



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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

FIRST QUARTER

1 January – 31 March 2024

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Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIT	Austrian Institute of Technology
BSM	Border Security and Management
CAERT	African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CTPN	Counter-Terrorism Preparedness Network
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration
DPO	United Nations Department of Peace Operations
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ERC	Emergency Response Centres
EUCVT	European Union Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism
FAFT	Financial Action Task Force
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
HRGS	UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBSM	Integrated Border Stability Mechanism
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JPOA	Joint Plan of Action
MIND	Management Institute for National Development of Somalia
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MLP	Model Legislative Provision
NAP	National Action Plan
NCB	INTERPOL National Central Bureau
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OICT	United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

OROLSI	Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PRR	Prosecution, Reintegration and Rehabilitation
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
R/N	Radiological / Nuclear
RRA	Regional Risk Assessment
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute
TA	Technical Assistance
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SEARCCT	Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism
SCO-RATS	Shanghai Cooperation Organization - Regional Antiterrorist Structure
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience Against Violent Extremism
TUBSAN	National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Somalia)
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific. and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Programme
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia
UNREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
VoT	Victims of Terrorism
VoTAN	Global Victims of Terrorism Associations Network
WCO	World Customs Organization
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
YEEP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

Executive Summary and Highlights

This is the third year of the **Strategic Plan and Results Framework (SPRF) 2022 – 2025** that operationalizes the mandate given to the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/291 (2017) and successive reviews of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). To reflect the principles of results-based management and reporting, the structure of this report presents the contributions of UNCCT within SPRF, reflecting the Centre's commitment to be a results-oriented Global Centre of Excellence.

During the first quarter of 2024, UNCCT supported Member States' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, implementing 23 workshops and trainings that increased the knowledge and capacities of approximately 700 participants from 55 Member States.

Resource Mobilization

Sustainable and predictable funding continues to be essential for UNCCT to deliver on its capacity building mandate at the highest level and for greatest impact.

In Q1 2024, UNOCT mobilized \$6.4 million in new pledges from seven funding partners, of which 24 percent, or \$1.5 million, were earmarked to support UNCCT programmes, as per table below.

UNCCT is thankful for the continued support of its founding partner, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the other 37 funding partners that provides critical political, technical, and financial support to UNCCT activities.

Table: Funding Partners providing contributions to UNCCT from 1 January to 31 March 2024

Funding partner	Amount	Purpose
Denmark	\$1,462,640	Prosecution, Reintegration and Rehabilitation (PRR) Programme
Organization of American States (OAS)	\$52,206	Cyber Programme
Total	\$1,514,846	

Programme Highlights

- Within the framework of its Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme, UNCCT progressed in providing capacity building assistance in the Sahel and Central Asia. Experts from countries in the Sahel benefited from the second regional event on building capacity to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa with a focus on improvised explosive devices (IEDs), small arms and light weapons (SALW) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). The event engaged 13 international and regional organizations working in eliminating the supply of weapons in the Sahel.

- The UNCCT, jointly with the United States Department of State (US DOS), held a virtual seminar for Central Asia on chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) exercise development within the framework of the Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme. The event gathered over 18 representatives from Member States and increased their awareness on CBRN risks and threats at the national and regional level.
- UNCCT further delivered advocacy, outreach, and knowledge products, including courses and training programmes on countering terrorist use of weapons and operational measures to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and enhanced the strategic and operational capacities of mid- and high-level officials.
- The UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies enhanced Member States' cybersecurity preparedness on cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities. Cybersecurity specialists from eight Member States increased their capacities through a scenario-based tabletop exercise on preventing cyber-attacks, using generative AI capabilities, and developed policy-driven solutions on information security and infrastructure protection.
- The UNCCT Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT Programme) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) completed a regional consultation in Pretoria, South Africa, for 21 ESAAMLG members, in addition to national exercises for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. The consultation helped the members of the Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Project team to review information, statistics and case studies pertaining to terrorism financing risks.
- As part of the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Nigeria, the UNCCT Global Programme in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Global PCVE Programme) delivered a policy dialogue event. The event gathered 22 trained youth and 49 international, regional, national, and local stakeholders to discuss key youth-led PCVE recommendations. The YEEP was also launched in Somalia in partnership with the Government of Somalia, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), UNESCO and the UNFPA, bringing on board an additional 26 young leaders to join YEEP Africa.
- The UNCCT Victims of Terrorism Support Programme launched the pilot project on the Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) to support and protect the rights of victims of terrorism in the Philippines. The high-level launch event was followed by a technical assistance workshop that focused on key principles and best practices to uphold the rights and support the needs of victims and survivors of terrorism. The workshop further contributed to the development of a national assistance plan and roadmap to support victims and survivors of terrorism at the national level.

- The programme further initiated consultations with victims, survivors, and victims' associations to shape the global Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN). The consultations were held in Madrid, Spain, and attended by more than 20 victims' associations from different regions of the world. At the margins of the 20th anniversary of the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Terrorism and the terror attacks of 11 March in Madrid, UNCCT unveiled the "Memories" exhibition outside the National Music Auditorium, during a music concert that was attended by the King and Queen of Spain in honour of the victims of terrorism.
- UNCCT's Baghdad Office supported the Iraqi government in establishing a Security and Accountability Task Force, co-chaired by UNCCT and Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council. The Task Force will address issues related to the repatriation of Iraqi nationals from Syria's Al Hol camp. The Task Force identified needs for technical assistance in screening, gender issues, and human rights investigations.
- The UNOCT Programme Office in Nairobi participated in events on the margins of the Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) Coordinating Committee Meeting held in Nairobi, including helping to mobilize support for the United Nations Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa via a dedicated side event. The Office also facilitated UNOCT's engagement with Member States across the region, participation in the development of Somalia's national strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism, and continued work to integrate UNOCT support for Kenya and Somalia under the umbrella of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks for each country.

Key facts and figures



55

Member States supported
through capacity-building
activities



23

Capacity-building activities
delivered



699

Participants trained



1

High-level conferences on counter-terrorism-related issues



57

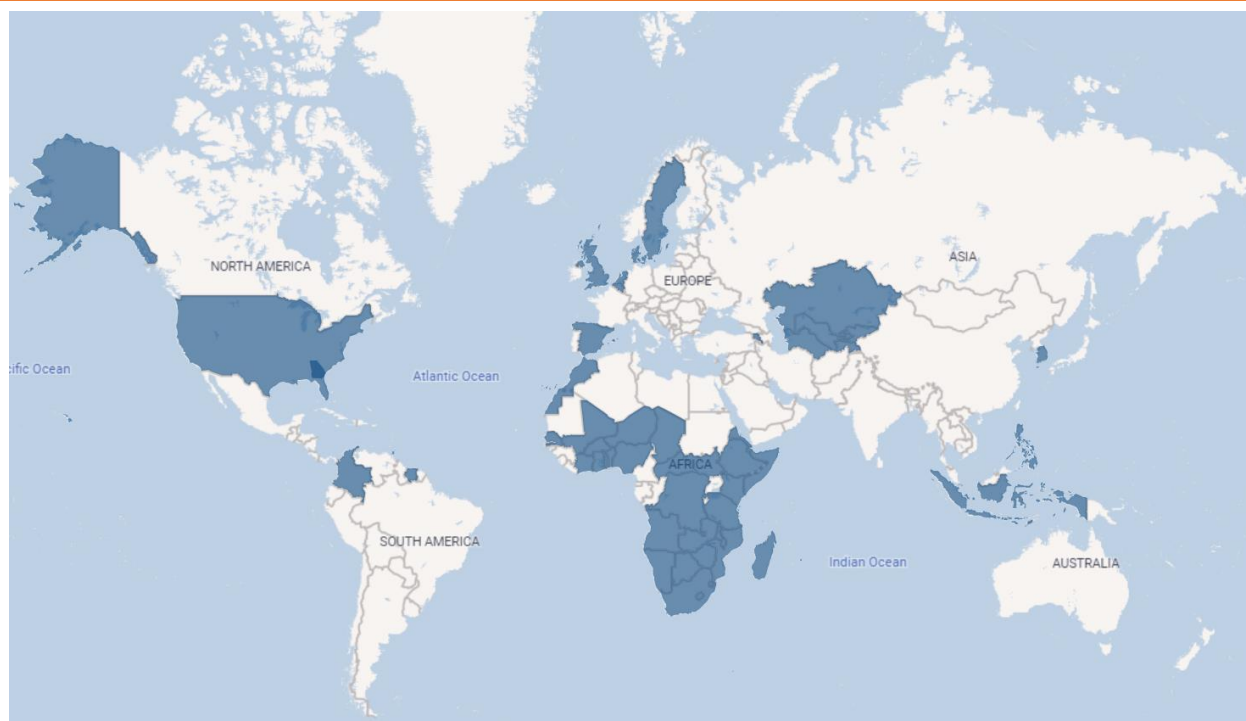
Participants in activities for consultations, advocacy, outreach, and special events



26.5%

Women participants in capacity-building activities

Member States supported in the first quarter of 2024*



Key International partners for UNCCT's work in the first quarter 2024

United Nations entities

- CTED
- DPO
- ICAO
- IOM
- OICT
- UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa
- UNFPA Somalia
- UNIDIR
- UNMAS
- UNODA
- UNODC
- UNRCCA
- UNREC

Intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations

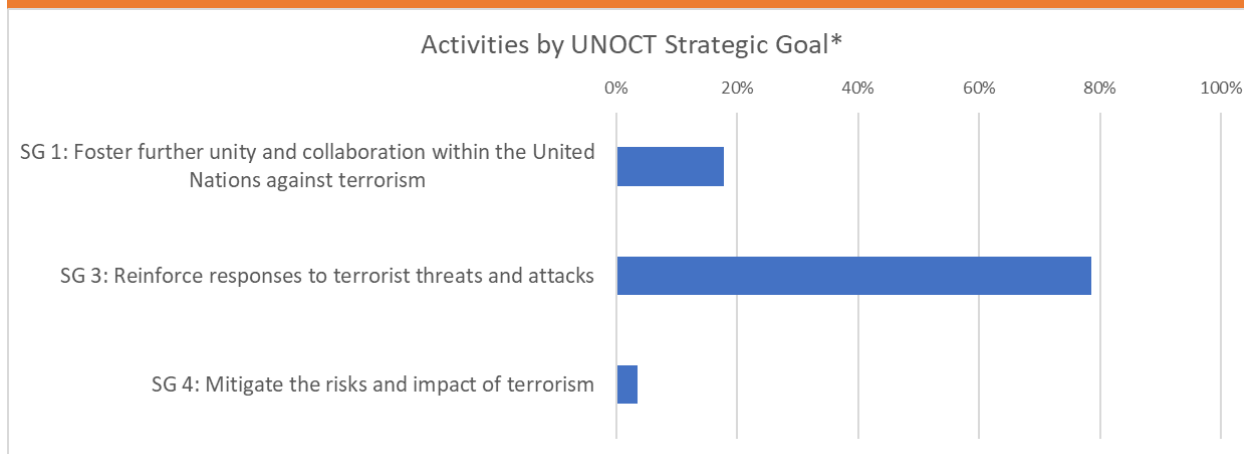
- Arab Interior Ministers Council
- CIS
- EAG
- ECOWAS

- ESAAMLG
- INTERPOL
- EUCVT
- EU Commissioner for Victims' Rights
- SCO-RATS
- OSCE
- WCO

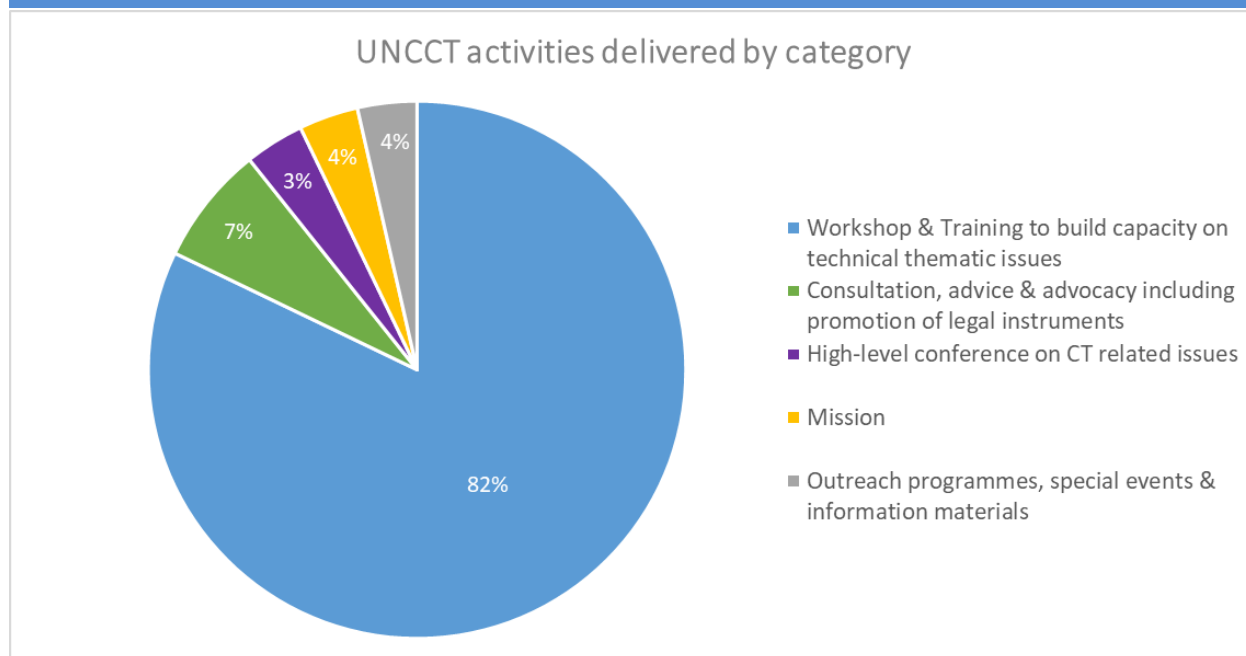
Other Stakeholders

- AIT (Austria)
- Anti-Terrorism Council (the Philippines)
- CAERT
- CTPN
- Department of State (United States)
- FIU-NL (the Netherlands)
- GCERF
- MIND
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Interior (Spain)
- Office of National Security Adviser (Nigeria)
- Supreme Judicial Council (Iraq)
- TUBSAN (Somalia)
- Vitoria-Gasteiz Municipality (Spain)

Breakdown of activities



UNCCT Technical Assistance Delivered to Member States



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

Overview of Programme Implementation under UNOCT's Results Framework (2022-2025)

Strategic Goal 1: Foster further unity and collaboration within the United Nations against terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT, in fulfilling its leadership and coordination roles, fosters the promotion of multilateralism and international cooperation on CT/PCVE among all stakeholders. UNCCT works to ensure that the United Nations system is further unified in its focus and support to Member States in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, that Member States recognize the importance of tackling terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations and that CT/PCVE programmes are coherent, duplications of intervention are avoided, and comparative advantages are fully leveraged, including through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. In line with its mandate, UNCCT also contributes to raising the visibility of, and mobilizing sustained funding for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Outcome 1.1: Demonstrated leadership in engaging with Member States and mobilizing the UN System on CT/PCVE.

Meeting with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Republic of Chad

On 22 January, UNCCT met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad to discuss the status of screening, rehabilitation, and reintegration in country. The Secretary General encouraged UNCCT and UNODC, along with other UN agencies, to support Chad with the implementation of the soon-to-be validated National Strategy on Disengagement, Dissociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation. During the meeting, the following two needs were identified: 1) to strengthen cooperation between armed forces working on the ground and the magistrates who will subsequently lead the screening process; and 2) to improve the management of weapons and ammunitions handed over by former combatants.

High-level briefing to Member States on the work of UNOCT programmes and projects in Central Asia: Achievements and Way forward

The high-level hybrid briefing took place on 23 January in New York, chaired by the USG of UNOCT along with SRSG of UNRCCA and ASG of CTED. The meeting gathered high-level representatives from other UN entities; Permanent Representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; and approximately 150 participants from the Permanent Missions in New York, including from Kazakhstan and China, as well as from diplomatic Corps based in Central Asia, regional and international organizations, Central Asia Government representatives, CSOs and academia.

The briefing illustrated the important, wide-range of UNOCT counter-terrorism works being implemented in Central Asia, including by UNCCT (such as Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) on implementation of GCTS in Central Asia, CFT, SALW, PRR, cybersecurity, PCVE, PRR, BSM), with the support of various funding partners. The briefing also served as an opportunity to seek funding partners' engagement to further support the implementation of CT and PCVE initiatives in the region.

Outcome 1.2: Relevant, effective, coherent, integrated, human rights compliant and gender responsive capacity development support provided by UNCCT at national, regional and global levels.

PRR programme participated in the UNODC-led “National Workshop on the Screening of Individuals Associated with Terrorist Groups” in N’Djamena, Republic of Chad.

From 23 to 25 January, the UNCCT Global Programme on PRR organized a training in N'Djamena, Chad focusing on screening methodologies considering the pre-validated National Strategy on Disengagement, Dissociation, Reintegration and Reconciliation and international law frameworks, the use of battlefield evidence and the management of detained Boko Haram associates' files. The training convened 26 representatives of Chadian government agencies, including the Specialized Pool for Counter-Terrorism, Office of the Judiciary Police, Ministry of Women and Early Childhood's Affairs, magistrates, and judges as well as military generals from the Multi-National Joint Task Forces. UNCCT led a session that increased awareness on how to evaluate the different levels of risk that individuals associated with Boko Haram pose to communities of return. The workshop showed a clear need for continued support to government agencies in the use of screening techniques and files management, particularly at the local level.

PCVE Programme's National Policy Dialogue of the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) Nigeria

UNCCT's YEEP Nigeria, with the Office of National Security Adviser of Nigeria, co-organized a three-day policy dialogue with 22 trained youth and 49 international, regional, national, and local stakeholders on 15 – 17 January in Abuja, Nigeria. The youth leaders engage in dialogue with national senior officials and policymakers, civil society and international partners on issues related to the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism and presented PCVE recommendations to national stakeholders. The Dialogue increased the knowledge and commitment of youth leaders and national stakeholders to whole-of-society approaches to PCVE that are gender-responsive, human rights-compliant, conflict-sensitive and evidence-informed. Results of the National Policy Dialogue included the commitment to create platforms for formal and informal mechanisms for youth engagement, including through exploring the creation of a position to allow for a youth representative in the Nigerian PCVE steering committee as well as considering the establishment of a youth advisory council for PCVE under the Office of the National Security Advisor. Since the Policy Dialogue, the YEEP Nigeria cohort has presented their recommendations as part of the constitutional review process in Nigeria, to the national youth policy review and on global platforms.

UNCCT Mentorship of South-East Asia Young Leaders for PCVE StratCom

On 22 February, as part of UNCCT's ongoing mentorship of youth leaders in Southeast Asia, the Global PCVE Programme supported five youth leaders from Jakarta, Indonesia through an online workshop. The workshop enhanced the participants' capacity in effective strategic communication under the StratCom PCVE campaigns and provided them with a comprehensive review of how to improve their strategic

communication campaign. This online training was a follow up to an in-person workshop that was held in November 2023.

Launch of Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) in Somalia

On 14 March, UNCCT's Global PCVE Programme virtually launched YEEP Somalia. The meeting brought together 26 young leaders and key stakeholders from the National Center for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Somalia (TUBSAN) and other partners to introduce the YEEP initiative and provide an overview of the programme's implementation in Somalia. YEEP Somalia is the second of three countries to be held under the YEEP Africa programme. In partnership with the Government of Somalia (TUBSAN), GCERF, UNFPA, UNESCO and MIND (a local Somali CSO), the YEEP Somalia project mentored the young leaders over the course of three months on the development of community engagement, data analysis, policy development, programme design and strategic communication - skills that are necessary for youth-centred PCVE solutions. Project partners welcomed the launch of the Programme and its ability to link youth leaders with strengthened PCVE efforts in the country.

Outcome 1.4: Increased coherence and coordination within the United Nations system to support Member States CT/PCVE efforts including through the Counter-Terrorism Compact.

On 24-25 January, the Chair of the Global Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism participated in the tenth meeting of the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact Coordination Committee on "Strategic Coordination of Counter-Terrorism Initiatives in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities." In his remarks, the Chair noted the Working Group's support to the seventh meeting of the Secretary-General's High-Level Action Group on PVE which discussed the UN's response to the spread of violent extremism in Africa.

On 12 February, in observance of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, the Working Group on PCVE held a virtual event on "Beneficiary Perspectives: Real-World Impact of Prevention Programming". The event highlighted PVE programmatic interventions from key PCVE Working Group members. Attended by 122 participants, including from 31 Member States, 12 Compact entities and 20 Civil Society Organizations, the event allowed Member States (Iraq, Sweden, Türkiye and the United States), and beneficiaries from Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Mali and Uganda to discuss (i) the importance of prevention as a shared priority to address the root causes; (ii) the need for multidisciplinary approaches; and (iii) the pivotal role of community engagement in addressing conditions conducive to violent extremism on the ground.

Strategic Goal 2: Create resilience against violent extremism conducive to terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT supports Member States through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaboration in support of complementary learning and information-sharing to create

societal resilience to terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism. Global programmes and projects are offered across the peace and security, human rights and development pillars of the United Nations, and through interventions that support in particular the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on “promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. Through an evidence-informed, gender sensitive and context-specific approach, interventions to build community resilience and cohesion, are designed and prioritized, including in consultation with local stakeholders.

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.

In February and March, UNCCT’s Global Program on PCVE provided technical advice and support for the review and finalization of the Government of Somalia’s National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism. This assistance included the provision of tailored human rights, gender, youth and victims of terrorism- specific advice on strengthening the plan in line with UN standards.

Further, the Global PCVE Programme finalized the development of a specialized Measurement, Evaluation and Learning Toolkit to support practitioners designing, implementing and monitoring PCVE Strategic Communications campaigns. Through February and March, this included a peer review process drawing together global Measurement, Evaluation and Learning specialists from across the UN Global Counter Terrorism Compact, the European Union, SEARCCT, Hedayah, and other private sector, academic and civil society organizations.

Outcome 2.2: Increased implementation of evidence-informed, coherent, context specific, human rights compliant and gender responsive PCVE initiatives by partners engaged and supported.

UNCCT’s YEEP Nigeria project provided key participatory research, data analysis and policy development skill development to its 24 young PCVE leaders through Quarter 1. Through its unique Peer 2 Peer engagement model, the YEEP Nigeria young leaders were trained and coached on co-designing data-informed, context specific proposals for PCVE policy and programming that more effectively address the drivers of radicalisation for youth in Africa. Specifically considering how issues such as gender and human rights are interplaying with rising risks to social cohesion and community resilience in the region, the YEEP Nigeria PCVE leaders were able to develop concrete proposals for action for the Government of Nigeria.

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.

In observance of the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism on 12 February, USG Voronkov provided the keynote address at the Government of Iraq’s *Interactive Event on the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism* on 13 February.

At the grassroots level and as part of the continued support under the peer learning project ‘Young Leaders for Online PCVE in Southeast Asia’, in February the Global PCVE Programme held remote mentorship sessions to provide tailored technical guidance to refine participants’ PCVE campaigns. Working closely with the youth team from Indonesia on their GEN+ campaign, the sessions provided advice on the launching and distribution of the communications campaign, which is aimed at preventing the financing of terrorism through charity donations in Indonesia.

Strategic Goal 3: Reinforce responses to terrorist threats and attacks

Description of Goal

UNCCT and its partners support and enhance Member State capacities to prevent, manage and respond to terrorist attacks. Through strengthened regulatory, security, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, operating in accordance with international standards and in compliance with international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, Member States’ abilities to deter, detect, disrupt, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorists are significantly, and demonstrably improved. This includes addressing the full spectrum of terrorism-related offenses, from the acquisition and use by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction, to addressing the evolving linkages between terrorism and organized crime or the use of Internet and other information and communications technologies. This support is delivered through policy and system support, capacity development and strengthened collaborations in support of complementary learning and information-sharing.

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 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including respect for the rule of law and human rights, and gender equality standards.

UNCCT continued to support the implementation of the Arab Interior Ministers Council for the implementation of the Arab CT strategy adopted in 2022 by Interior Ministers. The support included technical advice and capacity-building, mainly focusing on issues related to prevention and counter-terrorism and human rights compliance in counter-terrorism policies. UNCCT initiated the planning of capacity-building activities in the area of countering the financing of terrorism and supported other implementing partners such as the Nayef Arab University for Security Studies in implementing activities that meet the strategy’s plan of action objectives.

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

Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Consultation on CFT

Between 24 – 25 January, the UNCCT CFT Programme held a workshop for 40 participants from ESAAMLG members, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. They completed a regional consultation in Pretoria, South Africa. Throughout the consultation, the members of RRA Project team, assisted by the CFT programme, reviewed the responses to the survey questionnaire filled by all ESAAMLG Member States containing information, statistics, and case studies pertaining to terrorism financing risk in each jurisdiction. Findings from the survey provided foundational data and informed the collection of further information to improve the quality and accuracy of the assessment.

Launch of the UNCCT CFT Global Programme technical assistance plan to Tajikistan on FATF Recommendation 8

Between 24 – 25 January, UNCCT CFT Programme organized an online training for 25 participants to launch the technical assistance plan to Tajikistan on FATF Recommendation 8. After conducting a thorough evaluation of the national regulatory mechanisms governing Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), consultations were held with national authorities and representatives of NPOs in Tajikistan. The consultation focused on discussing the main terrorist threats affecting Tajikistan and the broader region, and their impact on NPOs. This increased the understanding of the institutional landscape within which NPOs operate and identified deficiencies against international standards including in the domestic legislative framework.

Consultative Missions with Representatives of the Government of Tajikistan within CFT Global Programme technical assistance plan on FATF Recommendation 8

On 19 February, UNCCT, EAG and UNRCCA organized an in person third consultative mission in Dushanbe, Tajikistan with 20 national representatives regulating the NPO sector as well as training sessions. Participants discussed the first drafts of prepared documents on guidelines for risk-based supervision in the NPO sector and a risk assessment report in the NPO sector. Participants also discussed the current format of work with the NPO sector, using plans for inspection/supervision activities of past years as an example. Through training, participants familiarized the latest changes to FATF Recommendation 8, key trends, and good practices for identifying and mitigating the risks of malicious use of NPOs for terrorist financing purposes.

On 23 February, UNCCT, EAG and UNRCCA organized another in-person consultative mission in Dushanbe, Tajikistan for authorities regulating the NPO sector. The meeting raised the participants' awareness on risk-based supervision of NPOs and on assessing the risks of terrorist financing in NPO sector, considering previous trainings and the comments and suggestions proposed by Tajikistan on the previously presented draft guidelines and a draft report.

CFT Programme - goFintel Technical Meeting

Between 26 February and 1 March, members of the goFintel team of the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) and technical leads from the Netherlands FIU met in Valencia, Spain to discuss the next release of goFintel which is scheduled in May 2024. The participants discussed the software requirements, the type of support needed from OICT, and the future technical enhancement.

A Sponsor and Stakeholders meeting was also held during that time that focused on the status of the Letter of Intent between UNOCT and UNODC and the status of the overall project.

Completion of the United Nations Technical Assistance Plan to Tajikistan on Protecting the Non-Profit sector from Terrorist Abuse.

From 27 to 29 March, the Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Central Asia Unit of UNCCT, jointly with EAG, completed the last event in Dushanbe under the UNCCT Technical Assistance (TA) Plan for protecting the NPO sector in Tajikistan from terrorist abuse, in collaboration with UNRCCA. The TA Plan, which was launched in January 2024 after the completion of five consultations and five workshops, completed significant steps towards safeguarding the non-profit sector in Tajikistan from exploitation and abuse from terrorist groups. It provided legislative support and facilitated the preparation of a dedicated report on NPO-protection to provide guidance and ensure sustainability going forward. The workshop gathered 10 women and 25 men.

Training Course on operational measures to address terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Uzbekistan

In Tashkent, Uzbekistan between 23 and 26 January, UNCCT provided a successful training programme, as part of a series of training courses for Central Asian Member States. 12 high- and mid-level Uzbek government officials from different law enforcement and criminal justice agencies were trained with the knowledge and skills required to combat the illicit trafficking of SALW and its nexus to terrorism and organized crime. The participants also enhanced their understanding of a holistic approach to security in Central Asia, the terrorism-arms-crime nexus, and inter-agency and international cooperation and information exchange.

Training Course on operational measures to address terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Tajikistan

The second training course on the illicit trafficking of SALW and its nexus to terrorism and organized crime was held in Tajikistan from 29 January to 1 February. 19 high- and mid-level Tajik government officials enhanced practical skills of law enforcement (police, intelligence, and firearms regulators), border control (customs, migrations, border patrol officials), and criminal justice officials (criminal investigators, ballistic experts, public prosecutors, and judges) for the identification and detection of terrorist suspects and foreign terrorist fighters and their modus operandi. The content of the training was designed based on the feedback received from the participants and their respective agencies in previous editions, and in line with the rule of law and international human rights norms and standards.

Training Course on operational measures to address terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Turkmenistan

The third workshop on the terrorism-arms-crime nexus was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, from 12 to 15 February. The training helped 23 mid-level government officials to operationalize strategies and formulate implementation plans to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus, raised situational awareness, improved institutional capabilities to prevent, investigate, and prosecute SALW trafficking and its nexus to terrorism and organized crime. Participants enhanced inter-agency cooperation and information exchange among relevant authorities, increased the knowledge and practical skills of law enforcement, border control, customs, and criminal justice officials for the identification and detection of terrorist suspects and foreign terrorist fighters and their modus operandi.

UNCCT Regional workshop for the Sahel on countering terrorist use of improvised explosive devices, small arms and light weapons and unmanned aircraft systems

From 27 to 29 February, UNCCT held a hybrid regional workshop in Rabat, Morocco that brought together 40 senior officials from Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal as well as representatives of international and regional organizations responsible for counter-terrorism. This was the second regional event within the framework of the project on Building capacity to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists in Africa. The workshop was an excellent example of a UNOCT activity that combined its mandate to ensure coordination and coherence and providing capacity-building support through UNCCT. UNCCT engaged 13 international and regional organizations and entities working in the field of the elimination of the supply of weapons in the Sahel, including INTERPOL, UNMAS, UNODA, UNODC, UNREC, WCO, CIS, CAERT, and ECOWAS.

The regional workshop also raised awareness on the threat and risk posed by the supply of SALW, IEDs and UAS and the importance of the implementation of the Security Council resolution 2370 (2017). The upstream and downstream measures related to the prevention of the acquisition and use of these types of weapons by terrorists were also highlighted.

Training Course on operational measures to address terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Kazakhstan

UNCCT organized another in-person workshop on the terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 12 to 15 March. With an emphasis on a comprehensive approach to security in Central Asia and based on the feedback received from the participants and their respective agencies in previous editions, the workshop developed the knowledge and skills of 16 Kazakh law enforcement and criminal justice officials to operationalize strategies and formulate implementation plans to address the terrorism-arms-crime nexus. The training provided technical tools and skills through examples taken from good international practices in the field which strictly adhere to the rule of law and international human rights norms and standards.

Opening of the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) office in Dakar

On 7 March, UNCCT organized an office opening event in Dakar to update the interested funding partners on the progress in the implementation of the mechanism. This follows the launch of the IBSM last September in Abidjan that gathered national and regional partners, international organizations, and donors. A presentation of IBSM activities was delivered by the coordinator, on behalf of the four agencies part of the IBSM (IOM, UNODC, UNOCT and INTERPOL), followed by a question-and-answer session during which substantive and organizational issues were discussed.

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.

UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Virtual Seminar for Central Asia on CBRN exercises and CBRN exercise programmes

On 13 February, UNCCT, jointly with the US DOS, held a virtual seminar for Central Asia Member States, (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), within the framework of Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Programme. The online event gathered over 18 representatives from the five Central Asia Member States, who learned about the project and its requirements to identify and prioritize CBRN risks and threats at the national and regional level. The event enhanced the participants' capacity to identify and prioritize CBRN risks and threats at the national and regional level.

UNCCT Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons Regional Workshop for Central Asian countries on developing national exercise programmes to counter terrorism.

From 4 – 7 March, UNCCT Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Use of Weapons organized in an in-person training in Almaty, Kazakhstan, that brought together 24 participants from the region. The training enhanced Member States' abilities to develop national CBRN exercises and methodologies tailored to their specific security challenges to better prevent and counter a range of terrorist attacks. The workshop, organized within the framework of a joint UNOCT US Department of State project on CBRN exercises and exercise programmes, strengthened the capacities of Central Asia Member States to prevent terrorist organizations from accessing and using weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and CBRN materials. The training also increased the participants' understanding about the different models for developing and sustaining national exercise programmes related to counter WMD and CBRN terrorism and best international and national practices.

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

Tailored capacity building assistance to Trinidad and Tobago

Between 9 and 12 January, UNCCT CT TECH initiative organized an in-person workshop for 28 Trinidad and Tobago officials from Prime Minister's Office, National Counter-Terrorism Coordinator's Office, Office of the Prosecutor General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Security, judiciary, police, FIU, cybersecurity & academia in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. The capacity-building assistance enhanced and strengthened the national Trinidad & Tobago's counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards, and rule of law, and in gender-responsive manner.

The four days interactive workshop increased the participants' knowledge in conducting threat assessments of the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes and in designing national counterterrorism policy approaches to address threats stemming from the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. The second national workshop will be held in June 2024.

UNCCT INTERPOL OSINT, Darknet and Virtual Assets Training

Between 29 January and 1 February, the UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies delivered a 4 -day training course focusing on Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), Darknet and Virtual Assets investigative techniques. The training, which brought together 12 participants from the beneficiary Member States Armenia, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, resulted in

increased knowledge on OSINT, Darknet and Virtual Assets investigative techniques and improved understanding of the challenges and risks related to the Darknet. This was achieved through specific OSINT techniques on how to secure the working environment and set up virtual machine for safe work. The participating officers also had the opportunity to meet and work with officers from other countries within their region and to build on their professional network.

National capacity building assistance to the Republic of Kenya

Between 29 January and 1 February, UNCCT CT TECH brought together 27 Kenyan officials from the National Counter-Terrorism Centre, Office of Director of Public Prosecution, Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Kenya Defence Forces, National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee, and National Intelligence Service to an in-person workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop provided capacity-building assistance and enhanced Kenya's national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards, rule of law, and in gender-responsive manner.

The capacity-building assistance was based on the good practices developed in the handbooks and reference guides of the project that were launched during the third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2023.

UNCCT CT TECH - Darknet and Virtual Assets Training (Interpol)

UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies CT TECH initiative organized a 3-day training course on the Darknet and Virtual Assets investigative techniques between 13 – 15 February for 27 participants from Djibouti, Botswana, Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda. The course incorporated a module on how to secure the working environment, providing all attendees with the knowledge and skills to set up their own virtual machine for safe work.

Capacity Building Assistance to the Republic of the Philippines

Between 26 and 29 February, UNCCT CT TECH organized an in-person workshop that gathered 35 policy makers, legislators, intelligence analysts, investigators, legal advisors, and other experts from counter-terrorism agencies, including the Anti-Terrorism Council, law enforcement and criminal justice authorities in Manila, the Philippines. The activity enhanced Philippines' national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards, and the rule of law, and in a gender-responsive manner. Throughout four days of interactive sessions, the training provided the participants with enhanced knowledge and skills in conducting threat assessments of the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes, in designing national counter-terrorism policy approaches to address threats stemming from the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes in integrating human rights and gender considerations in terrorist threat assessments.

Capacity Building Assistance to the Republic of Uzbekistan

Between 4 and 7 March, UNCCT CT TECH organized an in person interactive training sessions for 29 Uzbekistan officials. The four days event provided the participants with enhanced knowledge and skills in

conducting threat assessments and in designing national counter-terrorism policy approaches to address threats stemming from the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes.

In the long term, this support will enhance and strengthen Uzbekistan’s national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards, and rule of law, and in gender-responsive manner.

UNCCT Cities Preparedness Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

On 27 – 28 March, UNCCT organized a workshop in Vienna, Austria for 28 representatives from eight Member States on cyber-attack by terrorist actors against critical infrastructure using generative Artificial Intelligence capabilities, in partnership with the AIT and CTPN. The training enhanced the participants’ ability to inform and develop the arrangements of cities in preparing for and responding to terrorist cyber-attacks and increased their understanding about the importance of cooperation between technical and policy-orientated entities. During the training, Chief Information Security Officers and Chief Information Officers, and cybersecurity specialists from CTPN member cities and organisations, shared good practices in information security and critical infrastructure protection, explored response structures, capabilities, and contingencies through the scenario exercise, and developed policy-driven solutions.

Strategic Goal 4: Mitigate the risks and impact of terrorism

Description of Goal

UNCCT recognizes the importance of supporting victims of terrorism. By engaging with its victims and civil society organizations, UNCCT aims to ensure the impacts of terrorism on individuals, families and societies can be mitigated through the recognition, respect and protection of the victims’ rights and needs. This includes supporting Member States to be better equipped to recover from terrorist impacts, as well as the development of comprehensive and gender-sensitive assistance plans for victims of terrorism and their families. UNCCT also works to support the application of empirically validated and human rights compliant, age and gender responsive prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, with the aim of ensuring accountability and breaking the cycle of terrorism for the future.

Outcome 4.1: The needs and human rights of victims of terrorism are addressed and promoted including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and children affected by terrorism.

Model Legislative Provisions and National Comprehensive Assistance Plan Project Launch and Technical Assistance in the Philippines.

Between 16 and 18 January, the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme gathered more than 50 participants in Manila, the Philippines, for the launch event and first technical assistance workshop on the Model Legislative Provisions (MLP) to Promote the Rights and Support the Needs of Victims of Terrorism capacity building project. The pilot project, which focuses on reviewing, harmonizing, and aligning national legislative frameworks to good practices and international law frameworks as highlighted in the MLP, was implemented in the Philippines, as the first pilot country. The technical

assistance workshop provided national authorities with enhanced capacities and skills to review their existing legislation, align it with good international practice, and develop a national comprehensive assistance plan for victims of terrorism tailored to the local context. The workshop also provided the participating national authorities with the tools to promote and coordinate discussions on victims of terrorism-related matters among all relevant stakeholders working on or engaged on the topic at the national level, including victims and survivors of terrorism and victims of terrorism associations.

Consultations for the Development of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN)

On 12 March, the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme held its first consultation on the development of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN) in Madrid, Spain. This event, attended by over 20 victims, survivors, and victims' associations from across the globe, aimed to ensure that VoTAN is victim-centric, trauma-informed, inclusive, and participatory. Participants discussed the network's objectives, structure, and inclusivity, proposing ideas for global information exchanges, civil society collaboration, and support mechanisms for victims and survivors of terrorism. Key recommendations included defining clear membership criteria, ensuring representation from the Global South, facilitating regular meetings, and establishing a steering committee to guide VoTAN's activities. The consultation also highlighted the importance of reflecting victims' priorities in the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism to be held in October 2024. Participants expressed strong support for the initiative, contributing valuable insights and expressing a desire to be involved in its development. This is a crucial step towards launching VoTAN in 2025, with further consultations planned with other regions of the world.

Commemoration of the 20th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism

In March, the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, along with the UNOCT Madrid Programme Office, participated in the 20th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism, organized by the European Commission (EC) and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain. This significant commemoration, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks of 11 March in Madrid, gathered Spanish and European victims, associations, and high-level authorities under the patronage of the King and Queen of Spain. High-level interventions underscored the importance of remembrance and the need to recognize, support, and protect the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism. During the reception, UNCCT representatives had the opportunity to discuss the VoT Programme's activities with key stakeholders, including King Felipe VI, who expressed particular interest in the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism to be held in Spain.

Memories exhibition on the occasion of the European Remembrance Day of Victims of Terrorism

On 7 March, the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme, in collaboration with the Fundación Víctimas del Terrorismo (FVT), or Victims of Terrorism Foundation in Spain, unveiled the 'Memories' exhibition at the National Auditorium of Music in Madrid. This event was part of the activities leading up to the 20th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism and the 20th anniversary of the 11 March terrorist attacks in Madrid. The unveiling took place alongside the XXII Memorial Concert, organized annually by the FVT under the patronage of the King of Spain, and attended by Spanish authorities, victims and survivors of terrorism, and victims' associations. Madrid represents the fifth Spanish city to host the 'Memories' exhibition, following Malaga, Vitoria, Valladolid, and Pamplona. The

exhibition is part of ongoing awareness-raising efforts, with plans for a future exhibition in Brussels in collaboration with the EU.

Preparations for International Conference of Victims of Terrorism

This quarter, the UNCCT Global Victims of Terrorism Programme conducted a scoping mission to Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, organized by the Spanish Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs to plan the International Conference on Victims of Terrorism on 8-9 October 2024. The mission included a site visit to Palacio de Europa, the proposed venue, and discussions with the Municipality of Vitoria. Following the mission, a Working Group was established to refine the budget and draft the conference agenda based on insights from victims of terrorism and victims' associations gathered during consultations. The conference aims to explore the roles of victims and survivors of terrorism as educators, agents for change, and advocates for peace and resilience. It will highlight their contributions to preventing terrorism, promoting social cohesion, and empowering communities. This initiative underscores the Centre's commitment to supporting victims globally and advancing efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

Outcome 4.3: Increased Member State implementation of human rights based, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for individuals with alleged links to United Nations-listed terrorist groups taking into account age and gender considerations.

Security and Accountability Task Force on Returnees with the Government of Iraq

The UNCCT Global PRR Programme implemented two meetings of the Security and Accountability Task Force under the Technical Working Group for the Implementation of the Global Framework on the Return of Iraqi Nationals from Northeast Syria, along with the co-chair from the Government of Iraq, the Supreme Judicial Council. The meetings resulted in the identification of technical assistance needs, particularly on screening, gender related aspects, and human rights compliant investigations. The meetings increased coordination among Government actors on subsequent rounds of repatriations from Al Hol camp and detention centres in the northeast of the Syrian Arab Republic. The meetings also promoted coherence between the Government of Iraq and the relevant UN entities on Security and Accountability issues related to returns. These activities were made possible through the ongoing generous funding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Denmark.

Support to EU-UN Counter-Terrorism Threats Facility to Develop a Support Package for Iraq

UNCCT supported the inception mission of experts working under the EU-UN Global Terrorism Threats Facility to start implementing a support package for the Government of Iraq. The support package aims to improve the capacities of the Iraqi National Security Service (NSS) to register and screen Iraqi nationals in Al Hol to support their voluntary repatriation, in line with relevant international law and best practices, and in line with the parameters laid out by a United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) risk assessment. The mission provided an opportunity to collect additional information on the ongoing process and will inform a technical assistance package, including through the provision of advisory and training services on interviewing skills and data collection, and equipment to support the registration process and development of a secure and functional database.

Development of Joint Framework on PRR and Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration

On 21 March, UNCCT PRR team attended the first quarterly meeting of the Inter Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (IAWG-DDR), co-chaired by the OROLSI DDR Section and UNDP. UNCCT and the Department of Peace Operations, in consultation with other UN entities, started developing a joint framework to support Member States to comprehensively address the issue of terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin through a “one-UN” approach. The Framework will promote complementarity among humanitarian, development, security and accountability work in the region with respect to exits from armed groups and terrorist groups, by supporting the coherent operationalization of PRR and DDR processes in the context of existing counter-terrorism and peacebuilding tools and strategies.

Strategic Goal 5: Promote human-rights compliant and gender responsive CT/PCVE efforts

Description of Goal

UNCCT supports Member States and other partners to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote gender equality and women’s empowerment while countering terrorism, in line with their international obligations, the outcome of the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and inspired by the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights. This is undertaken by ensuring that UNCCT’s strategic direction, global policy and coordination functions, as well as programming and operational processes contribute to the integration of human rights and gender equality within CT/PCVE efforts. UNCCT and its partners will support women and girl’s representation and leadership in CT/PCVE. UNCCT will also enhance its capabilities to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to ensure respect of human rights in the delivery of its CT/PCVE mandates and ensure that its CT/PCVE efforts are informed by context specific gender analyses.

Integration and promotion of human rights in UNCCT activities

Human rights and gender are mainstreamed across UNCCT activities, with support and guidance from the UNOCT Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS). In the first quarter of 2024, several UNCCT activities incorporated human rights and/or gender considerations or further supported the promotion of human rights and gender equality. A brief description of these activities is listed below.

Integration and promotion of gender considerations and gender mainstreaming in UNCCT activities

Gender mainstreaming across UNCCT activities is guided by the UNOCT Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Action Plan (2022). The Action Plan is coordinated by the Gender Unit of HRGS with the support of the Gender Task Force (GTF), which includes nine UNCCT programme and project managers. In the first quarter, GTF held one extended meeting, during which the focal points discussed achievements,

challenges and lessons learnt from the previous year. One of the achievements has been an improved performance against the indicators of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0). As per the 2023 report, UNOCT exceeds requirements in 4 of the 17 performance indicators, while meeting requirements in 11 others. UNCCT Programmes, especially the Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism and the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, have made significant contributions towards strengthened gender-responsiveness of capacity building they provide to Member States.

In the first quarter of 2024, the Gender Unit supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies in the delivery of the CT Tech national capacity building assistance “Developing national counter-terrorism policy and operational responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes while protecting human rights” in Kenya and Uzbekistan for a total of 56 officials. Each workshop featured two presentations on human-rights based and gender-sensitive approaches to the development of law enforcement technological capabilities and on mainstreaming human rights and gender into threat assessment and policy responses to the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. Each workshop also included a discussion on the status of integration of human rights and gender considerations into law enforcement capabilities when it comes to new technologies and co-facilitated a session. With the workshops having taken a comprehensive approach to incorporating human rights and gender considerations, relevant issues were addressed throughout all sessions, particularly on developing and measuring counter-terrorism policy responses to mitigate the threats.