



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
Programme Office in Doha

International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism

Behavioural Insight to Counter-terrorism

The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, a UNOCT Programme Office in Doha, was established in partnership with the State of Qatar in 2020.

It serves as a **global platform** for the advancement of knowledge of Behavioural Insights to prevent and counter terrorism, for disseminating lessons learned and good practices, and creating a professional network of experts, academics, practitioners, and policymakers. The BI Hub provides innovative, results-oriented, and impactful **capacity-building support** that meets the needs and priorities of Member States to address the evolving threats from terrorism and to leverage UNOCT's field presence for more effective support to practitioners seeking technical assistance. It also provides **outreach opportunities** to strengthen the coordination among various counter-terrorism actors in adopting behaviourally informed interventions. Further, the

BI-informed communication approach creates synergies, supports resource mobilisation and promotes **strategic partnerships** to strengthen cooperation for effective implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

UNOCT is proud to be one of the first UN entities that has championed the application and integration of behavioural insights in its work. **The behavioural insights approach allows to increase the understanding of the risks and resilience factors underlying violent extremism conducive to terrorism in order to ensure that the responses to this evolving threat are realistic, effective and sustainable.**



“ Behavioural science is a critical tool for the UN to progress on its mandate. It can contribute to combating poverty, improving public health and safety, promoting gender equality, strengthening peacebuilding and all the SDGs.

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

The Hub promotes research, advances knowledge sharing and leverages subject-matter expertise to inform counter-terrorism policy, and strengthen the delivery of capacity-building assistance to Member States.

Highlights

- ▶ **In 2022**, the Hub organized a number of awareness-raising workshops on behavioural insights, attended by over 150 representatives from Member States, international organizations, and civil society actors from Africa, Europe, Central Asia, and as well as the Middle East and North Africa. Similar events will be organized with a focus on South-East Asia, Eastern Africa, and the Balkans.
- ▶ **In March 2022**, the Hub hosted the First Annual Global Youth Townhall, which facilitated an insightful conversation between representatives of a global youth constituency and behavioural science researchers and practitioners working on preventing violent extremism.



- ▶ **In February 2022**, the Hub held a virtual workshop on using Behavioural Insights to address the intersection between the internet, mental health, and radicalization to violent extremism in Europe.

- ▶ **In October 2021**, the Hub organised over 40 consultations with experts, potential partners, and beneficiaries to establish a global network of focal points. The Hub now leverages this network to provide capacity-building assistance to Member States in developing and implementing programmes, projects and initiatives that integrate behavioural science to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism.
- ▶ **In June 2021**, on the margins of the UN High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week, the Hub organised a Side Event on the utility of behavioural science in preventing and countering violent extremism. The event was attended by over 230 participants.

2021 Counter-Terrorism Week
SIDE EVENTS

International Hub on
Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism

PROGRAMMING FOR THE FUTURE: BEHAVIORAL INSIGHTS
TO COUNTER TERRORISM IN THE DIGITAL DECADE

DATE: 24 JUNE 2021 TIME: 8:00 AM - 09:30 AM (EST)

SPEAKERS

MR. VLADIMIR VORONKOV Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism	MAJ. GEN. ABDULAZIZ ALANSARI Chairman of the National Counter-terrorism Committee, Ministry of Interior	H.E. AMBASSADOR ALYA AL-THANI Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations	MR. MUHAMMAD RAFIUDDIN SHAH Chief of Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch of UNCT

Upcoming Projects

1 Mindfulness-Based Prevention of Radicalization (MBPR)



Together with IOM Iraq, the BI Hub will pilot MBPR programme to compliment community rehabilitation initiatives in areas with high numbers of returnees. A training for trainers

for specialists working in high-return areas will be provided and followed by an evaluation, including pre-and post-tests to measure impact as well as a mentorship program.

2 Launch of the “BI Academy”



Early 2023, in partnership with UNAOC and the UN

Innovation Network, the Hub will launch the BI4CT Academy, the design of which benefited from a number of key partnerships with research and educational institutions in Qatar. The BI Academy will support continuous learning and knowledge exchange on the practical application of behavioural sciences in CT and PCVE.

3 Guidance Note on the Behavioural Insights Approach to Fostering Resilience in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

In late November 2022, the BI Hub will launch a Guidance Note on the application of behavioural insights in the context of CT/PCVE for behavioural experts from academia, as well as the wider research and practitioner communities. The publication will provide step-by-step guidance on the designing projects that incorporate Behavioural Insights tools to build resilience community and individual.

4 Joint Project on Using Behavioural Insights to Strengthen Law Enforcement Capabilities to Protect Vulnerable Targets

The aim of the project is to improve security coordination and effectiveness, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of responses to terrorist attacks by using BI tools. The launch of this joint initiative, scheduled early 2023, will highlight co-operation between the UNOCT programme offices in Doha, Madrid and Rabat.

5 Representation at the FIFA Club World Cup Fan Zone Pavilion during the FIFA World Cup held in Qatar, 2022, in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation (EAAF)



The BI Hub will participate in the activities organized by UN agencies and the State of Qatar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

6 Future development of cooperation based on several partnership agreements

MoUs with educational and research institutions based in Qatar and abroad including:

1. the Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar Foundation.
2. the OSCE Academy, Bishkek.
3. Silatech, an international Qatar-based non-profit non-governmental organization focused on economic empowerment of youth.

Upcoming Projects (cont'd)

7 BI Hub Podcast



In November 2022, the BI Hub launched the “Going to Extremes” podcast series, which aims to provide practitioners with the latest knowledge on Behavioural Insights in counter-terrorism and PCVE in a digestible and accessible format. A podcast series dedicated to sports were developed in cooperation with the UNOCT Sport Programme and in the context of the upcoming FIFA World Cup in Qatar.



To listen to the podcasts of the UNOCT Behavioural Insights Hub in Doha, visit this page:

bit.ly/BIH-Podcast



“ The BI Hub is the first UNOCT Programme Office in the Gulf region. It will enable us to work more closely with our beneficiaries in the field, to have better understanding of national and regional needs, and to strengthen the sustainability of our technical and capacity-building assistance.

Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UNOCT



Find out more about the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism:

www.un.org/counterterrorism/Behavioural-Insights



For more information, please visit our website:

www.un.org/counterterrorism