



2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism



Supporting countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, South America, and South East Asia to address the interlinkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking through criminal justice, operational, and cooperation measures.

This project addresses the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking in the most affected regions, by increasing the understanding of this phenomenon; building legal, technical and operational national capacities; as well as strengthening cross-border cooperation to reduce illicit arms flows and prevent their access to terrorists.

Description of the Project

The project aims to support overall efforts to address the linkages between illicit firearms trafficking and terrorism in priority affected countries. It will respond to the need, expressed by the UN Security Council in its relevant resolutions and the UN General Assembly in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to help Member States prevent and counter the illicit trafficking and use of firearms for terrorism purposes.

The project will help to achieve the following results: (i) Increased understanding of the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking through data collection and analysis, and information sharing for effective cooperation; (ii) Strengthened national legislative frameworks addressing the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking in line with the relevant international legal instruments and UN Security Council resolutions; and (iii) Strengthened capacity of relevant national institutions and authorities to investigate and prosecute terrorism and illicit trafficking cases, and promote cross-regional cooperation to that end.

Rationale

Violent extremists, terrorists and organized crime groups are abetted and sustained by the widespread availability of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, according to the sixth biannual report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons (S/2019/1011). Security Council resolutions have called for help to UN Member States to address the interlinkages between terrorism and illicit firearms trafficking, including 1373 (2001), 2195 (2014), 2220 (2015), 2322 (2016), 2370 (2017), 2396 (2019) and 2482 (2019), and to implement relevant arms control instruments to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons.

In the Sahel, Central and East Africa, the terrorism threat is rapidly growing and undoubtedly aggravated by the use of illicit firearms. Terrorist groups have split and multiplied over years, leading to an often-uncontrollable situation by Government authorities and forces. In the recent 25th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, some Member States reported that illicit weapons originating from Libya were finding their way into the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel countries which are among the most terrorism-affected countries around the world. Sub-Saharan African countries face several challenges to address this complex phenomenon due to: the porous borders; lack of technical capability and equipment; inadequate legislative frameworks; lack of comprehensive information on the links between terrorism and illicit firearms as well as a lack of cooperation with other countries.

In the MENA region, since 2011, a rise in insecurity and conflicts in the region are fuelling illicit arms flows and afflicting neighbouring countries, facilitating the access to illicit weapons by terrorist groups. As recently highlighted in the report S/2021/229 of the Panel of Experts on Libya, firearms coming from the country pose a serious threat to stability and exacerbate the impact of terrorist groups operating in the region, but it is also a destination of trafficked weapons in violation of the arms embargo. Terrorism, along organised crime, contribute to the growing demand for illicit weapons in the region.

In Latin America, according to the CTED Global Survey, the linkages between drugs and arms trafficking, as well as related illicit financial flows and money laundering activities associated to both these illegal businesses, may increase the risk of terrorism. Against that context, illicit firearms constitute regional destabilisers and play a multifaceted role, both as tools to carry out attacks, and as sources for financing their illegal activities, by profiting from their illicit trade or using them to conduct illegal income-generating activities.

In Southeast Asia, the twelfth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2021/98) states that the region continues to experience violence initiated or inspired by ISIL. The porous and extensive land and sea borders of the states and their situation between the Pacific and Indian oceans render the task of monitoring and dismantling firearms trafficking extremely difficult. This is exacerbated by cross-regional trends such as leakages of firearms from the security forces or raids on military and police posts, smuggling by organised crime groups, home-made production, and the return of foreign fighters from Syria and Iraq.

This project will help to address the context described above by supporting Member States in increasing their understanding of the links between illicit firearms and terrorism, improve their capacity to collect comprehensive data and share it for analytical and cooperation purposes; develop comprehensive legislation in line with the international legal framework; conduct more effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases linking these two phenomena. This project will both help to develop new legislation, work methods and mechanisms where they do not exist and also build on existing ones to make them more effective.

Outcomes

The project seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Increased understanding of the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking through data collection and information sharing for effective cooperation

Outcome 2: Strengthened national legislative frameworks aimed at filling legislative gaps to address the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking in line with the relevant international legal instruments and UN Security Council resolutions

Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity of national institutions and authorities dealing with terrorism and illicit trafficking cases

Outputs/Indicative Activities

The project seeks to achieve the following outputs through the implementation of the indicative activities below:

Outcome 1: Increased understanding of the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking through data collection and information sharing for effective cooperation

Output 1.1: Strengthen national capacity for data collection and analysis to map and monitor illicit arms flows and their links to terrorism, contributing to global, regional and national analysis and information sharing, including monitoring of SDG target indicator 16.4.2

Output 1.2: Development of a tool for the data collection, analysis and exchange on firearms and terrorism incidents in real-time, along with specialized training on its use. Collection and analysis of tracing results of seized firearms from terrorists in beneficiary countries

Output 1.3: Thematic regional/national workshops for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and other relevant stakeholders on arms-crime-terrorism nexus, from an investigative, prosecutorial and judicial cooperation perspective to share judicial cases, good practices, new trends, challenges and possible solutions.

Output 1.4: Regional and cross-regional meetings of community of practitioners to enhance exchange of good practices, foster cooperation and cross-regional information exchange on new trends and modalities, links and emerging threats and responses.

Output 1.5: Development of a cross-regional study on the criminal context and origins of the illicit arms flows related to terrorism cases in target countries.

Outcome 2: Strengthened national legislative frameworks aimed at filling legislative gaps to address the linkages between terrorism and firearms trafficking in line with the relevant international legal instruments and UN Security Council resolutions

Output 2.1: Drafting of a legislative assessment report with gap analysis and specific recommendations to fill them out.

Output 2.2: Workshops for Government representatives, parliamentarians and relevant authorities to raise awareness on international legal requirements related to the links between terrorism and illicit firearms and needs to address gaps in their national legislative frameworks.

Output 2.3: Legislative drafting workshops to support the development of new legislation or amendments to the existing ones in line with the relevant international legal framework.

Output 2.4: Provision of ongoing legislative advisory services to all requesting target countries to help identify gaps and adequate provisions to fill them out.

Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity of national institutions and authorities dealing with terrorism and illicit trafficking cases

Output 3.1: Support institution building (establishing/strengthening specialized bodies/units, such as Integrated Centres for Tracing and Investigation of Firearms Trafficking; inter-agency units/task forces; specialized pools in prosecution and investigation services, as appropriate).

Output 3.2: Specialized practical training for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials, customs, intelligence officers and other relevant actors on the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism and firearms trafficking, including: crime scene management; collection and use of firearms and ballistic related evidence; identification, tracing and profiling of firearms and ammunition; use of special investigative techniques; international judicial cooperation, conducting parallel or joint investigations on firearms trafficking and its links to terrorism.

Output 3.3: Specialized training for border control and customs authorities and law enforcement on detection, control and prevention of trafficking in firearms, explosives and precursors of explosives to terrorists and organized crime groups (including information sharing and law enforcement cooperation).

Output 3.4: Mentoring by a prosecutor/judge and law enforcement experts to the personnel of the specialized investigation and prosecution units to help build a case management system helping to detect links between terrorism and firearms trafficking, ensure a systematic tracing of seized or found firearms in terrorism cases, conduct parallel or joint investigations to determine the origin of the weapons used by terrorist and determine their point of diversion and to establish more effective work methods for this purpose.

Output 3.5: Development of a specialized training manual on the linkages between terrorism and illicit trafficking to be used in training workshops and by practitioners to assist them in their daily work while dealing with related cases.

Output 3.6: Provision of technical equipment, if required, to support firearms marking, record keeping and conduct effective investigations in cases involving terrorism and illicit firearms.

Output 3.7: Provide technical support and advice for special investigative activities and use of special investigative techniques to address the links between illicit firearms and terrorism and support operational actions to detect and disrupt illicit arms flows in border regions (including intelligence-led operations).

Human Rights Mainstreaming

UNODC applies the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and UNODC Guidance Note on Human Rights, which require human rights risk assessments and mitigating measures. Training curricula guides and other materials will include specific sections and modules on respecting human rights while countering terrorism, (including humanitarian law aspects) and arms trafficking. The activities will be undertaken within existing laws and international human rights and humanitarian legal instruments. Human rights and ethics components in the activities will foster awareness amongst the beneficiaries to prevent the violation of human rights throughout criminal investigations in counterterrorism and firearms trafficking.

Gender Mainstreaming

The project will mainstream gender and attend to the way in which female suspects, victims and witnesses of terrorism and firearms-related offences may be affected differently than men by legislative, operational and criminal justice measures. UNODC will continue supporting Governments to increase recruitment of women where they are under-represented, such as in law enforcement, and will seek that women are represented in every phase of the project, both as implementers and as participants. Training materials will be in line with UNODC's Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018-2021) and UNODC's Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism. In line with SDG 5, it will request partner agencies to promote gender equality in the project implementation. Moreover, it will involve UN Women and, where appropriate, civil society organisations working on women's rights. UNODC gender focal points will also provide advice on gender mainstreaming.

Budget

\$9,000,000.00

Pillar

Pillar II - Measures to prevent and Combat Terrorism

Project Status

Concept

Implementation Period

2021-2024

UN Org

UNODC

UN Global CT Compact Partners

Countries

North Africa, Sahel, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Middle East, South East Asia, South America

Current Donors

This project is currently unfunded.