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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

SEMESTRAL REPORT
1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2025

This update outlines the results and activities carried out from 1 January to 30 June 2025 by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), focusing on the Centre's capacity-building initiatives for preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. These activities were made possible by the generous founding grant from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

The first and second quarters of 2025 marked a period of significant progress for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in advancing global counter-terrorism priorities and delivering impactful capacity-building support to Member States.

On 10 February, UNCCT Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov briefed the Security Council on the twentieth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security, underscoring UNCCT's critical role in supporting Member States to address evolving threats through tailored technical assistance. During the reporting period, from 1 January to 30 June 2025, UNCCT provided support to over 80 Member States, through technical assistance, high-level conferences, and special events. Nearly 1,500 individuals participated in Centre-led training programmes, while many others contributed to consultations on topics that shaped UNCCT's strategic priorities and the development of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN).

On maritime security, UNCCT held a workshop in Lagos, Nigeria, which will inform the UNOCT-UNCCT Compendium on Maritime Border Security. On border security in Africa, UNCCT completed scoping missions and Joint Baseline Assessments for the Integrated Border Security Management (IBSM) by the IBSM Secretariat in seven West African countries, through funding from Germany and Italy. In the field of cybersecurity, UNCCT launched CT TECH+ in ten countries in partnership with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), through funding from the European Union. In Central Asia, UNCCT led a cross-regional dialogue in Astana, Kazakhstan which gathered 116 stakeholders to exchange practices on the prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration (PRR) of returnees from conflict zones. On engaging youth in preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism (PCVE), UNCCT held a side event during the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, showcasing emerging research on violent extremism in online gaming spaces in Africa. The Centre also launched two new initiatives: Building Safer Online Gaming Communities, a research project on gaming-related risks in the context of violent extremism, and AI for PCVE, which explores the evolving nexus between artificial intelligence and violent extremism.
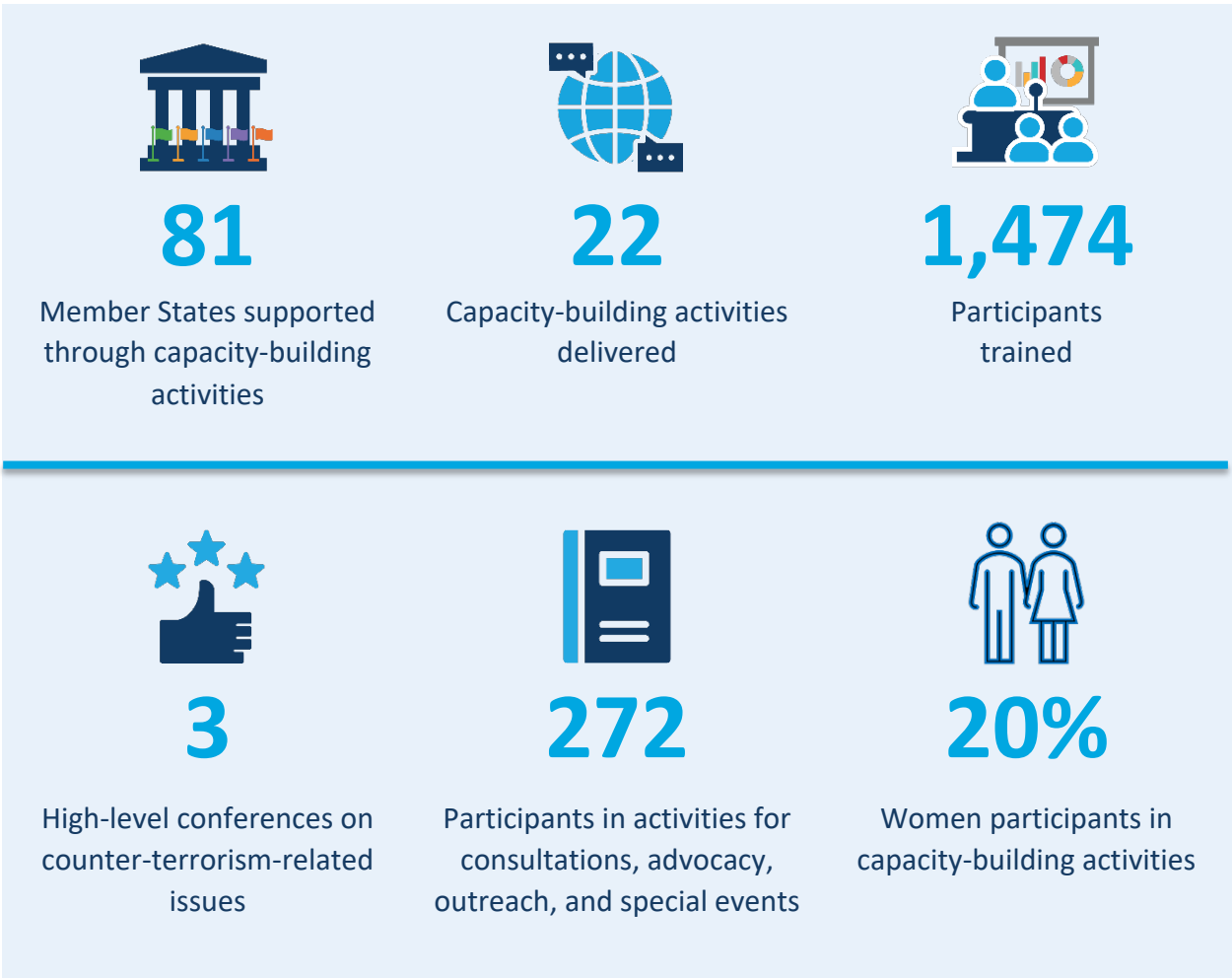
On 24 June, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, chaired the 27th meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board which brought together representatives of 21 Member States and the European Union. Member States, including the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Spain, attested to the impact of UNCCT programming in counter-terrorism efforts.

On 28 April, UNCCT launched the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network, uniting over 120 victims of terrorism and victims' associations from six continents. This landmark initiative, made possible through funding from Spain, aims to strengthen victim-centric policy and programming on counter terrorism. It reinforces UNCCT's leadership as the only UN entity with a programme dedicated to addressing the rights and needs of victims of terrorism.
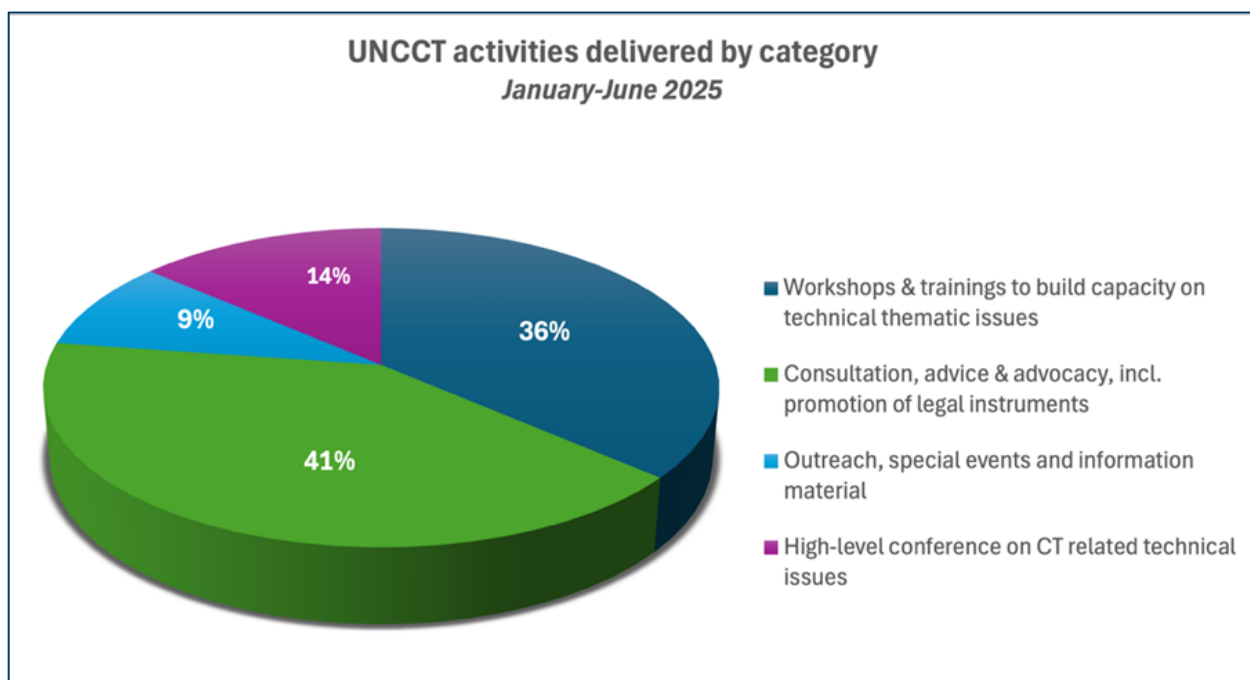
UNCCT also convened and contributed to several strategic forums. The Second Roundtable of Centres of Excellence, co-organized by the Presidency of State Security (PSS) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was held in Riyadh on 29–30 April. The Roundtable brought together over 20 entities, including strong participation from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), to explore the implications of emerging technologies for countering the financing of terrorism. The dialogue generated actionable insights on cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence, and investigative tools, and informed an upcoming best practices report.

During the reporting period, UNCCT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), establishing a framework for collaboration on efforts to counter-terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism. The agreement with IMCTC is a key milestone for UNCCT in its strategic approach to broaden and deepen its partnerships with regional and international organizations.

Key facts and figures

81
Member States supported through capacity-building activities

22
Capacity-building activities delivered

1,474
Participants trained

3
High-level conferences on counter-terrorism-related issues

272
Participants in activities for consultations, advocacy, outreach, and special events

20%
Women participants in capacity-building activities

Key facts and figures

UNCCT activities delivered by category
January-June 2025

- Workshops & trainings to build capacity on technical thematic issues — 36%
- Consultation, advice & advocacy, incl. promotion of legal instruments — 41%
- Outreach, special events and information material — 9%
- High-level conference on CT related technical issues — 14%

Note that human rights and gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout UNCCT programming

Border Security and Management (BSM)

During the reporting period, the Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme deepened engagement with West African Member States to integrate counter-terrorism priorities into border management strategies, with a strong focus on local early warning systems in border communities. In Ghana, the Immigration Service requested additional Training of Trainers sessions for rapid response teams. The BSM Programme also supported the Accra Initiative in its efforts to restructure border operations. The Government of Tunisia submitted a formal request for support to strengthen national border security capacities in the context of countering terrorism, under the framework of the BSM Programme. In May, the BSM Programme convened maritime security experts in Lagos, Nigeria to identify best practices for the forthcoming UNOCT-UNCCT Compendium on Maritime Border Security.

The Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) Programme finalized Joint Baseline Assessments in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo, following successful scoping missions across all participating countries. These assessments establish the foundation for targeted technical assistance under the Mechanism. Responding to growing regional demand, IBSM also initiated a series of engagements with Senegal, which will culminate in its official accession as the eighth member at the upcoming IBSM Conference in Dakar on 9–10 July.

Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons

Over 200 officials participated in capacity-building and awareness-raising activities delivered by the Countering the Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme during the reporting period. Highlights included a high-level hybrid event co-hosted with the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, focusing on nuclear terrorism prevention at the Human Rights Council in Geneva in March. In Central Asia, the Programme delivered specialized seminars in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in May on information-sharing mechanisms to disrupt the supply of small arms and light weapons to terrorists. In Cambodia, it delivered a training and an advocacy event in June to promote adherence to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

Cybersecurity and New Technologies

The Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme supported Member States in strengthening their capacities to counter the use of digital tools by terrorist actors, with a focus on human rights and gender-responsive approaches. The CT TECH+ initiative was launched in partnership with INTERPOL across nine countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, to bolster policy and operational responses to technology-enabled terrorism. To date, the initiative has trained 180 investigators on darknet and open-source investigative techniques. CT TECH+ also delivered risk assessment training in Uzbekistan to develop national scenarios to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, which will inform national policy development.

To further enhance global cyber preparedness, the Programme co-organized a cyber-drill with the International Telecommunication Union and the United Arab Emirates, focusing on threats emerging from the dark web. It also contributed to the publication of *Artificial Intelligence in Cities: Securing Our Future*, developed with the Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network, which provides practical insights into leveraging AI for urban security and counter-terrorism, as well as threats posed by AI for the security and preparedness of cities.

Detecting, Preventing, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT)

The CFT Programme convened the Second Roundtable of Counter-Terrorism Centres of Excellence on 29–30 April in Riyadh, in partnership with the Presidency of State Security (PSS) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The event brought together global and regional stakeholders to examine how emerging technologies are reshaping terrorist financing threats and countermeasures. Discussions covered developments in cryptocurrency, AI, and investigative software, and helped identify capacity-building priorities. The event was opened by Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed Al-Howairini, Head of PSS, and reinforced the importance of international cooperation in enhancing technical capabilities to meet the challenges posed by new financial technologies. A forthcoming report will summarize best practices.

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)

During the reporting period, the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) advanced multilateral engagement on emerging threats, particularly at the intersection of technology, youth, and violent extremism. On 12 February, the Programme commemorated the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) as and when Conducive to Terrorism through an event co-organized with the Permanent Mission of Iraq and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on PCVE. This commemorative event provided a forum for the international community to come together and explore innovative measures to address the root causes of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and prevent its spread.

On 17 April, the Programme co-hosted a side event at the ECOSOC Youth Forum *Press Start: Understanding Harms in Online Gaming Spaces* together with UNICRI and the Permanent Missions of Japan and Singapore. The event presented findings from an upcoming UNOCT–UNICRI report on the relationship between violent extremism and gaming in Africa and offered practical recommendations for strengthening prevention and investigative efforts.

The Programme also launched two new initiatives: *Building Safer Online Gaming Communities*, a regional project in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to research gaming-related risks and empower young gamers to counter violent extremism, and *AI for PCVE*, which explores the evolving nexus between artificial intelligence and violent extremism to support enhanced stakeholder awareness and response strategies.

Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR)

In April, the Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (PRR) convened a Cross-Regional Dialogue in Astana, Kazakhstan, in partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan, UNRCCA, OSCE, and JPoA. The event brought together 116 stakeholders, primarily from Central Asia, to exchange good practices on the prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of individuals associated with terrorist groups, and to strengthen intergovernmental and multilateral coordination.

In May, the Programme conducted a specialized training in Erbil, Iraq, for 23 frontline professionals on engagement techniques to enable client-led behavioral change, enhancing local capacity to support the reintegration of returnees from northeast Syria.

The PRR Programme also continued to co-chair the Security and Accountability for Adults Task Force under the One UN Plan in Iraq, supporting strategic coordination between the Government and UN partners to ensure principled, accountable, and context-specific responses to returnee needs.

Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (VoT)

The Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme (VoT) made significant strides in amplifying victims' voices and strengthening their role in policymaking. Following a Validation Workshop in January, which brought together victims, Member States, and civil society to finalize the structure and Terms of Reference for the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN), the Network was officially launched on 28 April. The event drew participation from over 30 Member States, 45 in-person attendees, and more than 450 online participants.

With over 120 victims and associations now represented, VoTAN has become the first global UN-led platform dedicated to connecting and supporting victims of terrorism. The inaugural Global Forum, scheduled for 1 July, will establish VoTAN's Steering Committee, define strategic priorities, and develop a shared calendar of activities, including for the International Day of Remembrance on 21 August.

Concurrently, the Programme concluded its Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) pilot in the Philippines and Nigeria and is now completing the final phase of evaluation and lessons learned.

Regional Programmes

Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (JPoA)

During the reporting period, the Central Asia Unit advanced regional initiatives through direct engagement with national stakeholders. As part of Phase II of the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network (CT EWN) for Central Asia, the Unit conducted national consultations and delivered tailored training sessions to enhance regional capacity for early detection and response to terrorism-related threats.

The Unit also organized a side event on the implementation of the National Strategy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism (2021–2025) of Tajikistan at UN Headquarters on 12 February in commemoration of International PVE Day. In partnership with the Global PRR Programme, the Unit co-organized the Cross-Regional Dialogue on the Prosecution, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of Returnees from Conflict Zones, held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 30 April, and contributed to its successful convening by mobilizing regional participation and support.

Programme Offices

The UNOCT **Programme Office in Baghdad** continued to strengthen national partnerships while facilitating the implementation of six Global Programmes in Iraq. In the first half of 2025, the Office provided operational and strategic support to the rollout of activities under the PRR, CT TECH+, and CBRN/Weapons Programmes of the UNCCT. Beyond implementation, the Office collaborated closely with Iraqi authorities to identify emerging priorities and co-develop proposals for future engagement, including preparations for an international conference on the repatriation and reintegration of individuals from northeast Syria, demonstrating its convening role and added value in bridging global programming with local needs.

The UNOCT **Programme Office in Nairobi** served as a key regional coordination hub for the delivery of Global Programmes across the Horn, East, and Southern Africa. In the first half of 2025, the Office supported logistical and technical support for the delivery of key capacity-building activities in Kenya, including UNCCT's CT TECH+ Kick-Off Meeting for Kenya and the Human Rights and Gender Section's Training of Trainers workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in CT/PCVE. The Office sustained strategic engagement with counterparts across Somalia, Uganda, Zambia, and the African Union. It also convened a coordination meeting with Nairobi-based funding partners to strengthen coherence, foster collaboration, and align efforts across UNCCT's priority areas in the region.

During the first half of 2025 the **UNOCT Bangkok presence** was assigned to provide dedicated support to UNOCT/UNCCT's Global Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, particularly in relation to the development of the goFintel software solution.

The UNOCT **Programme Office in Madrid** hosts staff from several UNCCT Global Programmes, including the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, the Global Programme on CBRN and Weapons, and the Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies. In the first half of 2025, the Office provided programmatic and operational support to activities under these three programmes, while also fostering strategic engagement with Spanish counterparts and regional partners. Its growing presence reflects UNOCT's commitment to decentralization and proximity to key stakeholders.

Coordination and Coherence

On 24 June, the UNCCT Advisory Board held its 27th meeting, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr Abdulaziz Al-Wasil, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations. Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov and UNCCT Director Mauro Miedico briefed the Board on key milestones and the Centre's activities from January to June 2025. Member States took the floor to highlight the impact of UNCCT programming in their countries, including in the areas of countering terrorist use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), strengthening regional responses to terrorism financing risks, and the Victims of Terrorism Association Network. These included interventions from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations.

During the first half of 2025, UNCCT contributed substantively to the work of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact through its active engagement in 16 Working Group and inter-agency meetings. These engagements served as key platforms for advancing UNCCT's programmatic priorities and sharing technical expertise across the UN system.

Within the PCVE Working Group, UNCCT Director Mauro Miedico, in his capacity as Chair of the Working Group, chaired thematic discussions on the exploitation of online gaming platforms by terrorist actors, sharing findings from UNCCT's joint initiative with UNICRI that examines the risks of radicalization in Africa's growing gaming market. In the Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Victims of Terrorism Working Group, UNCCT introduced the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network, emphasizing the importance of victim-centered approaches and civil society engagement.

The Border Management and Law Enforcement Working Group was briefed on UNCCT's work under its Global Programme on Countering the Terrorist use of Weapons, including its new regional initiative in Central Asia exploring the nexus between arms flows and terrorism. In the Criminal Justice and CFT Working Group, UNCCT highlighted the operational relevance of the Algeria Guiding Principles on emerging financial technologies and provided updates on the goFintel platform and related regional efforts.

Within the Emerging Threats Working Group, UNCCT contributed to forward-looking discussions on dual-use technologies, advocating for greater UN-private sector cooperation to mitigate risks related to biotechnology, synthetic biology, and artificial intelligence.

UNOCT leadership continued to advance the overarching priorities of the Compact. During the February meeting of the Compact Coordination Committee, UNOCT emphasized the need to align counter-terrorism with the broader UN agenda by operationalizing the Pact for the Future through integrated approaches that link counter-terrorism, peacebuilding, sustainable development, and human rights.

Human Rights and Gender

UNCCT continues to prioritize integrating international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law across its programmes and policy efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. With the technical support and quality assurance provided by the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS), UNCCT programmes strengthened their human rights and gender-responsive approaches, including through adherence to the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) and piloting the draft UNOCT Human Rights Mainstreaming Policy.

During the reporting period, UNCCT's Global Programme on Countering the Terrorist Use of Weapons incorporated dedicated human rights and gender components into its national training in Cambodia, supported by expert sessions facilitated by HRGS. The Programme also benefited from tailored guidance to strengthen Member State capacities to apply rights-based safeguards in national legislation and practice. Similarly, the Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems, jointly led by UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) and UNCCT Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit, piloted the application of the draft Human Rights Mainstreaming Policy with direct support from HRGS, helping to align emerging technology workstreams with UN system-wide standards.

UNCCT also advanced its commitment to human rights-based support to national authorities by operationalizing the HRDDP through the development and implementation of internal Standard Operating Procedures, with HRGS providing advisory oversight and training.

In parallel, UNCCT's Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme integrated human rights perspectives into its consultations to establish the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN), including through collaboration with the Global Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism.

On gender equality, UNCCT programme managers remained active members of the UNOCT Gender Task Force, contributing to the review and implementation of the Organization's Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan. With HRGS support, UNCCT continued to apply gender-sensitive approaches across its programming, helping to ensure more inclusive and context-responsive interventions.

Communications

During the reporting period the UNOCT X/Twitter account got 42 million impressions, including 4.7 million for the #UNCCT hashtag, and the Office website totaled over 450,000 pageviews. With the support of the Communications Team, a number of UNCCT activities also gained high visibility coverage during this period, including the launch of VoTAN which was highlighted by the UN Spokesperson in the [noon briefing](#) on 28 April and a number of [UN](#) and [external](#) outlets.

Other high-profile events included the Second [Roundtable](#) of Counter-Terrorism Centers in Riyadh (29-30 April), the Global PRR Programme [side event](#) during the 4th Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum with KSRelief (24 Feb), the International [Day](#) on Preventing Violent Extremism (12 Feb), International Women's [Day](#) (8 March), the national seminar on Enhancing Early Warning Networks (CT [EWN](#)) for Central Asia, a [side event](#) on Preventing and Suppressing Nuclear Terrorism while Respecting Human Rights on the margins of the 58th regular session of the Human Rights Council (12 March), and a [side event](#) on Understanding Harms in Online Gaming Spaces on the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum (17 April). The Communications Team also supported UNCCT flagship programmes, as well as the expansion of activities through the UNOCT Programme Office in Iraq and the meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board, ensuring visibility of activities and expertise.

Update on Contributions

In Q1 and Q2 2025, UNOCT mobilized $10,221,162 in new pledges from eleven funding partners. Of the funds raised to date, $1.7 million was earmarked for the UNOCT Policy Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch, $1.5 million was earmarked for the UNOCT Special Projects and Innovation Branch, and $7,031,271.31 (69 percent) was earmarked to support the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

Funding Partners providing contributions to UNCCT from 1 January to 30 June 2025

Funding partners	Amount	Purpose
UNPDF	$938,010	Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia - Phase IV (JPoA)
UNPDF	$31,026	Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (PCVE)
Australia	$451,045	Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (PCVE)
Canada	$2,872,603	Supporting Eastern Africa in countering terrorist use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) Weapons Programme
Germany	$92,615	Strengthening Member State Capacities in the Area of Border Security and Management to Counter Terrorism and Stem the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (BSM Programme)
Germany	$381,263	Global Initiative on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Suspected Terrorists (Global PRR initiative)
Iraq	$100,000	Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme
Iraq	$2,000,000	UNOCT Office in Baghdad
Kazakhstan	$100,000	Contribution to UNOCT Trust Fund
Philippines	$10,000	Global Victims of Terrorism (VOT) programme
Uzbekistan	$50,000	Towards a Comprehensive Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia — Phase IV (JPoA)
Total	**$7,031,271.31**	