new UNOCT Programme Office in Rabat. Both events resulted in positive feedback, with attendees highlighting increased levels of knowledge on virtual assets and blockchain analytics. The events also created networks between some of the world's major blockchain analytics companies and the participants and by facilitating the development of public-private partnerships.



Photo/UNCCT: CFT conference on countering the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism in Russia

At the regional level, UNCCT organized its first joint training together with the MENAFATF for its 21 member jurisdictions, as part of the implementation of its regional technical assistance plan on CFT. Going forward, UNCCT will continue to support MENAFATF's efforts in 2022 in collaboration with other UN partners from the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

#### **Key result 3**

Assisted Member States have access to goFinTel, an effective and integrated UN software solution

UNCCT's CFT Programme has supported the design, development, and implementation of goFinTel as an integrated UN-led software solution that will enable its user community to adopt an intelligence-led approach to collect, analyse, use, and share financial data. The OICT is



CFT Programme's implementing partner for the development of goFinTel. This initiative was developed in response to UN Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) that called on Member States to intensify the exchange of financial intelligence and relevant information, and to enhance the traceability and transparency of financial transactions in compliance with international laws.

In 2021, UNCCT and OICT started the design and development of the proof of concept of goFinTel. As of the end of December 2021, the Alpha version of the software was concluded for valuation and further enrichment. Efforts in this regard have been undertaken in collaboration with several partners, including:

- i. The Financial Intelligence Unit of the Netherlands
- ii. The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- iii. Pusan National University of the Republic of Korea
- iv. The University of Cambridge (UoC) Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance (CCAF). goFinTel has received positive feedback from partner agencies, including the FATF and Member States.

#### Output 2.3

#### **Border Security and Management (BSM):**

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

Ensuring effective border security and management remains a priority under Pillar II of the GCTS and is essential for preventing and countering the flow of suspected terrorists and FTFs, as well as the cross-border movement of illicit cargo, including weapons, arms, and munitions that may be used for terrorist purposes. The importance of strengthening border security to combat terrorism was further highlighted by Member States during debates leading to the adoption of the seventh review of the GCTS in 2021.



The UNCCT BSM Global Programme responds to the needs identified by the UN Security Council through several resolutions, including 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2368 (2017) and 2482 (2019). It aims to strengthen Member States' capacities to counter terrorism and related transnational organized crime, prevent and interdict terrorist travel, and stem the flow of FTFs across land, air, and maritime borders through improved border security and management. It also aims to support Member States to enhance strategy development, inter-agency and international cooperation, exchange of information, develop and disseminate good practices, and expand the responsible use and sharing of biometrics, including by ensuring that Member States acquire technical knowledge and practical skills to utilize cutting-edge technologies and equipment.

Disseminated the "Good Practices in Border Security and Management to Strengthen National and Regional Capacities in Countering Terrorism" and further enhanced intra- and inter-agency and cross-border cooperation

Leveraging the high attendance of the BSM geographic webinars held in 2020, the Centre launched another series of webinars - "A view to a Border" - in partnership with the World Border Security Congress. This series of four webinars delved into the importance of timely access to critical information on identified or suspected terrorist activities and were attended by around 650 people (approximately 30 per cent female) worldwide. The webinars provided a platform for law enforcement agency representatives to further discuss common issues and share identified good practices and lessons learned.



Together with NAUSS, UNCCT organized a five-day training on "Border Security and Management Good Practices", with a focus on travel documents and identity management, which was attended by 22 male law enforcement and border officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and included interactive discussions and scenario-based exercises.

In the maritime domain, UNCCT launched the virtual BSM expert workshop series on "Maritime Security and Terrorist Travel in East, Central and Southern Africa". The Centre also contributed to a training on "Port Security: Border Guards and their Role in Maritime Search and Rescue" in October 2021, co-implemented by IOM and the Jeddah Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies. The training was attended by 86 officers from 13 Arab League States (Bahrain, Comoros, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen).

With UNRCCA and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO RATS), UNCCT organized an in-person regional training on "Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation and Information Sharing to Interdict Terrorist Travel in Central Asia" held in Istanbul, Turkey, and attended by 40 senior law enforcement and border officials (90 per cent male, 10 per cent female) from the region.

As a result of these activities, participating Member States enhanced their capacities to apply the recommended good practices in their existing national border strategies with



respect to counter-terrorism, in full compliance with human rights and the rule of law. The workshops also provided a platform for the exchange of regional and national good practices and identification of gaps and opportunities, as well as enhanced cooperation and information sharing at the international and regional levels. In addition, requests for continued technical assistance and capacity-building were received from Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Jordan and Uruguay, which will tailor the strategic support to be provided by UNCCT's BSM Programme in 2022.

Additional UNCCT BSM contributions during the reporting year included the organization of the third and final technical workshop under the GCTF Watchlisting Guidance Manual Initiative and the in-person participation in the 16th Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Conference of the Central Asian Border Management Initiative (CABMI), in Vienna, Austria.

#### **Key Result 2**

Promoted the "UN Compendium of Recommended Practices for the Responsible Use and Sharing of Biometrics in Counter Terrorism" and enhanced awareness, knowledge and capacities of Member States to use and share biometric data in a responsible manner

As part of Phase II of the UNCCT-CTED Biometric Initiative, the first of a series of regional expert workshops was organized in a hybrid manner for five Central Asian countries with over 70 participants. These workshops aimed to raise awareness on the recommended practices on the responsible use and sharing of biometrics. Under the same initiative, the national capacities of 75 beneficiary Member States were assessed through an online survey.

The Centre contributed to a training by the NAUSS, organized jointly with the Egyptian Police Academy and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and attended by 46 representatives (44 males, 2 females) of law enforcement agencies from 7 countries of the Arab League (Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen).

Other events within the scope of this project included: a national workshop in Burkina Faso held in a hybrid format with the attendance of 80 Burkinabe authorities; a webinar on "Demographic Fairness in Biometric Systems" held jointly with the European Association for Biometrics (EAB); the annual OSCE national focal point meeting held in-person in Vienna in September; contribution to the IOM Migration Information and Data **Analysis** System (MIDAS) retreat in Senegal, that focused on the use of biometric technologies in Africa; and a regional workshop on "Enhancing Information Sharing of Foreign Terrorist Fighters among European Member States" held in Sweden. In addition, UNCCT took part in a technical expert discussion co-organized virtually with the AIT, attended by 100 participants (68 per cent male, 32 per cent female) from 21 countries. UNCCT also participated in the AIT online expert discussion on contactless biometrics technologies.





The activities implemented under this outcome of the BSM Global Programme allowed beneficiaries to have their respective legal frameworks and operational practices in information sharing strengthened, through the integration of the use of INTERPOL databases in an interoperable manner with the national and regional ones, as means of verification of biometric passports and/or other travel documents checked at border-crossing points. In particular, as required by UN Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), the promotion of responsible collection and processing of biometric data was ensured by mainstreaming human rights and data protection components as parts of the training received by national law enforcement agencies with mandates in CT and border security

and management. Additionally, a recommendation to establish effective oversight mechanisms on data processing procedures and technologies at the national level was formulated as basis for future follow-up with the aim to further ensure compliance with all the relevant mandatory UN Security Council resolutions and applicable erga omnes principles of international law.

## **Key Result 3**

Member States supported in adopting and implementing national border strategies and action plans inclusive of counter-terrorism elements and in compliance with human rights and the rule of law, and implemented tailored BSM capacity-building activities

In 2021, UNCCT further supported Member States in the development and implementation of comprehensive border security and management strategies, as well as on a national action plan inclusive of counter-terrorism elements. This was done through virtual consultations and national capacity-building trainings for Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Mauritania, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Sudan, among others. The support provided addressed the countries' current contexts, emerging issues, and challenges faced within their respective borders and regions.

Furthermore, UNCCT implemented, in partnership with OHCHR, the "Capacity Building Workshop on Human Rights at International Borders" in Morocco, which adopted the methodology of the UNCCT-OHCHR Trainer's Guide on Human Rights at International Borders and was attended by 25 representatives of relevant national agencies. The Centre also contributed remotely to the IOM Regional Training on "An Integrated Approach to a Human Rights-Based Border Management in Crisis Situations in Libya and Neighboring Countries", which was attended by 64 participants, including 12 female attendees.

#### **Key Result 4**

COVID-19 and the Republic of Korea Model: document on "Good Practices on Border Security and Management in the context of Counter-Terrorism" finalized for publication

UNCCT, in partnership with the IOM, World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Stimson Center, organized a series of meetings with senior officials of 12 Republic of Korea (ROK) border-related authorities. The meetings identified the ROK special measures and operational procedures adopted at borders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusion in a publication on BSM Good Practices in the context of counter-terrorism and related transnational crime.

The draft version of the document was produced in December 2021 and the final version, based on the substantive points identified during the Expert Group Meeting held in the same month, will be published in the first quarter of 2022. The launch event will take place at UN Headquarters in New York, to be followed by a series of workshops aimed at promoting the publication.



Photo/UNCCT: UNCCT BSM staff meeting with ROK officials on the document on BSM Good Practices, April 2021

## Output 2.4

#### **Cybersecurity and New Technologies:**

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

The GCTS and UN Security Council resolutions<sup>4</sup> express deep concern on the use of the Internet and other ICTs for terrorist purposes. They call for the international community to work together to prevent terrorists from exploiting new technologies for terrorist acts, while ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law.

In 2020, as a direct response to these requests, UNCCT consolidated all its work on cybersecurity and new technologies under the umbrella of the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies. In 2021, the Programme was expanded, revised, and strengthened to provide capacity-building support to Member States for developing and implementing effective responses to the challenges and opportunities that the Internet and ICTs provide in countering terrorism. With the latest adjustments, the Programme has enhanced coherence of UNCCT's work on cybersecurity and new technologies, strengthened human rights and gender mainstreaming, and consolidated programme implementation at the global, regional, and national levels.

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/60/288, A/RES/72/284, A/RES/75/291, Security Council resolutions 2341 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2396 (2017), and 2462 (2019), 2617 (2021). A/RES/75/291, para 106.



The Programme provides capacity-building assistance to Member States in four main areas:

- Knowledge development and awareness raising on challenges and opportunities related to new technologies in countering terrorism
- Policy development and implementation to address new technologies in countering terrorism
- Critical infrastructure protection against terrorist cyber-attacks
- Countering and investigating terrorist use of new technologies

In 2021, UNCCT received increased donor contributions from diversified funding sources for its Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, allowing it to expand assistance to an extensive number of Member States. This serves as a testament to the continuous relevance and responsiveness of the Programme to current and emerging counter-terrorism capacity-building needs in this field.

In 2021, more than 1,000 officials (32 per cent females, 68 per cent males) from 101 Member States benefited from UNCCT's Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies by acquiring new skills and knowledge on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, online investigations, dark web investigations, cryptocurrencies investigations and digital forensics. In response to specific needs of individual Member States, the Programme increased the delivery of tailored national capacity-building assistance from 82 officials in 2020 to 805 officials in 2021, an increase of 882 per cent. UNCCT also advanced in research and development of new knowledge products to make them available for Member States, covering a variety of topics including artificial intelligence, use of the Internet for counterterrorism investigations, trends in terrorist use of the Internet, and the development of national cybersecurity strategies.

This work increased Member States' knowledge and awareness of challenges and opportunities related to new technologies and terrorism. It enhanced their capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to terrorist and violent extremist groups' misuse of new technologies to attack critical infrastructures. Countries are also better equipped to counter and investigate terrorist activities by gathering digital evidence and adopting the use of new technologies.

#### **Key result 1**

Knowledge products developed and made available to Member States to increase their awareness and capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to terrorists' and violent extremist groups' misuse of new technologies

The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies developed and launched five knowledge products:

- A joint UNCCT United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) report "Countering Terrorism Online with Artificial Intelligence: An Overview for Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism Agencies in South Asia and South-East Asia"
  - www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/countering-terrorism-online-with-ai-uncct-unicri-report-web.pdf
- A joint UNCCT UNICRI report "Algorithms and Terrorism: The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence for Terrorist Purposes" www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/ malicious-use-of-ai-uncct-unicri-report-hd.pdf
- A joint UNOCT/UNCCT INTERPOL Second Edition of the "Handbook on Using the Internet and Social Media for Counter-Terrorism Investigations"
- A joint UNCCT-CTED report "Trends and Developments in the Misuse of Information and Communication Technologies for Terrorist Purposes in Selected Member States in South Asia and Southeast Asia"
- A multi-stakeholder revised "Guide to Developing a National Cybersecurity Strategy"
   www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/ 2021-ncs-guide.pdf

To develop these products, the Programme organized five global and regional outreach events/consultations on artificial intelligence and open-source intelligence (OSINT) for counterterrorism, which were attended by 271 experts (72 per cent male and 28 per cent female).



The Programme's work on artificial intelligence was launched at a side event during the 2021 CT Week at the UN, organized in collaboration with UNICRI and with the support of OHCHR and CTED. The event was attended by 164 participants (50 per cent male and 50 per cent female).



#### Building Knowledge on Counter-Terrorism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Developments in the field of artificial intelligence are taking place on an unprecedented scale and pace. Government, industry, and academia around the world are trying to grasp and understand the impact that this new technology will have on our societies and on us as individuals.

To make sense of implications of the developments of artificial intelligence for counter-terrorism efforts and to enable governments, industry, academia and the broader global community to think proactively about what we can do collectively to ensure that new technologies are used to bring good and not harm, the UNCCT Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies and UNICRI examined some of the most concerning aspects of the advent of this technology in the context of countering terrorism.

The collaboration resulted in the publication of two unique reports. The first report, "Algorithms and Terrorism: The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence for Terrorist Purposes", provides an assessment of what might be reasonably expected when artificial intelligence becomes an instrument in the toolbox of terrorism, including the possibility of its use with malicious intent by terrorist groups and individuals in the form of Alenabled cyber-attacks and the use of deepfakes and other manipulated audio-visual content to spread terrorist propaganda and disinformation. The second report, "Countering Terrorism Online with Artificial Intelligence: An Overview for Law Enforcement and Counter-Terrorism Agencies in South



Asia and South-East Asia", contextualized possible uses of artificial intelligence in support of national counter-terrorism efforts, in particular to counter terrorist use of the Internet and social media. Both publications have been frequently cited and referenced by international publications on counter-terrorism, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

#### **Key result 2**

Member States provided with capacity-building support for preparedness, resilience mitigation and response to terrorist cyber-attacks

To enhance Member States' skills and capacities to implement potential solutions to increase the resilience of their national critical infrastructure and mitigate the effects of terrorist misuse of new technologies, in full respect of human rights and the rule of law, the UNCCT Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies delivered tailored trainings to 185 officials in Burkina Faso (161 males and 24 females) and 222 officials in Mongolia (159 males and 63 females).

For the second consecutive year, the Programme collaborated with the ITU to conduct a unique Global Cyber Drill focusing on Member States' response to terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure. Attended by over 100 participants from 29 Member States, the 2021 challenge was dedicated to following online traces, including cryptocurrencies transactions, to investigate a ransomware attack and attribute it to a fictitious terrorist organization.



The Cybersecurity programme aims to enhance capacities of Member States and private organizations in preventing cyber-attacks carried out by terrorist actors against critical infrastructure.

#### **Key result 3**

Tailored capacity building and technical assistance provided to Member States officials in digital forensics and the use of open-source investigative techniques, in compliance with human rights and rule of law

In 2021, the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies trained over 800 criminal justice and cybersecurity officials (68 per cent male and 32 per cent female) on the response against countering and investigation of terrorist activities through the use of new technologies.

In 2021, UNCCT launched a tailored, extensive one-year support on cybersecurity and digital forensics to Burkina Faso and strengthened the country's law enforcement capacities to collect digital evidence to prosecute and adjudicate terrorist offenses. The Programme also enhanced the skills and capacities of Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Maldives, Malaysia, and the Philippines to apply investigative techniques for the acquisition and analysis of digital evidence from encrypted and open sources, required to bring terrorist to justice, in full respect of human rights and rule of law.

As part of the UNCCT's strategic engagement with NAUSS, the Programme provided joint training to 49 criminal justice officials from West Africa and the Arab States at NAUSS training facilities, which not only enhanced their skills in digital forensics, but also strengthened regional collaboration and engagement in countering terrorism.

All participants acknowledged that UNCCT's training increased their understanding of the impact of acquisition and analysis of digital evidence on human rights and how to mitigate human rights risks in their investigative work.

#### **Key result 4**

Training developed on the investigation and prosecution of the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for terrorism purposes

In January 2021, UNOCT launched the Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS), jointly implemented by UNCCT and SPIB. Under this programme, UNCCT has focused on developing training curriculum and training materials on the UAS digital forensics, to ensure that Member States acquire the necessary capabilities to investigate and prosecute the use of UAS for terrorism purposes.

In its first year of implementation, UNCCT completed a comprehensive review of the most reputable products and used software programs that could support digital forensics recovery from UAS used in terrorist incidents and that could inform Member States in developing their national capabilities.



To further support the development of national capabilities to counter terrorist use of UAS, UNCCT developed a training curriculum for Member States that will enable them to establish suitable counter UAS frameworks within their national counter-terrorism architecture to deter, mitigate, and exploit UAS use by terrorists.

Output 2.5

Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN)
Terrorism

The threat of WMD and CBRN terrorism has been recognized in the UN Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), and 2325 (2016), as well as in the GCTS. The General Assembly, in its seventh review resolution of the Strategy calls upon all Member States to "prevent the acquisition by terrorists of nuclear, chemical and biological materials and to support international efforts under the auspices of the UN to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery", and urges all Member States "to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, equipment and technologies related to their manufacture."

To respond to this call, UNCCT launched a multi-year Global Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism in 2018 to advance Member States' and international organizations' understanding of the level of this threat and to support their prevention, preparedness and response efforts at their request.

The Programme focuses on areas such as border control, development of countermeasures, prevention of illicit trafficking, protection of CBRN materials and critical infrastructure, forensics and incident response. In 2020, the Programme was expanded to cover small arms and light weapons (SALW) as well as improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The strategic objectives of the Programme are articulated in its five main outputs, namely:

- 1. Visibility
- Partnerships
- 3. Threat and risk analysis
- 4. Capacity building
- Interagency cooperation

Since its inception in late 2018, the Programme has firmly established itself and gained increased international recognition. It encompasses seven pilot projects at the global, regional, and national levels and has provided capacity-building support to and organized awareness-raising activities for over 5,700 officials in over 100 Member States. Of this, 2,900 officials benefited from the programme in 2021.

#### **Key result 1**

Global portfolio of 20 courses and tailored capacity-building projects to Counter WMD/CBRN Terrorism to Member States to enhance their capacities in prevention, preparedness and response to terrorist attacks involving WMD/CBRN materials

The Programme enhanced the capacities of Member States in the prevention, preparedness and response to terrorist attacks involving WMD/CBRN materials and in combating illicit trafficking of SALW and their supply to terrorists in line with international obligations, standards, and best practices by delivering capacity-building and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and global levels. Activities benefitted 2,000 officials (1,549 males (77 per cent) and 451 females (23 per cent). Awareness-raising events were organised for over 900 participants from over 100 Member States.

Through its global portfolio of 20 courses to counter WMD/CBRN terrorism, UNCCT enhanced the capacities of over 2,000 officials from Australia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Malaysia, and the Philippines, by conducting 20 virtual and in-person trainings in the areas of threats and countermeasures, prevention and response, outbreak containment and critical infrastructure protection. These courses also benefitted 150

officials working at the city-level on preparedness and response to chemical and biological terrorist attacks through two virtual table-top exercises conducted jointly with the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN).





Iraq and Jordan's national capacities enhanced to prevent and respond to CBRN attacks through targeted national projects, including preparation of two national response plans

Under the project on "Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks", jointly implemented with the Department of State of the United States of America, UNCCT enhanced the capabilities of Iraqi national authorities to respond to CBRN terrorist attacks through delivery of five in-person trainings on chemical counter measures, chemical incident response, biological threats, bioterrorism preparedness, and WMD science, as well as four virtual meetings to develop a strategy and several action plans to support multi-sectorial coordination on biological terrorism response.



Photo/UNCCT: Introduction to Weapons of Mass Destruction Course for Iraq, November 2021

UNCCT provided support to Jordanian national authorities through a national project on "Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare for and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack" implemented in partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The project strengthened Jordanian capabilities to respond to a terrorist attack involving CBRN weapons or related materials, through



the organization of a virtual meeting to exchange lessons learned on COVID-19 response, and through two virtual workshops to develop a National Crisis Plan response to a CBRN terrorist attack. The plan will be reviewed and tested in a field exercise in 2022 prior to its adoption by Jordan.

Contributed to enhancement of national legislative, strategic and operational capacities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to prevent, detect and counter the firearms trafficking and the illicit supply of SALW to terrorists

A regional project on "Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: Preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their illicit supply to terrorists in Central Asia", jointly implemented with UNODC, and in cooperation with CTED and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), sought to enhance the capacities of five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) in the field of preventing, detecting and countering trafficking of SALW and their illicit supply to terrorists. The countries' national judicial and law enforcement cooperation and information sharing capabilities were reinforced through regional and national workshops that shared best practices and lessons learned. In addition, the countries' normative and institutional framework capacities on preventing, detecting, investigating, and countering firearms trafficking and their diversion to terrorists were enhanced through 14 virtual and hybrid national trainings, legislative assessment workshops and inter-institutional cooperation seminars, engaging over 350 government officials.



Promoted Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)

UNCCT, in collaboration with UNODC, raised awareness on the importance of the universalization of the Convention through a briefing to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York. The briefing introduced a UNCCT study on reasons and challenges of Member States for not becoming party to ICSANT, and held expert panel discussions on threats, adherence procedures, complementarity with conventions, and available support from international organizations. Additionally, the project heightened awareness of Tajik parliamentarians, policy and decision makers on the relevance of the Convention and the



importance of international cooperation, including on the exchange of information on nuclear security threats and the prosecution and extradition of suspects. The capacities of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda to detect and respond to the threat of terrorists acquiring nuclear or other radioactive materials were strengthened through a virtual workshop on enhancing nuclear security at borders for the Horn of Africa.

#### **Key Result 5**

UNCCT enhanced cooperation among members of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection and on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism

Under the Global Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism, UNCCT collaborated with numerous UN entities, international organizations and initiatives, including the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the Nuclear Threat Initiative

(NTI). Specifically, UNCCT collaborated with UNICRI, CTED/United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in supporting the implementation of three projects of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups (see Output 4.2).

#### Iraq capabilities to prevent and respond to CBRN terrorist attacks enhanced

While terrorism continues to pose a threat to the whole world, CBRN terrorism is of particular concern for Member States and the international community as any possibility of terrorists accessing and using CBRN weapons and materials poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The Secretary-General stressed in April 2020, that the weaknesses and lack of preparedness exposed by the pandemic provide a window onto how a bioterrorist attack might unfold – and may increase its risks. In this regard, at the request of Iraq, UNCCT and its partners, through the WMD/CBRN programme delivered five in-person and three virtual trainings. These trainings enhanced the capacities of the Iraqi officials in combating WMD/CBRN terrorism including in areas such as addressing chemical and biological threats, countermeasures, incident response, outbreak containment, and emerging infectious disease preparedness. Two hundred and fourteen officials (35 females (16 per cent) and 179 males (84 per cent)) from law enforcement, intelligence, first responders, public health, radiological/nuclear institutions, and military benefitted from the trainings.



#### **GCTS PILLAR III**

# **Building States' Capacity and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations**

#### **UNCCT Results Framework Outcome 4: International Cooperation**

Pillar III of the GCTS relates to measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the UN in this regard. As such, most, if not all, of the work of UNCCT relates directly to the implementation of these measures. For the UNCCT 5-Year Programme, the focus has been on building and strengthening international cooperation and supporting the coordination and coherence efforts within the UN system, including by leveraging the thematic programmes described above.

Both the UN General Assembly and the Security Council have repeatedly stressed the need for enhanced international information sharing and the provision of technical assistance, which UNCCT is providing to Member States.

The 5-Year Programme contains four outputs relating to these cross-cutting efforts. The first of these, support for the Integrated Assistance to Counter-Terrorism (I-ACT), has been completed in earlier years with the establishment of the more formalized Counter-Terrorism Compact, led by UNOCT, which is supported by the second output. UNCCT support for Compact initiatives has had a significant positive effect on the ability of the Compact entities to work together in generating concrete products that draw on their varied expertise and mandates to the benefit of Member States.

The global COVID-19 pandemic placed limitations on the ability of the Centre to bring together the broad range of international and regional counter-terrorism centres that were convened under the third output relating to establishing Networks Related to Counter-Terrorism. Further, some results of this work were transferred to the Compact coordination efforts undertaken by the Office. The Centre will continue to serve as an essential hub for networking among counter-terrorism capacity-building providers throughout the world.

Lastly, the Centre continues to see South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC) as a cornerstone of its capacity-building efforts. The Centre has relied on SSC in the delivery of its programmes and has strengthened cooperation with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation. The Centre also completed a Handbook on CT/PVE Initiatives in the Global South, which is being used in the mainstreaming efforts of the office and in the work of UNCCT to serve as a 'match-maker' for countries in the global south seeking expertise through SSC.

In view of the above, this report focuses on 2021 achievements under outputs 4.2 (Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact) and 4.4 (South-South and Triangular Cooperation) of Outcome 4. UNCCT completed the projects under outputs 4.1 (I-ACT) and 4.3 (Networks Related to Counter-Terrorism) in previous years and has reported those results in the 2019 and 2020 annual reports.

## Output 4.2

## **Supporting the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities:**

Relevant CTITF (Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact) entities have an enhanced capacity, within their mandate, to address terrorism and violent extremism, including in particular through joint efforts

In 2021, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact ("Counter-Terrorism Compact") made further progress in supporting Member States' counter-terrorism priorities, leveraging the expertise of all its 43 member and observer entities. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Counter-Terrorism Compact's eight inter-agency Working Groups pressed ahead with their work and held a total of 44 regular and thematic meetings, webinars and expert workshops to facilitate information flow on lessons learned and best practices, joint research and capacity-building initiatives.

During the reported period, UNCCT actively participated in the meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups and continued to serve as the Chair of the Working Group on PCVE, Co-chair of the Working Group on National and Regional Counter Terrorism Strategies, as well as Vice-chair of the Working Group on Promoting and Protection Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism, and the Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism. UNCCT is also actively involved in the Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation. The Working Groups serve as vehicles for the coordination of counter-terrorism approaches, as well as in the implementation of programmes and projects in which UNCCT was one of the lead implementing entities, in areas such as PCVE, emerging threats and critical infrastructure protection, border security and management, promoting gender equality, and regional cooperation.

In the last quarter, UNCCT developed an online application to facilitate the mapping of existing CT/PCVE activities across the UN system at the global, sub-regional, regional and national levels, at the request of the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (RMME WG) of the Counter-Terrorism Compact. The aim of this exercise is to provide opportunities to strengthen the sharing of information and improve data collection for the project mapping exercise – a 'Project Matrix' across the Compact. The Project Matrix provides transparency, showcases the extent of the UN system work in the counter-terrorism field and provides visibility to support system-wide fundraising efforts.

During the Second CT Week at the UN in June 2021, Member States adopted a forwardlooking, consensus review of the GCTS, which provides a roadmap for UNCCT's capacitybuilding efforts over the next two years. Through this resolution,



Member States expressed appreciation for the counter-terrorism work of the UN system and reiterated their support for the important role played by the Counter-Terrorism Compact. They welcomed UNOCT's efforts to increase transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in enhancing cooperation among Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and encouraged the Office to continue ensuring coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the UN system through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

Several joint projects undertaken by the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Groups in 2021 were supported through catalytic seed-funding from the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism and co-led by UNCCT, with the following deliverables in 2021.

- To facilitate the implementation of UN Resolution 2370 (2017) and the relevant international standards and good practices, UNCCT, CTED and UNIDIR developed a global project to provide technical guidelines to strengthen Member States' legislative, strategic, and operational capacities to prevent, detect and counter the acquisition, illicit trafficking and use of different weapons, systems, and components.
- UNCCT and UNICRI concluded a project on "Enhancing knowledge about advances in science and technology to combat WMD terrorism" and published a report on the subject launched during the 2021 CT Week.
- UNCCT and OPCW continued the work on enhancing effective inter-agency interoperability and coordinated communication in case of chemical and/ or biological attacks building on its previous two phases. This included the development of Terms of Reference for a network on the subject, including a mechanism to sustain the network, and roles and responsibilities.
- UNCCT spearheaded the design, coordination, and fundraising of a joint UN programme proposal to strengthen Burkina Faso's capacity to manage its caseload of detainees suspected of terrorism offences. The programme was coordinated under the auspices of the UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) following an "All-of-UN" approach, to be jointly implemented by UNOCT, UNDP, UNODC, IOM, and OHCHR in 2022.
- UNCCT, as co-chair of the National and Regional Strategy (NARS) Working Group of the Counter-Terrorism Compact along with CTED, supported the preparation of a report entitled "Enhancing Regional Counter-Terrorism Co-operation" with a comparative analysis of ten regional CT strategies (African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), G5 Sahel, Economic Community of Central Asian States (ECCAS), EAC/Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), AIMC, ASEAN, CARICOM and Central Asia). The report contributed to the implementation of Pillar III of the GCTS by identifying lessons learned and good practices with a focus on the following regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and Central Asia.

- UNCCT ensured UNAMI leadership and the Government of Iraq are coordinated on CT/PVE topics and that the national agencies are provided with capacity building support on CFT, PCVE, WMD, in line with CTED recommendations.
- UNCCT, in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), developed an online training on CT/PVE to equip UN staff with essential knowledge and skills to perform their functions in line with the UN GCTS, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and human rights and gender equality standards. UNCCT and UNSSC worked closely with key Global Compact entities to ensure the course is widely applicable across the UN system. The training is expected to be launched to the UN Global Compact organizations in 2022. Plans are underway to roll it out to CT experts deployed at the UN Permanent Missions, as recommended by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to provide them with baseline knowledge of the UN CT structure, including international norms and principles.
- In the framework of a joint UNDP-UNCCT regional PVE project, a special session of the Counter Terrorism Compact's Working Group on PCVE was convened in September 2021. This occasion brought together 15 UN entities, including UNOCT, UNDP, UNESCO, UNAOC, CTED, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG), UNODC, UNICRI, UNICEF, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), OHCHR, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Department of Peace Operations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (DPO-OROLSI), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG-VAC)) to exchange on good practices and challenges associated with PCVE work in South-east Asia, including engagement with the private sector, securing national ownership, and alignment between national and regional PVE agendas. The session provided an opportunity for joint reflection to increase the impact of PVE-related interventions on the ground. Emphasis was given to programmatic initiatives on prevention to increase a contextualized understanding of the drivers of violent extremism, fostering social cohesion, innovation, and strengthening national governments' preparedness.
- By the end of 2021, initial staff had been deployed to establish the UNOCT Programme Office in Kenya, with a draft programme of work in place. At the time of reporting, the office was formally launched and planning for programme activities in border security and management, strategic communications and counter-terrorism investigations had begun. The office will support field level coordination to ensure alignment and coherence across all pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Compact.





Output 4.4

### **South-South and Triangular Cooperation:**

Through UNCCT support, South-South and triangular counterterrorism capacity building cooperation has been enhanced

UNCCT seeks to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in CT/PVE as a means of facilitating international cooperation in combating terrorism and violent extremism and as a complement to North-South cooperation, while offering an innovative framework that highlights principles of horizontality, solidarity, and mutual benefits.

In doing so, UNCCT is working within the framework of the seventh review resolution of the GCTS, especially paragraph 79 which "[R]eaffirms the need for enhanced dialogue and coordination among the counter-terrorism officials, including among law enforcement entities and financial intelligence units, of Member States to promote international, regional and subregional cooperation and wider dissemination of knowledge of the Strategy in order to counter terrorism ..." and paragraph 82 that "[R]ecognizes the role of regional organizations, structures and strategies in combating terrorism, in accordance with international law, and encourages those entities to enhance interregional dialogue and cooperation and consider using best practices developed by other regions in their fight against terrorism, as appropriate, taking into account their specific regional and national circumstances."

### **Key result 1**

Enhanced cooperation between Member States and improved integration of Southern perspectives, through the mainstreaming of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in UNCCT's work, as an implementation modality

The UNCCT global project on "Enhancing the exchange of expertise between experts from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean" was launched in March 2019 at the Second UN High-Level Conference on SSC held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The project, which aims to enhance visibility of SSC in CT/PVE, attracted the interest of several Member States to not only contribute to UNCCT activities but to also propose the provision of capacity-building assistance to other developing countries with the support of UNCCT in a Triangular Cooperation framework. As such, the project contributed significantly to promoting the SSC approach in peace and security when this modality has been primarily associated with the field of development.

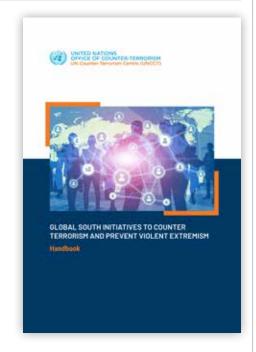
UNCCT continued to engage with interested countries from the Global South to develop triangular cooperation initiatives in thematic areas of relevance such as developing national PVE Action Plans, countering terrorist financing, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, and border security and management. These countries include Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan and the Philippines.

In June 2021, UNCCT participated in the Twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation – the main policymaking body on SSC at the UN— to highlight the progress made by SSC in the field of peace and security and specifically in CT/PVE. UNCCT contributed to the UN work on the Action Plan for the implementation of the UN system-wide SSC strategy.

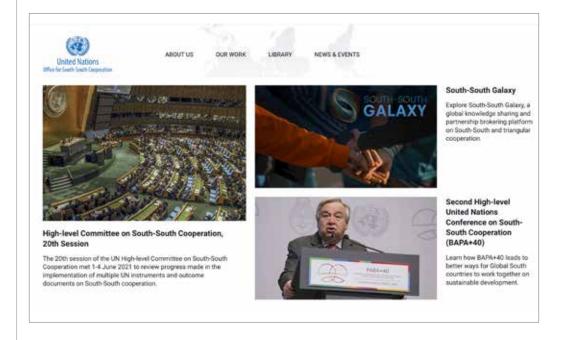
#### **Key result 2**

Development of reference material on Global South Initiative in CT/PVE to enhance peer-to-peer learning across regions

In 2021, UNCCT completed the "Handbook of CT/PVE initiatives from the Global South" (www. un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org. counterterrorism/files/2114743-global\_south\_ initiatives\_web.pdf) that showcases the wealth and diversity of CT/PVE expertise available across regions, including Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The Handbook, scheduled to be published in March 2022, demonstrates the importance of Southern countries' contributions to the CT/ PVE agenda and how this contribution could be leveraged to provide capacity-building assistance to other developing countries. It also presents UNCCT's strategic thinking on SSC in CT/PVE, providing regional frameworks and solutions that can be replicated. It will serve as a reference to help connect Member States and exchange expertise.



# Advancing knowledge sharing on CT/PVE in the global south through partnership with UNOSSC



UNOCT/UNCCT and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) have collaborated to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation in CT/PVE- related matters since 2019.



UNOCT/UNCCT created an "Online Network of CT/PVE Experts from the Global South", hosted on UNOSSC's South-South Galaxy Portal, as an interactive space for Member States and partners to share and exchange good practices available in the

global South, as well as publications and CT/PVE updates. This collaborative approach with UNOSSC has broadened the reach and sustained the impact of the network.

The Network was launched in April 2021, during which UNOCT/UNCCT consulted Member States for feedback on refinements to its space. The meeting brought together 18 senior experts from countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. It also provided an opportunity for interactive discussions with members on their CT/PVE initiatives and priorities in terms of South-South Cooperation and how the online Network could facilitate South-South knowledge and experience sharing. On this occasion, UNOSSC made UNOCT/UNCCT "Partner of the Month", featuring its work and other relevant information (https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/pom/unoct). This formal recognition sealed the partnership and gave visibility to UNOCT/UNCCT's SSC work.

### **GCTS PILLAR IV**

# **Ensuring Respect for Human Rights** and the Rule of Law

#### **UNCCT Results Framework Outcome 3: Human Rights and Victims**

The GCTS reinforces the importance of respect for human rights in any effective counter-terrorism strategy. In Pillar IV of the Strategy and annexed Plan of Action, Member States specifically recognize and highlight that "effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing" and that "promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights, and effective criminal justice systems constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism."

The UN General Assembly and Security Council have called on Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, as applicable, to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored strategies for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR) of persons associated with terrorist groups ("PRR strategies"), inter alia through the sixth and seventh review resolutions of the GCTS, UN Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2349 (2017) and 2396 (2017)5 and in the Addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles (Guiding Principle 46).

To this end, UNOCT/UNCCT developed the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR), which supports Member States by providing knowledge, guidance, coordination, and capacity-building in the PRR of terrorist suspects including returning FTFs and their family members, as well as on screening and individual assessment. Through the Global Programme on PRR, Member States as well as relevant UN entities benefit from a common vision of United Nations counter-terrorism, human rights and protection mandates working on PRR issues.

In line with the imperative to respect and protect human rights and ensure the involvement of victims of terrorism in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism, UNCCT has also continued to expand the scope of its activities under its Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme. Throughout 2021, the expanded Programme has contributed to advancing the implementation of Pillar IV of the GCTS by continuing to advocate for the rights and needs of victims, to provide platforms for victims to amplify their voices, and to strengthen their role in the prevention of violent extremism. The Programme also continued its advocacy with Member States to reinvigorate their political will and capacity to stand in solidarity with victims and worked with Member States and CSOs to promote victims' rights and support their needs. In addition, the Programme launched its work on the Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) for Victims of Terrorism, which aimed at building the capacity of Member States to develop and harmonize legislation and strengthen comprehensive assistance plans to address victims' rights.

<sup>5</sup> Sixth GCTS review resolution (A/RES/72/284, OP 39), Seventh GCTS review resolution (A/RES/75/291, OP 47), Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014, OP 4), 2349 (2017, OP 32), and 2396 (2017, OPs 29 – 41).

### Output 3.1

### **Human Rights and Rule of Law:**

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

The primary aim of UNCCT's Human Rights Programme is to enhance effectiveness in implementing Pillar IV of the GCTS, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action on PVE (A/70/674), and the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Throughout 2021, UNCCT continued its close collaboration with partners – notably OHCHR, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, and other Global Compact entities, including UN Country Teams, and RCs – to implement programmes in support of Member States' efforts to counter terrorism while respecting human rights and the rule of law.

In 2020, UNCCT launched the Global Programme on PRR, which aims to support Member States to develop and implement comprehensive, tailored, and human rights compliant PRR strategies for individuals suspected of terrorism, in line with the requirements established by UN Security Council Resolutions 278 (2014), 2349 (2017), and 2396 (2017). To achieve this, the Global Programme on PRR provides support through three pillars, (i) by ensuring coordination and coherence on PRR efforts across the United Nations system, (ii) by providing knowledge and guidance to raise the awareness of Member States on PRR and establish a PRR normative framework, and (iii) through programmatic delivery and capacity-building, to strengthen the capacity of Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies.

#### **Key result 1**

Launched the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees

The return of third country nationals from Syria and Iraq is a complex global challenge, requiring coordination and coherence across multiple UN entities. In September 2021, co-chairs UNOCT and UNICEF launched the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees ("The Global Framework"). The Global Framework supports a coordinated 'all-of-UN' response from 15 participating UN entities to support Member States on the protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of returning individuals from Syria and Iraq, who may have alleged or actual links to terrorist groups.

In response to urgent requests for support, implementation under the Global Framework also commenced in 2021, in Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Work to support the protection and reintegration of children affected by armed conflict, led by UNICEF, has commenced, while work to support the



Photo/UNCCT: Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT at the online EU-UN launch of the Global Framework in Central Asia, May 2021

prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of adult returnees from Syria and Iraq, led by UNOCT, will commence in early 2022.

In Uzbekistan, UNOCT/UNCCT has also been implementing a complementary project to provide assistance to the Government in developing and implementing a national PRR strategy, in partnership with OHCHR, UNODC and UN Women. The project is supported by monthly coordination meetings among UN agencies and by an in-country Expert Advisor, who will provide ongoing support to the Government starting in 2022.

### **Key result 2**

Generated knowledge and guidance to inform PRR best practice, in compliance with human rights principles and rule of law

Throughout 2021, UNCCT continued its efforts to develop a Compendium on PRR Practices, in partnership with UNODC and CTED. The Compendium, consulted with 29 countries across Eastern Africa, Southeast Europe, Central Asia and Western Europe, will outline relevant PRR policies, approaches, and lessons learned adopted by Member States. An informal project advisory group, composed of members from a wide range of UN agencies and independent experts, was established to advise on project scope and methodology.

In addition, a regional consultation on the Compendium was held in Dubai for the Middle East and North Africa in November 2021, with a total of 64 attendees (20 females and 36 males). These included government officials, representatives from CSOs, think tanks and

academics, and UN entities including UNOCT/UNCCT, UNODC, CTED, UN Women, OHCHR, UNAMI and IOM.

UNCCT, in its continuous effort to disseminate knowledge on PRR best practices, collaborated with UNODC to deliver its PRR eLearning course to 54 participants (33 females and 21 males) from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, including government officials and representatives from civil society organizations. The course is based on existing training developed by UNCCT and UNODC in 2020 for the East Africa Region, and a subsequent iteration is being planned for 2022, to enable a scaled rollout to more Member States.



Image/UNCCT

From March to December 2021, UNCCT, in partnership with UNICRI, developed the "Methodology for the Generation and Collection of Data on Violent Extremist Prisoners". UNCCT organized two expert meetings with UN representatives and other key actors to review current practices in VEPs data management and explore the most pressing data issues, trends, and challenges faced by Member States. The insights shared during these meetings were collated into a report, entitled "Violent Extremist Prisoners and Their Management: Current Challenges and Knowledge Gaps", and have informed the development of the methodological tool. The report is undergoing review for release in 2022.

#### **Key result 3**

Enhanced the capacity of Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored PRR approaches, in line with human rights standards

Since 2018, UNCCT, in partnership with UNODC and CTED, has been implementing the four-year Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) Project in Kazakhstan, Tunisia and Uganda. The VEPs Project delivers capacity-building support to promote effective prison management in line with human rights standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). It supports the management of prisoners vulnerable to violent extremism as well as those who have already embraced violent extremism.

In 2021, the VEP project supported government agencies such as the Kostany Policy Academy in Kazakstan and the Uganda Prison Academy Training School to develop training modules that were adopted and mainstreamed in the national curriculum. In addition, the project assisted Kazakhstan and Uganda to prepare a prisoner classification framework and risk and needs assessment tools. These tools are being piloted in prisons throughout Kazakhstan and are expected to be adopted in early 2022.

In Indonesia, UNCCT and UNODC have been jointly delivering the Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs) Project, aimed at building the capacity of the Government of Indonesia, in particular probation and parole officers, to rehabilitate and reintegrate VEOs through a 'whole-of-society' approach. Following several consultations with government officials and civil society representatives between April and September 2021, a baseline report outlining the current context and recommendations to strengthen the national approach was presented to Indonesian policy makers, law enforcement officials, and CSOs. During the discussion, two pilot regions were identified for capacity-building support, namely Cilacap and Malang. Field scoping visits were conducted in December 2021 to the two pilot regions to enable planning for the implementation of capacity building in 2022.

In the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria), UNOCT/UNCCT, in partnership with UNODC and CTED, has been supporting Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies for persons associated with Boko Haram. Throughout 2021, UNCCT supported initiatives to strengthen cooperation in PRR among national agencies and between countries in the region. A regional workshop on gender, in cooperation with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, was conducted in March 2021 and attended by 119 government officials and civil society representatives. This led to expert recommendations to mainstream gender in the implementation of pillar three of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) on SPRR approaches. In July 2021, a Cameroon-Nigeria bilateral consultation, attended by 22 representatives from the Ministries of Justice and the Prosecutor's offices, was held on strengthening cooperation on investigation and prosecution of Boko Haram-related offences. In November, UNCCT supported the Government of Chad to develop an action plan on SPRR of Persons associated with Boko Haram. The workshop was attended by 28 participants (7 females and 21 males) from relevant government agencies and further enhanced inter-agency collaboration.

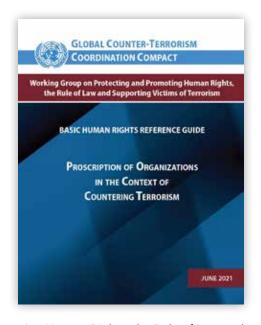
#### **Key result 4**

Members States supported on human rights and gender equality international standards in the context of counter-terrorism

UNCCT co-organized with OHCHR and UNICRI three workshops as part of the project on Human Rights Aspects of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism, implemented under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting Victims of Terrorism. These workshops analysed human rights considerations related to the use of AI in counter-terrorism, with the goal of providing

practical guidance and recommendations to Member States, technology providers, and UN entities on using AI to counter terrorism in full compliance with human rights. Notably, they explored innovative and practical human rights-compliant AI-based tools to augment existing counter-terrorism capacities and support building cases for prosecution.

UNCCT, in collaboration with OHCHR, supported the preparation of the Guide on "Proscription of Organizations in the Context of Countering Terrorism" (www.ohchr.org/sites/ default/files/Documents/Issues/Terrorism/ BHRRG\_on\_Proscription\_of\_Organizations\_ EN\_WEB.pdf). This Guide, translated into several languages and published in June 2021, is designed "to provide Member States with legal and practical guidance to assist them in ensuring that the domestic process for proscribing entities and/or individuals, and the consequences that flow from this, comply with international human rights law6." The publication was undertaken as part of the Basic Human Rights Reference Guide series under the Counter-Terrorism

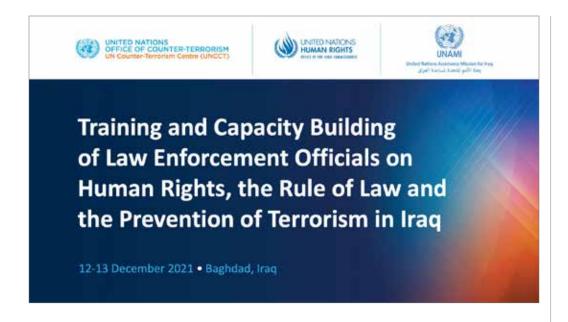


Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Supporting Victims of Terrorism.

In October 2021, the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon held an official presentation ceremony of the Group of Experts on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism, as part of the UNCCT project "Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law, and the Prevention of Terrorism." The Ceremony, held online in Yaoundé, formally presented the Experts Group, which is composed of experts from differing backgrounds and aims at effectively implementing an action plan to integrate human rights frameworks at both the local and national levels. Participants included authorities of the Republic of Cameroon (Ministry of External Relations, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Cameroonian Police, National Human Rights Commission of Cameroon), UNOCT, OHCHR, UN RC for Cameroon, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, FAO, World Bank, WFP, and the EU.

In Iraq, as part of the project "Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism," a human rights training for mid-level Iraqi law enforcement officials was held in December 2021 under the title "Capacity Building Workshop for Border Security Officials on Relevant Human Rights Standards." There was a total of 20 participants (6 females and 14 males). Subsequently, a Policy Dialogue was held with a total of 21 participants (7 females and 14 males, including OCT staff).

<sup>6</sup> Basic Human Rights Reference Guide: Proscription of Organizations in the Context of Countering-Terrorism. Working Group on Protecting and Promoting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Supporting Victims of Terrorism. 2021. p.3-4.



### Launch of joint UNOCT and OHCHR trainer's guide

In October 2021, UNOCT, jointly with OHCHR, launched a publication titled "Human Rights at International Borders: A Trainer's Guide." This capacity-building tool was developed collaboratively by UNOCT and OHCHR and aims to support national authorities, particularly border officials, in adopting a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to border governance. The launch event featured a gender balanced panel. Following the adoption of the Trainers' Guide, UNCCT participated in a capacity-building workshop for Morocco on the guide, held in Rabat in November 2021, with participation from government officials and 25 representatives of law enforcement and border management agencies, including immigration and port authorities.



Since the inception of the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme in 2018 and the launch of the extended Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme in 2020, developments at the international, regional, and national levels have demonstrated that support for victims has moved beyond symbolic solidarity towards a more robust engagement to advance their rights and needs. This increased support is reflected in the establishment of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism – a Member State driven group – and in the adoption by the General Assembly of two milestone resolutions dedicated to victims of terrorism: A/RES/72/165 (2018), establishing the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, commemorated every year on 21 August, and A/RES/73/305 (2019) on international assistance and collaboration on victims of terrorism, which further emphasized UNOCT's role in building the capacity of Member States, including by supporting the development of comprehensive national assistance plans to support victims of terrorism; and welcomed UNOCT's continued engagement on victims and its maintenance of the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal.

The Victims of Terrorism Programme has provided a more coordinated approach to supporting victims through fostering a coherent approach by all UN entities. It focuses on four main areas of work: (i) solidarity, outreach and advocacy; (ii) policy and coordination; (iii) technical assistance and capacity building; and (iv) communications and visibility. These areas of work are informed by UN guidance on human rights and gender mainstreaming, which enhances UNCCT's overall ability to deliver impactful support to victims of terrorism, as well as through increased monitoring and evaluation.

UNCCT works with a large network of civil society organizations, including victims of terrorism and victim associations from around the world, providing them with a platform to share their stories and experiences and to advocate for their rights and needs. Victims have become integral to the success of the Programme and are consulted and participate regularly in the planning of the Programme's activities, including high-level events. In 2021, UNCCT delivered two key results that advanced all focus areas of its Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme.

#### **Key result 1**

Increased awareness of Member States, international organizations, and civil society actors on the challenges faced by victims of terrorism

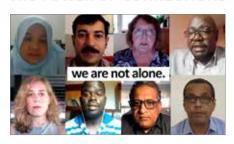
In 2021, UNCCT organized a number of high-level events, attended by Member States, parliamentarians, UN entities and CSOs, including victims' associations and victims. The events aimed at raising awareness on the rights and needs of victims and called on Member States to develop national comprehensive assistance plans anchored by legal frameworks to better assist victims at the national and regional levels.

UNOCT organized the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 20 August 2021, which was convened virtually with the participation of the Secretary-General and two victims from Norway and Kenya,



### SURVIVING TERRORISM

THE POWER OF CONNECTIONS



as well as over 300 participants, including 135 representatives from 92 Member States, 22 representatives from 18 regional organizations and 194 representatives from CSOs, victim associations, and UN entities. The theme of the 2021 International Day was "Connections", as victims have had to find creative ways to stay connected while being isolated from each other, and from their families, friends, and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important for the international community to connect and stand in solidarity with victims; and for Member States to connect, learn from each other and share good practices, ensuring that victims needs are met and their rights upheld.

On 20 September, UNOCT, on behalf of the United Nations, together with the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, organized a memorial and tribute ceremony to commemorate the 20th

anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Over 300 participants attended from over 120 Member States and international organizations, including six heads of state (Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Guyana, Lithuania, and Sri Lanka) and 30 Ministers.



Photo/UNCCT: Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vladimir Voronkov at the 9/11 Memorial

#### **Key result 2**

The voices of victims of terrorism are amplified through the development of multi-media products and the provision of capacity-building support to Member States and Civil Society Organizations

In 2021, UNCCT continued to focus on raising the voices of victims through its Victims Documentary Series that produced two short films:

- "VictimA: Women's Voices from Spain" which was launched at the virtual conference on Human Rights and Civil Society on 25-26 May and showed the impact of terrorism from a woman's perspective, featuring five Spanish women victims of terrorism and highlighting how their experiences have made them agents of change
- a short film on "Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Connections" launched during the fourth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism featuring testimonies of eight victims of terrorism from across the world.



### **Development of the Model Legislative Provisions**

In April 2020, in his report on "Progress Made Towards Supporting Victims of Terrorism in the United Nations System" (A/74/790), the Secretary-General encouraged Member States to "... consider developing national legislation that specifically addresses the rights, interests and needs of victims of terrorism" in the form of model legislation, good practices, and lessons learned. In response to this call, UNCCT, in partnership with UNODC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, worked together to develop a set of Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) that would strengthen the capacities of Member States, including national parliaments, to better support victims of terrorism. The MLP aims to serve as a basis to integrate victim" rights into existing national laws or help support Member States to develop legislation where no laws exist. Implementation of the MLP, which will also seek to support Member States to develop national comprehensive assistance plans, will begin in 2022.



The MLPs were developed through a series of expert consultations held between November 2020 and January 2021 on specific themes covered by the provisions, including on remembrance and recognition, protection, assistance and support, access to justice, compensation, and the role of civil society organizations. A core group of experts from the UN system, victims' associations, and victims participated in the initiative, supporting the drafting of the model legislative provisions, providing feedback, and ensuring the inclusion of all relevant considerations for victims of terrorism.

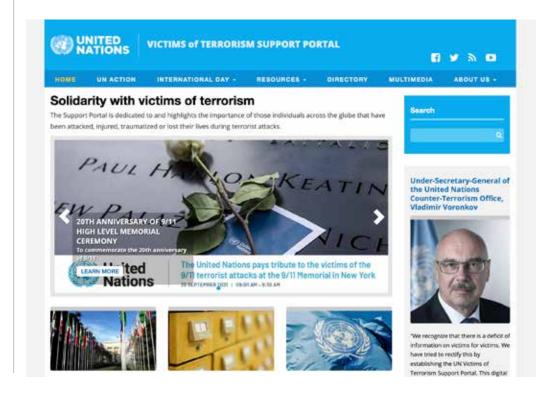
The MLP was developed using a victim-centric, human rights and gender-sensitive approach. Its provisions can be used to strengthen legal frameworks on victims and develop holistic national comprehensive assistance plans to better promote and protect the rights and uphold the needs of victims of terrorism.

Photo/UNCCT: MLP meeting participants. From left to right: Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the UNODC and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, Ms. Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of IPU



In 2021, UNCCT started to develop a Handbook on "Guidelines and Principles to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism Associations in Asia Pacific", which seeks to highlight standards and practices that can assist CSOs, particularly victims' associations, in providing victims with better quality assistance, support, and protection of their rights. Four virtual expert group meetings were held in the first quarter of 2021 to help develop the handbook. The Handbook is due to be published in 2022.

UNCCT continued to successfully develop, maintain and generate new content for the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, providing a hub and a resource for all information related to victims of terrorism. The total number of views in 2021 was 160,638, which constitutes 6,000 more views than in 2020, or a 4.17 per cent increase in traffic in 2021 as compared to 2020.





UN Photo/Bikem Ekberzade

# IV. Cross-cutting Priorities

# **Mainstreaming Human Rights**



To ensure a more balanced implementation of the four pillars of the GCTS by mainstreaming human rights as a cross-cutting element in all activities, UNOCT finalized the development of the Global Human Rights Programme in November 2021. In developing the Programme, UNOCT built on the lessons learned from previous years, drawing upon recommendations from the KPMG evaluation, to place human rights at the center of UNOCT's work. The Programme will be implemented in 2022-2024, and

will serve as key guidance for UNCCT in the implementation of human rights compliant capacity building and technical assistance support to Member States.

The primary aim of the Global Human Rights Programme is to enhance effectiveness in implementing Pillar IV of the GCTS, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action on PVE

(A/70/674), and the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Under the umbrella of the Programme, UNCCT will:

- 1. Work towards the effective, comprehensive, and coherent integration of human rights in all its programmes, projects and policies.
- Improve outreach and communication and strengthen the Centre's role in helping the wider UN better engage with Member States on human rights in the context of preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.
- 3. Advance Office-wide compliance with the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.
- 4. Assist Member States in improving their capacity to prevent and respond to terrorism threats based on international human rights law and the rule of law. The Programme will further work towards developing greater collaboration with civil society organizations and regional and national human rights mechanisms in the context of implementing the above-listed objectives.

The UNOCT SPPF includes the promotion of human rights compliant and gender responsive efforts to counter-terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism as one of its strategic goals (Strategic Goal 5). In line with this Goal, UNCCT will continue to draw upon the Office's human rights expertise in the design and implementation of CT/PCVE programmes and projects and ensure the mainstreaming of human rights considerations in the Centre's public messaging and engagements.

UNOCT also developed SOPs on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) for its projects and programmes that fall within the Policy's scope. The standard operating procedure, to be finalized in 2022, aims to ensure the consistent implementation of the HRDDP across the Office.

Throughout 2021, UNCCT, in the context of its coordinating role within the UN counter-terrorism architecture, engaged diverse stakeholders on a wide range of emerging issues, including the human rights aspects of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in counter-terrorism (see output 3.1).



## Mainstreaming Gender<sup>7</sup>



In 2021, UNCCT advanced considerably in its gender mainstreaming efforts. The SPPF for 2022-2025 includes a high-level result dedicated to gender-responsiveness in CT/PCVE efforts (Strategic Goal 5). UNCCT also contributed significantly to the development and adoption of the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan. These documents are fully aligned with the normative framework for mainstreaming gender equality through a human-rights based approach and

are anchored in the seventeen indicators of the UN system-wide requirements for gender equality as set out in the UN System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) 2.0, as well as in international gender equality and human rights standards.

In 2021, UNCCT set the groundwork for implementing gender-dedicated programmatic initiatives through the Gender and Identity Factors Platform that seeks to support the effective integration of gender and intersectional factors into CT/PCVE through a human rights-based approach. The digital hub is being integrated into UNOCT's Connect & Learn Platform, and will encompass a repository of research, literature, guidance and tools, including briefing papers and case studies. The Platform will also develop the delivery of training packages put together by Gender and CT/PCVE experts for specific target groups and establish communities of practice comprising different thematic areas.



During the reporting period, UNCCT also started to develop the Global Gender Programme. The concept note was prepared based on an extensive literature review and in consultation with relevant academics, researchers and UNOCT programme management teams. It consolidates all gender focused active projects under a single Global Programme with an initial duration of three years.

UNCCT was able to increasingly benefit from the strengthened in-house gender technical assistance and quality assurance in the design and delivery of its programmes. In 2021,

This section reports on projects entitled, "Gender and Identity Factors Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counter-terrorism Initiative", "Gender Mainstreaming in the Office of Counter-Terrorism" and "Gender Programme" with active implementation periods in 2021. While these projects are administratively assigned to UNCCT 5-Year Programme Outcome I, Output 1.1, they are cross-cutting and support all UNCCT programmes in gender mainstreaming and therefore reported under Part IV of this report.

the Gender Unit provided inputs to over 50 knowledge products, such as handbooks, compendiums and reports, project and programme documents, events' agendas, briefs and statements, among others. These reviews were requested by programme managers to better mainstream gender and attain results related to gender equality and women's empowerment. Some of these requests came from programmes and projects that did not have specific results related to gender but strived to mainstream gender perspectives throughout. The demand for such reviews remains high, which is evidence of the increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of mainstreaming gender and attaining Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (GEEW) results in CT/PCVE work.



Photo/UN India

# Integrating Gender Dimensions within the Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Approaches for Persons Associated with Boko Haram

A diversity of critical stakeholders, including government officials, security actors, criminal justice practitioners, civil society representatives, and UN entities came together to discuss how to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the implementation of the Regional SPRR Strategy for Boko Haram-Associated Persons during a 3-day regional workshop in March 2021. The discussions, organized under the UNOCT/UNCCT-UNODC-CTED project on "Supporting Lake Chad Basin Countries to Develop and Implement Strategies for SPRR", in cooperation with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, came out with recommendations for gender-sensitive SPRR approaches, which will be made available to Member States following further consultation with relevant UN entities. The recommendations provided guidance on how to ensure gender-sensitive approaches for: i) context analysis, ii) policy and legislative framework, iii) screening, iv) prosecution, and v) rehabilitation and reintegration. The hybrid workshop brought together 119 participants (58 females and 61 males) both in-person from Maroua, Abuja, Niamey and N'Djamena, and virtually from the region and around the world.



UN Photo/Manuel Elías

# V. Commitment to Learning

In line with the Secretary-General's call for further focus on evaluation (A/70/826), coupled with increased requests from Member States to strengthen the effectiveness of the implementation of the GCTS, UNOCT has continued to strengthen its result-oriented culture to support accountability and continuous learning.

Based on the recommendations from the 2018 audit of UNCCT, specifically the recommendation that UNCCT's programme of work should be reviewed and updated in light of the recent developments in the counter-terrorism architecture, an evaluation of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme was conducted in 2020 by external auditors. The recommendations from the KPMG evaluation have informed structural and programmatic changes in the Office to ensure alignment of mandate with operational efficiency. Specifically, KPMG recommended the separation of the monitoring and evaluation functions in view that they are separate tasks with a different purpose and requirements, the transfer of the evaluation function to the OUSG to enable better access to strategic programme governance, planning and decision-making and institutional learning, and the

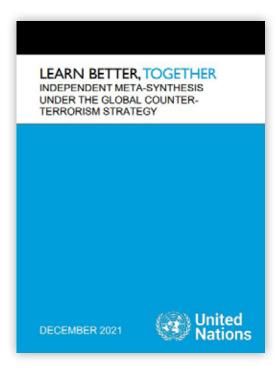
transfer of the monitoring function to the Programme Management Unit to consolidate monitoring capacity and to integrate it with new programme systems.

In response to these recommendations by KPMG, and to enhance the Office's results-orientation, UNOCT reorganized its monitoring and evaluation functions in 2021. In this regard, a new Evaluation and Compliance Unit was established in the OUSG as the custodian of the evaluation function while the Programme Management Unit, located in UNCCT, undertakes all activities related to monitoring and tracking of project and programme implementation. Significant efforts have been made to enhance and streamline results-based reporting, including through an After-Action Review of the 2020 annual report process, to draw lessons and identify priorities for action.

# **Independent Meta-Synthesis of the Evaluations Conducted under the GCTS**

In 2021, the first system-wide meta-synthesis of evaluation and oversight results of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Compact entities since 2018 towards the implementation of the GCTS was conducted by the Sub-Working Group on Evaluation of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (RMME WG) consisting of UNOCT, UNODC, UNICRI, and UNDP. This initiative attests to UNOCT's convening power and leadership to bring together UN entities and Member States through the Compact framework to leverage existing efforts and knowledge to achieve greater impact. This study for the first time presented comprehensive, independent information towards the implementation of the GCTS, resulting from a synthesis of 118 evaluation and oversight reports, ten key informant interviews, 29 respondents from a survey and the use of archival data.

The results of the synthesis found adequate qualitative evidence to suggest that Counter-Terrorism Compact entities were contributing to achieving outcomes related to minimizing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. There was also some evidence to suggest increased international cooperation among Member States towards the prevention and reduction of terrorism and some strengthening of regional and subregional organizations' counterterrorism mechanisms. However, not enough information was available to assess the degree to which outcomes pertaining to human rights were being achieved.



Overall, the synthesis identified large gaps in availability of evidence that require more information to make a conclusive determination of changes being made in inculcating a culture of peace, justice, rule of law and human rights in targeted countries, social rehabilitation, and reintegration, or even on what constitutes as terrorism.

As such, one of the major recommendations arising from the synthesis is to undertake a full-fledged evaluation of the Strategy, as its findings are limited by the availability of underlying data in the reports surveyed. It is possible that this study did not capture some of the findings that are available in confidential repositories or that exist in the shared lived experiences of UN staff and external stakeholders. Therefore, a full-fledged evaluation will help validate and derive robust findings from the current synthesis. The synthesis also recommended the establishment of a common and harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework, a knowledge platform for sharing knowledge, and strengthening the evaluation capacity among Counter-Terrorism Compact entities.

The synthesis identified several best practices such as the importance of leveraging partnerships to achieve wider impact. Partnering with CSOs, academia, private sector, and regional bodies, and going beyond traditional partnerships with Member States and other international organizations, was found to accelerate the achievement of intended results. Some of the most successful interventions found ways to leverage youth interests – arts, sports, media, informal learning, and personal relationships – to teach peacebuilding skills.

The study has identified a range of lessons learned, such as difficulties encountered with the project-based funding model which emerged as one of the most significant challenges to adopting a strategic and programmatic approach to counter-terrorism. The involvement of targeted beneficiaries (right holders) throughout the project process was identified as an important lesson. Multi-dimensional approaches that combined context-specific technical assistance, capacity-building, mentorship, community empowerment, unity forums, advocacy groups, attention to religious and cultural elements, and use of multimedia messaging incorporating theatre and radio were found to be most effective at achieving their intended goals.

Through the RMME WG, management responses are being developed to support the uptake and implementation of recommendations from the meta-synthesis by various Counter-Terrorism Compact entities as appropriate.

### Improvements to the Evaluation Function

UNOCT will continue to strengthen its evaluation function to ensure adherence to United Nations standards. In this regard, a review of the evaluation policy has been planned to align with the newly published United Nations Administrative Instructions on Evaluation, recent structural changes in the Office, and the new 2022-2025 UNOCT SPPF. Further guidance will be provided to the evaluation function through the development of evaluation guidelines and an evaluation handbook to guide the design and conduct of evaluations in the Office, including methodologies and tools for assessing the impact of PVE and CT projects and programmes.



UN Photo/Ryan Brown

# VI. Partnerships

UNOCT will continue to update the Organizational Evaluation Plan through the addition of new projects, programmes, and strategic evaluations while closing out completed evaluations and ensuring that lessons learned and good practices continually inform the design of new and ongoing initiatives.

UNCCT's mandate is to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and support Member States, international and regional organizations and UN entities to achieve the common goals of the GCTS. The ever-evolving threat of terrorism and violent extremism requires a 'whole-of-society' approach. To ensure this, UNCCT has developed strong relationships with diverse counter-terrorism partners around the world. In 2021, UNCCT continued to enhance these relations, acting as a catalyst for international cooperation and partnership-building. The Centre took a proactive approach in forming partnerships with Member States' relevant authorities, and supporting cooperation and coordination between Member States and other stakeholders, including international, regional, and subregional organizations, CSOs, academia, think tanks, and the private sector. UNCCT

collaborates closely with other UN entities both at Headquarters and in the field to ensure an 'All-of-UN' approach to CT/PCVE, including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact and its eight thematic working groups.

UNCCT recognizes the critical value of promoting the sharing of information and expertise across sectors and fostering a collaborative approach to CT/PCVE efforts. In this regard, UNCCT has continued its efforts to serve as a convenor of global and regional centres of expertise working on CT/PCVE. The overarching aim of these efforts is to build strategic partnerships and explore how the relevant entities can expand cooperation and exchange expertise through regional and international engagements. UNCCT has also facilitated strategic dialogue to explore how to better leverage synergies among CT/PCVE experts in support of the holistic and balanced implementation of the GCTS.

In 2021, UNCCT continued to promote deeper engagement with its partners in a step-by-step manner, ensuring respect for the mandates of the relevant entities and considering their individual desires for the depth of engagement. These engagements have demonstrated interest in ensuring that UNCCT - in its efforts towards a Centre of Excellence and a facilitator/hub for similar CT entities - serves as a convener and organizer of a network of counter-terrorism and PCVE think tanks, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and regional organizations.

## **Public Sector Partnerships**

Member States and their related institutions are valued UNCCT partners and donors. Member States are uniquely placed to benefit from capacity-building training and thematic expertise, enabling them to directly implement improved CT and PCVE initiatives. Regional and sub-regional bodies also provide a crucial role in the development of coordinated regional strategies. At the community level, local authorities are a critical element of governance and provide a direct link between people and other levels of government.

2021. UNCCT strenathened partnerships with Member States including for the provision of capacity building, for example, nationallevel capacity-building workshops were held with relevant authorities in Burkina Faso on the use of new technologies to counter-terrorism, implemented as part of the UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme Cybersecurity and New Technologies. Recognizing the value of working across sectors, the first workshop involved fifty experts with cybersecurity responsibilities within the government, the private sector and



academia. The workshop was organized in close collaboration with the National Agency of Information Systems Security (ANSSI) of Burkina Faso with support of ECOWAS, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and UNODC.

Highlighting the importance of this joint action, the Cybersecurity Director of ANSSI noted: "The collaboration with the UNOCT/UNCCT is an opportunity for Burkina Faso in the development of a holistic approach for the governance of information systems security, especially within the framework of the protection of critical national infrastructures."

Another example is the UN-EU Counter-Terrorism Partnership for Sudan, launched by UNOCT in 2021 through the Sudanese National Commission for Counter-Terrorism (SNCCT). The partnership involves capacity-building support and technical assistance for Sudan's authorities in areas such as legislative assistance, border security and management, and upholding human rights while countering terrorism. The first workshop under this partnership, held in February 2021, was organized with the UNCCT Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism.



In April 2021, UNCCT strengthened its partnership with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through an MoU with the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology (Etidal), based in Riyadh. Etidal uses cutting-edge technology to monitor, analyse, combat and prevent

extremist ideology, and promotes a culture of tolerance and coexistence. UNCCT and Etidal will join forces to support efforts of the international community to prevent and counter violent extremism. This will include the development of joint projects involving capacity-building workshops and awareness-raising campaigns. This partnership is part of UNCCT's strategic approach to support global cooperation between centres of excellence working on P/CVE.



## Regional & Sub-regional Bodies

UNCCT recognizes the strategic value of partnering with regional and sub-regional bodies to encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration to address terrorism and violent extremism. The challenges of terrorism and extremism exist across borders and, furthermore, issues and threats in one country can impact on neighbouring countries. Working with regional and sub-regional bodies allows UNCCT to develop solutions that address regional issues in a holistic and comprehensive way. Partnering at this level also encourages coherence and coordination between different national entities.

An example of cooperation at this level is UNCCT's role in furthering ASEAN-UN relations. In June 2021, UNCCT was invited by the Chair of the Working Group on Counter Terrorism of ASEAN's Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) to update representatives from ten ASEAN countries on the status of the UN system's support to Member States on PCVE issues. UNCCT also contributed as a speaker at the "Online Consultation to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism in ASEAN from Human Rights, Gender Sensitive and Child Rights-Friendly Approaches", organized by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). The consultation provided an opportunity to share best practices and develop recommendations on PCVE from a human rights, gender sensitive, and child rights perspective. In August 2021, UNCCT coordinated the provision of the UN system's inputs on CT and PCVE into the "Matrix of Implementation of the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2021-2025).

# Partnerships with Multi-stakeholder & International Organizations

Multi-stakeholder fora and international organizations are of fundamental importance as strategic partners. Multistakeholder fora are structured platforms for different stakeholder groups to discuss, collaborate on and lobby for sector-specific issues. Stakeholders can represent a variety of sectors, including public, private, academia and civil society. International organizations are organizations with official representation of more than one Member State. Making connections with these stakeholders provides access to global networks, facilitates exchange of diverse viewpoints and resources, and fosters efficient knowledge-sharing.

UNCCT also forms partnerships with specific multistakeholder fora and international organizations in order to discuss and share knowledge on relevant and pressing challenges, for example UNCCT led a briefing for the Permanent Missions in New York on promoting universalization and effective implementation of the ICSANT, held in February 2021. The



briefing brought together representatives of several international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly, and the Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), together with the UN Office of Legal Affairs and UNODC.

The partnership between the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the GCTF has increased at the strategic and programmatic levels. Both have made steady progress to identify common priority areas, established a continuous exchange of information, and come together for regular coordination meetings. The GCTF invited UN partners to co-lead on initiatives that developed the GCTF Good Practice Memorandum for the Implementation of Countering the Financing of Terrorism Measures While Safeguarding Civic Space https://tinyurl.com/mv8jw6c3 and the GCTF Counterterrorism Watchlisting Toolkit https://tinyurl.com/yeybdd2j. In the context of structured consultations in 2021 at the Seventh GCTF-Counter-Terrorism Compact Partnership Consultation (28 September) and at the Nineteenth GCTF Coordinating Committee Meeting (6 October), the Counter-Terrorism Compact and the GCTF repeatedly emphasized their shared desire to enhance cooperation to reinforce multilateral collaboration to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

This multifaceted partnership contributes to international, regional, and sub-regional counter-terrorism and PCVE efforts in a variety of ways, including through: (i) GCTF Initiatives co-led with Counter-Terrorism Compact entities; (ii) capacity-building coordination efforts in West Africa; (iii) practical cooperation between the GCTF Administrative Unit and the Counter-Terrorism Compact Secretariat; and (iv) collaboration between the GCTF Inspired Institutions and Counter-Terrorism Compact entities in support of the promotion and practical use of GCTF outputs.

## **United Nations Partnerships**

Partnerships across the UN are fundamental to system-wide coherence and effectiveness. Strong UN system partnerships also eliminate duplication of efforts and facilitate knowledge-sharing and the maximization of resources. In addition to partnerships within the UN counter-terrorism entities, there is also a need to ensure coherent communication and collaboration with diverse UN entities at all levels.

# Fostering a coordinated and integrated "All-of-UN" support to PCVE in Asia

In 2021, UNCCT led a to threats of terror South-East and Cen

In 2021, UNCCT led and coordinated cohesive responses to threats of terrorism and extremism across South, South-East and Central Asia.

Under UNCCT's joint EU-UN initiative, "Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism and Asia" (STRIVE Asia), various global thematic programmes joined efforts to achieve greater coherence in supporting national PCVE efforts in Central Asia. Together with UNODC and UNDP, STRIVE Asia facilitated the

development of integrated responses and created a platform for Central Asian States to discuss common challenges and terrorist threats, and to address new challenges and opportunities in the implementation of their PCVE strategies and NAPs.

Notably in Tajikistan, UNCCT, in collaboration with other UN partners, provided tailored support to develop the country's subsequent NAP and strategy on PCVE. A matrix of UN activities was devised and shared with the Government of Tajikistan to assist with its monitoring and evaluation efforts. The strategy and NAP were presented to Member States and partners who expressed appreciation on the coordinated efforts of UNCCT and the "whole-of-society" approach of Tajikistan in PCVE.

In Southeast Asia, UNCCT contributed significantly to the strengthening of a coordinated and coherent "All of UN" approach in assisting Member States on CT/PCVE matters in the region. Of particular relevance is the establishment, in 2021, of a dedicated coordination dialogue on CT and PCVE matters between Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT), and the UN "Peace Hub", an internal UN coordination mechanism on CT and PCVE matters led by the UN RC for Indonesia and co-chaired by UNCCT. In the Philippines, UNCCT provided substantive inputs in the development of a three-year UN Joint Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2021- 2024). The Programme focuses on technical cooperation and capacity-building with a view to improving further the situation of human rights in the Philippines, to provide support for the country in its continued fulfilment of its international human rights obligations and commitments.

UNCCT has increasingly partnered with UN entities to deliver capacity development and technical support through sub-contracting arrangements. In 2021, nine UN implementing partners were sub-contracted, including OHCHR, OPCW, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICRI, UNODC, UNOPS, UNSSC and UNWOMEN, compared to six in 2020. In addition, UNCCT works with UN Secretariat units, including CTED and OICT as implementing partners for the delivery of its programmes and projects. Of the eleven UN implementing partners in 2021, OHCHR, OPCW and UNSCC were new partnerships for UNCCT.

As an example of UNCCT's ongoing partnership with CTED, UNCCT under its Global CFT Programme participated in the virtual component of the CTED/CTC follow-up mission to Jordan. This follow-up mission was conducted within the framework of the Committee's work to monitor, facilitate and promote Member States' implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and other relevant Security Council resolutions, that will be further supported through the provision of technical assistance by the CFT Programme.

### **Private Sector Partnerships**

UNCCT recognizes the importance of an innovative approach to countering the threat of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In this regard, the private sector is a key partner for the Office and has an important role in CT and P/CVE given that their operations are vulnerable to exploitation. Such vulnerable spaces include, but are

not limited to, new technologies, social media platforms, and cryptocurrencies. UNCCT works with the private sector to take action to address exploitation in these spaces and collaborates to design and implement new solutions to prevent and counter future threats.

In 2021, UNCCT formed key partnerships with private sector entities to meet the capacity building needs of Member States. For example, in the field of countering the use of cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism, which is highly technical and requires advanced capabilities to track blockchain transactions, and investigate and prosecute crimes and terrorism related to crypto-space, UNCCT formed key partnerships to support 10 Member States advance these capabilities by partnering with: (i) specialized blockchain analytics companies such as TRM Labs, Crystal Blockchain and CipherTrace; (ii) crypto business innovators such as Ernst & Young Nordic Blockchain; and (iii) crypto exchanges such as Binance and Coinbase to deliver training and exchange best practices. This included presentations at the UNCCT Regional Conference on "Virtual Assets and their Perspectives: Risk-Assessment and Experience in Financial Investigations related to Crypto-Crimes", held in Russia in September, and a training to delegates of Moroccan law enforcement, judiciary and financial intelligence on "Countering the use of Cryptocurrencies to Finance Terrorism" in Morocco in December 2021.

## **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

The value of meaningful civil society engagement is reflected in various UN counter-terrorism resolutions and guiding documents, including the GCTS and the UN PVE Plan of Action. In line with the UNOCT Civil Society Engagement Strategy, UNCCT recognizes the key role that CSOs play within diverse communities and the value of their knowledge and expertise in the design and implementation of effective CT/PCVE initiatives. Often, CSOs are a trusted local voice, offering unique and expansive insights, reach and impact. Furthermore, CSOs often have the most up-to-date knowledge of the impact of terrorism, violent extremism and counter-terrorism efforts on their communities. Partnerships with CSOs are therefore crucial to ensure that the voices and needs of communities are heard and reflected in UNCCT's CT/PCVF actions.

In 2021, UNCCT took steps to enhance and mainstream engagement with CSOs. This included collaborating with CSOs via a series of events, including virtual side events held during the CT Week in June. These events strengthened existing relations with CSOs and fostered new communication and networks with additional CSOs. Reflecting the vital role of CSOs in the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates with ties to violent extremist groups, one side event focused on "Engagement of Civil Society Organizations in the Management of VEPs and Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons". The event was attended by representatives of Member States, international and regional organizations, Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and CSOs.

Another side event during CT week focused on "The Importance of Model Legislative Provisions to Strengthen Comprehensive National Assistance Plans for Victims of Terrorism". The virtual event was co-organized by the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of

human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, UNODC, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and UNCCT. It brought together over 100 representatives of Member States, members of Parliaments, UN Entities, victims of terrorism and victims' associations. The event featured a high-level segment, where UNCCT focused on the importance of providing holistic support to victims. Speakers, including victims and representatives of CSOs, highlighted the crucial aspect of assistance and support, remembrance and recognition for victims of terrorism, the particular needs of women victims of terrorism, and the importance of providing psycho-social support to victims not only in the aftermath of the attack but also in the medium- and long term. Grounding these national comprehensive assistance plans in legislation will help to ensure that they are implemented and that the rights of victims of terrorism are protected by law.

### Academia/Think Tanks

UNCCT recognizes the unique role that academia plays in strengthening the design, development and implementation of ideas, projects and innovative solutions to programmatic work. Universities, think tanks, and independent researchers inform the Office's work by conducting methodologically sound research, providing evidence-based information, deepening learning and policy discussion, and assisting in the evaluation of impact and results of programmatic activities.

In 2021, UNCCT worked on enhancing international academic cooperation to leverage research and expertise across the globe. For example, in October 2021 an MoU was signed with the NAUSS. The partnership will lead to the development of joint projects supporting the implementation of the GCTS. Activities will include capacitybuilding workshops in the fields of border security and management, countering cybersecurity and the financing of terrorism. The President of NAUSS highlighted the value of this collaborative approach, noting that the MoU, "will solidify our partnership with the UNCCT and will allow us to further our shared goals. We will be able to offer more joint services to our stakeholders, particularly in capacity-building, joint research and supporting policy making in the field of counterterrorism".



Photo/UNCCT: USG Voronkov and Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Banyan, President of NAUSS, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in a number of key topics related to counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. 1 October 2021, New York.



UN Photo/Rodrigo Cabrita

# VII. Communications & Visibility

In 2021, the Office continued to implement UNCCT Communications Strategy and Visibility Plan, which envisions the strengthening of the UNCCT brand as positioning as a Centre of Excellence. Dedicated communications plans and branded products were developed, in close collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, other United Nations entities and partners to further promote the programmes, projects and activities showcasing impact, innovation and partnerships in addressing the scourge of terrorism and violence extremism.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, which impacted the planning and delivery of UNCCT activities, the Office continued to develop products adapted to the new context, focusing more on online and digital communications. For example, a number of events took place virtually or in hybrid format and were live-streamed on UNWebTV.

The Counter-Terrorism Week and its 36 events (including 15 organized by UNCCT) held virtually, provided a strategic opportunity to promote UNOCT and UNCCT as a Centre of

Excellence. In addition, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and UNOCT senior officials continued to promote the activities of UNCCT in statements delivered at major events acknowledging the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

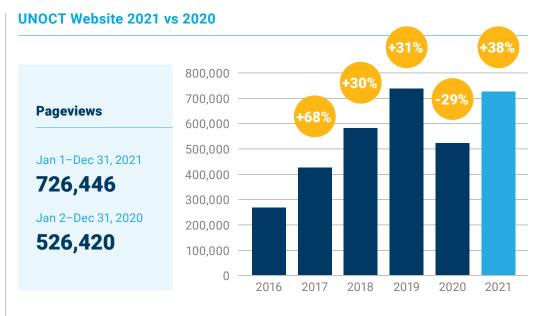
In order to reach out to wider audiences and ensure their participation in key outreach events despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions, UNOCT senior managers stepped-up their digital diplomacy and increased the number of recorded video messages. The statements were posted on the website and Youtube Channel to maximize their reach and impact.

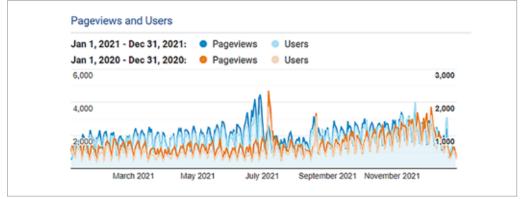
The Office also increased the production of audio-visual products to promote activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner. For example, UNOCT prepared a video to wrap up 2021 entitled UNOCT – 2021: year in review and summarize key achievements and acknowledge donor contributions including the support provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The video was presented by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov in the UNOCT Annual Briefing to Member States held virtually on 28 January 2022 and posted on the homepage of the UNOCT website and Youtube Channel.

In parallel, the Office also increased website content and the number of periodic newsletters featuring UNCCT programmes and activities such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. The UNOCT Monthly Newsletter continued to promote the achievements of UNCCT's programmes and projects. It also acknowledges the contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the section highlighting the top 10 donors and thus providing further recognition to the increasingly diversified donor base.



The number of web stories (49 including 32 on UNCCT) posted on the UNOCT website increased by over 300 per cent in 2021 as well as the traffic and viewers which increased by 38 per cent. In total, the UNOCT website recorded over 726,000 views in 2021 which demonstrates the relevance of the content and stories presented. The traffic on the UNCCT website reached 65,617 page views in 2021 representing an increase of 10 per cent as compared to 2021 (59,614 page views). The most visited pages are UNCCT landing page (17.774), CBRN (5,567), cybersecurity (5,317) and Youth empowerment (3,656).





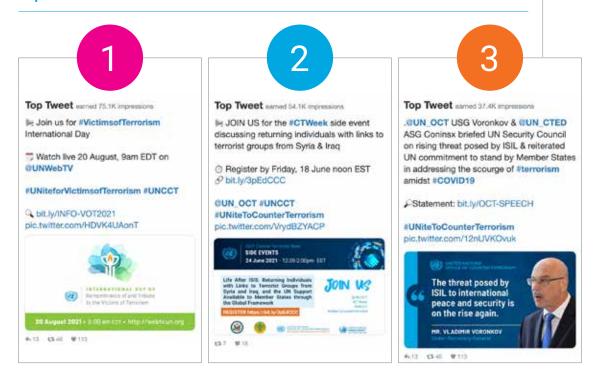
### **UNOCT Twitter Performances**

The Office boosted its support to its twitter account (@UN\_OCT) which increased its number of followers by 49 per cent in 2021 alone (from 10,000 followers by the end of 2020 to 14,200 reached in 2021). Over 750 tweets were posted on the @UN\_OCT twitter account. The total impressions @UN\_OCT generated by 8,000 contributors reached 287 million in 2021, with an increase of 52 per cent as compared to last year.

Benefiting from these performances, UNCCT's virtual activities continued to be promoted through the UNOCT Twitter account and UNCCT's hashtag (#UNCCT) in a timely and consistent manner. Other hashtags were also promoted for key programmes and activities including #VictimsofTerrorism and #UNCCTExpo. In 2021, over 353 tweets mentioning #UNCCT were posted on the @UN\_OCT twitter account as opposed to 240 in 2020. According to Union Metrics/Falcon Listen, #UNCCT generating over 89 million owned potential impressions (via @UN\_OCT) in 2021 and 33.9 million in 2020 representing an increase of 162 per cent.

@UN_OCT	2020	2021	Increase
Impressions	189 million	287 milion	+52%
# of UNCCT impressions	33.9 million	89 million	+162%
Contributors	6,000	8,000	+33%
# of UNCCT contributors	739	1,400	+89%
Tweets	562	755	+26%
# of UNCCT tweets	240	353	+47%
# of followers	9,500	14,200	+49%

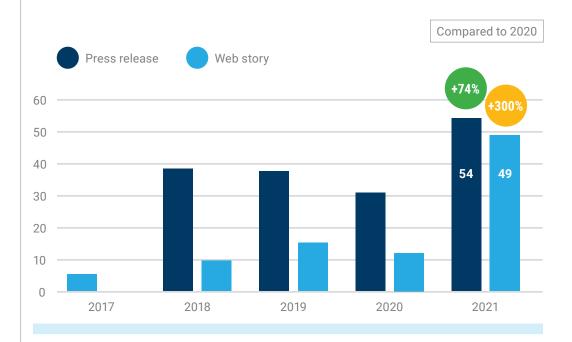
### **Top Tweets**



# **UNOCT Press Release and Web Story**

In 2021, UNOCT issued 54 press releases which represents an increase of 74 per cent compared to 2020. Of the total press releases issued, 21 were dedicated to presenting key UNCCT events of programmes and projects. 49 web stories were issued in 2021 including 32 on UNCCT.

In 2022, UNOCT will continue to promote the programmes supported by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the development of tailored communications plans, impactful communications tools, and attractive campaigns, in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications, United Nations entities and partners, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.





# VIII. Financial Resources and Performance

### **Resource Mobilization**

UNOCT/UNCCT continues to rely on the generous contributions from donors to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism to implement its activities as the United Nations Regular Programme Budget only covers approximately 3 per cent of the Office's annual budget. Adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding mobilized through voluntary contributions is crucial to enable UNOCT/UNCCT to respond effectively and efficiently to Member States' requests for support to critical counter-terrorism activities.

Since the Trust Fund's establishment in 2009 and up to 31 December 2021, UNOCT has mobilized \$286.8 million in pledges from 35 donors and through allocations from the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund (UNPDF) managed by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (funded by the Government of the People's Republic of

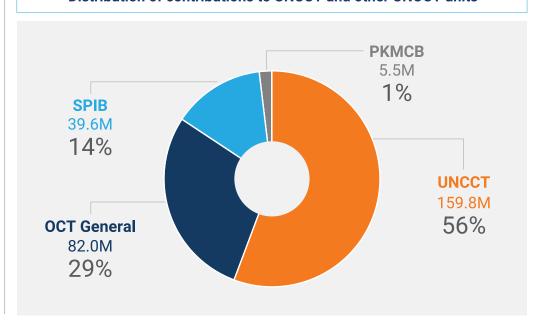
China). In 2021 alone, UNOCT secured \$19.4 million in new contributions and allocations from 17 donors.

The Office has made concerted efforts to attract new donors and since 2018 it has welcomed contributions from eight new donors: India and the Russian Federation in 2018; Algeria and Finland in 2019; Hungary, Portugal and the United Nations Development Programme for a joint project funded by the European Union in 2020; and France, in 2021.

## Cumulative and annual pledges to the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since 2009, and through other allocations to UNOCT



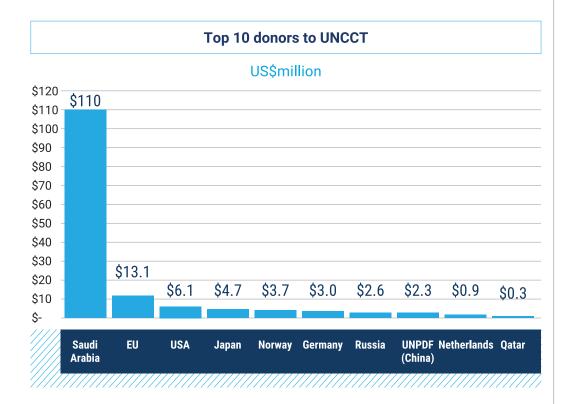
#### Distribution of contributions to UNCCT and other UNOCT units

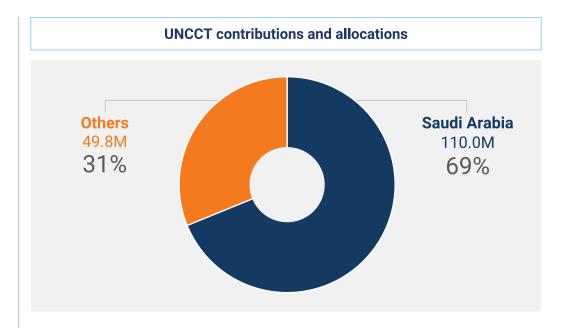


UNCCT relies exclusively on voluntary contributions for funding of its mandated capacity-building activities. UNCCT was established in 2011 through a voluntary contribution of \$10 million from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, following the recommendation in the GCTS (A/RES/60/288, Pillar II, para 9) "that the question of creating an international centre to fight terrorism could be considered, as part of international efforts to enhance the fight against terrorism". In 2014, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia donated an additional \$100 million to help finance the work of the UNCCT making them the largest donor to UNCCT.

As of 31 December 2021, UNCCT has received \$159.8 million through the generous contributions of 32 donors. This represents 56 per cent of the total contributions received to the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism and other allocations including the United Nations Peace and Development Fund.

The largest donor to UNCCT is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, followed by the European Union, the United States of America, Japan, and Norway. The contribution provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represents 69 per cent of the total secured for UNCCT and it is expected to be potentially depleted in the first half of 2023. This will create a critical funding gap that will hamper UNCCT's operational and programmatic capacity to effectively support Member States in the implementation of the GCTS.





In 2021 alone, out of the total \$19.4 million secured in new contributions and allocations, \$8.6 million was to support UNCCT initiatives as per table below:

2021 Contributions and allocations to UNC	ст
Canada	\$1,138,987
European Union	\$2,815,315
France	\$347,220
Germany	\$563,063
Italy	\$270,270
India	\$500,000
Japan	\$350,000
Republic of Korea	\$220,762
Russia	\$1,100,000
Spain	\$56,306
Sweden	\$66,671
United States of America	\$709,349
UNPDF/China	\$507,392
TOTAL 2021	\$8,645,336

## Total contributions and allocations to UNOCT from the UN Trust Fund of Counter-Terrorism since its establishment in 2009

Donors	Rank	Total contribution	Contribution to UNCCT
Saudi Arabia	1	\$110,000,000	\$110,000,000
Qatar	2	\$92,770,000	\$250,000
European Union	3	\$25,405,130	\$13,054,978
UNPDF/China	4	\$7,911,410	\$2,345,673
United States of America	5	\$7,867,968	\$6,126,052
Netherlands	6	\$6,586,953	\$905,135
Japan	7	\$5,234,945	\$4,734,945
Russia	8	\$4,700,000	\$2,641,500
Germany	9	\$4,158,339	\$2,989,147
Norway	10	\$3,747,148	\$3,747,148
Canada	11	\$2,624,730	\$2,624,730
Spain	12	\$2,484,051	\$2,439,005
Australia	13	\$1,953,478	\$230,058
United Kingdom	14	\$1,806,305	\$1,434,721
India	15	\$1,550,000	\$775,000
Republic of Korea	16	\$1,528,166	\$722,699
UNDP/European Union	17	\$1,016,624	\$1,016,623
Morocco	18	\$933,333	\$30,000

## Total contributions and allocations to UNOCT from the UN Trust Fund of Counter-Terrorism since its establishment in 2009

Donors	Rank	Total contribution	Contribution to UNCCT
Sweden	19	\$743,711	\$743,711
Denmark	20	\$683,858	\$521,848
Italy	21	\$554,653	\$441,608
Switzerland	22	\$548,621	\$548,621
Portugal	23	\$367,292	
United Arab Emirates	24	\$350,000	\$350,000
France	25	\$347,220	\$347,220
Kazakhstan	26	\$328,552	\$300,000
Belgium	27	\$270,855	\$270,855
Colombia	28	\$125,000	
Finland	29	\$87,854	\$87,854
Turkey	30	\$60,000	\$60,000
Liechtenstein	31	\$40,000	\$40,000
Algeria	32	\$22,500	\$2,500
Hungary	33	\$22,125	
Nigeria	34	\$10,000	\$10,000
Kenya	35	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$286,845,821	\$159,796,633

## **Financial Performance**

As of 31 December 2021, UNCCT utilized 79 per cent of the budget issued during the year, with a total expenditure of \$26.9 million, compared to an implementation rate of 73 per cent in 2020. This reflected an increased delivery of UNCCT programmes and projects during the reporting year, as the Office emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total 2021 UNCCT budget and expenditure distribution by GCTS pillar and 5-Year Programme Outcome (US\$)<sup>8</sup>

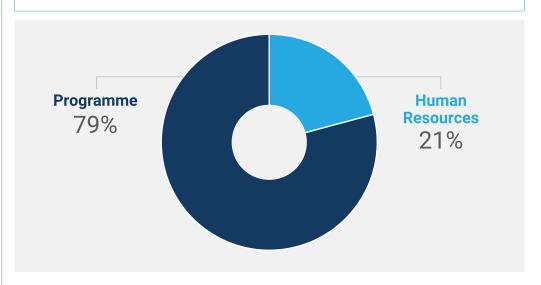
GCTS Pillar	UNCCT 5-Year Programme Outcome	Consumable Budget <sup>9</sup> (a)	Expenditure <sup>10</sup> (b)	Implementation Rate (c) = b/a
Pillar I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	9,593,714	8,284,958	86%
Pillar II	Combatting Terrorism	11,385,407	8,332,751	73%
Pillar III	International Cooperation	2,884,014	2,254,360	78%
Pillar IV	Human Rights and Victims	10,284,186	8,038,375	78%
TOTAL		34,147,321	26,910,444	79%

<sup>8</sup> Includes all support cost

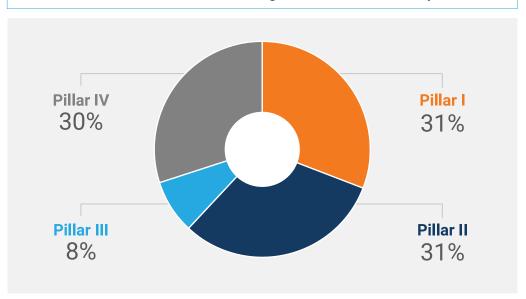
<sup>9</sup> Consumable budget is the budget amount released and available for implementation of programmes and projects under the GCTS pillars.

<sup>10</sup> Expenditure figures includes commitments and actual expenditures incurred for each GCTS pillar.

Distribution of 2021 UNCCT expenditures by programme and human resources categories



### Distribution of 2021 UNCCT budgets across the 4 GCTS pillars





UN Photo/Mark Garten: Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vladimir Voronkov briefs reporters

# IX. Conclusions and Way Forward

The UNCCT is proud of the work achieved in supporting Member States in the implementation of the GCTS based on the UNCCT 5-Year Programme (2016-2020) over the reporting period. It has also been a time when both the Centre and UNOCT have worked to consolidate its gains and achievements. In line with the vision of UNOCT, UNCCT will seek for the forthcoming period to be one of sustainability.

In its first ten years of operation, the Centre has seen significant changes in its size, means of operations, programme development and implementation and management structures. Most significantly, the move in 2017 to UNOCT enhanced the Centre's access to political, substantive and diplomatic support, enabling UNCCT's deeper integration into the United Nations' counter-terrorism architecture. UNOCT has also provided the Centre with support services, strengthening the Centre's internal system, functions, and procedures over the years.

Reflecting on the UNCCT's evaluative and result-based culture, during the past three years the Centre has been assessed through an audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 2018, followed by an evaluation by KPMG in 2020. Both assessments were positive, allowing the identification of areas where UNCCT is dedicated to improving. The OIOS audit informed a UNOCT-wide change management process in 2019, and the KPMG evaluation has significantly informed the development of the new SPPF building on its lessons-learned.

With the first ever UNOCT SPPF guiding the work of the Office the next four years, UNCCT is at the forefront of supporting Member States to take action to prevent and counter terrorism through gender responsive and human rights compliant approaches consistent with international human rights and gender equality norms, conventions, and UN Security Council resolutions. The UNCCT Advisory Board, and in particular the steadfast support of the Chairman of the Advisory Board, has been instrumental and most appreciated in providing strategic guidance throughout the development of the SPPF.

Through UNOCT's institutional priorities which include: a stronger results culture, a fit-for-purpose UNOCT, moving closer to our partners and activities, stronger coordination and coherence, amplified human rights and gender responses and finally having more sustainable and diversified funding, UNCCT's work will be more relevant to the needs of Member States, as well as more effective, coherent, and cost-efficient. As such, UNCCT will continue its strong efforts to consolidate itself as the leading global centre of excellence on CT/PCVE. UNCCT, as an integral part of UNOCT, will continue developing the internal controls, structures and mechanisms required to ensure the effective and efficient running of a new UN office. UNCCT remains deeply committed to achieving performance results. To this end, UNCCT will rely on the strong commitment and support of Member States to provide adequate and timely financial resources, in view of the full utilization of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's contribution by the end of 2022, to effectively carry out its mandate in line with the GCTS and the SPPF.

The next four years will surely see new global terrorism threats and challenges, but it is expected that through common efforts and a renewed vision, UNCCT will continue to achieve more impactful and sustainable results, 'Together, Building a Future Without Terrorism'.

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

AICHR ASEAN	Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AIMC	Arab Interior Ministers Council
AIT	Austrian Institute of Technology
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing
ANSSI	National Agency of Information Systems Security of Burkina Faso
AROS	Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
BNPT	National Counter Terrorism Agency (of the Government of Indonesia)
BSM	Border Security and Management
CABMI	Central Asian Border Management Initiative
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CCAF	Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
СТ	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CTPN	Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network
CT/PCVE	Countering Terrorism/ Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
CS0s	Civil Society Organizations
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
EAB	European Association for Biometrics
EAC	East African Community

EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central Asian States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDIN	Empowering Dialogue and Interfaith Network
EMLCU	Egyptian Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Combating Unit
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
Etidal	Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FRSBs	FATF-Style Regional bodies
FTF	Foreign terrorist fighters
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
GCTS	Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
GEEW	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
GICNT	Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
HRDDP	Human Rights Due Diligence Policy
I-ACT	Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
IED	Improvised Explosive Devices
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union

ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JPoA	Joint Plan of Action
JSEs	Joint Scoping Exercises
KFCRIS	King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies
KPMG	Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler International Cooperative
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MENAFATF	Middle East and Northern Africa Financial Action Task Force
MIDAS	Migration Information and Data Analysis System
MLP	Model Legislative Provisions
NARS	National and Regional Strategy
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NAUSS	Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTI	Nuclear Threat Initiative
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OROLSI	Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
OSAPG	United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open-source intelligence
OSRSG-VAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
OUSG	Office of the Under-Secretary General
PCVE	Preventing and countering violent extremism

PMU	Programme Management Unit
PRB	Programme Review Board
PRR	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
PVE	Preventing violent extremism
RMME WG	Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
ROK	Republic of Korea
SCO RATS	Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SEARCCT	Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism
SNCCT	Sudan National Commission for Counter-Terrorism
SOMTC	Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
SOP	Standard operating procedure
SPIB	Special Projects and Innovation Branch
SPPF	Strategic Plan and Programme Framework
SPRR	Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
SSC	South-South Cooperation
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNITAD	United Nations Investigative Team for Accountability of Da'esh/ISIL
UNITAMS	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNON	United Nations Office at Nairobi
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOV	United Nations Office at Vienna
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSSC	United Nations System Staff College
UN-SWAP	UN System-wide Action Plan
UoC	University of Cambridge
US	United States
USG	Under-Secretary-General
VEOs	Violent Extremist Offenders
VEPs	Violent Extremist Prisoners
VERTIC	Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

## ANNEX 1

**UNCCT 5-Year Programme Results Framework** 

Outcome 1: Preve	Outcome 1: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Pillar I)				
Output 1.1:	Preventing Violent Extremism				
Output 1.2:	Foreign Terrorist Fighters				
Outcome 2: Com	nbatting 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: Hum	nan Rights and Victims (Pillar IV)				
Output 3.1:	Human Rights				
Output 3.2:	Victims of Terrorism				
Outcome 4: Inte	rnational Cooperation (Pillar III)				
Output 4.1:	Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT)				
Output 4.2:	Supporting the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities				
Output 4.2: Output 4.3:					

### ANNEX 2

# 2021 UNCCT programmes and projects By GCTS Pillar and 5-Year Programme and Output<sup>11</sup>

Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate
Pillar I	Addressing the Conditions Conducive to	the Spread	l of Terrorism			
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme	Global	01-Jan-20 to 30-Sep-21 Completed	137,778.64	141,770.93	103%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Gender Mainstreaming in the Office of Counter-Terrorism	Global	01-Nov-17 to 31-Jul-21 Completed	71,095	33,249	47%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Facilitate Coordinated "One-UN" Support to Member States on PVE Policy-Making and Developing National and Regional PVE Action Plans	Global	01-Jan-18 to 31-Dec-20 Completed	493,725	418,159	85%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE Asia)	Regional	07-Jan-19 to 07-Jan-23 Ongoing	3,854,010	3,187,721	83%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Peer-to-peer capacity-building training between young religious leaders and young media makers	Regional	01-Apr-20 to 28-Feb-22 Ongoing	29,163		0%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Gender Programme Seed Fund	Global	15-Jun-20 to 31-Jul-22 Ongoing	298,431	153,409	51%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Enabling Youth Entrepreneurship and Increasing Youth Employment Opportunities to Build Resilience Against Violent Extremism in Ethiopia	National	01-Jul-19 to 31-Dec-20 Completed	38,036	34,399	90%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism	Global	01-Jan-21 to 31-Dec-23 Ongoing	3,758,868	3,690,840	98%

<sup>11</sup> This list as compiled based on financial information from the Executive Office excludes the following projects which were active in 2021 and covered by the narrative content of this annual report: "Gender and Identity Factors Platform for Countering Violent Extremism and Counter-terrorism Initiative", "JPoA - Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase IV", "Project on developing guidelines for member states to facilitate the implementation of security council resolution 2370(2017) and the relevant international standards and good practices on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons", "Human Rights Aspects of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism", "Uzbekistan Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program".

Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate
Pillar I	Addressing the Conditions Conducive to	the Spread	l of Terrorism			
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Support to Iraq on Youth Employment and Skills Development to Prevent Violent Extremism	National	01-Jul-19 to 31-Mar-22 Ongoing		-	
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Intercultural dialogue and socio- emotional competencies for peacebuilding	Regional	01-Jan-21 to 30-Apr-22 Ongoing	85,880	85,880	100%
Outcome 1 Output 1.1	Prevention of Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (UNCCT-UNESCO)	Regional	01-Jan-18 to 31-Mar-21 Completed		(6,013)	
Outcome 1 Output 1.2	Enhancing Information Sharing on Foreign Terrorist Fighters among Member States (UNCCT-INTERPOL)	Global	01-Jul-20 to 31-Aug-22 Ongoing	629,311	334,127	53%
Pillar I Total				9,396,298	8,073,541	86%
Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate
Pillar II	Preventing and Combatting Terrorism					
Outcome 2 Output 2.1	JPoA - Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase III	Regional	01-Jan-18 to 30-Sep-21 Completed	292,649	223,756	76%
Outcome 2 Output 2.1	Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter- Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World (UNCCT-AIMC)	Regional	01-Jan-19 to 31-Mar-22 Ongoing	921,023	821,067	89%
Outcome 2 Output 2.1	CARICOM High Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism	Regional	01-Jan-20 to 31-Dec-20 Ongoing	-		
Outcome 2 Output 2.2	Capacity Building Project on Countering the Financing of Terrorism through Effective National and Regional Action	Global	01-Feb-18 to 31-Mar-22 Ongoing		(9,303)	
Outcome 2	UNOCT-UNCCT Global Coordinated		01-Jun-20 to			

Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate		
Pillar II	Preventing and Combatting Terrorism							
Outcome 2 Output 2.3	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)	Global	31-Jan-19 to 31-Jan-23 Ongoing	1,854,817	1,034,123	56%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.4	Enhancing the Capacity of States to Prevent Cyber Attacks Perpetrated by Terrorist Actors and Mitigate Their Impact (Global CT Programme on Cyber Security and New Technologies)	Global	01-Apr-17 to 31-Dec-24 Ongoing	733,095	474,458	65%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.4	Enhancing skills of Officials of South Asia and South East Asia in relation to structured methodologies for the collection of Open Source Information from the Internet and Social Media for counter-terrorism investigations	Regional	01-Apr-20 to 31-Dec-21 Completed	370,695	371,092	100%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.4	Strengthening the capacities of officials from Burkina Faso regarding cybersecurity and digital forensics for counter-terrorism in the COVID-19 era (under the Global CT Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme)	National	01-Oct-20 to 31-Dec-21 Completed	1,012,121	955,254	94%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.4	Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS)	Global	01-Jan-21 to 31-Dec-23 Ongoing	378,310	25,278	7%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.5	Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (WMD/CBRN Programme)	Global	28-Sep-18 to 30-Sep-22 Ongoing	842,663	737,580	88%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.5	Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan (under WMD/CBRN Programme)	National	01-Oct-18 to 30-Sep-22 Ongoing	195,684	93,221	48%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.5	Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Attacks in Iraq (under WMD/ CBRN Programme)	National	15-Nov-19 to 31-Mar-22 Ongoing	205,474	107,140	52%		

Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate		
Pillar II	Preventing and Combatting Terrorism							
Outcome 2 Output 2.5	Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (UNCCT-UNODC)/ICSANT	Global	01-Jan-19 to 30-Nov-22 Ongoing	539,796	179,895	33%		
Outcome 2 Output 2.5	UNCCT Small Arms and Light Weapons project	Regional	07-Jan-20 to 30-Jun-23 Ongoing	379,491	351,724	93%		
Pillar II Total				9,397,606	6,254,891	67%		
Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate		
Pillar III	Strengthening the Role of the United Nations System and Building States' Capacity to Prevent and Combat Terrorism							
Outcome 4 Output 4.1	Enhancing Regional Counter-Terrorism Cooperation - seed funding	Regional	01-Jan-20 to 31-Jul-21 Completed		(111,958)			
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	United Nations Office of Counter- Terrorism, Programme Office in Kenya	Regional	01-Jan-21 to 31-Dec-22 Ongoing	6,809	6,809	100%		
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	Raising Awareness on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks in Accordance with UNSCR 2341 (2017) and Enhancing States' Capabilities in this Area (seed fund)	Global	01-Jan-19 to 30-Apr-20 Ongoing		(7,690)			
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge About Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism (UNCCT-UNICRI seed project)	Global	21-Mar-19 to 31-Jul-21 Completed		(4,789)			
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	Developing a comprehensive and integrated Iraqi national counter-terrorism strategy in support of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions	National	01-Jul-19 to 31-Mar-22 Ongoing		-			
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	Preventing Violent Extremism Through Promoting Tolerance and Respect for Diversity, Phase II	Regional	01-May-20 to 30-Apr-23 Ongoing	96,043	94,256	98%		

Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate		
Pillar III	Strengthening the Role of the United Nations System and Building States' Capacity to Prevent and Combat Terrorism							
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	Strengthening Burkina Faso's Criminal Justice Response to Caseload of Detainees Suspected of Terrorist Offences	National	13-May-21 to 13-Nov-21 Initiated	217,992	8,645	4%		
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	CT/PVE Awareness Training for UN staff	Global	01-Jan-20 to 31-Mar-22 Completed	84,486	84,486	100%		
Outcome 4 Output 4.2	Ensuring Effective Inter-Agency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks - Phase III (Implementation) - (Seed Project)		01-Jul-21 to 31-Dec-22 Ongoing	169,500	169,500	100%		
Outcome 4 Output 4.4	Enhancing south-south exchange of expertise between experts from Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism	Global	01-Mar-19 to 31-Jul-22 Ongoing	233,273	236,694	101%		
Pillar III Tota	ı			808,102	475,953	59%		
Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate		
Pillar IV	Pillar IV Ensuring Respect for Human rights and the Rule of Law as the Fundamental Basis of the Fight Against Terrorism							
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization in Prisons	National	01-May-18 to 30-Jun-22 Ongoing	361,484	451,203	125%		
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Training of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism	Global	01-Feb-18 to 30-Jun-22 Ongoing	608,052	255,461	42%		
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Ensuring Compliance with Human Rights Standards at Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism (under BSM programme)	Global	31-Oct-18 to 31-Mar-21 Completed		4,212			
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Basic Human Rights Reference Guide on Proscription of Organisations in the Contex	t Global	18-May-18 to 31-May-21	80,880	79,859	99%		
	of Counter-Terrorism (Seed fund)		Completed					

Outcome Output	Title	Scope	Duration Status	Released Budget	Consumed Budget	Imp. Rate		
Pillar IV	Ensuring Respect for Human rights and the Rule of Law as the Fundamental Basis of the Fight Against Terrorism							
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Supporting Lake Chad Basin Countries to Develop and Implement Strategies for the Screening, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Boko Haram-Associated Persons	Regional	12-Jan-16 to 30-Jun-22 Ongoing	922,977	776,532	84%		
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Global PRR initiative (under S-PRR programme)	Global	01-Jan-20 to 31-Dec-21 Completed	700,300	586,924	84%		
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Strengthening supervision and community- based rehabilitation and reintegration of terrorist and violent extremist defendants and offenders through an "all-of-society" approach	National	01-Apr-21 to 31-Mar-22 Ongoing	349,253	354,662	102%		
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Seed funding 'Promoting implementation of United Nations Guidelines for gender sensitive approaches to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration'	Regional	01-Jan-20 to 31-May-23 Ongoing	125,425		0%		
Outcome 3 Output 3.1	Enhancing the Capacity of States to Adopt Human Rights Based Treatment of Child Returnees	Global	01-Sep-19 to 30-Sep-21 Completed		(3,302)			
Outcome 3 Output 3.2	Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme	Global	01-Jun-18 to 31-Dec-23 Ongoing	1,985,055	1,454,433	73%		
Pillar IV Total				8,227,560	6,317,203	77%		
Grand Total				27,829,566	21,233,545	76%		



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