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

UNCCT ANNUAL REPORT **2024**

A report under the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022–2025

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

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Foreword

In 2024, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) continued to adapt and expand its vital work, based on the strong foundation that was laid in 2011 with the initial, generous contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In line with the principles outlined in the Pact for the Future adopted by the General Assembly in September 2024, the Centre works with Member States to address the evolving and multifaceted nature of terrorism, while strengthening international cooperation and multilateral efforts.

The Centre's core programming remains focused on providing comprehensive capacity-building support to Member States at the global, regional and national levels to prevent, counter and mitigate the impact of terrorism. This includes the delivery of tailored technical assistance and training courses designed to enhance national counter-terrorism capabilities to address the ever-evolving threat.

The Centre's commitment to addressing the multifaceted dimensions of terrorism is reflected in its diverse portfolio of global and regional programmes. These initiatives are strategically designed to provide tailored capacity-building, technical assistance and advisory services to empower Member States to effectively counter terrorist threats and build resilience.

In 2024, the Centre realized several key achievements. At the global level, the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) delivered the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP), which fostered youth-led PCVE policymaking through regional dialogues in East Africa and South-East Asia. The Global Victims of Terrorism (VoT) Support Programme amplified victims' voices globally through the convening of the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism in Spain in October. The soft launch of the goFintel software, a financial analysis tool for financial intelligence units (FIUs), will enhance Member States' capabilities to combat terrorist financing.

In addition, UNCCT supported innovative responses to technological threats, including addressing terrorists' use of the dark web, and enhanced multilateral cooperation through joint initiatives, such as the establishment of the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) Secretariat in Dakar, which will contribute to improving international cooperation on border security in the Sahel region.

At the regional level, the Centre's programmes have been instrumental in addressing the unique counter-terrorism challenges faced by countries in the Middle East, East Africa and Central Asia. The Centre is increasingly delivering its programming through offices and presences outside of New York, including through the Programme Offices in Ashgabat, Baghdad, Bangkok, Budapest, Madrid, Nairobi and Rabat – resulting in significant cost savings on facilities, staff and travel.

Furthermore, significant attention has been given to monitoring and evaluating the Centre's activities. In 2024, evaluations of six programmes were finalized, including on the Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme, on the joint UNCCT-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project "Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons," and on the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia. Findings from these and other evaluations provide critical lessons for our programme teams and ensure a culture of continuous learning and improvement of our programme offerings.

In 2024, UNCCT successfully secured a total of $9.5 million in new pledges from several funding partners. While this represents a slight decrease from the $12 million mobilized in 2023, it reflects continued strong support and confidence from funding partners, even in a more competitive funding environment

Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, the enduring impact of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's founding contribution continues to underpin the Centre's efforts. This support has enabled UNCCT to strengthen Member State capacities and drive innovative, results-oriented programming. Sustaining and scaling this impact will require predictable and diversified funding. The Centre will continue to work closely with existing and prospective funding partners to mobilize critical resources to ensure that our programmes remain robust and effective.

We are deeply grateful to Saudi Arabia and all our funding partners for their trust and commitment, which remain vital to advancing our shared goal of a safer, more secure and more resilient world.
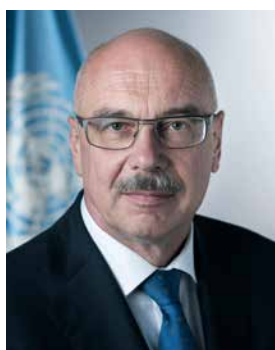
Vladimir Voronkov

Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism
Executive Director
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

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Behind the scenes on first day of the 79th General Assembly Debate. UN Photo/Loey Felipe

I.   Introduction

Terrorism continued to pose a threat to international peace and security in 2024. Terrorist groups demonstrated a heightened ability to adapt and expand their operations, exploit instability in conflict-affected regions, and use sophisticated propaganda and new technologies to recruit followers, incite violence and instil terror.

In response to the ever-evolving terrorism threat, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) delivered significant results for beneficiaries under the Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022–2025 of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). UNCCT supported the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and emphasized a results-driven culture to support all stakeholders. The Centre strengthened international cooperation on counter-terrorism (CT) and the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) conducive to terrorism, and contributed to Member States' solutions through innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives, which reinforced the resilience of individuals and Member States.

Threat Assessment

Terrorism remained a serious threat to international peace and security in 2024. Terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh), Al-Qaida and their affiliates continued to promote and commit acts of violence globally, which have had a disproportionate impact on societies already facing armed conflict. Terrorism continues to hamper sustainable development and directly affects the enjoyment of human rights by all.

Terrorist groups have shown the ability to adapt to sustained counter-terrorism efforts. Da'esh, in particular, has adopted a more networked and decentralized approach, with affiliates in various regions of the world, including but not limited to, West Africa and the Sahel, East, Central and Southern Africa, Central and South-East Asia, and the Middle East. These groups exploit conflict dynamics, exacerbate grievances and disseminate terrorist propaganda to recruit followers and incite violence.

In recent reports on the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted the risk of the resurgence of Da'esh in the Middle East, and the ability of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K) to conduct attacks outside of Afghanistan. The impact of Da'esh activity continued to be disproportionate in conflict zones, particularly in parts of Africa.

The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic is particularly concerning, following the overthrow of the Government on 8 December 2024. There is a risk that Da'esh may exploit the volatile situation in the country to strengthen its position. There are also concerns about stockpiles

USG Voronkov spoke at the Security Council meeting on threats to international peace and security. February 2024. UN Photo/ Eskinder Debebe

Security Council meeting on threats to international peace and security. August 2024. UN Photo/ Loey Felipe

of advanced weapons, including unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), which could be at risk of falling into the hands of terrorists. The Da'esh core used its media capabilities to derive propaganda value from terrorist attacks globally, stimulating media coverage to amplify a perception of heightened threat and seeking to recruit support.

In West Africa and the Sahel, the Furqan "office" has grown in importance and capability. It has established cells and facilitation networks in north-west Nigeria and facilitated Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) support for operations of Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) in the Sahel, under the direction of Da'esh core leadership. The localized détente established in 2023 between ISGS and Al-Qaida affiliate Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) has largely held, enabling both groups to expand the territory in which they operate, at the expense of local governments.

In East Africa, the al-Karrar "office" remained a significant financial hub. The Da'esh affiliate in Somalia grew stronger, increasing the number of recruits and enhancing its financial infrastructure. In Central and Southern Africa, the pace of terrorist attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique increased. In North Africa, the activity of Da'esh was significantly reduced by counter-terrorism operations conducted by national forces.

Terrorist threat levels have also risen in Europe following the attack on the Crocus City Hall near Moscow. Member States assess that ISIL-K represents the greatest external terrorist threat to the continent. Increased propaganda has possibly inspired actors to attack vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and "soft targets," raising concerns for high-visibility sporting and cultural events. In South-East Asia, the threat posed by Da'esh and affiliates has been suppressed by counter-terrorism operations, but the risk of resurgence remains, and requires continued vigilance.

Key achievements in 2024

In 2024, UNCCT provided capacity-building support and technical assistance tailored to regional needs in several areas, while taking a rights-based and gender-sensitive approach across the range of its programming.

Preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism: UNCCT provided specialized technical support on PCVE to Kenya and Uganda to meet specific needs. This included strategic advice to the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Kenya on increasing its capacity for monitoring and evaluating PCVE initiatives, as well as its leadership role in PCVE strategic communications. In addition, UNCCT provided training to government and civil society representatives in Uganda to measure the effectiveness of specific PCVE strategic communication campaigns.

Youth engagement: Several initiatives enhanced the role of young leaders in PCVE policymaking and programming in East Africa and South-East Asia. Events such as the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Project (YEEP) Regional Policy Dialogue, in Nairobi, fostered regional collaboration on PCVE and considered youth-led PCVE policy recommendations.

Support to victims of terrorism: The Victims of Terrorism (VoT) Programme advanced awareness, capacity-building and victims' empowerment in 2024. The Memories campaign was showcased in Spain, France and at United Nations Headquarters in New York, amplifying victims' voices globally. The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism focused on victims as peace advocates and educators. The Model Legislative Provisions project strengthened national victims support frameworks in the Philippines and Nigeria, while regional consultations shaped the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN), which is set to be launched in 2025. Moreover, the VoT Programme delivered on the commitment made by the Chair at the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, held in New York in 2022, by providing a high-level platform to advocate, raise awareness and renew political support for victims and survivors of terrorism at the United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain in October.

Innovations in technology and security: The soft launch of goFintel, a financial software for FIUs, has contributed to enhancing Member States' financial analysis capabilities to combat the financing of terrorism and other serious crimes. Initiatives to support Member States in using new technologies enhance their capacities to address threats emerging from the dark web and terrorists' use of these technologies.

Enhanced multilateral cooperation: UNCCT collaborated with global, regional and national bodies to foster coherence in counter-terrorism responses. High-level meetings and strategic dialogues enhanced international cooperation in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with an emphasis on integrating human rights and gender-sensitive approaches. These efforts included joint initiatives with regional organizations to improve border security, tackle arms trafficking and address cross-border terrorism challenges.

Enhanced collaboration at the regional level: Collaborative efforts in regions such as the Sahel and Central Asia improved strategies for border security and management to address the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and arms trafficking.

Results-driven, evidence-based and risk-informed programming: UNCCT integrates evidence-based, risk-mitigated, human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approaches across all its programmes, aligning its efforts with the pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. This commitment has ensured sustainable contributions to global counter-terrorism and PCVE efforts around the world, often integrated with wider efforts led by United Nations resident coordinators.

High-level events

In 2024, UNCCT supported UNOCT's partnerships with Member States to deliver three significant high-level events:

The High-level African Counter-Terrorism meeting

Photo/ONSA

The meeting on "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Institution Building to Address the Evolving Threat of Terrorism" was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 22 and 23 April 2024. The event convened over 350 participants, including representatives from 29 African Member States, 21 international partners, six African regional organizations, 11 Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, and 17 civil society organizations (CSOs). High-level attendees included the Presidents of Nigeria, Ghana

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Apr 22, 2024

USG Voronkov begins an official visit to Abuja. Today, he attended the High-Level #AfricaCTMeeting organized by #Nigeria 🇳🇬, w/ @un_oct support, to enhance multilateral #CounterTerrorism cooperation and address the scourge of terrorism in #Africa

#UNiteToCounterTerorrism

and Togo, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The meeting provided a platform for participants to exchange views on the current threat landscape, share lessons learned and discuss best practices in preventing and countering terrorism. It also focused on enhancing regional capacities and strengthening collaboration between African Member States and international partners. The outcomes were encapsulated in a declaration prepared by the Government of Nigeria, launching the "Abuja Process," an Africa-led initiative aimed at coordinating counter-terrorism efforts and mobilizing resources. The declaration requested support from the United Nations, the African Union and international partners to upgrade Nigeria's National Counter-Terrorism Centre into a regional centre. The event was made possible by the generous financial support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, Qatar and the Philippines.

The United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism

Photo/Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism ✔
@UN_OCT   Oct 11, 2024

In @vitoriagasteiz, @UN_OCT #UNCCT Dir. Mauro Miedico thanked @CasaReal 🇪🇸 King, @interiorgob Min. Grande-Marlaska, @MAECgob Min. @jmalbares for #Spain support in co-organizing the Conference & advancing the #VictimsofTerrorism rights around the world

#UNiteForVictimsofTerrorism

The event was held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, on 8 and 9 October 2024, under the theme, **Education as a Tool for Prevention, Peacebuilding, and Empowerment**. The conference brought together over 400 participants from 67 countries, including victims, civil society representatives and government officials, and explored the role of victims as educators, peacebuilders and agents of change, while highlighting the importance of inclusive policies, social cohesion and youth engagement in countering terrorism. High-level speakers, including His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, emphasized the need for solidarity and support for victims.

Bottom:
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Vice-President of Argentina. Photo/Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz.

The conference featured a high-level session and a call to action, followed by four panel discussions on victims as peace advocates and educators, institutional action to uphold victims' rights, the role of civil society in fostering resilience, and youth empowerment in countering terrorism.

The High-level conference on "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms" – The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process

Photo/KUNA (Kuwait News Agency)

The conference was held in Kuwait City on 4 and 5 November 2024, marked an important milestone in fostering cross-regional cooperation on border security and counter-terrorism. Co-organized by Kuwait, Tajikistan and UNOCT, the conference expanded the scope of the Dushanbe Process beyond Central Asia to encompass Member States

of the League of Arab States, Africa and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The event gathered over 500 participants, including 26 government ministers and officials from 91 Member States, as well as representatives of 15 international and regional organizations, 15 United Nations entities, and 24 regional and local CSOs. The Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management articulates a shared commitment to multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. It emphasizes the role of collaboration among international and regional organizations and CSOs, the integration of international legal standards, including international human rights law and the implementation of modern border security measures, such as biometric systems and real-time information-sharing. The participation by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia in the conference was particularly important, given the Kingdom's invaluable support to UNCCT's Border Security Management (BSM) Programme.

Photo/KUNA (Kuwait News Agency)

UNCCT – A Global Centre of Excellence

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) is the primary provider of capacity-building for countering and preventing terrorism within the United Nations system. The Centre provides expertise and capacity-building support to Member States in a wide range of areas, including:

- Preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism

- Support to victims and survivors of terrorism

- Prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration

- Preventing and combating terrorists' use of weapons, including small arms and light weapons (SALW), improvised explosive devices (IED), unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials

- Border security and management

- Countering the financing of terrorism

- Use of new technologies for terrorist purposes

- Engagement in regional counter-terrorism efforts

Across all these areas, UNCCT integrates the principles of upholding human rights and the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women as critical components of its work. As a global Centre of Excellence, UNCCT provides Member States and regional organizations with support in implementing the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in a balanced manner.
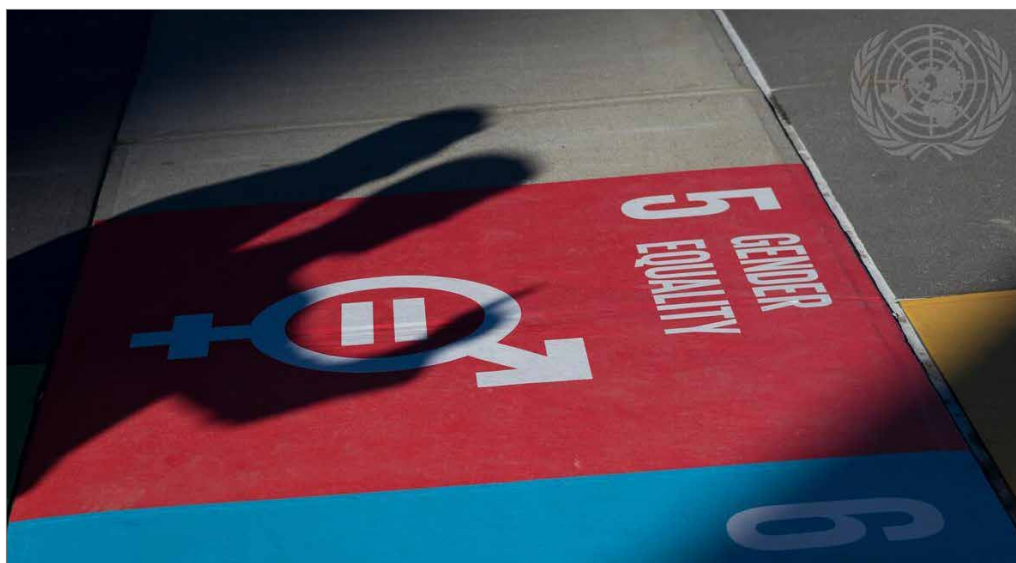
Criteria of "excellence"

UNCCT defines "excellence" as a measure of consistent performance in which UNCCT's work is recognized for its specialized expertise in different fields of countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Excellence is not a single destination but a process of continuous improvement. UNCCT is focused on promoting a culture of results across all its programmes in support of Member States.

This culture of results has five interrelated priorities that constitute the criteria by which UNCCT promotes excellence in its activities:

1. **Providing** specialized expertise and technical assistance across different areas of counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, covering the full life cycle of terrorism

2. **Fostering** meaningful collaboration

3. **Supporting** relevant, coherent, integrated, human rights-compliant and gender-responsive efforts through a systematic approach to capacity-building

4. **Advancing** knowledge on prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and counter-terrorism

5. **Enabling** peer-to-peer learning.

UNCCT capacity-building and technical assistance

In 2024, UNCCT provided capacity-building support and technical assistance to over 100 Member States and approximately 4,500 individuals, 35 per cent of whom were women, through global and regional programmes and stand-alone projects.

In addition, UNCCT delivered several technical materials, including:

- The Addendum to the Global Counterterrorism Forum Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counterterrorism and Stemming the Flow of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" and the related Training-of-Trainers Curriculum

- The Handbook on "Countering the Misuse of Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers for Terrorist Financing Purposes"

- Research reports and desk reviews developed during the implementation of the technical project on "Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism"

Activities delivered by UNCCT in 2024 (by month)

UNOCT Branch/Section   ▶ UNCCT   ▶ Joint UNCCT and SPIB   ▶ Sum of activities/month

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Sum of activities/month	8	12	8	12	16	14	9	12	3	6	8	13
UNCCT						13	8	10	2	4	7	
Joint UNCCT and SPIB						1	1	2	1	2	1	
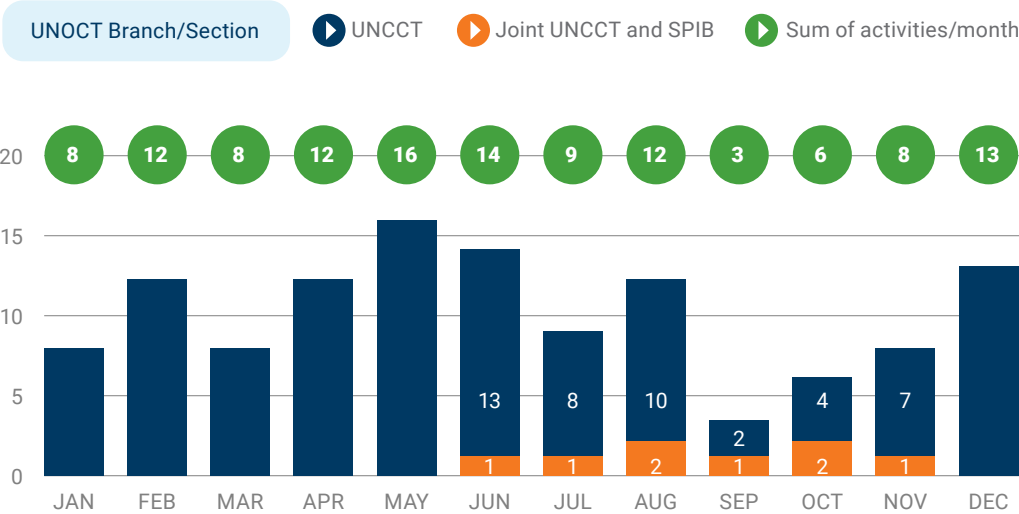
Activities implemented by UNCCT in 2024 (percentage)

60% Workshops and training to build capacity on technical thematic issues

21% Consultations, advice and advocacy, including provision of legal instruments

7% High-level conferences

4% Regional conferences

2% Missions

6% Outreach events
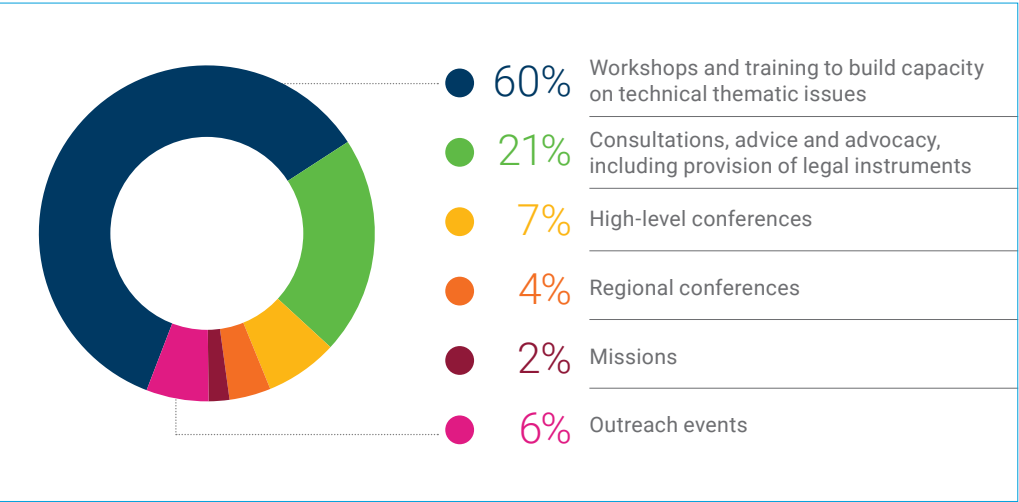
UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022–2025

The Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022–2025 operationalizes the mandates given to UNOCT and UNCCT by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/291, further to the Secretary-General's recommendations (see A/71/858), and in successive reviews of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including the eighth review in 2023 (General Assembly resolution 77/298).

The Strategic Plan is flexible and responds to the recommendations of the external evaluation of UNCCT in 2021,[1] which assessed the performance of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme and offered recommendations for future programme strategy and design.

The Strategic Plan was developed around a set of institutional priorities that describe how UNOCT and UNCCT intends to help Member States to address the evolving nature of terrorist threats. **In particular, the Plan has established the following priorities:**

▶ A CULTURE OF RESULTS

UNOCT/UNCCT is committed to building an internal "results culture", by delivering programmes that are transformative, relevant, timely, impactful and supported by governance mechanisms, and strengthened monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

▶ A "FIT-FOR-PURPOSE" UNOCT

UNOCT/UNCCT is working to ensure that its structure and staffing are and remain fit-for-purpose. To support greater synergies in programme delivery, UNOCT is aligning its internal structures and processes to enhance cohesion and opportunities for efficiencies of delivery.

▶ PROXIMITY TO PARTNERS

UNOCT/UNCCT has refined its system of programme offices, liaison and other field presences. The establishment and operation of field presences are undertaken in agreement with host governments, and in consultation and coordination with United Nations Resident Coordinator offices and other United Nations entities at national and regional levels.

UNOCT/UNCCT is cultivating and enhancing its engagement with key stakeholders, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, at the global level, and with Resident Coordinator offices at the national and regional levels.

▶ **MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER**

UNOCT/UNCCT strengthens its human rights compliance and gender mainstreaming, including through building internal capabilities and mechanisms to mainstream human rights and gender across all UNOCT policy and programming efforts.

▶ **SUSTAINABLE AND DIVERSE FUNDING**

UNOCT/UNCCT is strengthening strategic support for UNOCT priorities with sustainable, predictable and flexible funding from a broader funding partner base, particularly in support of its global programmes, including through engagement with Member States and ethical private-sector partnerships.

UNOCT/UNCCT's mission is **realized through five strategic goals**, and their related outcomes.

Strategic Goal 1	Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism
Strategic Goal 2	Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism
Strategic Goal 3	Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks
Strategic Goal 4	Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism
Strategic Goal 5	Promote human rights-compliant and gender responsive counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism efforts.

Scene at UN Headquarters during SDG Action weekend. UN Photo/Laura Jarriel

II.   UNCCT Achievements in 2024

A. Global Programmes

Global Programme on Preventing and Counter Violent Extremism

Overview

The Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE Programme) builds the capacity of Member States to become more resilient to violent extremism and reduce the threat of terrorism. Established in 2021, the Programme supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Preventing and Counter Violent Extremism
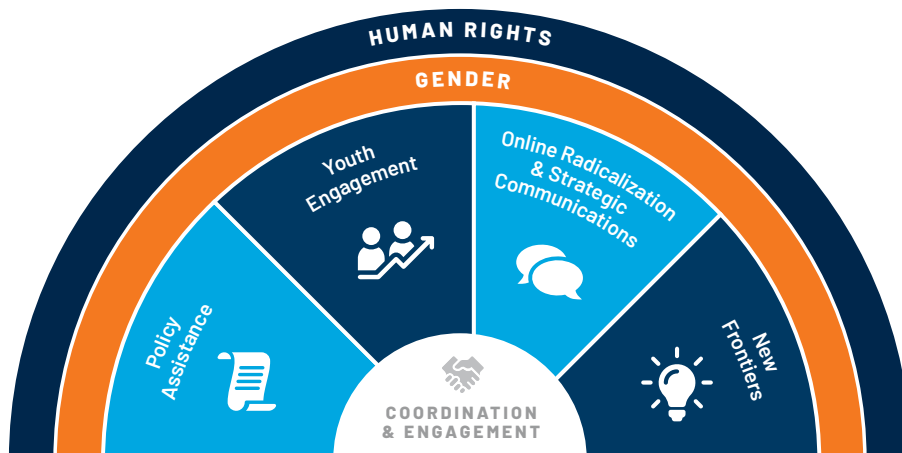
The PCVE Programme delivers globally informed and locally tailored capacity-building across four key portfolio areas:

- **Policy assistance:** Supporting government officials and regional organizations in developing, implementing and evaluating PCVE policies, plans and strategies

- **Youth engagement:** Empowering young people to contribute to PCVE efforts in their local communities

- **Online radicalization and strategic communications:** Supporting government officials, regional organizations and civil society in countering hateful and violent narratives

- **New frontiers:** Generating insights and dialogue around emerging areas of PCVE policy and practice.

The Programme operates globally with a focus on East Africa, South-East Asia and Central Asia.

Partners

The PCVE Programme collaborates with a wide range of funding partners, stakeholders and other PCVE actors.

> In 2024, key funding partners included Australia, the United Nations Peace and Development Fund funded by China, the European Union (including, but not exclusively, through the European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility), Kenya and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Programme also collaborated with a range of partners across the United Nations system, other multilateral organizations, and Member States. These included the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the National Counter-Terrorism Centres of Kenya and Uganda, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance of Uganda, the Civil Society Coalition on Violent Extremism (CISCAVE), the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Search for Common Ground, YADEN (Youth, Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship East Africa), the Office of the National Security Advisor of Nigeria and the Tubsan National Centre for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (TNC-PCVE) in Somalia.

Furthermore, in 2024, the Programme engaged with the Extremism and Gaming Research Network (EGRN), the European Union Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), and the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) Gaming Community of Practice Working Group.

Results

The PCVE Programme contributed to Strategic Goal 2 of the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025; more specifically, Outcome 2.2. In 2024, the Programme achieved several milestones with regard to capacity-building:

Completion of the Young Leaders for Online PCVE in South-East Asia project

In June 2024, the Programme completed the Young Leaders for Online PCVE in South-East Asia project. The project built the capacity of 16 young people (9 women, 7 men) from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to deliver PCVE strategic communications campaigns in their communities, and to build the capacity of other young people to do the same. The internal evaluation of the project concluded that the project had met all its intended outcomes and confirmed that it had increased the capacity and confidence of its beneficiaries to speak about PCVE in a range of contexts. The evaluation also found that six months after the completion of the project, nine beneficiaries had trained approximately 200 young people in their communities on PCVE – extending the project's results and building sustainable networks of youth leaders for PCVE.

Completion of the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia

In December 2024, the Programme completed YEEP in Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia, The project included comprehensive training for 73 young leaders (37 women, 36 men) on PCVE, peer-to-peer workshops with 1,003 young people (447 women, 542 men) to identify PCVE priorities in each country, and policy dialogues between the young leaders and 89 key decision makers (29 women, 60 men) – ultimately empowering the young leaders to influence PCVE policies and programmes in their contexts. After the completion of the project, a feedback survey (n=21) indicated a 25-per cent increase, on average, in the young leaders' level of confidence in discussing PCVE with a range of stakeholders, as well as a 14-per cent increase, on average, in the young leaders' level of confidence in contributing to PCVE efforts in their communities. The cohort of young leaders in Nigeria have established an ongoing relationship with the Office of the National Security Advisor to ensure youth voices are incorporated into PCVE policies and programmes in future.

Participants at the YEEP National Policy Dialogue in Nigeria (January) and Nairobi (August) 2024. Photo/ONSA

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism ✔
@UN_OCT   Aug 19, 2024

#YEEPAfrica concluded w/ an engaging Regional Policy Dialogue. #Youth from #Kenya #Nigeria & #Somalia worked 🤝 w/ key actors & policymakers on developing a sustainable regional roadmap on #youthinclusion #empowerment #PCVE 🌍

By @UN_OCT @nctckenya @Tubsancenter @official_onsa
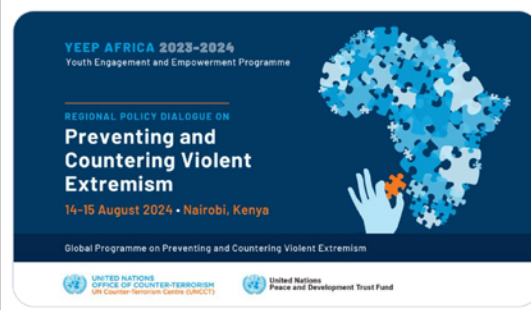
Completion of support to key State media and non-State actors at national and community levels to prevent and address violent extremism through strategic communications, as part of the project, Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism and Enhance Human Rights Safeguards, in Uganda

In December 2024, the Programme, in collaboration with UNODC, completed the Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism and Enhance Human Rights Safeguards in Uganda project. Project activities were co-designed with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and National Guidance of Uganda, based on a comprehensive needs assessment that was facilitated by UNOCT/UNCCT in 2023, and involved a survey of all communications officers within the Government of Uganda. After completion of a successful training session in October 2023, during which the Programme provided support to government and civil society representatives in producing strategic communications campaigns on PCVE, the same cohort of participants were reconvened in September 2024. At this second training, 24 beneficiaries (4 women, 20 men) were supported in developing monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks for their campaigns. All the participants who completed the feedback survey (n=18) reported that they were better equipped to conduct MEL for their campaigns.

Ongoing support to the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Kenya on PCVE initiatives, through the European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility

In 2024, the Programme, in partnership with the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility, provided support to the Government of Kenya in developing its National Strategy on PCVE and communicating more strategically about PCVE aims and objectives. With regard to the new National Strategy, experts from the Programme provided support to the Government, via mentoring and co-design sessions, to refine the objectives of the Strategy and ensure that they are in line with international best practice and enable the measurement of results. In addition,
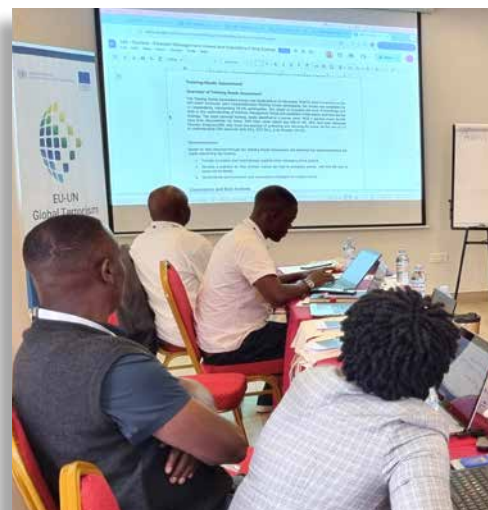
the experts provided support for the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach for the Strategy, including a results framework, which was informed by wide consultations with government and civil society representatives, as well as a governance structure and a reporting plan. While this work will continue into 2025, representatives from the National Counter-Terrorism Centre of Kenya have provided positive feedback on the support provided so far. A key outcome has been the establishment of a full monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team within the Centre.

PCVE strategic communications

Experts from the PCVE Programme provided tailored training and mentoring to personnel of the Media and Communications Department of the National Counter-Terrorism Centre of Kenya to support their role in leading stronger strategic communications on PCVE at the local level. This included training and mentoring on designing whole-of-society PCVE strategic communication narratives, specific PCVE communication campaigns, leadership communications, and a MEL framework for PCVE strategic communications. Beneficiaries provided positive feedback on the support provided, which was validated by beneficiaries who completed the feedback survey. They reported increased capacity across all areas of support provided, and shared concrete examples of how they have applied their new knowledge and skills.
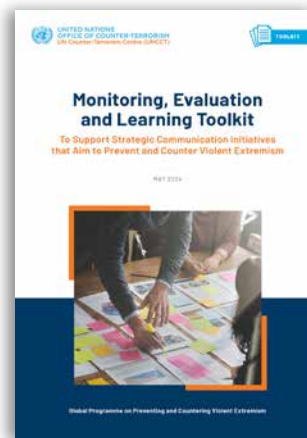
Events

The PCVE Programme organized or contributed to the following events to amplify the role of PCVE in counter-terrorism and peacebuilding:

International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism

In February 2024, the Programme organized the event, "Preventing Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism: from Programming to Real-world Impact", under the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working

Group on PCVE. Member States and civil society representatives shared their experiences, focusing on how prevention policies and programmes have addressed violent extremist threats within their communities. The discussion engaged more than 120 participants.

Summit of the Future Action Days

In September 2024, the Programme facilitated the inclusion of youth voices from its PCVE Youth Alumni Network in the Action Days of the Summit of the Future, more specifically, in Day 2, Session 3: A Call to Action for a Future Without Terrorism.

New Quest Unlocked: the Intersection of Gaming and Violent Extremism

In December 2024, the Programme, in collaboration with UNICRI, led this event to raise awareness about UNOCT/UNICRI's ongoing research on gaming and violent extremism in Africa, to be completed in 2025. The event reached over 1,000 stakeholders, including Member State representatives, CSOs, academics and United Nations representatives. It generated media interest and provided a platform for further dialogue on gaming and violent extremism in 2025.

Human rights and gender equality

In terms of human rights, gender equality, leave no one behind and disability inclusion considerations, the PCVE Programme has adopted a number of strategies.

The Programme incorporates human rights and gender considerations in its training curricula. For example, following co-design sessions with the Human Rights and Gender Section of UNOCT, human rights and gender considerations were integrated into UNOCT/UNCCT's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Toolkit for PCVE Strategic Communications. In preparation for the training on MEL for PCVE strategic communications in Uganda, in September 2024, this content was integrated into the training curriculum.

The Programme adopts a strong "do no harm" approach to its youth engagement portfolio, through the central involvement of youth engagement experts in activity design and implementation. Key features of this approach include conducting in-depth consultations with governments; delivery by local CSOs of youth-focused programmes on CT/PCVE; reviewing of project plans by the risk management units of Resident Coordinator offices; working with local CSOs to recommend applicants to ensure that selected beneficiaries have appropriate support systems in place; creating safe spaces for young people to engage with each other and with civil society and government stakeholders on sensitive topics; conducting security briefings with young people; and inclusion of specific modules aimed at reducing the risk of future harm to beneficiaries when working on PCVE, including developing self-care plans, conducting risk assessments, and safe online engagement. These elements have been integrated across both the Young Leaders for Online PCVE in South-East Asia and the YEEP Africa projects.

The Programme involves experts with diverse backgrounds in the delivery of its capacity-building activities. For example, the training on MEL for PCVE strategic communications in Uganda, in September 2024, was jointly delivered by a male strategic communications expert and a female MEL expert, with support from the Acting Head of the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi. The three experts represented different genders and cultural backgrounds, and brought global expertise, as well as their personal experience working in the Uganda context.

The Programme takes specific measures to reach a gender balance in terms of beneficiaries of its capacity-building activities. For example, the Young Leaders for Online PCVE in South-East Asia project benefitted 10 women and 8 men.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Sep 25, 2024

Last week, #UNCCT @UN_OCT hosted a 3-day workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation and Leaning for #PCVE campaigns for government, CSOs, and the media in #Uganda 🇺🇬

👉 bit.ly/OCT-MEDIA
🙏#EU for financial support

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Preventing and Counter Violent Extremism

The Programme piloted a disability-inclusive approach to the Young Leaders for Online PCVE in South-East Asia project. The final internal evaluation of the project found that it proactively addressed disability inclusion by encouraging persons with disabilities to apply to participate in the project, and the application form had a question on what accessibility accommodation would be required. This enabled one beneficiary to identify as a person with autism and to work closely with project staff to put in place adjustments to support his meaningful participation. This has served as a good practice example for future projects.

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Total number of beneficiaries from capacity-building:

8	Countries benefitted	+	1,213	Total beneficiaries

Lessons learned

Indonesia   Philippines

Kenya   Somalia

Malaysia   Thailand

Nigeria   Uganda

528 women   671 men

71 government representatives

1,136 civil society representatives
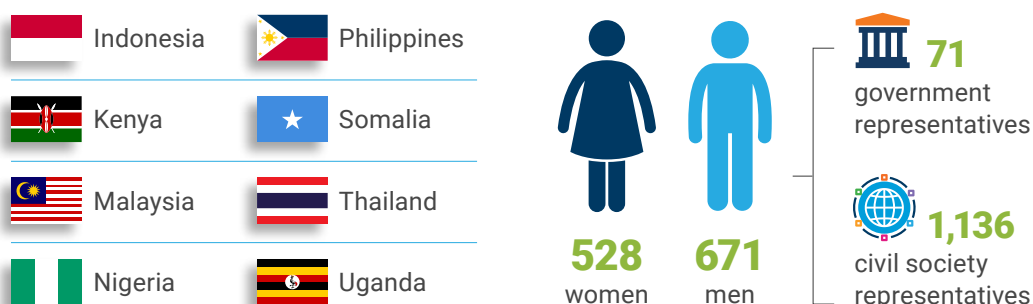
The PCVE Programme identified three key success factors in 2024:

1 It is important to establish strong relationships with national counter-terrorism centres as it facilitates access to public service agencies as well as local communities (e.g. Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia)

2 Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment beforehand allows UNCCT to tailor its capacity-building to meet the Member State's specific, technical needs (e.g. training on MEL for strategic communications in Uganda)

3 The use of remote support and mentoring tools, in addition to in-person training, adds to the sustainability of the Programme's initiatives.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME   Preventing and Counter Violent Extremism

In 2024, the Programme encountered two main challenges; action was taken/envisaged and lessons were learned:

▶ **LACK OF SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

Major geopolitical conflicts in 2024 led Member States to make greater investments in security-focused counter-terrorism initiatives, than in prevention initiatives. Throughout 2024, the PCVE Programme relied on relatively limited funding, mostly earmarked for specific activities and attached to projects of short duration. The lack of sustainable and flexible funding made it challenging for the Programme to manage staffing, respond to Member States' requests for support, and innovate to keep up with the evolving nature of the threat of violent extremism globally.

Action taken/envisaged: The PCVE Programme engaged in careful project design and planning to ensure that its activities could be delivered with the available funds.

Lesson learned: The Programme must diversify its funding base and advocate for more sustainable and flexible funding, including by seeking out philanthropic and non-traditional funding partners.

▶ **SAFEGUARDING BENEFICIARIES**

Ensuring the safety and security of individual beneficiaries was a key focus for the PCVE Programme, especially beneficiaries in high-conflict areas – in this case, Somalia. It was challenging to implement the Programme in this context, given the enhanced requirements to support "do-no-harm" measures and provide adequate security support for programme beneficiaries.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme engaged with a range of government and civil society stakeholders in Somalia to embed a "do-no-harm" approach for YEEP Somalia. Together with a detailed monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan, a risk assessment was conducted with support from the United Nations team on the ground to identify, address, prevent and mitigate potential challenges.

Lesson learned: While it is easier to facilitate programming in countries and regions where the UN or UNOCT have dedicated field presences, extra-attention is required to ensure safety and security of beneficiaries when this is not the case, particularly in countries that have active or ongoing conflicts.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Preventing and Counter Violent Extremism

Impact stories

Young Leaders for Online PCVE in South-East Asia

A young Indonesian woman who participated in the project is a Programme Management Officer at Kumpul, an organization supporting entrepreneurs, where she leads a scholarship programme initiated by Bank Central Asia (BCA). During the project, she also worked at WriteHaus Asia as Strategic Partnership Developer, delivering communication campaigns for young journalists and activists on women's empowerment. This young woman found the training on strategic communications most relevant to her work and reported that the project enhanced her skills in strategic communications and enabled her to make more meaningful contributions to PCVE efforts.

"After the programme, I was able to write better campaign strategies that I implemented. Not only for my professional work, but also my advocacy work… My style in targeting audiences and how to operationalize has shifted. Now I would say I have better outcomes, and I am more satisfied with the work I have been working on."

Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Kenya, Nigeria and Somalia

A young Kenyan man who participated in the project was a Youth Country Liaison at the United States Institute of Peace. This young man reported that, after the training, he felt empowered to contribute to PCVE efforts and that YEEP had helped him to apply PCVE strategies to his work. Following YEEP, he has supported his organization in incorporating climate change into its PCVE work. In addition, he was chosen by his organization to participate in a programme run by the Aga Khan Foundation on climate change and human-centred design, which enabled him to further this work.

"As a result of YEEP, at my organization, I tried to incorporate climate change considerations in PCVE, and they sent me to one programme that is held by the Aga Khan Foundation under Schools 2030. There, I was given more knowledge on climate change and human design approach."

Ongoing support to the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Kenya on PCVE initiatives through the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility

The Media and Communications Department of the National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Kenya is responsible for leading PCVE communication campaigns across the country. Department staff reflected positively on the support provided by the PCVE Programme, and reported that they had already been able to incorporate their learning into the development of two campaigns: "Twende Jetty" and "NCTC@20".

"The support was excellent. Facilitators were knowledgeable and the modules covered were very impactful. This is evident because I am currently able to implement this knowledge in a campaign that we are creating."

Priorities for 2025

- **Contributing to the evidence base on PCVE and emerging threats and opportunities** – The Programme will focus on publishing its ongoing research, in concert with UNICRI, on the intersection of gaming and violent extremism in Africa, as well as on the development of a new guidance product on PCVE and artificial intelligence (AI).

- **Amplifying the role of PCVE in the implementation of the Pact for the Future and other forums** – The Programme will contribute to the 2025 High-level conference on implementing the Pact for the Future, with specific focus on highlighting the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to PCVE. The Programme will also partner with Member States to mark the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, in February 2025.

- **Closer collaboration with other UNOCT programmes** – The Programme will action opportunities to partner with other UNOCT programmes and units, including the Behavioural Insights Hub, the Gender Unit, the Parliamentary Engagement Programme (in particular, youth engagement) and the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (in particular, reintegration).

- **Closer collaboration with regional organizations** – The Programme will focus on strategic engagement and joint implementation of capacity-building activities with regional organizations such as the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO).

- **Creating more resource stability for long-standing areas for capacity-building** – The Programme will identify and pursue opportunities to create more resource stability for its youth engagement and empowerment, online radicalization and strategic communications, and policy assistance portfolios.

UNOCT-UNCCT Border Security and Management Programme

Overview

The Border Security and Management Programme (BSM Programme) was designed to enhance the border security and management capacities of Member States to:

▸ **Prevent** the movement of terrorists across borders.

▸ **Stop** the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and related transnational criminals.

▸ **Intercept** the cross-border movement of licit and illicit cargo that may be used for terrorist purposes.

The BSM Programme focuses on providing specialized technical support to requesting Member States, with an emphasis on training border officials at both the national and regional levels.

The Programme is aligned with the broader United Nations counter-terrorism mandate and supports the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and key Security Council resolutions, including:

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism ✓
@UN_OCT
Apr 19, 2024

On 16 & 17 April, great strides were made at the 2nd #BorderSecurity & Management #BSM Initiative workshop to further develop the Addendum to the 2016 @theGCTF Good Practices led by @foreignministry 🇯🇴 @statedeptct 🇺🇸 @un_oct 🇺🇳 & supported by @tmcasser

👉bit.ly/OCT-EVENT

- **Resolution 2178 (2014)** on preventing the movement of terrorists and FTFs
- **Resolution 2322 (2016)** on international cooperation in counter-terrorism
- **Resolution 2396 (2017)** on the threat posed by returning FTFs
- **Resolution 2482 (2019)** on international cooperation against transnational organized crime that directly or indirectly supports terrorism.

The Programme also draws on the good practices established through the initiatives of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), such as the handbook on Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management in the Context of Counter-terrorism and Stemming the Flow of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters", and its Addendum, as well as the related Training-of-Trainers Curriculum.

| GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Border Security and Management Programme |

In 2024, the BSM programme focused on the West Africa region, which includes countries from the Central Sahel to the Gulf of Guinea. It delivered training to strengthen the capacities of border law enforcement agencies to conduct effective counter-terrorism operations, improve the delivery skills of national trainers and enhance overall counter-terrorism response mechanisms.

Partners

> In 2024, the BSM Programme was funded by Germany, Italy, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

In line with the business model of the BSM Programme, extensive collaboration was maintained with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), GCTF, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), IGAD, the African Union, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) and the Asser Institute – with which several events were co-organized. The Programme has engaged with approximately 30 organizations to date, including OSCE, World Customs Organization (WCO), GCTF member States and private-sector entities.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Jun 28, 2024

The Border Security & Management #BSM technical workshop for #Sahel countries was an opportunity for dialogue between #BurkinaFaso #Mali & #Niger, in the continuity of existing #CounterTerrorism collaboration at operational level

Organized by @UNODC @UN_OCT #UNCCT & @UNmigration

« Atelier Technique des Pays du Sahel Central sur la Lutte Contre le Terrorisme dans le Contexte de la Sécurité Transfrontalière et Gouvernance Intégrée des Frontières »

Marrakech, Royaume du Maroc, du 25 au 27 juin 2024

Results

The BSM Programme primarily contributed to Strategic Goals 1, 3 and 5 of the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025, by enhancing Member States' capacities to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism in compliance with international law. In particular, the Programme contributed to Outcomes 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 3.2, 3.3 and 5.1, 5.2, which emphasize strengthening institutional and operational frameworks for border management in line with human rights and gender-sensitive approaches.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Border Security and Management Programme

Workshops and training activities

In 2024, the Programme delivered 11 workshops and training activities, focusing on border security, counter-terrorism and the use of technology in enhancing security measures. These activities provided participants with practical training on GCTF good practices and tools, including interactive exercises and case studies. Over 600 participants from diverse regions were able to enhance their technical and operational skills, which enabled them to implement human rights-compliant security measures and effectively use biometrics at borders. Human rights and gender-sensitive considerations were integrated through dedicated sessions delivered by officers from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ensuring inclusive approaches to border management. Collaboration with organizations such as GCTF, INTERPOL, IOM and UNODC led to impactful partnerships, including the formulation of actionable recommendations and agreements to strengthen cross-border cooperation.

Second GCTF Border Security and Management Initiative Workshop. 16-17 April 2024. Rome.

Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM)

A significant milestone in 2024 was the official opening of the IBSM Secretariat in Dakar, Senegal. The IBSM aims to strengthen coordination, technical assistance and operational support for countries in the West Africa region. Its objectives include promoting integrated and human rights-based approaches to border management, enhancing inter-agency and cross-border collaboration and building capacity to address regional security challenges. Human rights and gender-sensitive approaches are emphasized in all IBSM activities to ensure that governance frameworks respect international standards and promote inclusivity.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Border Security and Management Programme

Collaborative successes include strong partnerships with the other members of IBSM – IOM, INTERPOL and UNODC - and alignment with regional and national strategies, resulting in validated frameworks for cross-border security and stability.

In 2024, all seven IBSM consultation missions were conducted in IBSM focus countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo, to assess border security gaps, needs and priorities. These missions provided baseline reports to inform targeted technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives. Consultation workshops and bilateral meetings engaged national authorities and stakeholders, fostering ownership of strategies and enhancing cross-border collaboration. Notably, the missions facilitated formal agreements, such as the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Burkina Faso, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire to improve regional cooperation in the Sahel-Koulikoro border operations zone. Initial steps were also taken in 2024 to expand the geographical scope of IBSM in the region. The Senegalese Border Commission expressed its interest in joining the mechanism as the eighth focus country; formalities will be finalized in 2025. Nigeria has been identified as another potential IBSM focus country.

"Our mission is to support West African States in promoting regional stability through cooperative border governance and integrated border security"

Materials and resources

September 2024
ADDENDUM TO THE GCTF
GOOD PRACTICES IN THE
AREA OF BORDER SECURITY
AND MANAGEMENT
IN THE CONTEXT OF
COUNTERTERRORISM AND
STEMMING THE FLOW OF
"FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS"

GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

Key resources developed in 2024 included the Addendum to the 2016 GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management and the related Training-of-Trainers Curriculum. The Addendum addressed evolving border security threats, with an emphasis on integrating human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approaches into BSM and fostering the use of new and emerging technologies; it contains a comprehensive compendium of resources on border security. The Training-of-Trainers Curriculum offers practical guidance for implementing the GCTF framework. These materials equip stakeholders with standardized tools for capacity-building and course evaluation, integrating relevant human rights and gender considerations and emphasizing inclusive methodologies for BSM. Collaboration with the GCTF Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) Working Group (co-chaired by Jordan and the United States) facilitated the successful development and dissemination of these resources and their adoption by Member States.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Border Security and Management Programme

Events

In 2024, the BSM Programme organized or supported nine flagship events – all of which advanced discussions on integrating emerging technologies with human rights-based border management approaches, and brought together policymakers, practitioners and private-sector stakeholders.

GCTF Exploratory Dialogue on BSM

The second BSM Exploratory Dialogue brought together over 60 participants online from various regions, including representatives from UNOCT, IOM, CTED, OSCE, WCO, GCTF Administrative Unit, the Asser Institute, GCTF member States, and the private sector. Organized by UNOCT, GCTF and the Asser Institute, the event focused on updating the 2016 GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management, a key instrument for counter-terrorism capacity-building. Discussions explored the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging technologies in border security, emphasizing responsible use of data, identity management and human rights-based approaches. The Dialogue fostered collaboration among policymakers, practitioners and private stakeholders, enhancing investigative capabilities, promoting human rights and gender mainstreaming and advancing regional capacity-building initiatives.

INTERPOL Regional Workshop: Addressing Terrorist Cross-Border Movements

INTERPOL organized a regional workshop online for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) on the efforts of international organizations to prevent the movement of terrorists in those regions. The Head of the BSM Unit delivered a presentation on "Good practices and cooperation at borders to prevent the movement of terrorists" as part of the panel, entitled "International cooperation in intelligence sharing: Strengthening counter-terrorism efforts across borders". Other matters discussed by the panel included international intelligence-sharing to strengthen global counter-terrorism efforts and successful models, challenges and strategies for enhanced collaboration, all of which can be beneficial to the MENA region.

GCTF-UNCCT Border Security and Management Initiative, Workshop – *Integrating New Technologies and a Human Rights-Based Approach into BSM*

The BSM Programme supported the organization of the workshop online in collaboration with Asser Institute. The Director of UNCCT delivered the opening remarks.

GCTF Workshop – *Best Practices in Responding to Transnational Strategic Cross-Border Security Issues*

The Chief of the UNCCT Counter-Terrorism Section and the Head of UNCCT BSM Unit provided support in the preparation of the in-person event, held in Rome. The Head of the BSM Unit delivered a presentation on GCTF Good Practices in the Area of BSM and its related materials during the opening session of the workshop. He also delivered the closing remarks together with the Ambassador of Jordan to Italy. The Chief of UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section participated in the event, giving a presentation and moderating two tabletop exercises.

Border Management and Technologies Summit Americas

At the conference, participants deepened their understanding of data-sharing mechanisms and explored cross-border information exchange frameworks, fostering stronger collaboration ties. Human rights and gender considerations were central to the discussions, with a focus on protecting fundamental freedoms while leveraging technology responsibly. Collaborative successes included strengthened ties with forums like the International Border Management and Technologies Association (IBMATA) and enhanced dialogue among international stakeholders, driving innovative and inclusive solutions. As part of the collaboration framework between the BSM Programme and IBMATA, UNOCT

participated in this regional event to promote cooperation and coordination between government institutions and the private sector, with a focus on leveraging new technologies at borders. The BSM Programme took part in the panel discussion "Targeting and security of data to assist in stopping cross-border organized crimes and counter terrorism," and emphasized the critical need to balance data usage and sharing while upholding United Nations human rights and fundamental freedoms standards.

GCTF West Africa Capacity-building Working Group workshop, Strengthening Border Security to Counter Terrorism in West Africa: Towards a Regional and Collaborative Approach

Workshop took place in Dakar, Senegal on 21 November 2024. Photo/GCTF

As an implementing partner of the GCTF West Africa Working Group, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) in Dakar organized the workshop with a focus on BSM. In the context of the collaboration between the two United Nations offices, the BSM Programme highlighted the GCTF Good Practices in the Area of BSM framework document and its implementation, which was followed by a presentation on the Addendum to the Good Practices and the Training-of-Trainers Curriculum which were endorsed in September 2024 by the General Assembly. On the last day of the workshop, the UNOCT BSM Unit provided support for the delivery of a tabletop exercise and co-presented with IBSM.

Consultation Régionale sur l'Identité Juridique en Afrique de l'Ouest

Under the auspices of the IBSM, IOM organized a regional consultation on digital identity in West Africa. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 regional experts from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria, as well as representatives from the embassies of Canada, Italy, the United States and the European Union in Côte d'Ivoire. Staff from IOM,

Abidjan, 26 November 2024. Photo/IOM

UNOCT, World Bank (WB), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered presentations and moderated panels. The Head of the BSM Unit moderated the panel, "Impact of ID on border security", and emphasized the importance of installing biometric readers connected to INTERPOL and watchlist databases to prevent the movement of terrorists at borders.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Border Security and Management Programme

Seventh Border Management and Identity Conference on Technical Cooperation and Capacity-Building (BMIC7)

Photo/IOM

The three-day BMIC7 conference and exhibition brought together 533 delegates, including 330 representatives from governments and international organizations, to discuss advancements in border management. The event featured four workshops on identity verification, Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) interoperability, border control beyond airports and international information-sharing. The BSM Programme contributed to the conference with a presentation on the responsible use of biometrics in counter-terrorism, and engaged with representatives of the Government of Nigeria to explore the potential inclusion of that country as a national partner of IBSM.

IBSM-related events

In addition to the consultation missions to IBSM focus countries, the IBSM Secretariat actively participated in key forums and events. UNOCT gave a presentation on its role within the IBSM Secretariat in the side event, "Strengthening West Africa's peace and security: the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) and its role in countering terrorism's spillover", during the 33rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), held in Vienna in May 2024.

Image/abf-africa.com

The participation of the IBSM Secretariat in the Abidjan Border Forum, held in Abidjan in October 2024, provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, network with key stakeholders and experts, including national border commissions, and showcase the stakeholder mapping tools (dashboards) that had been developed.

The IBSM Secretariat, in collaboration with the Commission Nationale des Frontières de Côte d'Ivoire (CNFCI) and the UNODC Programme Office in Côte d'Ivoire, organized a high-level regional workshop in Assinie, Côte d'Ivoire, in November 2024, to promote cross-border cooperation. The workshop enabled representatives from IBSM focus countries

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Border Security and Management Programme

to assess current security challenges, share experiences and develop 34 concrete recommendations for enhanced cooperation, highlighting the importance of unified strategies for regional security. The MoU on border cooperation between Burkina Faso, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire was signed at the end of this workshop.

Furthermore, at the meeting of the GCTF West Africa Working Group, held in Dakar in November 2024, the IBSM Secretariat gave a presentation on IBSM, and presented the "Assinie Roadmap", which contains 34 recommendations for enhanced cross-border and regional cooperation.

Human rights and gender equality

In the context of the UNOCT-GCTF Border Security and Management Initiative, the BSM Programme, with the support of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section, ensured that human rights and gender issues were adequately considered in the preparation and development of the Addendum to GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management and its related Training-of-Trainers Curriculum. Consequently, the Addendum advocates for the holistic integration of human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approaches into BSM strategies as one its two key objectives, and mainstreams human rights and gender considerations across its 14 recommendations, with 4 recommendations dedicated to these cross-cutting issues. Similarly, the Training-of-Trainers Curriculum offers specialized tools and guidance to support the development of training courses on border management, as well as strategies to integrate human rights-compliant and gender-responsive tools into border management, including through focused courses.

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Number of activities delivered	Number of participants engaged	Number of countries benefitted globally
18 including workshops, side events and consultation missions	**1,152** including 432 women and 720 men, and 15 persons with disabilities, comprising national authorities, law enforcement officers, private-sector representatives, and civil society actors	**25** with significant engagement in West Africa, MENA and the Americas

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Border Security and Management Programme

Lessons learned

An independent evaluation was conducted at the end of the fifth year of the BSM Programme to assess the results achieved, address challenges and improve programme implementation. The evaluation was very positive, and the BSM programme is addressing and integrating the evaluators' recommendations.

The evaluation identified the following challenges; action was taken/envisaged and lessons were learned:

▶ TRACKING THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF TRAINING

The evaluation recommended better tracking of the long-term impact of the Programme's training initiatives.

Action taken/envisaged: Post-activity surveys and participant feedback mechanisms were refined to better track immediate outcomes, and plans for longitudinal impact assessments were integrated into future activities. The Programme also contributed to the development of the Addendum to GCTF Good Practices in BSM, which contains a comprehensive compendium of resources on BSM, and the Training-of-Trainers Curriculum, which offers practical guidance for implementing the GCTF framework. These materials will equip stakeholders with standardized tools for capacity-building and course evaluation.

Lesson learned: Stronger emphasis on monitoring, post-training assessments and impact evaluations will help to ensure that training leads to real, sustained improvement in counter-terrorism capabilities, and regular follow-ups can provide deeper insights into programme impact and inform adaptive strategies.

▶ ENSURING GENDER-BALANCED PARTICIPATION

Gender-balanced participation was difficult to achieve in some regions, owing to unequal representation in law enforcement and policymaking roles.

Action taken/envisaged: Proactive outreach and collaboration with Member States emphasized the importance of inclusive participation; specific provisions were made to encourage women's representation and leadership in training events and decision-making forums.

Lesson learned: Strengthening partnerships with local organizations and civil society help to address barriers to gender parity, while tailored approaches in outreach strategies can ensure balanced representation.

> ▶ **ENSURING SUSTAINED INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**
>
> Working with different United Nations entities can be challenging, as ownership of cross-border initiatives, such as the Integrated Border Security Mechanism (IBSM), must be shared.

Action taken/envisaged: The IBSM Secretariat established regular coordination meetings and fostered national ownership through active engagement with stakeholders during missions and workshops; also, MoUs and frameworks were co-developed with Member States to formalize commitments.

Lesson learned: Strengthening mechanisms for follow-up and regular post-mission engagement can enhance collaboration, build trust and ensure the sustained implementation of recommendations.

> ▶ **MEANINGFUL MAINSTREAMING OF HUMAN RIGHTS-COMPLIANT AND GENDER-SENSITIVE APPROACHES IN BORDER SECURITY INITIATIVES**
>
> This proved to be challenging overall, owing to different mindsets.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme made sure that all activities and training materials incorporated human rights principles and gender considerations, with specific modules and panels dedicated to these topics.

Lesson learned: Meaningful mainstreaming of human rights and gender considerations requires ongoing capacity-building for facilitators and participants, together with the development and dissemination of practical tools and guidelines to support implementation in diverse contexts.

Impact stories

At the 26th meeting of UNCCT Advisory Board held in December 2024, a border officer in the Ghana Border Authority briefed Board Members on the positive experience of receiving technical assistance during the BSM mission in Accra. With the knowledge and skills acquired during the training, she was called to share her expertise and provide support in some BSM activities. The Ghana Border Fusion Centre subsequently incorporated counter-terrorism elements that were presented during the technical training into its border security strategy, in particular engaging border communities.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME   Border Security and Management Programme

During country visits conducted under the IBSM mandate, UNCCT was able to determine the impact of the activities delivered by the BSM Programme by promoting GCTF Good Practices in the Area of BSM. This includes in the context of designing comprehensive border security strategies including counter-terrorism elements, which has reinforced border surveillance outside of border crossing points and prompted work on adopting new technologies at borders.

Priorities for 2025

In 2025, the BSM Programme plans to redesign the programme and incorporate the recommendations of the evaluation which was carried out in 2024. Looking ahead, the Programme aims to expand its scope and deepen its impact, with a focus on increased training, enhanced regional capacity development, and sustained partnerships.

Key priorities include:

- **Expansion of IBSM's operational capacity** – IBSM will focus on expanding its operational footprint to include other Member States, prioritizing regions with critical border security challenges. Potential IBSM focus countries are Senegal and Nigeria.

- **Scaling training initiatives on border security and counter-terrorism** – The BSM Programme aims to scale up its training delivery to reach 1,000 participants, with specific emphasis on advanced counter-terrorism investigation techniques, border management and integrated intelligence practices. Training curricula will include enhanced modules on human rights and gender.

- **Strengthening regional partnerships and multi-agency coordination** – The BSM Programme will deepen collaboration with regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), INTERPOL and the African Union to streamline cross-border security efforts. This will include the organization of two regional conferences to address emerging security threats and reinforce multi-agency coordination mechanisms.

- **Developing specialized resources on human rights and gender mainstreaming** – To strengthen its commitment to inclusive governance, the BSM Programme will develop practical toolkits and training manuals focused on human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive approaches. These resources will be distributed during training events and made accessible online.

- **Monitoring and evaluation** – The BSM Programme will establish a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to measure the long-term impact of its activities. This will include implementing participant tracking systems, conducting post-training evaluations and organizing annual stakeholder consultations.

Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies

Overview

The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies was launched in April 2020, and provides capacity-building support to Member States, and international and regional organizations for developing and implementing effective responses to challenges and opportunities that the Internet and other information and communications technologies (ICT) offer in countering terrorism.

The Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme supports the United Nations strategic commitment to a world without terrorism by:

- **Developing knowledge and raising awareness** of challenges and opportunities offered by new technologies in countering terrorism

- **Enhancing skills and capacities** required to develop and implement effective national counter-terrorism policy responses to the challenges and opportunities of new technologies

- **Enhancing skills and capacities** required to protect critical infrastructures against cyberattacks by terrorists

- **Enhancing criminal justice capacities** to counter and investigate the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes

Since its inception, the Programme has provided capacity-building support to more than 150 Member States, and enhanced the skills of over 4,500 officials (including over 1,400 women) to develop policy and operational approaches to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. The Programme has so far developed 13 thematic publications.

4,500+ officials
have enhanced their skills through the Programme

Partners

In 2024, the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme was funded by the European Union, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea and the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Programme implements its activities in collaboration with partners such as UNICRI, INTERPOL, the OAS, OSCE, CTED, the Department of Operational Support (DOS), the Department of Peace Organization (DPO), the Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs (DPPA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT), UNODC, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and its Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network (CTPN), the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), and NAUSS.

Results

By contributing to UNOCT Strategic Goal 2 in 2024, the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme continued to support requesting Member States in:

- Effectively developing, implementing and monitoring national strategies, normative and institutional frameworks and regulatory measures on new technologies in countering terrorism

- Developing and implementing effective responses that address the increasing challenges and opportunities offered by new technologies in countering terrorism

This resulted in some significant achievements:

Under the CT TECH initiative – The Programme provided support to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan to develop policies to counter the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes and increase their law enforcement operational capacity to use new technologies in countering terrorism. As a result, those countries have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, policies and legislation to counter the exploitation of new technologies by terrorist actors:

Workshop in Kenya, May 2024

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** is implementing its counter-terrorism action plan based on the risk assessment on the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes that was completed with the support of the Programme. It is also reinforcing public-private partnerships, including with academia, which will be monitored through a State Investigation and Protection Agency coordinating body and annual reports.

- **The Philippines** has established a directorate for cyber and emerging threats under its National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, which will oversee new technologies policy and operational capabilities development across the country.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME   Cybersecurity and New Technologies

Workshop in Trinidad, January 2024

- **The National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Kenya** has updated its National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism and established a New Technologies Working Group as part of the strategy implementation to address actions related to countering the use of emerging and new technologies for terrorist purposes.

- **Trinidad and Tobago** completed its national threat and risk assessment of the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes and is in the process of including them in a national incident classification matrix.

- **Uzbekistan** has developed 15 actions on new technologies in the action plan on how to better counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, defined its implementation mechanisms, implementation timelines and assigned responsible agencies.

Strengthened female participation in the development counter-terrorism policy approaches to new technologies – Women constituted 33 per cent of participants actively engaged in developing new technology threat scenarios and policy responses.

33% women

Strengthened law enforcement capacities – In close cooperation with INTERPOL, the Programme contributed to strengthening the law enforcement capacities of Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Chad, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan to employ open-source intelligence (OSINT) to carry out investigations relating to the darknet and virtual assets, and to use facial recognition, in full respect of human rights.

Strengthened the active role of female law enforcement officers in the use of new technologies for counter-terrorism investigations – The Programme achieved a female participation rate of 30 per cent in all operations-focused capacity-building activities.

Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS) – The AROS Programme is jointly led by UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) and UNCCT Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit. While the UNCCT portion of the AROS Programme did not organize any training activities in 2024, owing to a lack of funds, the Programme was active under the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB), and delivered Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operator training courses in Senegal and Malaysia. Under the UNCCT portion, the AROS Programme provided support to the European Union in organizing training on countering terrorist exploitation of drones, held in India in February 2024, and on promoting coordination mechanisms.

Events

National cybersecurity tabletop exercises

In collaboration with OAS, the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme organized two cybersecurity tabletop exercises in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, in which personnel from law enforcement agencies, computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs), security agencies, defence forces, financial institutions, critical infrastructures, academic institutions and private-sector organizations developed arrangements to prepare for and respond to terrorist cyberattacks against critical infrastructure.

Launch of the joint report, Beneath the Surface: Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Dark Web and Cybercrime-as-a-Service for Cyber-attacks

In June 2024, the Programme, in collaboration with UNICRI, launched the joint report which delves into the implications of the increasing availability of cybercrime-as-a-service on the darknet for counter-terrorism efforts and responses.

Launch event on 28 June 2024

Cybersecurity tabletop exercise focused on cities

In partnership with CTPN and the Austrian Institute of Technology, the Programme delivered a unique cybersecurity tabletop exercise, in Vienna in March 2024. The exercise focused on informing and developing the arrangements of cities to prepare for and respond to terrorist cyberattacks against critical infrastructure. Representatives from cities in Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region were able to strengthen their preparedness for responding to such cyberattacks.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT

Closing off the event, Mr. Mauro Miedico, Director #UNCCT commended @un_oct @aittomorrow2day and #CTPN for the successful collaboration.

He also presented a certificate of appreciation to #AIT to acknowledge its support to the #Cyber programme since 2019.

Open-source intelligence (OSINT) training

In collaboration with ITU, the Programme delivered training on open-source intelligence (OSINT) and counter-terrorism cyberdrills at the ITU Regional CyberDrill, in Dubai in April 2024. The training welcomed 113 participants from 100 Member States, enhancing their investigative capabilities to respond to cyberattacks perpetrated by terrorist actors against critical infrastructure.

Artificial Intelligence Forum for Law Enforcement

Photo/@nauss.edu.sa

In September 2024, the Programme contributed to the second Artificial Intelligence Forum for Law Enforcement organized by NAUSS. The Forum brought together 144 law enforcement and counter-terrorism officials from around the world. The Programme contributed to a panel discussion, entitled "Harnessing AI in counter-terrorism" and delivered a joint exercise with UNICRI on law enforcement capabilities assessment and organization readiness for the adoption of AI solutions.

Launch of CT TECH+

In November 2024, the Programme launched a new joint UNOCT-INTERPOL initiative called CT TECH+ at the high-level event, From Emerging Tech to Responsible AI: The Present and Future of Law Enforcement and Counter-terrorism, held in New York. Over the next two years, CT TECH+ will provide comprehensive and tailored support to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to improve their response to the increased use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, whilst upholding human rights and in a gender-responsive manner.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT
Nov 23, 2024

At the launch of #CTTECH+, USG @UNO_OCT Voronkov stressed the need to comply with the necessary #HumanRights safeguards when helping Member States to adopt new technologies for countering terrorism.

Human rights and gender equality

With the support of UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section, the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme integrated human rights and gender considerations into its CT TECH initiative, including through the delivery of three presentations on human rights and gender in each of its six national workshops.

97%
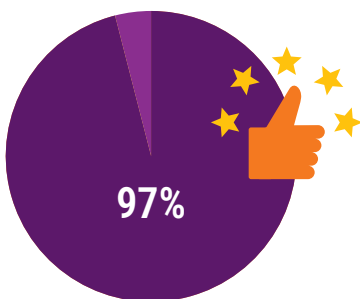
Participants (97 per cent) in the Programme's workshops reported that they had acquired a greater awareness on human rights and gender issues related to designing national counter-terrorism policy responses to address the challenges and opportunities of new technologies.

Workshop in the Philippines, March 2024

GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Cybersecurity and New Technologies

All the national roadmaps developed under the CT TECH initiative for Member States on increasing law enforcement capabilities with regard to new technologies in countering terrorism included assessment criteria and recommendations relating to human rights compliance, such as the right to privacy, recognized data protection principles, the need for independent oversight mechanisms, and the adoption of gender-sensitive approaches.

The Programme also promoted full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all capacity-building activities; women comprised at least 30 per cent of the participants in the Programme's activities.

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Total number of activities delivered	Total duration of training and participation		Number of countries benefited
18	**46**	**1,051**	**37**
5 were delivered in collaboration with other UNOCT programmes	days	participants	Member States benefited from the activities

Lessons learned

The Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme identified three key success factors in 2024:

1 The formulation and implementation of the Programme is clearly relevant and timely to the overall policy context in which Member States, the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations have repeatedly expressed their concern at the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the Internet for terrorist purposes, and emphasized the importance of building States' capacities to respond to these threats.

2 Tailored capacity-building assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and Uzbekistan established a strong level of dialogue and engagement by government authorities for future progress and sustainable results.

3 Collaboration with regional organizations and other United Nations entities, such as OAS and ITU, proved to be a very cost-effective way to deliver cybersecurity capacity-building assistance to Member States to protect critical infrastructure against terrorist cyberattacks.

In 2024, the Programme encountered a few challenges; action was taken/envisaged and lessons were learned:

▶ LIMITATION OF THE GLOBAL OUTREACH APPROACH

The Programme's global outreach approach limited the delivery of a more tailored capacity-building approach. While the Programme has achieved significant global outreach by supporting over 150 Member States, the finite nature of resources limited the delivery of more individualized capacity-building assistance to each Member State that requested assistance.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme adopted a narrower approach to capacity-building in order to provide more customized and targeted assistance to a limited number of countries, based on needs assessments and informed by the specific national context, knowledge bases and systems.

Lesson learned: Future project proposals for capacity-building in relation to new technologies must ensure a national and tailored focus, including regional elements and involving regional organizations, where applicable.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME   Cybersecurity and New Technologies

▸ UNDER-OPERATIONALIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND GUIDANCE MATERIALS

Together with experts from Member States, academia, civil society and industry, and in collaboration with the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme developed the Guide for Establishing Public-Private Partnerships for Countering the Use of New Technologies for Terrorist Purposes. However, the guide was not fully operationalized, although it would have been beneficial to many Member States.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme has placed greater emphasis on promoting synergy between government agencies and private sector and industry players and promoting knowledge products, as per the above-mentioned guide.

Lesson learned: Future project proposals that contain elements related to knowledge development must include streams of work for operationalizing knowledge that has already been developed.

▸ THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The rapid development of AI required the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme to quickly integrate AI elements into its capacity-building activities for law enforcement agencies.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme drew on its expertise and leveraged established collaboration with other entities, such as UNICRI, in the area of AI to assist Member States in understanding the opportunities and limitations of AI in countering terrorism, and what legislative and regulatory safeguards need to be put in place to adopt AI for countering terrorism.

Lesson learned: Capacity-building assistance on the responsible use of AI in countering terrorism must be an integral part of the Programme's future capacity-building activities to law enforcement agencies.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME   Cybersecurity and New Technologies

Impact Stories

"Prevention and suppression of all challenges that can lead to terrorism are highly ranked on the security scale for Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily due to technological progress that has brought an unprecedented prevalence of intolerance and hate speech, as well as other extreme behaviours on digital platforms. The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina expresses its gratitude to UNOCT and UNCCT for the support provided for the implemented activities."

– Assistant Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

"The CT TECH program successfully integrated the country's counter-terrorism initiatives with its cybersecurity mission, demonstrating the critical need to align these frameworks. By fostering greater cooperation and coordination, the program aims to fortify the nation's defences against both physical and digital threats, ultimately working towards a safer and more resilient Trinidad and Tobago."

– Assistant Superintendent of Police (Ag), Special Branch, Trinidad and Tobago

Priorities for 2025

- **Delivery of tailored and enhanced capacity-building assistance –** With CT TECH+, the Programme will deliver support to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to strengthen their policy and law enforcement operational approaches to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, including through public-private partnerships, international and inter-agency cooperation and adoption of AI.

- **Strengthen the knowledge and understanding of parliamentarians –** In collaboration with the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement, the Programme will strengthen the knowledge and understanding of parliamentarians in regulating and legislating the use of new technologies, including AI, for terrorist purposes.

- **Foster existing and explore new partnerships –** The Programme will continue to deliver capacity-building assistance to protect critical infrastructure against cyberattacks perpetrated by terrorist actors and explore new substantive and financial partnerships to increase the support provided to requesting Member States.

Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Overview

The Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme) was launched in June 2020. It provides technical assistance to Member States, including at the regional level, to strengthen capacities to combat terrorist financing, in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other international standards.

Since 2020, the CFT Programme has trained over 10,000 individuals globally, reinforcing the capacities of public, private and non-profit sectors to address terrorist financing risks effectively based on upholding human rights.

The Programme provides tailored support in crucial areas, such as improving risk-based approaches through:

- Regional, national and sectoral risk assessments
- Addressing the misuse of virtual assets
- Protecting the non-profit sector against the risk of terrorist financing
- Fostering financial investigations
- Public-private partnerships

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Jun 26, 2024
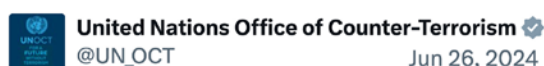
Congrats @fiunederland 👏 for being the 🥇 country to deploy the #UN #goFintel software developed by @un_oct #UNCCT & @un_oict to enhance financial analysis capacities to #CounterTerrorism financing #CFT & #AML

🙏 @kingdomnl_un 🇳🇱 #KSA 🇸🇦 & #India 🇮🇳
👉 bit.ly/OCT-EVENT

goFINTEL

Unlocking the Power of Financial Analysis for a Safer Tomorrow

The CFT Programme has also developed the goFintel software to strengthen the capacities of Member States to combat terrorism financing, money laundering and other serious crimes by enhancing their financial analysis capabilities.

Partners

In 2024, the CFT Programme was funded by France, India, Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation. The Financial Intelligence Unit of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (FIU-NL) provides financial support and in-kind expertise for the development of the goFintel software.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Other partners include CTED, the Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT), UNODC, UNICRI, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), UNESCO, INTERPOL, FATF, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule and the Rule of Law (IIJ), OAS, OSCE, the League of Arab States, the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the European Union Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), the Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre (TFTC) – which is co-chaired by the United States and Saudi Arabia, the Eurasian Group (EAG) on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT), Rosfinmonitoring, NAUSS, the Guardia di Finanza (GdF) of Italy, the European Centre for Non-for-Profit Law (ECNL), and a number of private-sector entities.

Results

The CFT Programme contributes to UNOCT Strategic Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan and results Framework 2022-2025.

In 2024, the CFT Programme achieved the following results:

Protection of non-profit sector (FATF Recommendation 8), Tajikistan

The CFT Programme, UNRCCA, EAG and the Government of Tajikistan developed the United Nations Assistance Plan for Tajikistan on Protecting the Non-profit Sector from Terrorist Abuse and completed the implementation thereof, including through training, regulatory, supervisory and legislative guidance, as well as developed a dedicated roadmap. As a result, the FATF Recommendation 8 rating for Tajikistan was upgraded at the EAG plenary meeting on FATF Recommendation 8, in November 2024.

EAG | UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) | UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FOR CENTRAL ASIA

Launch of the UNOCT-UNCCT CFT Global Programme Technical Assistance Plan to Tajikistan on FATF Recommendation 8

24-25 JANUARY 2024 | VIRTUAL

Risk-assessment (FATF Recommendation 1)

In Africa, the CFT Programme continued to support the implementation of the ESAAMLG Regional Operational Plan on Countering the Financing of Terrorism and its regional risk assessment of terrorist financing for the 21 ESAAMLG jurisdictions, as well as Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2024, the CFT Programme facilitated a regional risk assessment project meeting in Pretoria, which was hosted by the South African Financial Intelligence Centre, to analyse the results of the questionnaire that

ESAAMLG Public-Private Sector Dialogue (PPSD) on countering terrorism financing, hosted by Kenya. September 2024.

was completed by ESAAMLG members in 2023. The Programme facilitated additional consultations, online and in person, with nine jurisdictions during the year. In December 2024, the ESAAMLG Secretariat, the regional risk assessment project team and UNOCT gathered in Dar es Salaam, with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the United Republic of Tanzania as host and drafted the first consolidated version of the regional risk assessment (to be finalized in 2025), which was endorsed at the 49th meeting of the ESAAMLG Task Force of Senior Officials. The outcomes of the regional risk assessment will be instrumental in identifying and prioritizing future technical assistance needs, including through collaboration with other African FATF-style Regional Boards (FSRBs), regional economic communities (RECs), like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and relevant entities of the African Union, in line with the Declaration of the High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting in Abuja.

New and emerging technologies (FATF Recommendation 15)
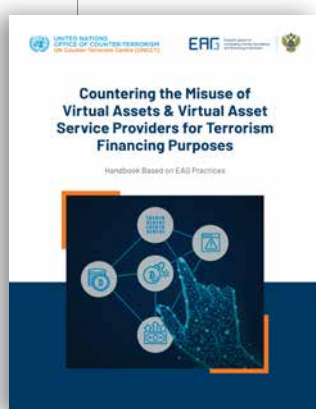
Following an 18-month consultation process with EAG and its member States, in September 2024, the CFT Programme launched the handbook, Countering the Misuse of Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers for Terrorism Financing Purposes, in collaboration with the EAG Secretariat and Rosfinmonitoring. Based on practices used by EAG member States, this tool offers practical guidance for law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate and confiscate tainted cryptocurrencies. The second phase of this initiative will be launched in 2025 and extended to other FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs) to enrich and update the handbook and support its promotion.

Development of the goFintel software

The CFT Programme continued to develop the goFintel software, which is designed to help FIUs and, potentially, other competent law enforcement agencies or organizations to enhance their financial investigative capacities to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other forms of serious criminality. The software was soft-launched by FIU-NL in June 2024 and other Member States have expressed their interest in testing it. The need to address concerns about potential overlap and duplication of efforts between goFintel and UNODC goAML (anti-money-laundering software), while also providing Member States with clearer guidance on how the two United Nations software systems coexist and complement each other, prompted the drafting of a letter of intent (LoI) that was signed at the principal level by UNODC and UNOCT, in April 2024, formalizing their collaboration. The letter of intent includes the development of a joint communication strategy, which is nearing completion, and outlines agreed parameters for the continued development and deployment of goFintel and goAML, covering governance, messaging and positioning, technical scope and cybersecurity. A summary of the signed letter of intent can be found on the UNOCT goFintel webpage, ensuring greater transparency and a United Nations unified approach.

Recalibrated approach towards programmatic work in the Middle East

This included the completion of the joint two-year UNCCT and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Action Plan on CFT, which culminated with the removal of UAE from the FATF list of Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring (FATF "grey-list") in February 2024. Further engagement with MENAFATF was mapped out, including support for its first regional risk assessment process on terrorism financing which will continue into 2025. The CFT Programme delivered a major regional training on CFT, in Riyadh in May 2024, in partnership with NAUSS and the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC). The Programme also strengthened its relationship with the Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre (TFTC), including providing support to TFTC training activities.

Image: amlsingapore.com

UNCCT, in collaboration with NAUSS and AIMC, completed the regional workshop on CFT for the implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Riyadh. May 2024. Photo/@NAUSS_SA

Human rights and gender equality

In line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to non-United Nations Security Forces and the Secretary-General's Guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use, UNCCT initiated an assessment of the human rights risks and opportunities presented by goFintel, with a view to developing a human rights due diligence process tailored to the development and deployment of the software.

In November 2024, the Programme, in cooperation with ECNL, and with the support of UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section, held a consultation with the Global Expert Hub on AML/CFT and gathered valuable insights on the potential human rights issues raised by the software, which have been incorporated into the assessment.

A follow-up consultation with ECNL and the Global Expert Hub is scheduled for 2025, together with broader engagement with other United Nations stakeholders to finalize the development of the human rights due diligence process for goFintel and identify the next steps.

European Center for Not-for-Profit Law

GLOBAL CFT EXPERT HUB

The Global Expert Hub on AML/CFT (anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism) currently includes over **80 activists** from more than **45 countries**. Through the Hub, activists are empowered to apply AML/CFT standards in their local contexts and rebut attacks on their operations.

Image: ecnl.org/global-cft-expert-hub

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Total number of activities delivered	Activities delivered by CFT programme partners	Countries benefitted from training
25	**8**	**40**
including 2 regional consultations, 12 national consultations, 2 launch events, 3 national training sessions, 2 sponsor meetings, 1 regional workshop, among others	**Total duration of training/activities**	**Number of participants**
	40 days	**1,318** (514 were women)

Lessons learned

The Programme encountered a few challenges in 2024; action was taken/envisaged and lessons were learned:

▶ **COORDINATION WITH INTERNAL / EXTERNAL PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

The CFT Programme found coordination with internal and external partners difficult owing to limited funding.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme promoted internal coordination and advanced discussions to tailor more material to specific agencies or positions.

Lesson learned: Strengthening inter-agency cooperation through consultations and continuous training is essential to enhance the capacity of officials working in AML/CFT at all levels.

▶ **INTEGRATING FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE DATA**

This proved challenging owing to the lack of knowledge and resources.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme promoted the use of intelligence data for the identification and disruption of groups and networks involved in financing terrorism.

Lesson learned: Integrating intelligence tools, such as goFintel, and utilizing real-world case studies will help to identify and address threats more effectively.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism

▸ ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW COMPLIANCE

This proved challenging owing to different mindsets with regard to the protection of human rights.

Action taken/envisaged: Promoted human rights compliance of counter-terrorism measures in order to avoid creating violations that could fuel further radicalization to violence. An ongoing human rights due diligence process has been incorporated into the goFintel software to ensure due process and accountability.

Lesson learned: Human rights and rule of law principles must be integrated into all stages of CFT-related investigations and the development of software tools.

▸ PARTICIPANTS' LIMITED AWARENESS OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING

This proved challenging owing to different mindsets with regard to the gender mainstreaming.

Action taken/envisaged: The CFT Programme promoted women's participation in CFT-related training, in addition to flagging potential institutional biases and gender inequality, in particular in investigations.

Lesson learned: Strengthen efforts to mainstream gender considerations into training activities, while also highlighting the importance of including female personnel in response units and investigative roles.

▸ TRAVEL OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants were sometimes unable to obtain exit permits/visas to travel to training activities.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme paid more attention to the administrative issues encountered by participants, while also focusing on developing administrative resources in-house.

Lesson learned: Administrative issues relating to travel must be foreseen and taken into account in a timely manner, so that travel may be organized separately with the support of UNOCT field offices.

Impact stories

"It was a great honor for me to work with you within the framework of the Tajikistan NPO technical assistance. The effectiveness of our joint work is proved by the upgrading of the country's R.8 rating at the last EAG meeting."

– EAG Secretariat

"The Department of Financial Monitoring of the National Bank of Tajikistan expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism for the technical assistance provided in the ML/TF Risk Assessment of the Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) sector. As part of the implementation of this project, the invited expert, Mr. […], together with representatives of the competent authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan, developed the following draft documents: 1. Report on risk assessment in the NPO sector of the Republic of Tajikistan; 2. Guidelines for risk-oriented supervision of the activities of non-profit structures in the Republic of Tajikistan; 3. Draft plan of further actions of the Republic of Tajikistan to eliminate deficiencies. The above-mentioned documents were approved by the Interdepartmental Commission on ML/TF of the Republic of Tajikistan in June this year, which facilitated the application for re-rating under this FATF Recommendation at the next Plenary Meeting to be held in November this year in the Republic of India. In connection with the successful completion of this project, we would like to express our gratitude for the technical assistance provided and look forward to further fruitful cooperation."

– Letter from the Bank of Tajikistan

Priorities in 2025

Dynamic development of technical assistance support

The newly adopted "Non-binding guiding principles for Member States on preventing, detecting, and disrupting the use of new and emerging financial technologies for terrorist purposes" (Algeria Guiding Principles – S/2025/22, annex) will inform and guide the relevant components of the Programme going forward. The CFT Programme aims to strengthen its curriculum, training, and substantive portfolio for Member States through a more collaborative approach, including with other UNOCT programmes when relevant. This will allow for a more transversal approach to addressing the different aspects of terrorist financing. The implementation of the capacity-building initiative will continue to prioritize protection of non-profits from terrorist abuse, virtual assets regulation and supervision, sectoral risk assessments, public-private partnerships, parliamentary awareness and financial investigations in line with FATF Recommendations and technical assistance needs identification by CTED.

Development of the goFintel software

The goFintel software is expected to be fully operational within FIU-NL by mid-2025. Moving forward, the Programme will work to expand the number of Member States testing and using the software, while also focusing on broadening its funding partner base to secure both technical in-kind and financial contributions. Additional efforts will be placed on implementing the letter of intent (LoI) that was signed with UNODC. The continuation of the human rights due diligence process with relevant stakeholders will remain a priority in 2025. This exercise will provide the necessary framework for mitigating identified risks through collaborative partnerships and ensure that the development and deployment of the software align with international human rights law and standards.

Strong focus on human rights and gender

The CFT Programme will continue to integrate human rights and gender considerations into its activities, in particular by addressing the adverse impacts of CFT measures on women, minorities and civil society. This will include the development of targeted tools and resources for national authorities and Parliamentarians to help them understand, assess and mitigate these impacts.

Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Overview

The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons seeks to make the world safer and more secure from the acquisition and use of weapons by terrorists through the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the reviews thereof.

The programme focuses on:

- **Weapons of mass destruction** (WMD)

- **Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear** (CBRN) materials

- **Small arms and light weapons** (SALW)

- **Improvised explosive devices** (IEDs)

- **Unmanned aircraft systems** (UAS)

The Programme works towards this goal by enhancing the capacities of Member States, international organizations and United Nations entities to prevent terrorists from accessing and using weapons, materials and/or components, and to ensure that they are better prepared for, and can more effectively respond to, a terrorist attack involving such weapons or materials.

The Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme was established in 2018, and since its launch, more than 9,000 representatives from over 100 Member States have benefitted from its activities. The Programme has developed a global training portfolio with 20 courses; implemented 10 multi-year projects at the global, regional and national levels; prepared eight publications; and conducted tabletop and field exercises.

**100+
Member States**
benefitted since 2018

Partners

In 2024, the Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme was funded by Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

In line with its partnerships and visibility outputs, the Programme continued to collaborate with United Nations and non-United Nations entities, including the Group of Experts for

the 1540 Committee, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (CAERT), the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Centre (CIS ATC), CTED, the European Union, ECOWAS, ICAO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), IGAD, INTERPOL, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO RATS), the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), UNICRI, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affaires (ODA), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), UNODC, WCO, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Results

The Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme contributed to Strategic Goals 1, 3 and 5 of the Strategic Plan and results Framework 2022-2025, more specifically Outcomes 1.4 and 1.5, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4, and 5.1 and 5.2.

The Programme achieved significant milestones in 2024, particularly in the areas of awareness raising, capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and training delivery. Noteworthy accomplishments include:

Weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear materials (WMD/CBRN)

Countering WMD/CBRN terrorism: The Programme provided support to 20 Member States in Central Asia, North Africa, and South and South-East Asia to develop their capabilities to counter terrorist attacks that use CBRN materials. Through three dedicated regional workshops (held in March, July and December 2024 respectively) and five virtual seminars (in February, April, June, August and November 2024), the Programme contributed to increasing national and regional cooperation and information exchange in this area, and enhanced Member States' capacities to develop their own national tabletop exercises to counter terrorism by chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive events (CT CBRNE).
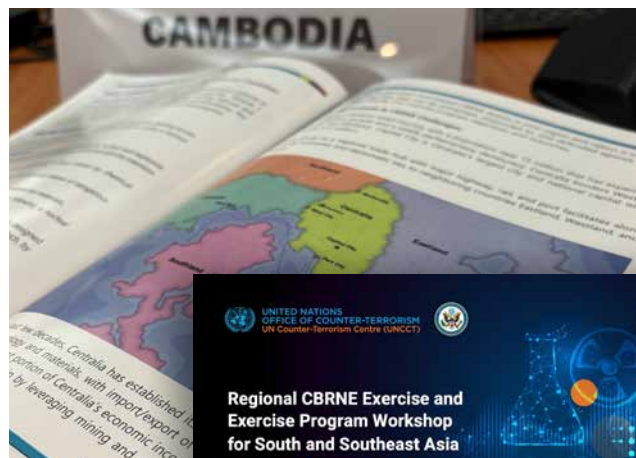
| GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons |

According to the post-assessment surveys, 96 per cent of participants in the regional workshops and virtual seminars on CBRNE exercises expressed a better understanding of how to successfully design and conduct exercises to counter weapons of mass destruction terrorism (CWMDT). In addition, all participants indicated that they planned to undertake follow-up actions to establish a CWMDT exercise programme or to incorporate CWMDT goals into existing exercises in their countries.

Countering radiological and nuclear terrorism: In close cooperation with UNODC, and international partners, and with specific focus on the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Programme organized two regional tabletop exercises, in April 2024, and a national training course for Tajikistan, in October 2024. The Programme provided support to 26 Member States to increase international and regional cooperation and built capacity in nuclear forensics and international legal frameworks.

Participants in the two tabletop exercises and the national training expressed their high satisfaction with the Programme's activities. Across all three activities:

<90% **participants expressed satisfaction with the exercises delivered** and stated that they matched their professional needs.

<75% **participants indicated their improved knowledge** of the issues addressed.

<60% **participants noted improved understanding of human rights and gender** considerations after the training.
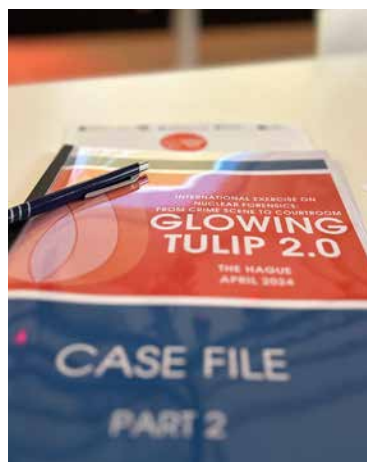
A tabletop exercise in The Hague with 70 participants from 15 countries and international partners. April 2024

Enhancing the capacity of Iraq to counter biological terrorism: The Programme delivered an in-person train-the-trainer course to Iraqi nationals in December 2024. The training deepened participants' understanding of bioscience, biosafety and biosecurity, and fostered inter-agency collaboration in Iraq.

In the preliminary feedback on the in-person training on basic and intermediate biological threats, participants indicated that the training had increased their understanding of

first responder safety, managing biohazard scenes, and fostering multi-agency coordination during biological incidents. Participants also indicated their interest and commitment to pass on the materials and knowledge gained during the training to their national institutions for further dissemination and capacity-building.

Small arms and light weapons, improvised explosive devices, unmanned aircraft systems (SALW, IEDs, UAS)

Prevention and combating of illicit trafficking in Central Asia – In order to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus and prevent and combat illicit trafficking of SALW and their illicit supply to terrorists, the Programme delivered six training courses (in January, February, March and November 2024) and a regional workshop. The Programme contributed to further enhancing the knowledge of judicial and law enforcement agencies to detect, interdict, investigate and prosecute terrorism activities involving illicitly manufactured, trafficked or diverted SALW by criminal groups, taking into accounting for gender and human rights considerations.

Pre- and post-training quizzes showed a significant increase, from:

25% → **75%**   in participants' knowledge of intelligence tools to collect evidence to prevent, deter, counter, investigate and prosecute SALW trafficking and further diversion to terrorist acts.
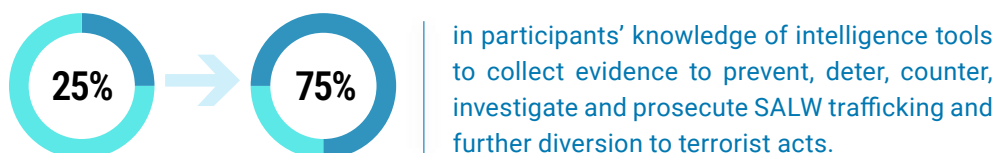
This was acknowledged by most participants during the discussions conducted to collect their feedback and during the final exercises. In addition, participants expressed their willingness to better engage with their peer practitioners in other Central Asian states to enhance collaboration.

Eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa – As part of the project on building capacities to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa, in February 2024, the Programme conducted a regional workshop for Sahel Member States on countering terrorist use of SALW, IEDs and UAS. Participants from more than 20 national agencies noted that the workshop had built their capacity to implement policies, practices and procedures related to preventing the acquisition and use of SALW, IEDs and UAS.

All the participants (100 per cent) in the regional workshop for the Sahel on eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists reported an increased understanding of the measures related to terrorist use and acquisition of SALW, IEDs and UAS. The knowledge quiz that was conducted indicated that 95 per cent of participants could correctly answer the questions on upstream measures, and more than 90 per cent could correctly answer the questions on downstream measures.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Events

CBRN/WMD	SALW, IEDs, UAS
Regional workshop to strengthen the capacity of Central Asian countries to counter terrorist use of WMD/CBRNE (Almaty, March 2024); and Two virtual regional seminars before and after the in-person workshop	Training on operational measures to address SALW trafficking and the terrorism-arms-crime nexus for Uzbekistan (Tashkent, January 2024)
Steppe Lotus tabletop exercise and workshop on legal frameworks to combat CBRN terrorism (Ulaanbaatar, April 2024)	Training on operational measures to address the SALW trafficking and the terrorism-arms-crime nexus for Tajikistan (Dushanbe, January 2024)
Glowing Tulip 2.0 tabletop exercise on nuclear terrorism and radioactive incident response (The Hague, April 2024)	Regional workshop to build the capacities of Sahel Member States to eliminate SALW, IEDs and UAS to terrorists (Rabat, February 2024)
Regional workshop to strengthen the capacity of South and South-East Asian countries to counter terrorist use of WMD/CBRNE (Bangkok, July 2024); and Two virtual regional seminars before and after the in-person workshop	Training on operational measures to address SALW trafficking and the terrorism-arms-crime nexus for Turkmenistan (Ashgabat, February 2024)
Training on combatting radiological and nuclear (R/N) terrorism for border troops in Tajikistan (Dushanbe, October 2024)	Training on operational measures to address SALW trafficking and the terrorism-arms-crime nexus for Kazakhstan (Almaty, March 2024)
Strategic tabletop exercise on countering terrorist use of weapons (Virtual, CTPN Strategic TTX Mercury, November 2024)	High-level briefing on building capacity to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa and Central Asia, in support of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) (New York, October 2024)
Train-the-trainer course on enhancing the capacity of Iraq to counter biological terrorism (Baghdad, December 2024)	Training on the collection and use of specific evidence in SALW trafficking and terrorism cases in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, November 2024)
Regional workshop to strengthen the capacity of North African countries to counter terrorist use of WMD/CBRNE (Cairo, December 2024); One virtual regional seminar before the in-person workshop	Training on the collection and use of specific evidence in SALW trafficking and terrorism cases in Kazakhstan (Almaty, November 2024)

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Human rights and gender equality

All of the regional workshops on CBRNE funded by the United States included the vetting of participants under the Leahy law, conducted by the United States Department of State, to ensure participants or their affiliated institutions have not committed human rights violations.

The capacity-building training delivered to Tajikistan on radiological and nuclear terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was preceded by a comprehensive due diligence assessment to identify any concerns related to human rights, gender and disability. Particular focus was placed on understanding past violations to ensure that the training content and material would effectively enhance participants' understanding of these critical issues, foster improvements in their approach, and would in no way permit further violations.

With regard to countering biological terrorism, the basic and intermediate courses on biological threats that was delivered to Iraq dedicated one session to the connection between human rights – such as the right to health and the right to life – and the prevention of the use of biological weapons. Freedom from discrimination and respect for suspects' rights were also discussed in the context of criminal proceedings related to biological or chemical attacks. The training also incorporated a session on gender considerations, including in the context of the threat of terrorist use of chemical and biological materials. Active discussion ensued after the two presentations, including an intervention by one female participant on progress made by Iraq towards gender equality. The training drew participants from diverse backgrounds: 13 per cent were women, and 39 per cent were from the Kurdish Regional Government.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Feb 7, 2024

The #UNCCT @un_oct & @unodc_firearms training on #TerrorismArmsCrime nexus called for #gender-responsive policing & #victim-centered approaches within law enforcement and judiciary integrating #Gender considerations & #HumanRights principles

#SALW Project
🙏Funded by #Canada 🇨🇦

With regard to addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus and preventing the illicit trafficking of SALW, training activities included sessions on human rights and gender mainstreaming. Discussions addressed the importance of compliance with international standards and the adoption of best practices in relation to human rights, including guarantees of due process and the ability to take full advantage of the benefits of intelligence exchange mechanisms within the framework of international cooperation. This is essential for the success of work on prevention and criminal prosecution of terrorism threats and the activities of transnational organized crime.

Pre- and post-training quizzes indicated a significant increase in participants' awareness of the importance of human rights and gender considerations in cases of illicit SALW trafficking and terrorism, from:

13%
pre-training quiz

94%
post-training quiz

The participant satisfaction survey revealed that 89 per cent of participants rated their increase in awareness of SALW trafficking and terrorism intelligence investigations as "very high" (33 per cent) or "high" (56 per cent), while the remaining 11 per cent rated the increase in their awareness as "regular".
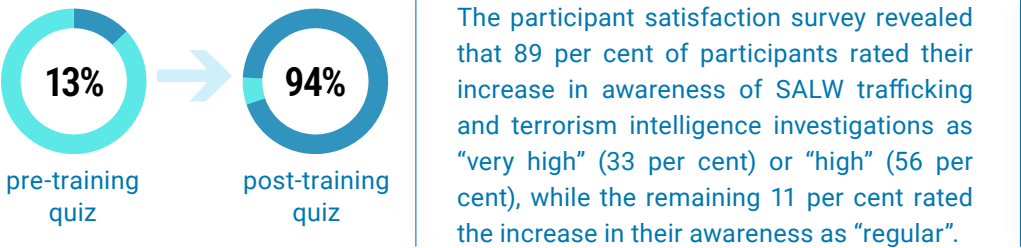
Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Number of activities delivered		Participants trained	Countries benefited
20 capacity-building	**1** awareness-raising	**651** 503 men. 148 women	**43**

Lessons learned

In 2024, the Programme encountered a few challenges; action was taken/envisaged and lessons were learned:

▶ **TRAVEL OF PARTICIPANTS**

The challenge of ensuring the safe travel of participants was particularly notable in 2024. Travel from countries experiencing political instability and insecurity proved to be particularly challenging in terms of heightened risks to personal safety, logistical complications and restrictions on movement, among others, which delayed or disrupted planned activities.

Action taken/envisaged: To address these issues, the Programme worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) field offices to organize travel for participants separately and provide additional logistical support to ensure their safety. Travel arrangements were customized to accommodate the unique challenges posed by the political context of the participants' home countries.

Lesson learned: When anticipating international participation, it is critical to consider the political and security contexts of participants' home countries. Timely coordination with UNDP field offices and flexible travel arrangements would help to ensure that logistical challenges do not impede the participation of persons crucial to the Programme's success.

Impact stories

Weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear materials (WMD/CBRN)

Training for Tajikistan to counter radiological and nuclear terrorism: The Programme delivered capacity building training to counter radiological and nuclear terrorism to Tajikistan, with a focus on ICSANT, through its project of the same name. The initiative was delivered in collaboration with the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility (Facility) and provided radiation detection equipment and a two-day training for 28 Tajik border guards deployed at the Afghan-Tajik border.

The training achieved a high level of engagement, with border guards actively participating in group presentations and practical exercises on how to use the delivered equipment, resulting in improvements in confidence and procedural adherence.

> The delivery of equipment and the training in Tajikistan "will not only enhance national security but also contribute to regional and global stability"
>
> *– Director of the CBRN Safety and Security Agency of Tajikistan*

In addition, participants noted that the course directly addressed their professional needs, with several expressing a desire for extended training. Participants also commended the trainers' knowledge and teaching style. In the post-training surveys, participants expressed their appreciation for the training and stated that they looked forward to more and longer training courses. A large majority of participants indicated their knowledge had improved in all the areas addressed in the training.

This training was the result of Tajikistan's request for assistance through the UNSCR 1540 Mechanism and through the Facility and was preceded by a scoping mission in the country to assess the needs.

> With regard to the train-the-trainer course in Iraq: "This training is of great importance, especially in light of the current global circumstances, which are characterized by regional and international threats, global tensions and natural spread of diseases. This training course continues the series of successful cooperation between the Permanent Secretariat to develop the readiness of CBRN counter-terrorism teams and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre … they have provided nearly 300 training opportunities, raised awareness, strengthened national capacities and enhanced public knowledge. We look forward to continuing our coordination and joint efforts to make the world safer and more secure".
>
> *– Head of the CBRN Department of the National Centre for Joint Planning in the National Security Advisory of Iraq*

The training "strengthened national capabilities to combat bioterrorism, raising awareness of biosecurity requirements and standards, mechanisms of biological risk assessment, strengthening coordination at the national level" / "...helped [us] obtain the knowledge and experience and multisectoral engagement through discussions."

– Participants

With this training, I should be able to: "translate the course slides and explain the lessons to colleagues" / "closely coordinate with security and service directorates and take risk assessments into consideration" / "support the development of the Biosecurity Policy to be implemented by the National Security Advisory, updating mechanisms to be followed when importing CBRN parts, equipment and materials".

– Beneficiaries

Small arms and light weapons, improvised explosive devices, unmanned aircraft systems (SALW, IEDs, UAS)

Technical equipment for Central Asia: As part of the joint UNOCT-UNODC project to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus, a ceremony was held to hand over technical equipment to Central Asian Member States to increase the capacities of forensic laboratories to support investigations in SALW trafficking and terrorism cases:

"Modern tools and technology play a critical role in enhancing the accuracy and reliability of ballistic and forensic examinations".

– Deputy Head of the Expert-Forensic Department, Ministry of Interior Affairs of Tajikistan

"We are confident that the equipment being transferred today to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan will make a significant contribution to strengthening the material and technical base of the Ministry and will be used effectively by its specialists in their professional activities".

– Head of the International Legal Department, Ministry of Interior Affairs of Turkmenistan

The equipment "will help strengthen the scientific and technical potential and achieve high results in the forensic and criminalistics activities of the internal affairs agencies".

– Head of the Main Expert-Forensic Department, Ministry of Interior Affairs of Uzbekistan

Regional workshop for Sahel Member States to prevent terrorists' acquisition and use of weapons: The results of the regional workshop organized by the Programme were discussed at the High-level Briefing for Member States on building capacity to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists, held in New York in October 2024:

> "The regional workshop on countering the use of IEDs, SALW and UAS, organized by UNOCT in collaboration with Russia, earlier this year, provided an opportunity to engage with UN and non-UN entities on addressing the proliferation and misuse of arms in the Sahel. The event also elaborated on the technical guide for the implementation of [Security Council] resolution 2370, emphasizing the importance for States to develop both prevention and mitigation measures".
>
> *– Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations*

Priorities for 2025

Looking ahead, the Programme aims to expand its scope and deepen its impact and will focus on increased training, regional capacity development and sustained partnerships.

Key priorities include:

- **Sustainability (both financial and programmatic, training the trainers, mentoring):** The Programme will work towards ensuring the sustainability and impact of its capacity-building efforts beyond the closure of its projects. The Programme will continue to ensure that beneficiaries are provided with both skills and tangible tools to institutionalize the knowledge and expertise imparted through its activities. Moreover, the Programme will continue to prioritize fundraising efforts in coordination with the UNOCT Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations Section (RMDRS).

- **Consolidate the Programme and incorporate the recommendations of the evaluation:** The midterm evaluation of the Programme will be completed in 2025, and the programme will work towards incorporating the findings and recommendations of the evaluation.

- **Ongoing establishment of new partnerships:** The Programme will continue to collaborate and coordinate its activities with United Nations and non-United Nations entities.

- **Continuing work in the regions and expanding to new ones:** The Programme will continue the work already begun in some regions and expand its activities to others, focusing on East Africa, Central Asia, the Sahel, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), South-East Asia and Latin America.

Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Overview

The Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR Programme) provides capacity-building to Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for individuals who they have reasonable grounds to believe are terrorists. This includes, but is not limited to, suspected foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and their accompanying family members.

Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which outlines the obligation to bring terrorists to justice, is reaffirmed by Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2349 (2017) and 2396 (2017), which call upon Member States to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (PRR) strategies for individuals who they have reasonable grounds to believe are terrorists.

These PRR strategies need to be age-sensitive, gender-responsive and in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, as applicable, and they must address the diverse circumstances and needs of those – women, men, boys and girls – with links to terrorist groups.

Member States face complex challenges in their PRR efforts and continue to request assistance to design and operationalize comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies. To meet the needs of Member States, the PRR Programme offers a series of tailored capacity-building initiatives that are delivered across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. In addition, the PRR Programme works to ensure that Member States, the United Nations and CSOs have a coherent approach to PRR.

Rehabilitation Centre in Iraq. UN Photo/Sarmad Al-Safy

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Partners

In 2024, the PRR Programme was funded by Denmark, Germany, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Uzbekistan.

The PRR Programme works on joint projects with several United Nations entities, including IOM, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNODC The Programme has also worked closely with the Government of Iraq, the Government of Uzbekistan, OSCE, UNRCCA, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum East Africa Capacity-building Working Group, which is co-chaired by Kenya and Kuwait, to implement activities.

Results

The PRR Programme primarily contributes to Strategic Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025, more specifically to Outcome 4.3. It also contributes broadly to Strategic Goal 1.

The 2021-2024 internal evaluation of the PRR Programme concluded that the Programme contributed to Member States' capacity to develop and implement comprehensive and tailored PRR strategies, policies and approaches.

In 2024, the Programme achieved the following milestones in terms of capacity-building:

Addressed urgent needs in Iraq

The PRR Programme led the delivery of a joint project with IOM, UNICEF and UNODC, entitled, "Addressing urgent needs in Iraq: screening, rehabilitation, and reintegration of adults, management of high-risk prisoners, and protection of children returned from Syria". The project built on the Programme's previous work in Iraq, supporting the implementation of the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees. Under the project, which will continue until December 2025, the PRR Programme is responsible for overall project coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and delivery of capacity-building activities. The Programme established and continues to co-chair with the Supreme Judicial Council of Iraq, the Security and Accountability for Adults Task Force (SAATF). The Task Force meets approximately every six weeks and ensures collaboration between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq on matters relating to security and accountability (e.g. screening, criminal justice, custodial and non-custodian rehabilitation of terrorist offenders) in the context of returns and supports the identification of emerging needs to be addressed through tailored technical assistance. In 2024, the Task Force met eight times in Iraq.

The PRR Programme implemented the project "Building on Success"

"Leveraging results to advance prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals suspected of terrorism, including returning foreign terrorist fighters and their family members." Under the project, the Programme delivered training on integrating

international legal standards and good practices into screenings and initial assessments, in Iraq in November 2024. The event reached 20 beneficiaries (3 women, 17 men) from government entities involved in conducting screenings and initial assessments for Iraqi nationals returning from camps and places of detention in north-east Syrian Arab Republic. The workshop provided an overview of international law considerations for screening, focused on gender-responsive, victim-centred and trauma-informed practices, and enabled participants to identify opportunities to address inter-agency challenges. The training results were measured through a feedback survey (n=20). Participants' responses indicated that the training had increased their capacity to conduct screenings and initial assessments based on best practices:

85% respondents reported that they were better equipped to conduct interviews **for screening and initial assessment purposes.**

75% reported that they were better equipped to conduct interviews **in a trauma-informed manner.**

75% reported they were better equipped to conduct interviews **in an age- and gender-sensitive manner.**
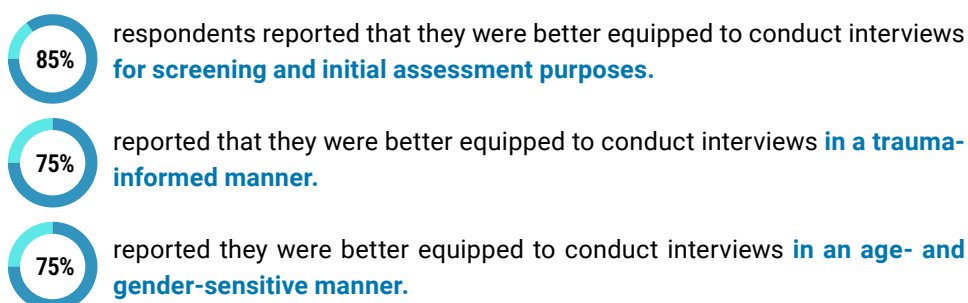
Furthermore, the training facilitated the integration of recommendations into the design of the new security administration for Jeddah 1, a transitional rehabilitation centre in Iraq for citizens repatriated from north-east Syrian Arab Republic.

Collaboration with GCTF

The PRR Programme, in collaboration with the Global Counterterrorism Forum East Africa Working Group, implemented the "Disengagement, deradicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration (DDRR)" workshop. The PRR Programme designed and delivered the training curriculum, which reached 81 beneficiaries (25 women, 56 men), including representatives from 26 national governments, regional organizations, CSOs, and think tanks. Workshop results were measured through a feedback survey (n=24), in which

GCTF East Africa Capacity-Building Working Group's Priorities 2024-2026

GCTF East Africa Capacity-Building Working Group's Priorities | 2024-2026

participants' responses indicated that the training had enhanced their understanding of key concepts and components of DDRR. Of note:

90% respondents reported that the workshop had contributed to **increasing their knowledge across all the key learning outcomes.**

Furthermore, the training had made progress with regard to its aim to foster cooperation; all (100 per cent) survey respondents indicated that they had met new people, and 84 per cent indicated that they would likely remain in contact with at least one of the new people.

In addition, the PRR Programme led and contributed to several coordination efforts, including:

✅ **One-United Nations Plan for the return of Iraqi nationals from Syrian Arab Republic –** The PRR Programme played a central role in the revision of the One-United Nations Plan to support the return of Iraqi nationals from north-east Syrian Arab Republic, in December 2024. The Plan outlines how United Nations actors will work together to support the Government of Iraq with the return, rehabilitation and reintegration of its citizens, thereby serving to operationalize, at the national level in Iraq, the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees.

✅ **Report to support the operationalization of DDR in the Lake Chad Basin/ Sahel region –** The PRR Programme worked closely with the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section of the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) throughout 2024 to identify synergies at the intersection of DDR and PRR. In December 2024, UNOCT (through the PRR Programme) and the Department of Peace Operations jointly commissioned a report on supporting the effective and coherent operationalization of PRR and DDR in the Lake Chad Basin/Sahel region, The report will be completed in early 2025.

✅ **Inter-agency collaboration –** The PRR Programme contributed to three critical inter-agency forums in 2024: the Global Coalition against Da'esh Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group, the Al-Hol Task Force, and the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR.

Events

Central Asia Regional Expert Council on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones

FIRST MEETING:
Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees

14 MAY 2024 | TASHKENT

The PRR Programme worked with the Government of Uzbekistan to establish the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones. The first meeting of the Council, held in Uzbekistan in May 2024, convened 37 representatives (11 women, 25 men, 1 unknown) from Central Asian Member States, United Nations entities and CSOs. It provided a unique platform for sharing lessons

At the first meeting of the Council, held in Uzbekistan in May 2024

learned about the return of citizens from conflict zones and fostered the institutionalization of future cooperation in this area among Central Asian Member States. The second meeting of the Council, held in Uzbekistan in November 2024, 28 representatives from Central Asian Member States, United Nations entities and CSOs. It focused on the role of civil society, including women and youth groups, in pursuing comprehensive and tailored rehabilitation and reintegration strategies in Central Asia. Discussions at the second meeting highlighted the importance of robust legal frameworks, clear action plans and standardized protocols to ensure the effective operationalization of rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. The meeting emphasized the need for stronger collaboration between civil society and government agencies, increased regional and international cooperation – including with respect to knowledge-sharing – and called for the development of unified regional strategies and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools to assess ongoing programmes.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   May 14, 2024

USG Voronkov thanked #Uzbekistan for hosting the 1st meeting of the Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation & Reintegration of Returnees #PRR from Conflict Zones and commended the #CentralAsia Governments of for their commitment to bringing this initiative to life

" UNOCT remains committed to supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts of Member States in Central Asia, including by serving as the Secretariat of the Regional Expert Council, in partnership with UNRCCA."

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism

UNOCT

Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees • 14 May 2024 • Tashkent

Human rights and gender equality

With regard to human rights, gender equality, leave no one behind and disability inclusion considerations:

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

- As part of the project, "Addressing urgent needs in Iraq: screening, rehabilitation, and reintegration of adults, management of high-risk prisoners, and protection of children returned from Syria", the PRR Programme is responsible for co-chairing SAATF. Human rights have been a central focus within the establishment of SAATF, whose terms of reference (ToR) specifically address human rights. In addition, representatives from the Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) are key participants in SAATF to ensure a human rights lens on the Task Force's activities. These measures have helped to ensure that human rights are a central focus for United Nations and Government of Iraq members of SAATF. In addition, focus has been placed on elevating the voices of victims, including through potential involvement of governmental entities dealing with victims' rights and reparations in SAATF meetings, and through a mapping exercise, where services provided to victims of terrorism were mapped and key challenges and bottlenecks were communicated to SAATF members.

- Also as part of the above-mentioned project, the PRR Programme is overseeing the development of a paper by consultants in the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) on the prosecution of alleged members of ISIL (Da'esh) for membership offences. The paper provides a comparative analysis of approaches from Iraq and other countries on the prosecution and adjudication of membership offences against the background of relevant international law, including international human rights law. In particular, the paper highlights key international human rights law norms and standards underpinning human rights-compliant criminalization of terrorism-related offences and criminal justice responses to terrorism, including with respect to ensuring the right to a fair trial and due process.

- As part of the project, "Building on success: leveraging results to advance prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals suspected of terrorism, including returning foreign terrorist fighters and their family members," the PRR Programme delivered training on integrating international legal standards and good practices into screenings and initial assessments. The training focused on international law, particularly international human rights law – relevant to the conduct of screenings and initial assessments, and gender-responsive, victim-centred practices when gathering and using information during screenings and initial assessments. Finally, the training addressed trauma-informed and victim-centred approaches to the identification and documentation of sexual and gender-based violence, in the light of the prominence of these issues among those returning. The discussions focused on the use of survivor-centred tools and best practices, such as the Global Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (Murad Code).

- At the first meeting of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees, in May 2024, the PRR Programme facilitated discussions on gender considerations in the implementation of PRR efforts, which featured representatives from government and civil society and United Nations experts. All the respondents (n=9) to the feedback survey reported that the session on gender was useful for their work.

- At the Global Counterterrorism Forum workshop on DDRR in East Africa, the Programme delivered a dedicated session on gender and age considerations regarding legal and policy frameworks relevant to DDRR efforts. Gender and age considerations were also a recurring theme throughout the workshop sessions, including in the identification of good practices. Respondents (92 per cent) to the feedback survey reported that they had acquired a better understanding of gender and age considerations in relation to DDRR.

- During the above-mentioned workshop on DDRR, the Programme delivered a dedicated session on relevant international legal and policy frameworks, which included considerations stemming from international human rights law that are relevant to the DDRR process. 100 per cent of respondents to the feedback survey reported that they had a better understanding of international legal and policy frameworks.

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Number of beneficiaries of capacity-building	Number of partner entities	Countries benefitted
164 (52 women, 111 men) including 110 government representatives, 44 civil society representatives, 10 from other organizations	**10** 4 United Nations entities (IOM, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRCCA), 4 Member States (Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Uzbekistan) and 2 others (Global Counterterrorism Forum, OSCE	**6** Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Lessons learned

The internal evaluation of the PRR Programme was completed in the fourth quarter of 2024. The evaluation identified six key success factors:

- **Strong relationships with funding partners** have enabled an ongoing portfolio of work in Iraq, where there are critical needs.

- **Support of the United Nations resident coordinator** enabled all-of-United Nations approaches, especially in contexts where counter-terrorism may have been a newer policy and programming framework for the country team.

- **The PRR Programme's commitment to building partnerships with key actors** enabled the delivery of several joint projects.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

- **Collaboration with other UNOCT programmes** enriched the PRR Programme's capacity-building offering.

- **UNOCT's field presence in Iraq and Central Asia** significantly facilitated the implementation of the PRR Programme in these regions.

- **The substantive expertise and agility of the programme team** enabled the design of high-quality activities and products, which was essential to meeting the needs of Member States.

The internal evaluation also identified four key challenges, on which action was taken/envisaged and lessons were learned:

▸ LACK OF SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

In 2024, the PRR Programme relied increasingly on funds earmarked for specific activities that were attached to projects of short duration. The lack of sustainable and flexible funding made it challenging for the Programme to manage staffing, respond to Member States' requests for support, and innovate.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme engaged in careful project design and planning to ensure activities could be delivered within the available funds.

Lesson learned: The Programme must diversify its funding base and advocate for more sustainable and flexible funding, including by seeking out philanthropic and non-traditional funding partners.

▸ EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH SOME UNITED NATIONS STAKEHOLDERS

In 2024, there were instances in which UNOCT's role and the PRR framework were questioned when working on joint initiatives with other United Nations entities.

Action taken/envisaged: The PRR Programme invested significantly in stakeholder engagement in order to build trust with other United Nations entities.

Lesson learned: The Programme must adopt a more proactive posture in the light of the fact that UNOCT's work is supported by several Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

▶ **UNOCT'S RELATIVELY LIMITED FIELD PRESENCE**

In 2024, the PRR Programme was unable to significantly progress its work in the Lake Chad Basin/Sahel region owing to the lack of staff on the ground in this region.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme has deployed efforts to mobilize funds to support field-based staff in the Lake Chad Basin/Sahel region.

Lesson learned: The Programme must continue resource mobilization efforts to support field-based staff in the region, while at the same time, continue to work in areas (e.g. Iraq) where a field presence already exists.

▶ **PROTRACTED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR PRR JOINT PROJECTS**

The PRR Programme's joint project in Iraq experienced delays in implementation owing to delays in the transfer of funds to implementing partners.

Action taken/envisaged: The Programme worked closely with partners to mitigate the impacts of the delays.

Lesson learned: The Programme must advocate early internal consultation to identify appropriate solutions for future joint projects.

Impact stories

Global Counterterrorism Forum workshop on DDRR, Kuwait

"I will apply what I have learned from this workshop to generate briefs aimed at influencing policy considerations in relation to DDRR. I will further coordinate awareness at strategic and operational levels, and lobby strategic leadership to expedite the implementation of the National Strategy on PCVE."

– A beneficiary

I will apply what I learned "to redesigning projects and programs that we work on daily to the new knowledge acquired."

– A beneficiary

"I will apply what I learned to "... improve capacity gaps in community-led rehabilitation and enhance integration, ... support other civil groups in Kenya and outside in collaboration and partnership with State actors (Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania), ...enhance trauma approaches along the Kenya/Somalia border, ...improve resource mobilization to support our activities in DDRR."

– A beneficiary

Training on integrating international legal standards and good practices into screenings and initial assessments, Iraq

"I have benefitted from "taking into account the psychological aspect of survivors who have been subjected to sexual violence, and taking into account some of the recommendations that were referred to in the workshop, as well as the interaction of all, ...and proposals presented, which resulted in positive results related to the topic."

– A beneficiary

Priorities for 2025

The 2021-2024 internal evaluation of the PRR Programme proposed the following recommendations for 2025 and beyond:

- **Refine the PRR Programme's capacity-building offering:** Capacity-building will be delivered under four focus areas: criminal justice responses, screening and initial assessments, disengagement as part of rehabilitation, and measuring rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes, as well as ongoing focus on programme delivery in Iraq, Central Asia and the Lake Chad Basin/Sahel region.

- **Build partnerships:** To deepen engagement in the four focus areas and identify geographical areas for capacity-building, the PRR Programme will invest in building partnerships with regional organizations, international and local CSOs, and think tanks.

- **Further incorporate human rights, gender and leave no one behind considerations:** Working closely with the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS), the PRR Programme will look to further incorporate relevant human rights compliant and gender considerations into its programming, particularly as new capacity-building products are developed.

Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

Overview

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (VoT Programme) stands in solidarity with victims of terrorism, raises awareness of their rights and needs, and strengthens the capacity of Member States and CSOs to advance these efforts.

Grounded in the commitment to place victims of terrorism at the centre of the international agenda and counter-terrorism efforts, the VoT Programme focuses on four key priority areas:

- **Promoting solidarity, outreach and advocacy** by amplifying victims' voices

- **Enhancing collaboration** with Member States, United Nations entities and CSOs

- **Providing tailored technical assistance** and capacity-building to improve legislative, policy and operational frameworks for victims support

- **Empowering victims of terrorism** to strengthen their visibility and communications for advocacy and awareness

Together, these priority areas ensure a victim-centric, inclusive and participatory approach that fosters recognition and support, prevents secondary victimization and promotes global collaboration.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism ✔
@UN_OCT   Jun 24, 2024

Thank you to all the Member States who participated in the partnership briefing reiterating their strong support to #UNCCT @UN_OCT efforts to better protect, promote and respect the rights & needs of #VictimsofTerrorism

👉bit.ly/OCT-EVENTS
#UNiteforVictimsofTerrorism

Partners

In 2024, the VoT Programme was funded by Spain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America.

- **Institutional Collaborators:** The Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and the Office of the European Commissioner for Victims' Rights contributed to advancing victims' rights globally, notably through a series of high-level Group of Friends meetings and collaboration between the co-Chairs (Iraq and Spain) to facilitate commemorations on the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

- **Implementing partners:** UNODC partnered in the roll-out of the Model Legislative Provisions project by delivering technical assistance to strengthen national frameworks in the Philippines and Nigeria. Collaboration with memorial institutions, including the Centro Memorial para las Víctimas del Terrorismo (Spain), the Musée-Mémorial du terrorisme (France), and the Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo (Spain), brought the "Memories" campaign to life, amplifying victims' voices and raising public awareness.

- **Victims' networks:** Feedback from victims and victims' associations globally, shaped the Programme's initiatives, ensuring a victim-centred approach in all activities. More specifically, a series of four regional consultations with victims of terrorism and victims' associations brought together over 50 participants from 23 countries to inform the development of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) and the agenda for the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism.

Results

In 2024, the VoT Programme advanced UNOCT's strategic objectives by prioritizing victim-centred approaches to strengthening Member States' capacities and promoting multilateral collaboration on support for victims of terrorism.

Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) project

The VoT Programme delivered tailored technical assistance to enhance national frameworks for victims' rights. In the Philippines, the initiative led to the formation of an interim Technical Working Group, fostering inter-agency collaboration and the development of comprehensive action plans for victim support. In Nigeria, stakeholders convened during the launch of the project, enabling coordinated dialogue between federal, state and local governments, CSOs and victims. In 2024, capacity-building support directly benefitted 115 participants (50 in the Philippines, 65 in Nigeria). the activities were implemented in line with international standards and best practices, in partnership with UNODC.
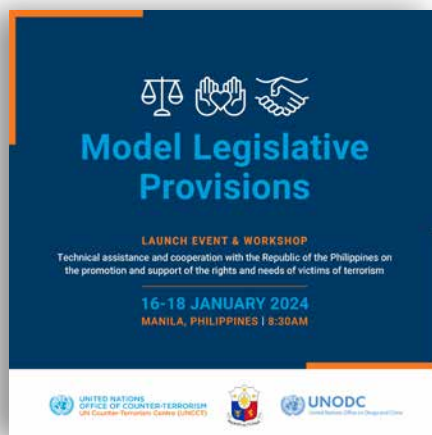
| GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Victims of Terrorism Support Programme |

Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN)

The Network made significant progress in 2024, conducting regional consultations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and the Americas. These consultations engaged over 50 victims and victims' associations to inform the design of the Network and ensure that it remains inclusive, trauma-informed and victim-centric. The Network is scheduled to be formally launched in 2025, creating a global platform to amplify victims' voices and foster international collaboration. Collaboration with existing networks and associations was instrumental in ensuring the Network's relevance and effectiveness.

Benefits to participants and partners

The Programme empowered Member States to enhance legislative and policy frameworks for victims, notably through the MLP projects in the Philippines and Nigeria, which strengthened inter-agency collaboration and alignment with international standards. The international conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, and regional consultations fostered victim-centric collaboration between victims, CSOs and governments, creating new opportunities for dialogue, advocacy and capacity-building. Initiatives such as the Memories campaign and the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism amplified victims' voices on global platforms, fostering solidarity, raising public awareness and highlighting their resilience.

Events

United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism

Held in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, under the theme, "Education as a tool for prevention, peacebuilding and empowerment", the Conference marked the beginning of a biennial calendar of events. The Conference brought together 430 participants, including 59 victims, 62 CSO representatives, and 220 delegates from 67 countries. High-level

| GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Victims of Terrorism Support Programme |

His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain

contributions, including remarks by His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, underscored the critical importance of victim solidarity and advocacy. Six side events organized by participants explored topics such as the impact of victim testimonies on youth education, the role of victims as educators, and the significance of memorials in advocacy and remembrance. The events also addressed challenges faced by victims and the collective efforts of States, victims' organizations and memorial centres in promoting resilience and education. These events were organized collaboratively by a range of entities, including victim support organizations, Member States, academic institutions and memorial centres, enriching the discussions and ensuring diversity and solidarity. Iraq committed to supporting the next International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, to be held in 2026.

Memories campaign

The Memories campaign was a powerful initiative to raise awareness and amplify victims' voices. Exhibited in Spain, France and United Nations Headquarters in New York, the campaign featured testimonies of victims of terrorism, emphasizing remembrance, solidarity and peace. Welcoming over 30,000 visitors in Spain and France alone, the campaign fostered public understanding of victims' resilience and contributions. Partnerships with the Centro Memorial para las Víctimas del Terrorismo (Spain), the Musée-Mémorial du terrorisme (France), and the Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo

GLOBAL PROGRAMME Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

(Spain) played a crucial role in ensuring the campaign's success and reach. Another significant audiovisual product was the Legacy project, which played a key role in expanding awareness of victims of terrorism and engaging a broader audience.

International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism

International Day of Remembrance of and
Tribute to Victims of Terrorism

Production Date
21 Aug 2024

The International Day was commemorated virtually under the theme, "Victims of terrorism as peace advocates and educators". The commemoration featured high-level participation by the United Nations Secretary-General and other global leaders, panel discussions with victims, survivors and experts, and included a global minute of silence. The event attracted over 3,000 views on United Nations Web TV, highlighting its global resonance and impact in advancing victims' voices and their role in building peace.

Human rights and gender equality

Human rights and gender-sensitive approaches were integral to the design, development and implementation of all Programme activities, ensuring inclusivity, accessibility and alignment with international norms and standards. The VoT Programme aimed to create safe, inclusive and participatory spaces for victims of terrorism, while fostering a culture of respect for fundamental rights.

The Programme emphasized the holistic protection and promotion of victims' rights, addressing their legal, psychological and social needs, while advancing Member States' understanding of their obligations as legal duty bearers. Initiatives such as the Model Legislative Provisions project in the Philippines and Nigeria strengthened national frameworks to ensure victims' access to justice, reparations and dignity. The International Conference on Victims of Terrorism and the regional consultations to establish the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) reinforced the role of victims as agents of positive change, empowering them to participate meaningfully in counter-terrorism and peacebuilding efforts.

Participants and survivors expressed their views both in-person and virtually at the UN International Conference on VoT, October 2024.

His Majesty King Felipe and Ms. Nidhi Chaphekar, a Brussels Airport Bombings survivor, at the 'Memories' exhibition featured as part of the commemoration activities marking the European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism and the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 March in Madrid. March 2024
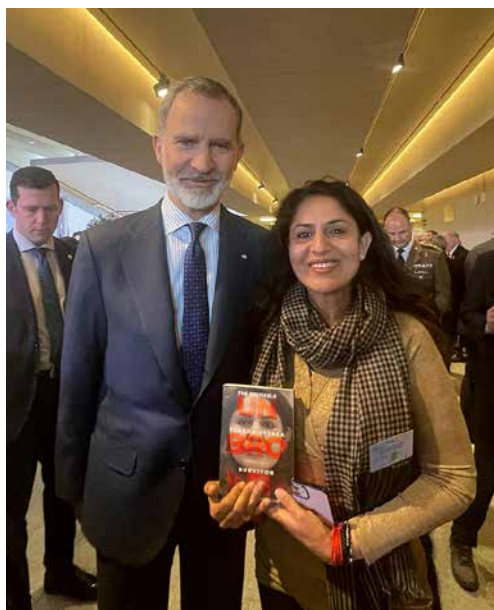
Through consultations and workshops, the VoT Programme incorporated a "do-no-harm" approach to respect the rights of victims and avoid retraumatization, ensuring that activities were trauma-informed and victim-centric. Safe spaces for dialogue were established, allowing victims and survivors to share their perspectives while informing the Programme's design.

The Programme recognized the distinct and intersecting impacts of terrorism on women, men, girls, boys and gender-diverse individuals. Gender-sensitive components from the Model Legislative Provisions Handbook were embedded in the activities to ensure legislative and policy frameworks addressed these nuanced needs. Workshops and consultations emphasized the differential impacts of terrorism, addressing issues such as gender-based violence, conflict-related sexual violence and the social implications of gender roles on victims of terrorism. Women-led organizations were actively engaged to shape strategies and messages, ensuring relevance and inclusivity. Equal participation opportunities and balanced gender representation were prioritized, with 250 women participating across the activities.

Given the relevance of gender considerations and the programme team's commitment to addressing this component comprehensively, the Programme partnered with the UNOCT Gender Unit and UN-Women to develop a proposal to conduct a comprehensive gender analysis specific to victims of terrorism. This initiative will enhance the Programme's ability to integrate gender-responsive approaches across its programming.

The VoT Programme prioritized accessibility and inclusion in 2024, recognizing that many victims and survivors of terrorism are persons with disabilities owing to injuries sustained or affected by trauma. Ensuring their full and meaningful participation was central to all the Programme's activities. For example, during the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, accessibility arrangements such as wheelchair-friendly venues, tailored travel assistance, and inclusive accommodations were thoughtfully implemented to address the diverse needs of participants.

In addition, the International Conference and the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute were broadcast live with subtitles, ensuring access for individuals unable to travel owing to physical limitations and those with hearing impairments. This approach underscored the Programme's commitment to fostering inclusion and enabling all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, to engage meaningfully in commemorative and awareness-raising events.

| GLOBAL PROGRAMME | Victims of Terrorism Support Programme |

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Number of activities	Number of participants	Partners involved
16 delivered	**690** including 250 women across all activities	**18+** International and regional organizations

Number of viewers of virtual events		Countries benefitted
30,000+ direct viewers	**3.1 million** impressions via social media	**70**

Lessons learned

In 2024, the VoT Programme faced significant funding challenges, with a projected resource depletion by April 2025.

> **▶ RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS**
>
> The funding shortfall threatened essential operations and posed risks to the advancement of the international victims of terrorism agenda under the Programme's unique role within the United Nations system.

Action taken/envisaged: To address the funding challenges, the Programme prioritized securing financial support. In June 2024, the Programme delivered an Ambassadorial-level Partnership Briefing in Support of Victims of Terrorism at United Nations Headquarters in New York, intended to galvanize the international community's support in advancing the Programme's agenda. The Briefing engaged representatives from 25 Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations. In addition, the United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism (Spain, October 2024) brought together global stakeholders and highlighted the importance of the Programme. The Government of Iraq pledged a contribution to the Programme and committed to supporting the 2026 International Conference. Long-term planning will focus on multi-year funding frameworks to ensure the programme's operational continuity, while stepping up communication about the Programme's impact will build sustained support. Furthermore, contingency strategies will be developed to address potential funding gaps and ensure uninterrupted critical operations.

Lesson learned: In order to ensure sustainability, the Programme must broaden its funding base by exploring partnerships beyond traditional contributors, to include the private sector and philanthropic opportunities.

GLOBAL PROGRAMME	Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

Impact stories

As part of the Model Legislative Provisions project in the Philippines, an Indonesian victim of terrorism and the Head of the Witness and Victim Protection Unit of the Government of the Philippines participated in a workshop to share practical knowledge on how victims and governments can work together to prioritize victims' needs. Their collaboration highlighted how integrating victims' voices into institutional frameworks strengthens responses and ensures that victims remain at the centre of policy and practice.

The Indonesian victim shared how turning his painful experience into advocacy has been a critical part of his healing process, stating: *"Advocacy has given me strength and a sense of purpose, helping me heal while supporting others"*.

The success of these participatory approaches inspired the Government of the Philippines to ensure that its newly established Technical Working Group on Victims of Terrorism actively consulted with victims in the development of national action plans.

At the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism, a young victim from Kenya and an alumnus of the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme shared his story for the first time on such a platform, which marked a significant step in his journey of healing and advocacy.

His testimony highlights not only the transformative power of creating safe spaces where youth can transition from victims to advocates, but also the critical role of UNOCT's capacity-building training and support. Through this support, this young man was empowered to bring his unique perspective forward and develop a grassroots advocacy approach, turning pain into a force for education and peace. His story demonstrates how investing in youth engagement and empowerment amplifies their voices as agents of change.

Reflecting on his experience of losing his father in a terrorist attack, he said: *"In the silence of trauma, young victims and survivors of terrorism speak volumes. Let us listen, learn and empower them to advocate for the peace their generation deserves."*

Priorities for 2025

The VoT Programme's priorities for 2025 will focus on fulfilling existing commitments, mobilizing funding and ensuring operational sustainability. These priorities are designed to deliver impactful results while addressing the challenges of limited funding and staffing.

- **Completion of key commitments –** The VoT Programme will launch the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) by April 2025 and conclude the capacity-building activities under the Model Legislative Provisions project in Nigeria by May 2025. These initiatives will ensure the delivery of promised outcomes and enable the Programme to maintain its credibility. Preparations will focus on ensuring the operational readiness of the Network and finalizing the activities of the Model Legislative Provisions project with comprehensive documentation of lessons learned.

- **Resource mobilization –** Securing funding will remain a core priority to extend the Programme's operations. Efforts will include targeted outreach, the submission of tailored project proposals and leveraging high-visibility events to engage potential partners and showcase the Programme's value. Expanding partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional contributors will be key to achieving this goal.

- **Lessons learned exercise –** To evaluate the Programme's activities in 2024-2025, a lessons learned exercise will provide insights for refining the strategies for future iterations of the Programme. Operational resilience will be enhanced through the retention of key staff, strategic collaboration, and contingency planning to sustain core activities.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Mar 12, 2024

Today, @un_oct #UNCCT launched its first round of consultations w/ terrorism victims and victims' associations to discuss the development of a #VictimsofTerrorism Associations Network #VOTAN.

A crucial first step to establish this important network.

#UNiteforVictimsofTerrorism

B. Regional Programmes

Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia – Phase IV

Overview

The project, Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (JPoA Project), is the fourth phase of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. The Project supports the balanced and comprehensive implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

Adopted in 2011, the JPoA Project is one of the oldest UNCCT programmes. It was designed to provide a coordinated and tailored solution to enhance the capacity of Central Asian Member States – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism (CT/PCVE), through needs-based capacity-building, technical assistance, and expert mentoring. The main goal of the Project is to support Central Asia Member States in the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the region by enhancing their capacities and strengthened cooperation and coordination. To that end, the Project leverages multiple stakeholders and multidisciplinary good practices and is implemented in partnership with UNRCCA. The Project incorporates elements of other United Nations programmes and projects that are being implemented in the region to address the needs of the beneficiary countries in a coherent and holistic manner. It also provides a platform for cooperation and coordination between Member States, international and regional organizations, and CSOs in their efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

REGIONAL STRATEGY

Adoption of the Joint Plan of Action in Ashgabat on 30 November 2011

Adoption of the updated Joint Plan of Action in Tashkent in 2022

2010 **2011** 2012 **2013** 2014 2015 2016 **2017** **2018** **2019** 2020 **2021** **2022** 2023 2024 2025 **2026**

TIMELINE

PROJECTS ▶

High-Level UN-Central Asian Dialogue on the Implementation of the UNGCTS in Central Asia in Ashgabat on June 13th, 2017 chaired by the UN Secretary General to review progress on JPoA implementation

High-Level Dushanbe Conference and launch of Dushanbe process, a series **of regional conferences on counter**ing and preventing terrorism

2021 Ten-year **review** on the implementation of the UNGCTS

Launch of the **Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network** for Central Asia

PHASE I
OF THE PROJECT
Development of the regional strategy – Joint Plan of Action

PHASE II
OF THE PROJECT
Implementation of the JPoA through capacity-building workshops

PHASE III
OF THE PROJECT
Implementation of the JPoA through capacity-building workshops

PHASE IV
OF THE PROJECT
Implementation of the JPoA through capacity-building workshops

REGIONAL PROGRAMME	JPoA – Phase IV

Partners

> In 2024, the JPoA Project was funded by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, which is funded by China.

The partner countries of the Project are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, while its organizational partners include UNRCCA, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), OSCE, INTERPOL, the European Union (through programmes such as Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA) and Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), among others). The Project also partners with the following regional organizations: SCO RATS, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC).

Results

Enhanced regional security and cooperation in Central Asia through the Counter Terrorism Early Warning Network (EWN) for Central Asia
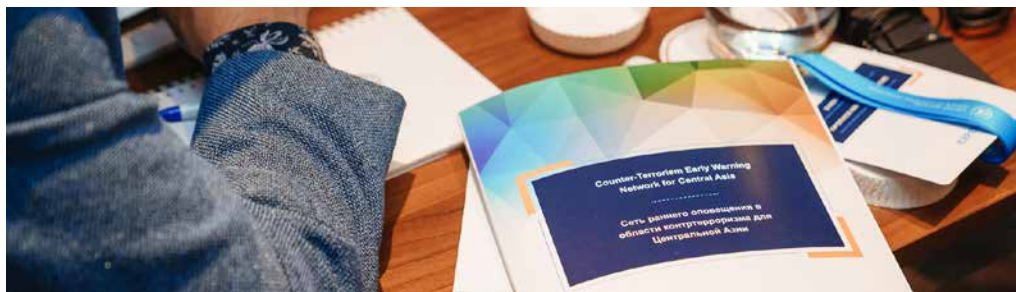
The Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network (EWN) for Central Asia was launched as part of the JPoA Project to address emerging security challenges, including those stemming from Afghanistan. The Network was launched by UNOCT and UNRCCA in collaboration with regional and national partners across five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Supported PCVE efforts in Central Asia

Through the dissemination of dedicated learning materials and the organization of regional youth conferences, the Project supported CT/PCVE efforts in Central Asia.

Advanced human rights and the rule of law in countering terrorism in Central Asia

UNCCT Central Asia Unit continues to broadly disseminate the e-learning course on human rights and counter-terrorism in Central Asia. Developed by UNOCT/UNCCT and

| REGIONAL PROGRAMME | JPoA – Phase IV |

UNRCCA, in partnership with the UNITAR, OHCHR and UNICEF, the course is addressed to law enforcement officials. It has been customized to the specific context of Central Asia and incorporates international standards and best practices in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.

Signed the Joint Plan of Action with SCO RATS
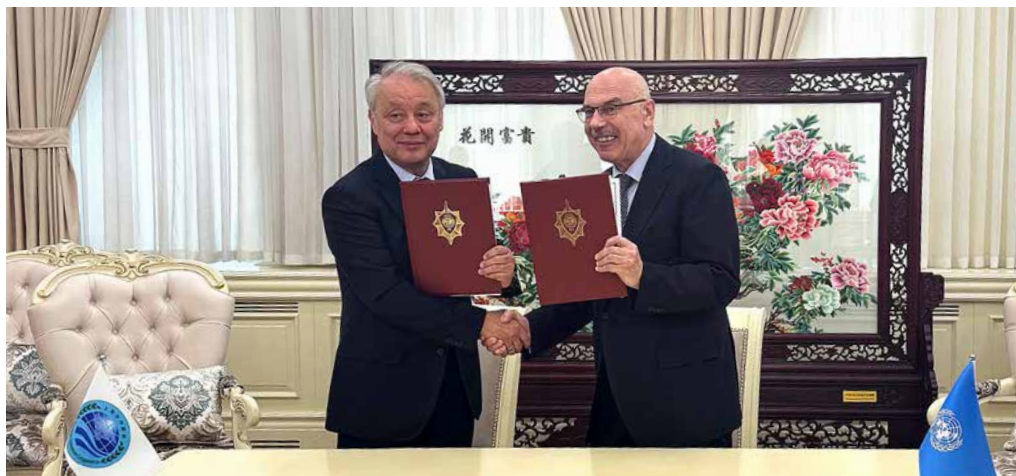
In May 2024, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and Director of the Executive Committee of SCO RATS, Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev, signed the Joint Plan of Action (2024-2026) to enhance programmatic partnership to strengthen counter-terrorism initiatives across Central Asia.

Signed roadmaps with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Also in May 2024, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism signed roadmaps with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan and President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan. Both roadmaps are aligned with the JPoA Project and cover areas of cooperation identified as priorities. They provide clear and actionable steps for fruitful collaboration between UNOCT and the respective countries.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan
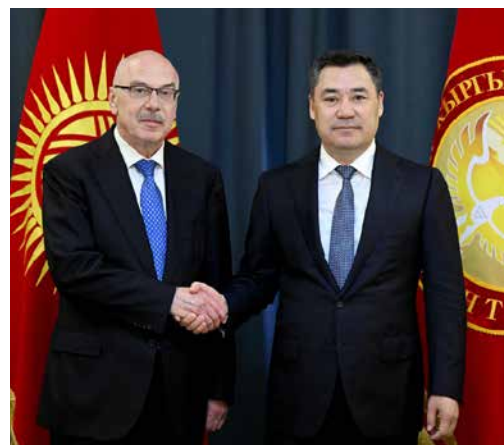
President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan

REGIONAL PROGRAMME	JPoA – Phase IV

Events

Fourth regional conference under the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network (EWN) for Central Asia

The regional conference, held in Tashkent in September 2024, provided updates on emerging security challenges in Central Asia and addressed terrorism threats at various levels. The conference brought together representatives from government institutions, CSOs and international organizations, and independent experts to discuss common transnational and national threats and explore ways to enhance collaboration on data collection and monitoring through the EWN platform.

Training on building the resilience of local communities to extremist ideologies

Following the above-mentioned regional conference, UNOCT Central Asia Unit, jointly with UNRCCA and the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), as well as the governments of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, organized a two-day training on "building the resilience of local communities to extremist ideologies" for Central Asian officials and CSO representatives. The training was aimed at building a strong collaborative network between government and community stakeholders to enhance security in Central Asia; it engaged participants to share their inputs for the regional roadmap for community engagement in preventing violent extremism (PVE). The regional roadmap will be finalized and further discussed on the EWN platform.

Joint Regional Workshop, Fostering Cooperation and Information-sharing on Preventing and Combatting the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Illicit Supply to Terrorists

UNCCT, jointly with UNODC and SCO RATS, organized the workshop in Tashkent in April 2024, which brought together representatives from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member-States, as well as relevant international and regional organizations to discuss the terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Central Asia. The workshop fostered analytical discussion on the issues, challenges and needs involved in increasing national, regional and international judicial and law

enforcement information-sharing and operational cooperation to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute arms trafficking in the context of terrorism and organized crime.

Working Group meeting on the development of Turkmenistan's National Strategy to Prevent Violent Extremism and Counter Terrorism

The meeting, held in Ashgabat in May 2024, gathered relevant authorities of Turkmenistan to discuss the development of an updated National Strategy to Prevent Violent Extremism and Counter Terrorism for 2025-2030, as well as the main outcomes of the seventh and eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the updated JPoA Project. National representatives shared initial inputs on national priority areas and asked the Project team to share additional United Nations inputs on countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) and virtual assets, cybersecurity, AI and new technologies, emerging types of terrorism, protection of vulnerable targets, as well as PVE measures.

Second meeting of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on the Rehabilitation and reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones

Co-organized by the PRR Programme, the second meeting of the Regional Expert Council, held in Tashkent in November 2024, focused on sharing regional best practices in civil society-led rehabilitation programmes, and integrating gender- and age-sensitive considerations into those programmes. Participants examined legal frameworks that support processes of reintegration and identified capacity-building needs and learned about reintegration experiences in South-East Europe, more specifically in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

High-level Briefing on the Central Asia Regional Expert Council

UNRCCA, UNOCT Central Asia Unit, the PRR Programme and the Government of Uzbekistan held an in-person High-level Briefing on the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees at United Nations Headquarters, in New York in December 2024. The Briefing provided an opportunity to present the ongoing efforts and achievements of the Regional Expert Council and its thematic working groups

REGIONAL PROGRAMME   JPoA – Phase IV

and discuss opportunities to continue strengthening regional efforts in the repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals associated with terrorist groups. The Briefing sought to raise awareness of this one-of-a-kind initiative as a promising practice, while reiterating the need for continued international support.

Human rights and gender equality

The JPoA Project introduced rights-based approaches in training sessions and operational planning. Scenario-based exercises emphasized accountability and adherence to international standards. However, stakeholders often lacked the knowledge and institutional mechanisms to operationalize human rights effectively.

The Project increased awareness about gender-sensitive approaches to CT/PCVE through training and capacity-building. The Project also promoted full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all its activities, reaching a 20 per cent female participation rate, a notable achievement in a male-dominated sector in Central Asia. Nonetheless, cultural norms and institutional resistance hindered broader participation and the integration of gender-sensitive approaches.

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Number of beneficiaries	Number of partners		Countries benefitted
178 140 men, 38 women	**3** United Nations entities: UNICEF, UNODC and UNRCCA; 1 other (OSCE)	**6** Member States: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	**5** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Lessons learned

▶ SECURING ADEQUATE AND CONSISTENT FUNDING

Limited financial resources constrained the scope and pace of planned activities, particularly in-person capacity-building initiatives and technical assistance. This funding gap delayed critical milestones and hindered the sustainability of ongoing efforts, thereby limiting the project's overall impact in addressing the growing challenges in the region.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME	JPoA – Phase IV

Action taken/envisaged: The JPoA Project will continue to focus on securing additional funding partner support and financial contributions to ensure the successful and timely implementation of the Project's objectives and its sustainability.

Lesson learned: Stronger emphasis on resource mobilization and funding partner mapping is required to help to ensure that sufficient funding is secured in a timely manner to implement the project's activities, and consistent funding is required for operational sustainability.

Impact stories

Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia (Phase I)

The following comments from the beneficiary countries were taken from the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) report:

"Establishing this network has provided an important platform for us to collaborate with neighbouring countries. Still, we see that we would need more work and resources to sustain these results and continue working together on assessing security threats."

Kazakhstan

"Our involvement has shown the importance of community-driven solutions in countering violent extremism. Partnering with law enforcement has opened possible directions for trust-building, but more inclusive approaches are needed."

Kyrgyzstan

"Given our border challenges with Afghanistan, the training and data-sharing mechanisms introduced by the project are invaluable. Our problem remains that we have limited technical capacity in our agencies and more support, longer-term assistance is needed."

Tajikistan

"This initiative has significantly enhanced our capacity to address cross-border threats. The regional consultations, in particular, have allowed us to learn from others' experiences and incorporate these lessons into our national strategies."

Uzbekistan

"While the project has strengthened our analytical capabilities, we recognize the need to integrate some of the topics – such as sustainable development goals, human rights and gender considerations – into our strategies."

Turkmenistan

Priorities for 2025

Looking ahead, in 2025, the JPoA Project aims to deepen its impact with a focus on increased capacity-building, enhanced regional coordination and effective sustainable partnerships.

Key priorities include:

- **Enhancing strategic partnerships through the implementation of the National Strategies to Prevent Violent Extremism and Counter Terrorism –** UNCCT will support the implementation of the respective national strategies and action plans or roadmaps that define the CT/PCVE priority areas for the Central Asian States, as well as for the international and regional partners.

- **Delivery of tailored capacity-building –** UNCCT will deliver tailored capacity-building support, including consultative advisory services to the Central Asian States through initial consultative missions to the Central Asian capitals to identify needs and formulate relevant responses.

- **Enhancement of regional coordination on CT/PCVE in the region –** UNCCT will seek to further engage with regional organizations, and United Nations and non-United Nations entities working in the region on cross-cutting issues related to CT/PCVE.

- **Strengthened sustainable partnerships –** UNCCT will strengthen partnerships with established networks and financial mechanisms in the Central Asian States and beyond.

Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Overview

The Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy project (2019-2024) aimed to strengthen regional cooperation and capacity-building among Arab States to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism (CT/PVE). Under the project, the Strategy was developed and adopted, in 2022, and an implementation plan was developed to support Arab Member States in implementing the Strategy at national and regional levels. The project also supported tailored capacity-building activities in line with the priorities set out in the plan. In 2024, the project focused on the capacity-building activities described below.

The Strategy provides the measures to strengthen the rule of law, establish credible justice actions, strengthen regional and inter-institutional cooperation and enhance capacity-building in line with national needs and regional priorities.

The project was implemented by UNCCT, in collaboration with the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC). It aligns with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022-2025.

Workshop on CFT for the implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Riyadh, May 2024. Photo/@NAUSS_SA

Partners

In 2024, the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy project was funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It was implemented in partnership with the AIMC Secretariat in Tunis, Tunisia, and the Arab Office for Combating Extremism and Terrorism, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The project also cooperated extensively with NAUSS, including by contributing its expertise to the University's activities.

The project benefited from the engagement of members of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies for the delivery of its activities, including CTED, UNODC, OHCHR and INTERPOL, as well as with UNCCT thematic programmes.

Results

The project contributed to Strategic Goal 2, and more specifically Outcome 2.3, of the Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025.

In 2024, the project delivered three capacity-building workshops for AIMC countries, engaging participants from 15 Member States:

- A regional training workshop on countering the financing of terrorism (Riyadh, May 2024)

- A regional training workshop on the rule-of-law and human rights protection in counter- terrorism criminal proceedings, including at the investigative, prosecutorial, trial and post-trial stages, and accountability considerations for human rights violations, criminalization of counter-terrorism offences and international cooperation in criminal matters (Tunis, July 2024)

- A regional training workshop on the protection of critical infrastructure against cyberattacks (Tunis, July 2024)

These workshops contributed to enhancing the capacities of AIMC member States to address core elements of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The project ended in July 2024 and arrangements were made to close the project in accordance with the relevant UNOCT standard operating procedures (SOP).

Workshop held in Riyadh, May 2024. Photo/@NAUSS_SA

| REGIONAL PROGRAMME | Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy |

Human rights and gender equality

The regional workshop on the rule-of-law and protecting human rights in counter-terrorism criminal proceedings allowed for useful discussions among Member States on accountability for human rights violations in counter-terrorism operations.

The project also ensured that human rights and gender equality considerations were integrated into all its workshops, with emphasis on protecting vulnerable groups. In addition, training materials were adapted for accessibility, enabling participation by persons with disabilities.

Performance against Key Metrics in 2024

Number of Member States supported	Number of beneficiaries
22 All members of the League of Arab States: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. However, not all participated in all the events	**90** (approx)
	Number of partner entities
	4 CTED, OHCHR, INTERPOL, and NAUSS

Lessons learned

The project encountered a few challenges along the way, from which lessons were learned and action taken or envisaged.

ENGAGEMENT GAPS

Some Member States faced delays in aligning their national priorities with the regional strategy.

CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

Limited resources and technical capacity in smaller Member States slowed implementation.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME	Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Lesson learned: Early stakeholder engagement ensures smoother implementation at the national level and tailored capacity-building programmes significantly enhance participation and effectiveness.

▸ **COORDINATION ISSUES**

Variations in regional priorities required additional time for consensus-building.

Action taken/envisaged: For all of the above challenges, the timeline for national integration workshops was extended and UNCCT or AIMC deployed technical teams to support under-resourced Member States.

Lesson learned: Early stakeholder engagement ensures smoother implementation at the national levels.

Impact stories

The project ended in 2024, after having successfully supported the development and implementation of the Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Support was also provided to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategy on key priority issues. UNCCT is grateful for the excellent partnership developed with Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) and Arab countries throughout this project.

Regional capacity-building workshop held in Riyadh, May 2024. Photo/@NAUSS_SA

UNOCT Programme Offices

Baghdad

Established in September 2023, the UNOCT Programme Office in Baghdad facilitates the implementation of UNOCT programming in Iraq, builds partnerships with United Nations and non-United Nations actors in the country, promotes coordination between United Nations entities on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism (CT/PVE), and identifies new areas of collaboration with the Government of Iraq on counter-terrorism.

In 2024, the Baghdad Programme Office hosted two resident UNOCT programmes: **the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR)** and **UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section's Programme on Promoting Human Rights Standards while Countering Terrorism**. Both programmes work closely with United Nations entities and the Government of Iraq to deliver priority capacity-building assistance. The Programme Office also supports four non-resident programmes:

- The Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

- The United Nations Countering Terrorism Travel Programme

- The Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies

- The European Union-United Nations Global Terrorism Threats Facility

Workshop on "UNOCT Enhances Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism Investigations in Iraq", held in cooperation with Iraq's Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA) in December 2024.

One of the Programme Office's main priorities is to assist Iraqi agencies with effective, gender-sensitive and secure repatriation of former Da'esh fighters and their family members from north-east Syrian Arab Republic. Working closely with the Office of the National Security Advisor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, the Programme Office contributed to the PRR Programme's collaboration with United Nations entities and Iraqi agencies under the Security and Accountability for Adults Task Force (SAATF) on the repatriation of Iraqi nationals from north-east Syrian Arab Republic. As the pace of repatriations picked up, so did the activities of the Programme Office.

UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section co-organized with Iraq's ONSA a workshop on "Monitoring and Reporting on Human Rights in Counter-Terrorism". March 2024.

The Programme Office has collaborated with the project under the Human Rights and Gender Section to deliver training on human rights standards and human rights-compliant investigative techniques to more than 300 Iraqi investigators and other government officials and CSOs. In addition, the Programme Office facilitated the delivery of capacity-building and the transfer of equipment through the work of the Global Terrorism Threats Facility.

In 2024, the Baghdad Programme Office was funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It remains the only UNOCT presence in a country with a United Nations peace operation (UNAMI) and, given its presence in a front-line Member State in the fight against terrorism, continued to closely engage with UNAMI and others to ensure a coordinated and results-driven programme of work on countering terrorism. The Programme Office also engages with the Resident Coordinator Office in Baghdad on the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework that will be renewed in 2026.

Bangkok

In 2024, the UNOCT field presence in Bangkok continued to offer key programmatic support to UNOCT and UNCCT substantive programmes, facilitating access to government counterparts and other key stakeholders in the south-east Asian region, establishing links with regional organizations, providing contextual information to programme managers, reaching out to funding partners, leading field missions, engaging with United Nations resident coordinators and participating in various meetings and seminars.

UNCCT programmes that benefited from the support of the field presence in Bangkok in 2024 included the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons and the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies.

On the institutional front and further to UNOCT's membership in the Sustainable Development Group, the field presence in Bangkok worked with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Development and Cooperation Office (DCO) to explore the possibility of UNOCT contributing to activities in the region. As a result, the field presence in Bangkok was invited to join the Peer Support Group for the review of United Nations country analyses in the region. In addition, as the UNOCT focal point for the ASEAN-United Nations partnership, the field presence in Bangkok coordinated UNOCT's yearly updates to the Monitoring Matrix on Implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action and coordinated the participation of an ASEAN representative in the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism's quarterly briefings to Member States.

Workshop in the Philippines, March 2024

In 2024, the field presence in Bangkok attended, for the first time, the Asia-Pacific Directors-General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which is organized every year by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and provided support to OIOS in connection with its evaluation of the implementation of UNOCT's mandate in the Philippines, by coordinating the stakeholders mapping and setting up the interviews for the evaluation team.

www.unescap.org

In 2024, the Bangkok field presence is funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Nairobi

The UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi, established in March 2022, is strategically positioned to facilitate engagement and support for Member States in East and Southern Africa, and provides targeted and context-specific assistance in line with UNOCT's mandate and Strategic Plan.

The primary partners of the Nairobi Programme Office include the Government of Kenya, the United Nations Office in Nairobi, national counter-terrorism centres in Kenya, Uganda and Somalia, the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC), IGAD, SADC, and various United Nations country teams, notably the Resident Coordinator Office in Nairobi.

In 2024, the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi significantly expanded its influence in regional CT/PCVE efforts through trust-building, financial backing, strategic coordination, and capacity-building initiatives. Its leadership in multilateral cooperation, integration into United Nations development frameworks, and mobilization of resources positions the office as a key actor in enhancing regional security and counter-terrorism strategies across East and Southern Africa.

The Programme Office coordinates and enables UNOCT's technical and thematic programmes while also serving as a leadership and coordination hub for entities of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and international stakeholders. It enhances cooperation among CT/PCVE partners to achieve optimal results in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Programme Office also serves as an implementing partner for collaboration with the Governments of Kenya and Kuwait in their roles as co-Chairs of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum East Africa Capacity-Building Working Group.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism ✓
@UN_OCT
Sep 27, 2024

#UNCCT Dir. Miedico congratulated Rotich Kigen as new Dir. of #Kenya National #CounterTerrorism Centre. They discussed the strong partnership b/w @NCTC_Kenya & @UN_OCT through its Nairobi Programme Office and explored new CT/PCVE areas of collaboration

#UNiteToCounterTerrorism

High-Level Bilateral Meetings
#UNiteToCounterTerrorism #UNGA

As part of the United Nations country team in Kenya, the Programme Office has aligned its activities with United Nations-wide priorities through continuous participation in monthly strategic-level meetings. UNOCT contributions to the common country analysis (CCA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) embed CT/PVE strategies into national development plans. In addition, UNOCT has contributed to substantive United Nations reports relating to Kenya and Somalia.

The Nairobi Programme Office has been instrumental in coordinating multi-year counter-terrorism initiatives, including four joint appeals for Africa, demonstrating commitment to inter-agency collaboration and resource mobilization.

The Programme Office has also played a key role in drafting the United Nations Joint Programme on Peace and Prevention of Violent Extremism for Kenya and initiated discussions with other United Nations entities on the development of a Joint Programme on Youth, Peace and Security in Somalia, supporting efforts towards a more coordinated and unified approach to countering violent extremism in the two countries.

Furthermore, the Office has provided support to the Global Terrorism Threats Facility in tailoring support for Kenya and Uganda, as well as to the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme, the Vulnerable Targets Protection Programme, the Sports Programme, UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section, and PCVE teams, which have all had engagements in the region. The Office has also led counter-terrorism coordination platforms with funding partners and capacity-building actors and served as a strategic collaborator with the Government of Kenya in convening the Nairobi Caucus in 2024, which convened the countries in the region to identify emerging trends and terrorist threats therein.
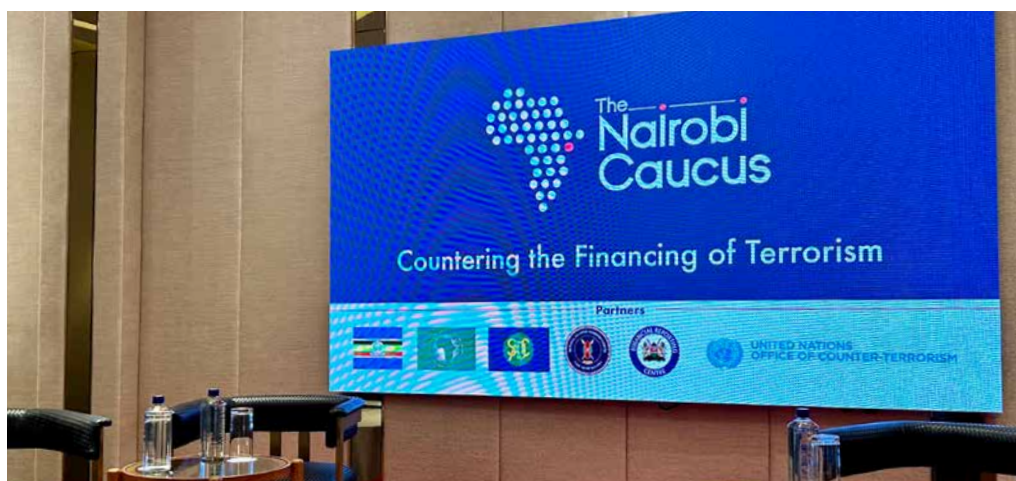
In 2024, the UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi was funded by Kenya and Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, the Office has championed human rights-compliant and gender-responsive CT/PCVE initiatives by providing technical support for the review of the national counter-terrorism strategies of Kenya and Somalia, ensuring alignment with international human rights standards. Through these efforts, the Nairobi Programme Office continues to drive coordinated, impactful and sustainable counter-terrorism responses in the region.

Participants at UN Headquarters during the first Summit of the Future Action Day. UN Photo/Mark Garten

III. Partnerships and Engagement

United Nations-wide coordination

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (Counter-Terrorism Compact) remained central to UNCCT's efforts in facilitating 50 high-level and inter-agency meetings and consultations to promote coordination and collaboration between the United Nations system entities and Member States.

The Counter-Terrorism Compact carried out preparatory work to establish a new Working Group on Enhancing Counter-Terrorism Efforts through Behavioural Science and the United Nations Quintet of Change, set to be operative in 2025, and expanded its collaborative efforts by welcoming the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as its forty-sixth member in March 2024. In 2024, the

UN-Habitat became the CT Compact's forty-sixth member in March 2024

digital Coordination Platform of the Counter-Terrorism Compact facilitated interaction and information exchange between over 1,050 focal points from 46 Compact entities, 137 Member States, and 14 regional organizations, and incorporated over 600 additional resources, bringing its resource repository to over 4,099 resource documents.

 In 2024, the eight thematic working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Compact advanced information-sharing, joint research, best practices and coordinated capacity-building initiatives and resource mobilization efforts. They conducted 40 meetings, including regular quarterly meetings and discussions on specific topics, and increased their engagement with Member States, regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

Key achievements in 2024

- **Tenth meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee** was held in January 2024, to discuss the growing terrorist threat in Africa, and advance strategic coordination of counter-terrorism initiatives in the continent, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The meeting adopted the its Joint Programme of Work for 2024-2026

- **Strengthened the Counter-Terrorism Compact's partnership with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF)**, including by jointly leading the GCTF Border Security and Management (BSM) Initiative with Jordan and the United States, co-Chairs of the GCTF Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) Working Group. Under the BSM Initiative, the UNCCT Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme provided support in the development of the following:

  ▸ The Addendum to the GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management

  ▸ The Training-of-Trainers Curriculum

  ▸ GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security Management – in the Context of Counterterrorism and Stemming the Flow of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters"

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT   Sep 25, 2024

The Head of the UN Global #CounterTerrorism Compact Delegation to the 24th GCTF Coordination meeting, @UN_OCT Dir. Rafi Shah reiterated UNOCT's readiness to support Member States in the implementation of the @UN CT Strategy and relevant "actions" of the Pact for the Future

Counter-Terrorism Compact working groups and UNCCT programmes

Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism

The Global PCVE Programme engaged with the Working Group on activities related to its Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP), and supported the second International PVE Day (February 2024), and the eighth meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on PVE (October 2024), which focused on PCVE in line with the New Agenda for Peace and the principles and objectives outlined in the Pact for the Future.

Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism

The Programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction/ Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (WMD/CBRN) Terrorism provided support to the Working Group in its efforts to promote Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons: Technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017), through the organization of a regional workshop for the Sahel (February 2024), and a high-level briefing to Member States (October 2024) to present the results and perspectives of capacity-building initiatives to counter terrorist use of weapons in Africa and Central Asia.

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

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme provided support to the Working Group, through activities such as the commemoration of the seventh International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (August 2024), the Model Legislative Provisions and National Comprehensive Assistance Plans project, launched in the Philippines (January 2024) and Nigeria (November 2024), the Memories campaign, and the development of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) as a platform to amplify victims' voices and foster global solidarity.

Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection

The WMD/CBRN Programme and the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme provided support to the Working Group in advancing chemical emergency response exercises in Africa, implementing the Biological Weapons Convention, providing updates on global cyberthreats and malicious ICT incidents, and WMD financing and proliferation risks.

Working Group on Criminal Justice, Legal Responses, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism

UNCCT's Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) supported the Working Group on strengthening legal frameworks and tools for disrupting terrorist financing networks worldwide; addressing global gaps in CFT efforts, including private sector engagement, parallel financial investigations, and international cooperation; and monitoring cryptocurrency tools to meet evolving challenges.

Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies

As Vice-Chair of the Working Group, UNCCT promoted the enhancement of national and regional approaches with Member States and regional organizations, and engaged in preparations for an international conference to update the so-called Bogotá Principles relating to the development of national and regional counter-terrorism strategies, to be held in 2025.

Partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

UNCCT programmes continued to engage closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), drawing on its analyses and recommendations to inform the provision of technical assistance, and involving CTED experts first-hand in relevant activities.

Some examples of the partnership include the following:

- CTED participated in the launch of the **Central Asia Regional Expert Council on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of returnees from Conflict Zones**, that was established with the support of the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration.

- **The Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism** consulted CTED in the development of its handbook, Countering the Misuse of Virtual Assets and Virtual Asset Service Providers for Terrorism Financing Purposes.

- Since 2022, **the Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons** has been collaborating with CTED in providing support to 43 Member States through regional workshops on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) on prevention of terrorist acquisition and use of weapons. The Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme, as part of a CTED-led project, will deliver technical assistance to Somalia to strengthen its national capacities for detecting and disrupting the use of ICTs for terrorist purposes, and facilitate capacity-building for detecting and disrupting Al-Shabaab's terrorist activities offline and online, in response to the Security Council resolution 2713 (2023).

- The **Global PCVE Programme** participated in first Annual Meeting of the CTED Global Research Network (February 2024), which provided the opportunity to gather insights on some of the latest research on ICT technology and terrorism, and the impacts of conflict on community resilience, to inform programmatic implementation.

- In addition, the **BSM Programme** participated on behalf of UNCCT in the assessment visits conducted by CTED to Cote d'Ivoire and Togo (November 2024), while UNCCT staff in the UNOCT Ashgabat office participated in the assessment visit to Turkmenistan (December 2024).

Media and communications

In 2024, UNOCT continued to implement its communications strategy, which aims to increase the UNCCT's visibility as a Global Centre of Excellence on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (CT/PCVE), in support of Member States.

Dedicated communications plans and branded products have been developed, in close collaboration with the Department

for the prevention of violent extremism

#PVEDay 2024 - Message USG for Counter Terrorism

UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

of Global Communications and other United Nations entities and partners, to further promote UNCCT programmes, projects and activities, showcasing impact, innovation and partnerships in addressing the threats of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

UNOCT's communications work, which is supported by a dedicated Communications Unit in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, involved the development and dissemination of communication products through diverse platforms. These efforts contributed to amplifying UNCCT's role and mandate, increasing awareness of its priorities, programmes and activities, expanding the Centre's outreach to the global counter-terrorism community, and building professional networks.

Conferences, outreach events, international days and briefings provided opportunities to further promote joint efforts to fight terrorism and engage with the media. Key events included the Abuja High-level African Counter-Terrorism Meeting (Nigeria, April 2024) and the High-Level Conference, "Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms" – the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process (Kuwait, October 2024), as well as the United Nations International Conference on Victims of Terrorism (Spain, October 2024), and the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism (21 August 2024).

Photo/ONSA

Photo/Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz

In 2024, the Office leveraged audio-visual products to promote its activities and programmes in a more dynamic manner: 13 videos were produced or updated, in particular, a video entitled, "UNOCT 2024: Year in Review", was made to wrap up 2024, in which key achievements are summarized and the contributions of funding partners are acknowledged, including the support provided by Saudi Arabia. The video was presented by Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov during UNOCT's Ambassadorial-level Quarterly Briefing to Member States on 4 March 2025, and posted on the UNOCT website and YouTube channel. The video will be featured at high-level conferences and other events to be held in 2025.

In 2024, UNOCT's website recorded over 900,000 views, while its X account generated some 214 million impressions. The number of followers on LinkedIn doubled in 2024, reaching close to 3,500, while the number followers on UNCCT's Instagram account for Victims of Terrorism increased from 700 to 3,400.

UNOCT Year in review 2024
UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
@UN_OCT

United Nations | Office of Counter-Terrorism

900,000
UNOCT website page views

214 million impressions
generated on UNOCT X account
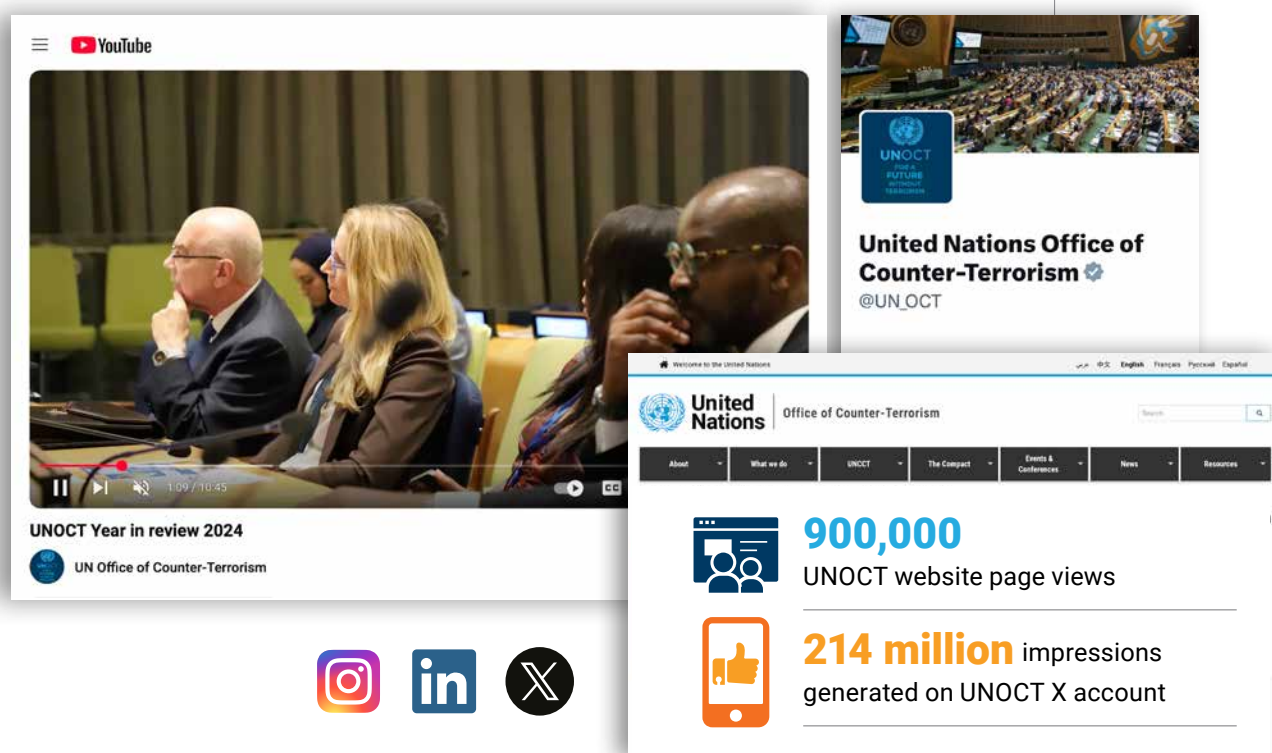
13 videos
were produced or updated in 2024

Behind the scene at UN Headquarters in September 2024. UN Photo/Manuel Elías

IV. Governance and Management

Structure and governance

UNCCT was established in September 2011, through a voluntary contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation and support Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).

Since its inception, UNCCT has played an essential role in helping Member States build their capacity to prevent and address terrorism, while strengthening the United Nations system's ability to achieve the balanced and effective implementation of all four pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Working closely with other branches and sections of UNOCT, UNCCT remains committed to supporting Member States in advancing the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and enhancing global collaboration to prevent and counter terrorism.

Organizational structure of UNOCT

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

USG Under-Secretary-General

Field Coordination Section

DUSG Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director

CTED Liaison Section
EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility

Chief of the OUSG Office of the Under-Secretary-General

Front Office
Communications Unit

Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations Section

Evaluation and Compliance Unit

UNOCT Programme Offices*
- Baghdad: PRR
- Budapest: CT Travel, TAM, Cyber, CFT
- Doha: Int'l Hub on BI to CT
- Doha: Parliamentary Engagement
- Madrid: VT, Sports, VoT, Weapons
- Nairobi: PCVE
- Rabat: CT Training in Africa, CT Investigations, Fusion Cells

UNCCT United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
- Director ▪ Deputy Director

PMU Programme Management Unit

Countering Terrorism Section
- **BSM** Border Security and Management Unit
- **CFT** Countering the Financing of Terrorism Unit
- **CYBER** Cybersecurity & New Technologies Unit
- **Europe & Central Asia** Unit
- **MENA** Middle East & North Africa Unit
- **WEAPONS** Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Unit

PCVE Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism Section
- **Asia-Pacific** Unit
- **PCVE** Unit
- **VoT** Victims of Terrorism Unit

Strategic Coordination Section
- **PRR** Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Unit

*Programmes/projects run out of UNOCT Programme Offices in Baghdad, Budapest, Doha, Madrid, Nairobi, Rabat, and field presences in Ashgabat, Bangkok, Brussels, Dakar and Manila report to their respective programme managers in UNOCT or UNCCT.

SPIB Special Projects and Innovation Branch
- Chief

CTT Countering Terrorist Travel Section
- **CT Travel** Unit
- **goTravel ICT** Unit
- **TAM** Threat Assessment Models Unit

EPS External Partnerships Section

Special Projects Section
- **Law Enforcement** Unit (Fusion Cells, CT Investigations, Autonomous & Remotely Operated Systems)
- **Parliamentary Engagement** Unit
- **Sports** Unit
- **Surge Capacity** Unit
- **VT** Vulnerable Targets Unit

PKMCB Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch
- Chief

BI Hub Int'l Hub on Behavioural Insights
- **Counter-Terrorism Compact** Unit

KMSSS Knowledge Mgmt & Strategic Support Section
- **Knowledge Management** Unit
- **Strategic Support** Unit

RCS Regional Conferences Section

RSS Regional Support Section
- **Americas & CARICOM** Unit
- **Asia-Pacific** Unit
- **Central Asia and non-EU countries** Unit
- **East, Central & Southern Africa** Unit
- **European Union (EU countries and entities)** Unit
- **MENA** Unit
- **South Asia** Unit
- **West Africa** Unit

HRGS Human Rights and Gender Section
- **Human Rights** Unit
- **Gender** Unit

SPPSS Strategic Planning & Programme Support Section

UNCCT Advisory Board

The UNCCT Advisory Board plays a pivotal role in advising the Executive Director, the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, on the Centre's programming and priorities, which helps the Centre's efforts to remain impactful and aligned with its mission. The Advisory Board is regularly updated on the implementation of UNCCT's programmes and projects, and it convenes ambassadorial-level meetings as well as holds expert-level meetings, as needed. The Advisory Board warmly welcomed the United Arab Emirates as a new member in 2024.

Advisory board meetings held in March 2024

In 2024, the Advisory Board convened two ambassadorial-level meetings, during which members were briefed on the achievements of UNCCT programmes and projects carried out during the year. In addition, one expert meeting was held, which focused on countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) and the soft launch of the new goFintel software, marking a significant advancement in the Centre's work.

Members of the UNCCT Advisory Board

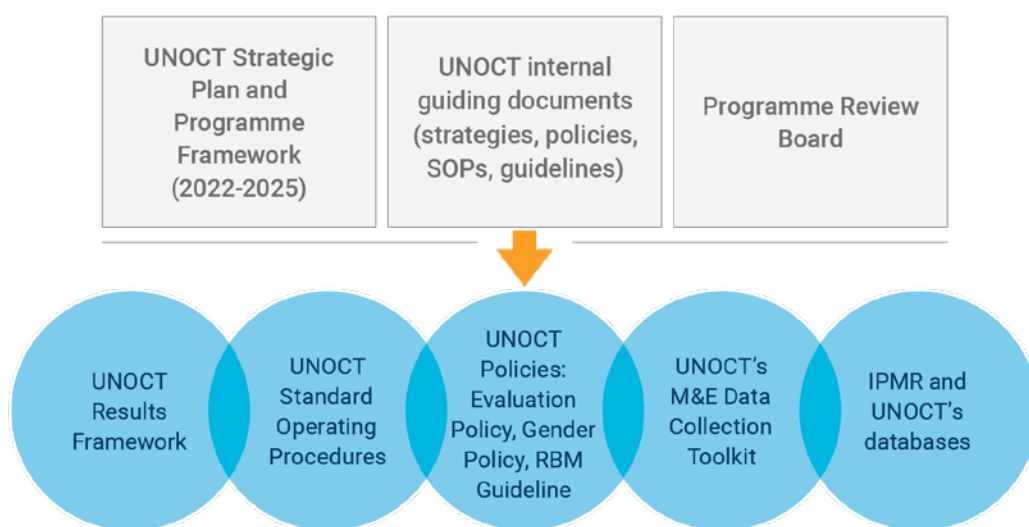| H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations (Chair)		
Algeria	Germany	Russian Federation
Argentina	India	Spain
Belgium	Indonesia	Türkiye
Brazil	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
China	Nigeria	United Kingdom
Egypt	Norway	United States of America
France	Pakistan	European Union (Guest member)

Programme Review Board

In 2024, the Programme Review Board (PRB) continued to serve as the primary internal governance and oversight mechanism for all of UNOCT's capacity-building and technical assistance activities. The Board piloted procedural adjustments to strengthen quality assurance, transparency and flexibility in programming, which were eventually incorporated into a revised PRB policy that was approved in December 2024 by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, the Head of UNOCT. Notably, the preliminary review of submissions by a cross-functional technical secretariat was further institutionalized to improve the quality of the final submissions to the Board, and enable the identification of substantive issues for the Board's consideration. Furthermore, the Board introduced the possibility for requests to be considered on an urgent basis outside of scheduled monthly meetings.

In 2024, the Programme Review Board held nine meetings, five of which were spread over two sessions, resulting in a total of 14 sessions, in addition to ad hoc online reviews through non-objection.

During its deliberations in 2024, the Board placed special emphasis on prudent financial management and diversified resource mobilization, focused on results and the importance of evaluation, cross-cutting issues – including the mainstreaming of human rights and gender equality – and coordination to ensure collaboration and synergies, especially among UNOCT programmes and projects, but also with relevant Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, including CTED.

Results-based management

UNOCT Results-based management system

| UNOCT Strategic Plan and Programme Framework (2022-2025) | UNOCT internal guiding documents (strategies, policies, SOPs, guidelines) | Programme Review Board |

UNOCT Results Framework | UNOCT Standard Operating Procedures | UNOCT Policies: Evaluation Policy, Gender Policy, RBM Guideline | UNOCT's M&E Data Collection Toolkit | IPMR and UNOCT's databases

Results-based management (RBM) is an integrated strategy for project and programme management that includes action at the planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) stages. RBM is not a single set of tools and instructions, but rather a way of managing that allows for learning and improvement, increased effectiveness, and better overall results.

RBM in UNOCT/UNCCT is built upon the following elements:

- **The Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022-2025**, which provides over-arching strategic direction and the monitoring framework for the work of UNOCT.

- **The Programme Review Board**, which serves as the primary internal governance, oversight and advisory mechanism for all UNOCT's capacity-building and technical assistance activities.

- **UNOCT internal guidance** (i.e. strategies, policies, standard operating procedures (SOP) and guidelines).

- **The Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution in UMOJA**: the United Nations Enterprise Resource Management (ERM) platform, which enables the effective substantive and financial planning, monitoring and reporting of all UNCCT programming, linking results to the Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) and financials.

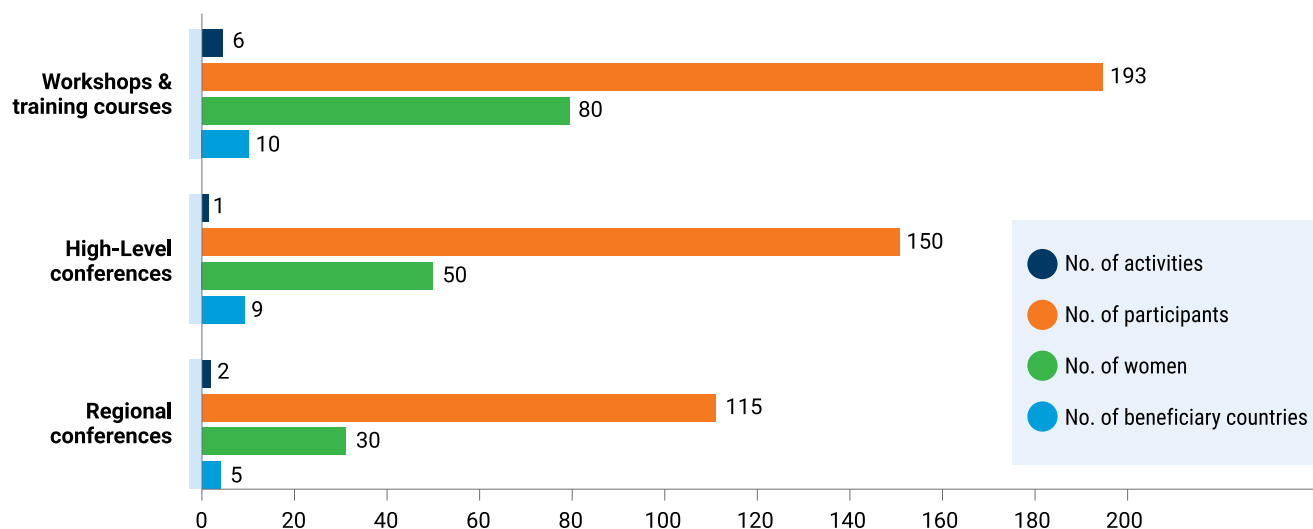## UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework 2022-2025

STRATEGIC GOAL (**1**)

▸ **Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism**

RESULTS FRAMEWORK:

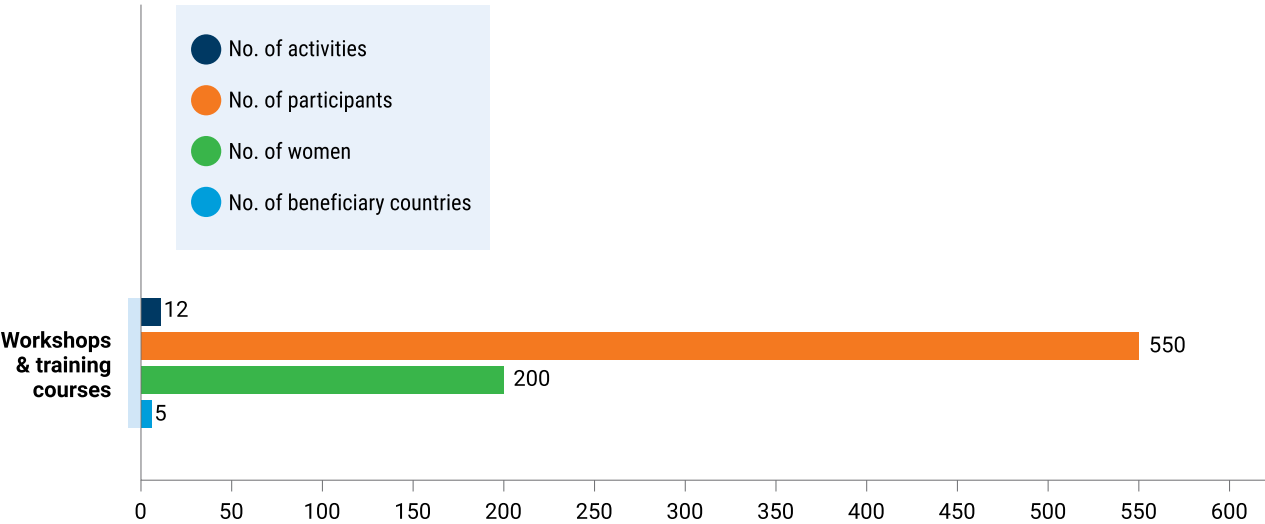|	
OUTCOME 1.1 Demonstrated leadership in engaging with Member States and mobilizing the UN System on CT/PCVE.	**OUTCOME 1.2** Relevant, effective, coherent, inte-grated, human rights compliant and gender re-sponsive capacity development support provided by UNCCT at national, regional and global levels.
OUTCOME 1.3 Visibility of UN CT/PCVE efforts enhanced as a UN and global priority.	**OUTCOME 1.4** Increased coherence and coordina-tion within the UN system to support Member States CT/PCVE efforts including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.
OUTCOME 1.5 Fostered multilateral and multi-sectoral collaboration and cooperation against terrorism.	**OUTCOME 1.6** Increased strategic support from donors on CT/PCVE priorities with, sustainable, pre-dictable & flexible funding contributing to resource needs towards for UNOCT's CT/PCVE response.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

Workshops & training courses: 6, 193, 80, 10
High-Level conferences: 1, 150, 50, 9
Regional conferences: 2, 115, 30, 5

Legend:
● No. of activities
● No. of participants
● No. of women
● No. of beneficiary countries

▶ **Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism**

RESULTS FRAMEWORK:

OUTCOME 2.1 Member States engaged and supported to effectively develop, implement and monitor their own PCVE strategies and action plans in human rights compliant and gender responsive approaches.	**OUTCOME 2.2** Increased implementation of evidence-informed, coherent, context specific, human rights compliant and gender responsive PCVE initiatives by partners engaged and supported.
OUTCOME 2.3 Fostered collaborations, partnerships and networks in support of complementary peer learning and joint efforts on PCVE at global, regional and national levels.	

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

Legend:
- No. of activities
- No. of participants
- No. of women
- No. of beneficiary countries

Workshops & training courses:
- No. of activities: 12
- No. of participants: 550
- No. of women: 200
- No. of beneficiary countries: 5

STRATEGIC GOAL (**3**)

▶ **Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks**
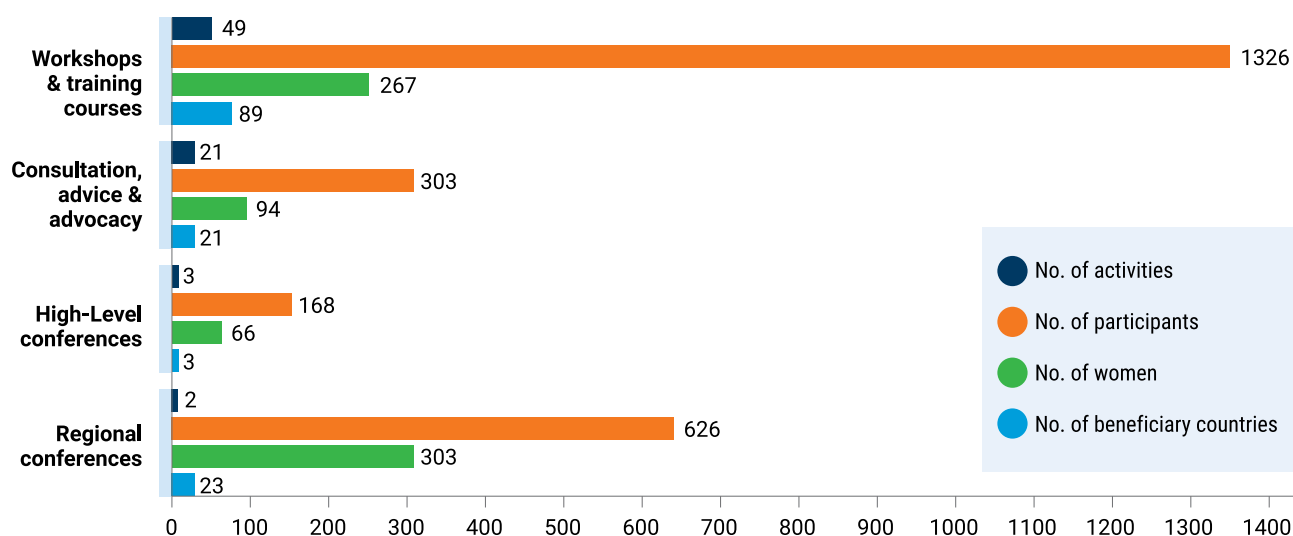
RESULTS FRAMEWORK:

OUTCOME 3.1 Member States effectively develop, implement and monitor national and regional strategies, legal frameworks, and regulatory measures to prevent and counter terrorism in line with their international obligations and the GCTS, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality standards.

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

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

OUTCOME 3.4 Effective response developed and implemented addressing the counter-terrorism challenges and opportunities as related to new technologies, including information and communications technologies, in accordance with the rule of law, and human rights obligations, and gender equality standards.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

Workshops & training courses
- No. of activities: 49
- No. of participants: 1326
- No. of women: 267
- No. of beneficiary countries: 89

Consultation, advice & advocacy
- No. of activities: 21
- No. of participants: 303
- No. of women: 94
- No. of beneficiary countries: 21

High-Level conferences
- No. of activities: 3
- No. of participants: 168
- No. of women: 66
- No. of beneficiary countries: 3

Regional conferences
- No. of activities: 2
- No. of participants: 626
- No. of women: 303
- No. of beneficiary countries: 23

Legend:
- ● No. of activities
- ● No. of participants
- ● No. of women
- ● No. of beneficiary countries

(x-axis: 0, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400)

STRATEGIC GOAL (**4**)

▸ **Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism**

RESULTS FRAMEWORK:

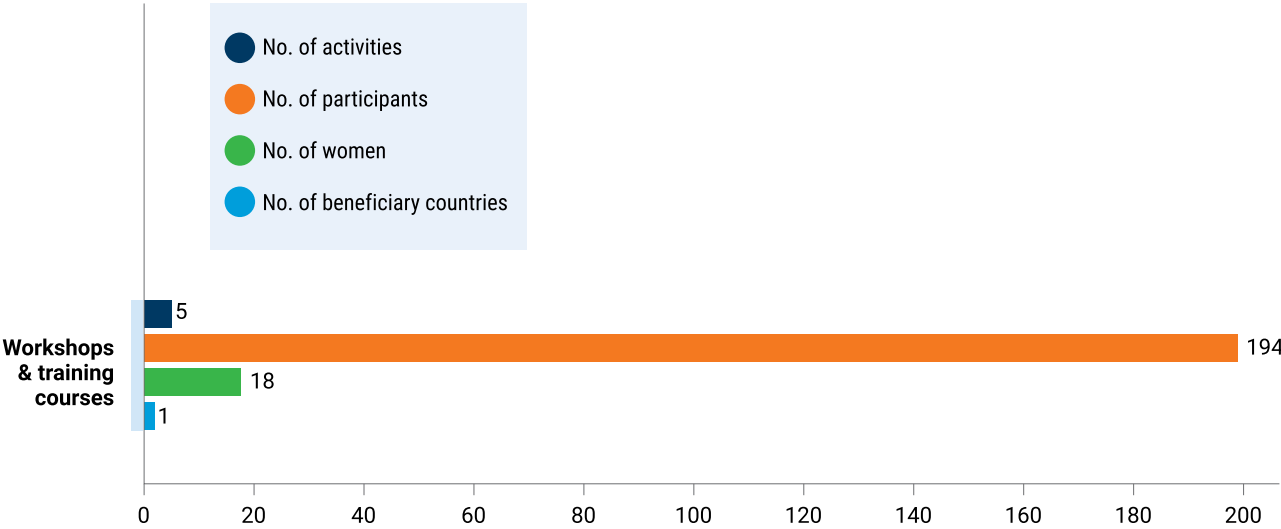|	
OUTCOME 4.1 The needs and human rights of victims of terrorism are addressed and promoted including victims of sexual and gender-based violence and children affected by terrorism.	**OUTCOME 4.2** Member States and communities are better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts.
OUTCOME 4.3 Increased Member State implementation of human rights based, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for individuals with alleged links to UN-listed terrorist groups taking into account age and gender considerations.	

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

Legend:
- No. of activities
- No. of participants
- No. of women
- No. of beneficiary countries

Workshops & training courses:
- No. of activities: 5
- No. of participants: 195
- No. of women: 63
- No. of beneficiary countries: 3

Consultation, advice & advocacy:
- No. of activities: 6
- No. of participants: 62
- No. of women: 27
- No. of beneficiary countries: 7

High-Level conferences:
- No. of activities: 4
- No. of participants: 563
- No. of women: 230
- No. of beneficiary countries: 12

Regional conferences:
- No. of activities: 1
- No. of participants: 100
- No. of women: 50
- No. of beneficiary countries: 5

STRATEGIC GOAL **5**

▶ **Promote human rights-compliant and gender-responsive counter-terrorism and prevention and countering of violent extremism (CT/PCVE) efforts**

RESULTS FRAMEWORK:

OUTCOME 5.1 UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights in CT/PCVE efforts.	**OUTCOME 5.2** UNOCT strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to expanding the concern towards gender equality and women's empowerment within CT/PCVE efforts.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

- ● No. of activities
- ● No. of participants
- ● No. of women
- ● No. of beneficiary countries

Workshops & training courses:
- 5
- 194
- 18
- 1

Standard operating procedures

In 2024, UNOCT launched a new, consolidated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Programme and Project Management. The SOP outlines key concepts, definitions, principles, roles and responsibilities, processes and procedures to enhance results-based programme management, in line with the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) framework.

In 2024, UNCCT continued to prioritize results-based programme management and foster a results-driven culture to ensure impactful delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support tailored to the needs and priorities of beneficiary Member States. Results-based management (RBM) ensures accountability for services delivered and resources utilized, in line with UNOCT's overall RBM framework, which includes the Programme Review Board (PRB), the Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF), as well as relevant internal guidance documents. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) has been instrumental in supporting RBM within UNCCT and UNOCT broadly.

Strengthening the results-based management system

At the strategic level

UNCCT continued to develop a results-oriented culture, with a robust results-based management system and evidence-informed programming.

At the operational level

UNCCT continued to track and monitor its programmatic performance against the UNOCT Strategic Plan and Results Framework and individual logframes. In doing so, Programme Management Unit (PMU) supported individual programme managers across UNCCT during the planning, monitoring, reporting and project closure stages. In overseeing performance monitoring, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) acted as custodian of the OCT application – an internal information management tool designed by the Unit in 2019 – and the UNOCT Programme/Project Master List:

Enhanced UNCCT's programming results: In 2024, UNCCT focused on monitoring and reporting, and ensured monthly activity and deliverable reporting in the OCT application, which facilitated the preparation of three UNCCT quarterly highlight reports. In addition, UNCCT advanced efforts to implement the Integrated Planning Management and Reporting (IPMR) system in UMOJA, as mandated by the Secretary-General. To that end, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) advanced the drafting of the IPMR guide on the monitoring module, and facilitated briefing sessions on other applications within the IPMR framework for all programmatic staff in the Controller's Office.

✔ **Strengthened RBM and ERM knowledge and capacity:** UNCCT provided tailored capacity-building on results-based management and using the OCT application for performance monitoring and reporting. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) held individual sessions with programme managers and their teams, to provide guidance and coach them on implementing relevant programming SOPs and Programme Review Board (PRB) processes.

Evaluations

Performance assessment is an integral part of results-based management. As such, UNOCT continued to prioritize rigorous assessment of its performance through evaluations of its programmes and projects in order to ensure accountability for results and continuous organizational improvement.

In this regard, the Evaluation and Compliance Unit (ECU) located in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, which serves as the custodian of the independent evaluation function in UNOCT, developed the 2024-2025 Evaluation Plan. The Evaluation Plan contains 13 evaluation proposals, including evaluations of five UNCCT programmes and projects, consolidated following an UNOCT-wide call for evaluation proposals and subsequent assessment against established evaluation eligibility criteria. The Evaluation Plan provides information on the status of evaluations carried out during the 2023-2024 evaluation cycle, ongoing programmatic evaluations commissioned by UNOCT, and evaluations managed by funding and other external partners with UNOCT support.

The Evaluation Plan was operationalized through the conduct of several evaluations that assessed programmes and projects in terms of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and cross-cutting issues on human rights, gender equality, leave no one behind, and disability inclusion. The evaluations enabled UNOCT to determine the extent to which the programmes and projects achieved their anticipated results, generated lessons learned and formulated actionable recommendations to guide the design and delivery of capacity-building support and technical assistance, and strengthen UNOCT-wide learning through evidence-based knowledge.

Reflecting upon the results of finalized evaluations, UNOCT was able to enhance its focus on incorporating a robust monitoring and evaluation approach and M&E systems, as well as on human rights, gender and leave no one behind considerations in the development and implementation of its programmes and projects.

In 2024, seven programmatic evaluations were finalized, including evaluations of six programmes and projects implemented by UNCCT:

- Independent evaluation of the Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme (April 2024)

- Joint internal evaluation of the UNOCT-IOM project, Supporting the Reintegration of Men and Women Formerly Associated with Non-State Armed Groups in Somalia through Social Cohesion Activities (August 2024)

- Internal evaluation of the project, Young Leaders for Online Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in South-East Asia (September 2024)

- Joint independent evaluation of the UNCCT-UNODC-CTED project, Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons (November 2024)

- Internal evaluation of the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (December 2024)

- Independent evaluation of the UNCCT project, Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia (December 2024)

In line with UNOCT's internal evaluation guidance, the results and recommendations of the evaluations were disseminated to internal and external stakeholders, through dedicated briefings and presentations to the Programme Review Board (PRB), publication of evaluation deliverables on the UNOCT website, and formal communication with funding partners, in accordance with reporting requirements. UNOCT further ensured the utilization of evaluation results through the preparation of management responses articulating how the evaluation recommendations would be implemented through targeted actions.

In response to the General Assembly's request for an assessment of impact, based on a results framework, of United Nations activities under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 77/298, para. 96), UNOCT, as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Compact's Working Group on Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation (RMMEG), together with the co-Chairs of the Working Group – UNODC and CTED – and other Counter-Terrorism Compact partners, launched an inter-agency, multi-year project on the implementation of paragraph 96.

The project entails the development of a United Nations system-wide results framework to collectively measure, monitor and report on results across the four pillars of the Strategy (Phase 1: 2024-2025), and the conduct of an independent evaluation of the impact of United Nations activities under the Strategy based on the unified results framework (Phase 2: 2026-onwards). Through the Evaluation Subgroup of the RMME Working Group, which is co-chaired by UNOCT, a number of actions were undertaken in 2024, including finalization of the concept of the overall approach for the project, initiation of the mapping of results frameworks already existing in the United Nations system, development of the terms of reference (ToR) for the assignment and required consultancy expertise, mobilization of

a results-based management/evaluation expert, and delivery of briefings to interested Member States on implementation progress and next steps.

Risk management

In 2024, UNCCT played a significant role in addressing and mitigating critical risks that were identified across strategic, governance, operational and financial domains. UNCCT enhanced risk management frameworks and fostered organizational resilience as part of a broader effort to ensure effective programming and governance.

UNCCT actively supported efforts to address high residual risks in strategic areas, including budgeting, fund allocation and performance measurement. It also helped to strengthen UNOCT's control environment and risk management processes. In the financial domain, UNCCT's interventions addressed risks associated with funding, cash management and financial reporting.

UNCCT implemented a comprehensive risk management approach within its programmes and projects, ensuring that potential risks were identified, assessed and mitigated throughout their lifecycle. By embedding risk management principles into programme and project frameworks, UNCCT ensured that resources were utilized effectively and aligned with organizational goals

UNCCT's active engagement in the United Nations enterprise risk management (ERM) process in 2024 underscored its critical role in strengthening organizational risk management. UNCCT not only addressed immediate challenges, such as limited funding, but also demonstrated sustained improvement in risk management. The Centre remains committed to fostering innovation and collaboration to meet emerging risks and maintain its role as a cornerstone of organizational resilience.

Mainstreaming human rights and gender equality

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy affirmed that respect for the rule of law and human rights forms the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

In its resolution (77/298) on the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in June 2023, the General Assembly reaffirmed that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are integral to all successful efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

As highlighted in its Strategic Plan 2022–2025, and in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as well as guided by the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, UNOCT is committed to placing human rights at the centre of its mandate and the implementation thereof, through its Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS), which was established in 2022.

The Human Rights Unit (HRU) of the Section supports the meaningful incorporation of human rights considerations into the activities of UNCCT, through technical assistance, quality assurance and oversight across UNOCT's policy, coordination and programmatic functions.

In 2024, the Human Rights Unit (HRU) worked with six UNCCT programmes and projects to strengthen their efforts to mainstream human rights, integrate human rights analysis and monitor human rights compliance throughout their implementation, and to ensure an adequate focus on human rights in programmatic deliverables, including evaluations, submissions to the Programme Review Board (PRB), and external products.

The Human Rights Unit (HRU) worked with UNCCT global programmes throughout 2024, including by:

- Integrating human rights considerations into a CT TECH technical assistance project for law enforcement experts to assess threats and develop mitigation measures and policy responses to prevent the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes;

- Supporting the PRR Programme in incorporating human rights considerations into its training on integrating international legal standards and good practices into screenings and initial assessments in Iraq;

- Developing materials to strengthen the human rights component of the training project on basic and intermediate biological threats delivered by the Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism;

- Supporting the CFT Programme in initiating the design of a human rights due diligence process related to the development and deployment of the goFintel software, and in engaging meaningfully with civil society through this process;

- Supporting the BSM Programme in adequately addressing relevant human rights considerations in the Addendum to the GCTF Good Practices in the Area of Border Security and Management and its Training-of-Trainers Curriculum, which were developed under the GCTF Border Security and Management initiative co-led by Jordan, the United States and UNOCT. The Addendum was adopted by the GCTF Coordination Committee in September 2024;

- Supporting the integration of human rights considerations into the draft 2024–2027 National Strategy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism of Somalia;

- Advising the Global PCVE Programme on integrating relevant human rights considerations into the UNCCT Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Toolkit for PCVE Strategic Communications.

The Gender Unit of the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS) continued to implement the Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan, including through the provision of support to gender mainstreaming in the UNCCT global programmes.

In 2024, the Gender Unit reviewed and provided inputs to at least 53 programmatic documents, reviewed all the documents related to six different UNCCT evaluations, reviewed and provided inputs to 45 documents related to capacity-building (training modules, knowledge products, concept notes for events, among others), and 51 institutional documents (guides, handbooks, reports, among others). It also provided support to the CT TECH technical assistance project and the Programme on Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism in delivering presentations on gender-sensitive approaches in these thematic areas in three capacity-building activities.

The Gender Unit's expertise was requested by UNOCT/UNCCT project managers with a view to mainstreaming gender and attaining increased and better results related to gender equality and women's empowerment in their programming.

In 2024, the Gender Unit continued to coordinate the UNOCT Gender Task Force, which is composed of 23 gender focal points from all sections and units of UNOCT, including UNCCT programme managers, to support the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan. The gender focal points developed 10 gender workplans for their respective sections or units, which are aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming efforts in their respective thematic areas.

At the start of the 25th UNCCT Advisory Board Meeting. Photo/UNOCT

V.   Financial Resources

Overview

UNOCT is grateful to Member States for the conversion of three capacity-building-related posts in UNCCT to the 2025 regular budget of the United Nations. The posts were previously funded from the extrabudgetary contributions to the Office through the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism. These latest conversions are in addition to the 49 core mandate-related posts for UNOCT that were converted through the Secretary-General's 2023 and 2024 budget proposals.

While these are significant improvements for ensuring predictable funding for the implementation of UNOCT's core mandate, in 2024, the Office continued to rely

20%
COVERED BY
**REGULAR BUDGET**

80%
COVERED BY
EXTRA-BUDGETARY
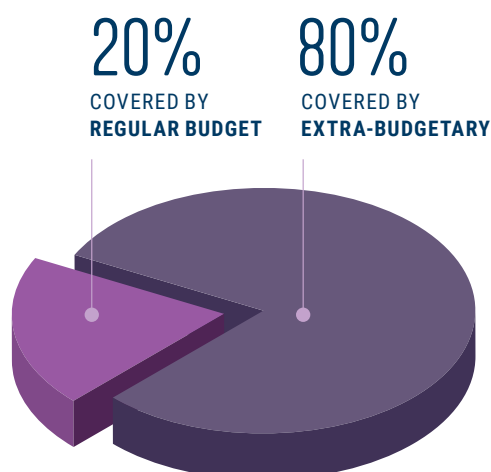
on voluntary contributions from its funding partners for 80 per cent of its annual budget, including for all technical assistance activities in support of Member States. In this context, UNOCT has continued to implement its resource mobilization strategy for raising extrabudgetary resources in a coordinated and coherent manner, in support of the Office's mandate and the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Results Framework.

In 2024, UNOCT secured $19.3 million in new pledges from 28 funding partners, out of which, $9.5 million (or 49 per cent), was earmarked to support UNCCT. Overall, 2024 income levels decreased in comparison with those of 2023, when UNOCT mobilized $27.2 million, out of which $12 million (or 44 per cent) was for UNCCT.

28
Partners
$19.3m

New Pledges secured in 2024 for UNOCT
$19.3M

Earmarked for UNCCT
$9.5M (49%)
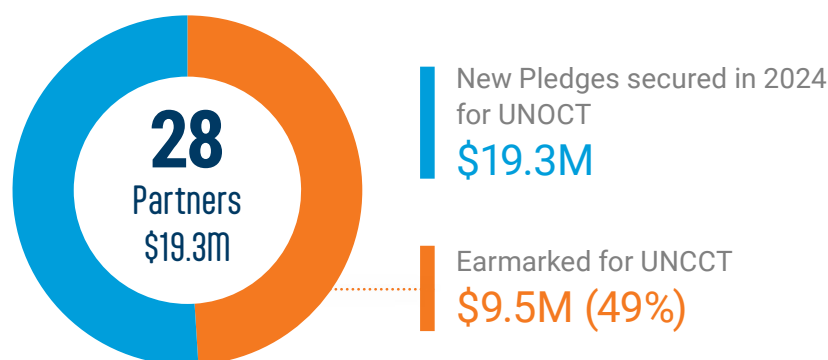
While UNCCT remains committed to securing sustainable, predictable and diversified funding, the decrease in earmarked pledges reflects the challenging global environment in which multiple crises are competing for funding and ongoing economic support. Beneficiary Member States continue to call on UNCCT for technical assistance and capacity-building support, which requires commensurable financial support. UNCCT is committed to further intensifying its efforts to deepen existing partnerships and forge new ones.

UNCCT's priority programmes, including the VoT Programme, the PCVE Programme, the PRR Programme and the CFT Programme, face significant shortfalls in resource funding to meet the requests for technical assistance in 2025. UNCCT will continue to work with current and prospective partners to mobilize these critical resources.

VoT   PCVE   PRR   CFT
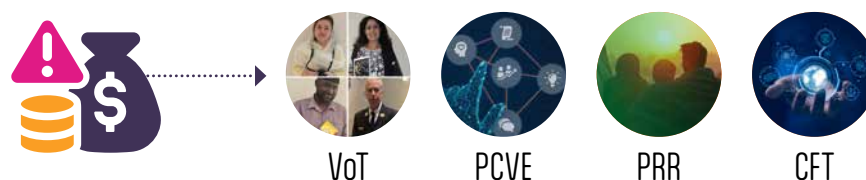
Pledges secured in 2024 for UNCCT

| Funding partner	Amount in USD	Purpose
CDRF Global	$523,703.00	Weapons Programme
Denmark	$2,852,545.00	PRR Programme
European Union	$2,413,725.00	Cybersecurity & New Tech Programme
Finland	$52,455.00	Weapons Programme
Germany	$373,175.00	PRR Programme
India	$250,000.00	CFT Programme
Italy	$155,129.00	BSM Programme
Kazakhstan	$100,000.00	JPoA project
Korea (Republic of)	$446,068.20	PCVE Programme
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	$499,975.00	CFT Programme
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	$870,000.00	PRR Programme
Organization of American States	$52,206.00	Cybersecurity & New Tech Programme
Saudi Arabia (The Kingdom of)	$100,000.00	UNCCT Office of the Director
Saudi Arabia (The Kingdom of)	$16,395.00	UNCCT Fellowship Programme
Spain	$268,275.00	VoT Programme
United States of America	$493,250.00	BSM Programme
Total	**$9,466,901.20**	

Pledges per year (2020-2024) for UNCCT
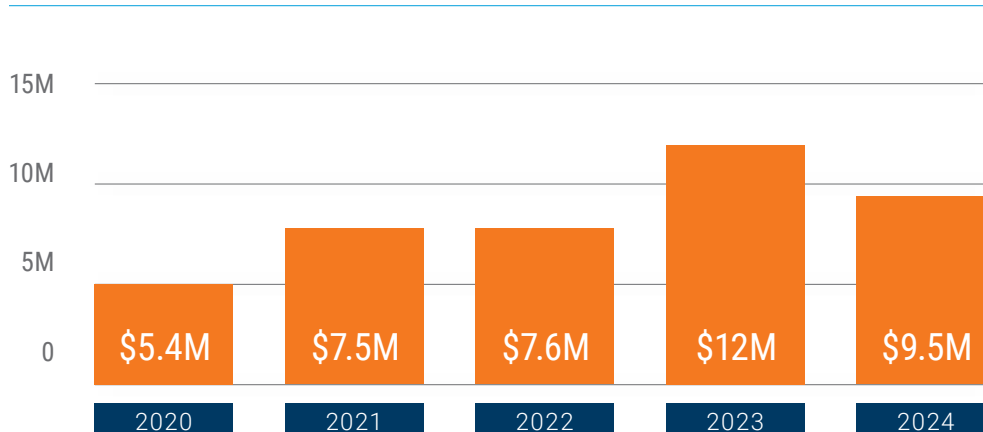
On average, UNCCT has counted on the consistent financial support of 16 to 20 funding partners each year.

In 2024, UNCCT welcomed two new funding partners: the Organization of American States (OAS), which provided support to the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme; and the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) Global, which provided a pass-through grant from the United States Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation to support the Weapons Programme.

Funding partners by year (2020-2024) for UNCCT
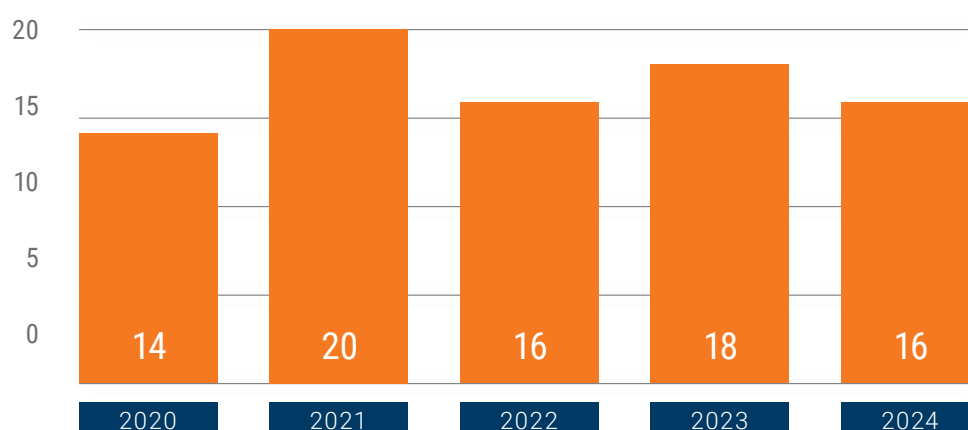
The generous contribution of over $110 million by Saudi Arabia has not only funded UNCCT but has also underpinned the Centre's mandate delivery. **Saudi Arabia is UNCCT's largest contributor**, whose support represents over **two thirds of the total funds secured by UNCCT since its inception**.

The much-needed flexible funding provided by Saudi Arabia was complemented by the contributions of 37 other funding partners amounting to $77 million, which are earmarked for specific programmes. This has brought the total cumulative pledges for UNCCT to $187.5 million.

2/3
OF TOTAL FUNDS
SECURED BY UNCCT
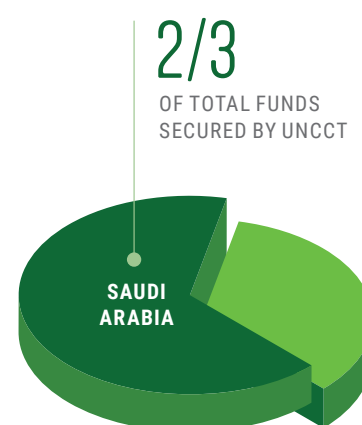
SAUDI ARABIA

It is important to note that these are cumulative pledges recorded since the establishment of UNCCT, and they have been used to support UNCCT programming over the years. The largest contribution, from Saudi Arabia, was close to exhaustion by the end of 2024.

Overview of cumulative funding since its creation for UNCCT

#	Funding partners	Total in US$	#	Funding partners	Total in US$
1	Saudi Arabia	$110,416,395.00	20	Switzerland	$548,621.00
2	European Union	$17,454,630.00	21	Civilian Research & Development Foundation (CRDF)	$523,703.00
3	United States of America	$8,836,549.00	22	Kazakhstan	$500,000.00
4	Germany	$6,015,102.00	23	France	$372,782.00
5	Canada	$4,767,941.00	24	United Arab Emirates (the)	$350,000.00
6	Japan	$4,734,945.00	25	UNODC	$319,829.00
7	UN Peace and Development Fund (UNPDF)	$4,556,149.00	26	Belgium	$270,855.00
8	The Netherlands	$4,400,035.00	27	Qatar	$270,000.00
9	Norway	$3,747,148.00	28	Finland	$202,313.00
10	Denmark	$3,554,156.00	29	Australia	$200,000.00
11	Russian Federation (the)	$3,433,514.00	30	Colombia	$125,000.00
12	Spain	$3,239,955.00	31	Turkey	$60,000.00
13	United Kingdom	$1,434,721.00	32	Organization of American States (OAS)	$52,206.00
14	Republic of Korea (the)	$1,383,813.20	33	Turkmenistan	$50,000.00
15	Italy	$1,281,708.00	34	Uzbekistan	$50,000.00
16	India	$1,275,000.00	35	Liechtenstein	$40,000.00
17	Kenya	$1,155,000.00	36	Morocco	$30,000.00
18	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – European Union	$1,001,963.00	37	Nigeria	$10,000.00
19	Sweden	$800,772.00	38	Algeria	$2,500.00
				Grand total	**$187,467,305.20**

2024 expenditures by Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy pillar

The breakdown of expenditures by Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy pillar shows where UNCCT focused its resources in 2024.

- **UNCCT:** 16%
- **Pillar I:** 7%
- **Pillar II:** 46%
- **Pillar III:** 3%
- **Pillar IV:** 28%
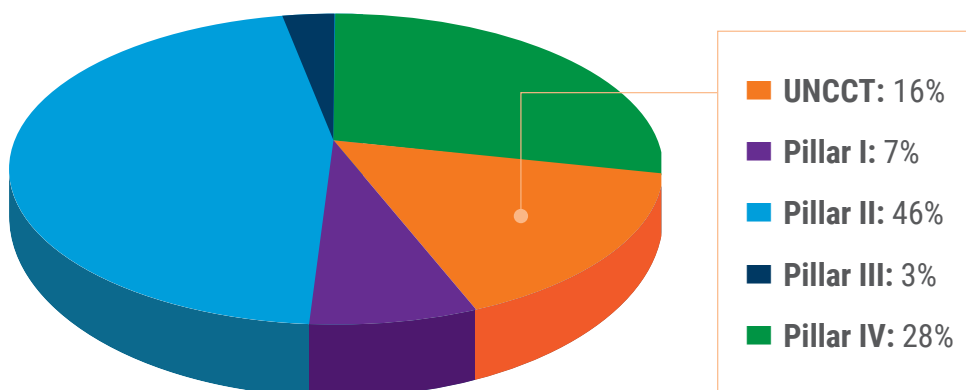
GCTS Pillar	Programme	Global / Regional / Stand alone Project	Expenditure
I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)	Global	7%
II	Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems (AROS)	Global	46%
	Border Security and Management (BSM)		
	Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons		
	Cyber Security and New Technologies		
	Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)		
	Preventing and Countering Extremism: National and Regional Best Practices	Stand alone	
	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia – Phase IV (JPoA)		
	Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World (AIMC Programme)	Regional	
III	UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi (2023-2027)	Regional	3%
IV	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR)	Global	28%
	Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (VoT)		
	Projet conjoint des Nations Unies pour le Burkina Faso en matière d'Etat de droit dans un contexte de crise securitaire	Stand alone	

Participants take photos on the Visitors Plaza at UN Headquarters. UN Photo/Manuel Elías

VI. Way forward

Looking ahead, in 2025, UNCCT will contribute to the development of the next iteration of UNOCT's Strategic Plan and Results Framework, which will set out how UNOCT and UNCCT will implement its mandate over the next few years. The new plan and framework will include a strengthened results framework for UNOCT/UNCCT, further consolidating the Centre's commitment to results-based planning and budgeting.

This work will be guided by the findings and recommendations of an ongoing OIOS evaluation of UNOCT, which has included extensive consultations with groups of stakeholders in different beneficiary countries, and a synthesis of the key findings, lessons learned and recommendations from external and internal evaluations of UNCCT that were conducted over the course of the current Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF).

As we move into 2025, UNCCT is also preparing for the ninth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will be conducted in 2026 amidst a rapidly evolving geopolitical and counter-terrorism landscape.

The ninth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a pivotal moment for Member States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to review our achievements, identify persistent gaps and collaborate even more closely in shaping a coherent response to terrorism in order to mitigate the rapidly evolving and mutating threat.

UNCCT remains grateful to all its funding partners, implementing partners and beneficiaries for their sustained trust. Together, we can reinforce multilateral cooperation and uphold human rights and gender equality in countering terrorism, to ensure that, one day, the world will be free from terrorism.

Beneficiaries from the YEEP programme 2024

UNCCT 26th Advisory Board Meeting in December 2024

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