



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

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

1st QUARTER

YEAR V OF THE 5-YEAR PROGRAMME

1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2020

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	6
Part I: UNCCT Advisory Board	8
Part II: Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight	10
Part III: Overview of Programme Implementation	12
Pillar I: Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism	12
Pillar II: Preventing and Combatting Terrorism	15
Pillar III: Building States' Capacity and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations	23
Pillar IV: Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law	26
Programme Management Unit (PMU)	29
Part IV Communications and Visibility	32
Part V: Financial Overview	36
Part VI: Conclusion	38

Abbreviations and acronyms

AIMC	Arab Interior Minister's Council
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BSM	Border Security and Management
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CEPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CT/PVE	Countering Terrorism/ Preventing Violent Extremism
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
DGC	Department of Global Communications
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
EU	European Union
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GCTC	Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact
GCTF	Global Counter-Terrorism Forum
GCTS	Global Counter Terrorism Strategy
GdF	Italy's Guardia di Finanza

GICNT	Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
G5 Sahel	Group of Five Sahel countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OICT	Office of Information and Communications Technology
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OROLSI	United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PPBA	Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment
PRB	Programme Review Board
PRR	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SCR	Security Council Resolution

SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSC	South-South Cooperation
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	United Nations Office of Disarmament affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
USG	Under-Secretary-General
WCO	World Customs Organization
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

Executive Summary

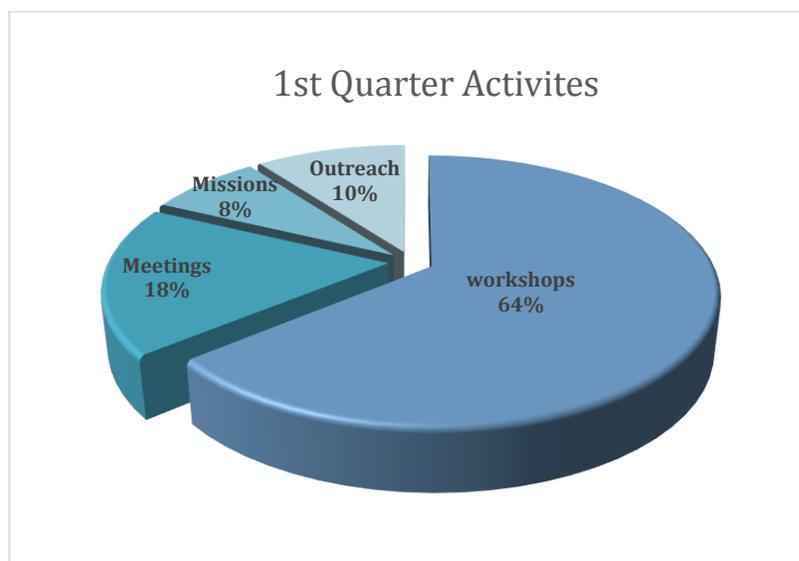
The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), located in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), is in the fifth year of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme (2016-2020). This report provides an update of the implementation of UNCCT capacity-building programmes, projects and activities for the 1 January - 31 March 2020 reporting period. In addition to the executive summary, the report consists of five sections: (1) an overview of programme implementation under each of the four Pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; (2) the Centre's work on communications and visibility; (3) an update on monitoring, evaluation and oversight activities; (4) financial update of the status of the United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism, resource allocation, and programme performance; and (5) a concluding section.

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) impacted our normal working environment. Following the decision by the United Nations Secretary-General in early March for United Nations staff to work from home, UNOCT swiftly began organizing and establishing protocols including activation of the business continuity plan and adopting other practical measures.

Faced with complexity of the situation, a multi-layered approach was instituted by the Office to keep programmatic disruptions to a minimum and deliver on our commitments by adapting to new ways of working, re-ordering work activities, and maintaining the efficiency and effectiveness of results, while at the same time focusing on the safety and wellbeing of our personnel, partners, and beneficiaries around the world.

This approach included supporting staff to rapidly adjust to remote working situations and new working methods, and assessing the impact on our planned activities. With restrictions on planned travel and the postponement or cancellation of planned events, the Centre focused the last part of March on prioritising: 1) desk reviews or on-line trainings and exchanges with interlocutors; 2) the development of training tools, materials, and curricula; 3) knowledge management, including systematizing lessons learned and best practices and ensuring appropriate reporting to donors; and 4) pursuing innovative solutions for policy and programme delivery and collaboration. This approach will continue into the second quarter and likely the remainder of 2020 while COVID-19-related restrictions remain in place.

Over the course of the reporting period, UNCCT programmes and projects delivered **25 workshops**, engaging 550 participants; **7 expert and coordination meetings**, **3 technical and/or scoping missions**, including to Saudi Arabia, Maldives and the Philippines. The Centre also held **five (5) UNCCT outreach events** (side events, panels, seminars, briefings) in the areas of Preventing Violent Extremism, Border Security and Management, and terrorist use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) materials.



The Under-Secretary-General for the Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNCCT Executive Director, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, recognised the potential impact the current COVID-19 pandemic would have on victims of terrorism, and on 27 March 2020 sent a statement of support and solidarity to victims of terrorism all over the world, which was shared on the UNOCT website, the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and across various social media platforms.

The Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism planned for 30 June 2020 seeks to provide a platform to enhance the role and voice of victims of terrorism and to pave the way for future work on victims. Preparations to organise the Congress, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, were undertaken during this period, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary-General agreed to postpone the event along with other events planned for Counter-Terrorism Week.

During the reporting period, UNCCT spearheaded the development of a Global Framework for all-of-UN Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from Syria and Iraq to provide a coordinated, coherent human rights-based age and gender sensitive approach to protection, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of this population, particularly women

and children. Fifteen UN entities are participating in the Global Framework, which should be finalized in the second quarter.

UNCCT also engaged in the KPMG evaluation of its 5-Year Programme. During the reporting period, KPMG undertook an initial mission to New York, which was followed by a data collection exercise and continuous consultations. During the New York mission and in line with the schedule of meetings requested by KPMG, a total of 34 officials met with KPMG, including project managers, branch and section chiefs, the gender advisor, the human rights officer, and representatives from a section of Permanent Missions and representatives from UN entities.

The Civil Society Engagement Strategy to enable UNOCT and UNCCT to more broadly engage with civil society in a more structured and systematic manner was finalized and work commenced on developing a civil society engagement programme. Dedicated capacity for civil society engagement will be based in UNCCT with a focal point network throughout UNOCT.

In preparation for the development of the UNOCT Gender Policy and Action Plan, a Gender Taskforce was created with representation from all UNOCT and UNCCT units. The Taskforce has 18 members involved in UNOCT's programming and policy making and will have a critical role in the development of UNOCT's Gender Assessment, its Gender Policy and Action Plan and subsequently in its implementation.

Adjustments have been made to ensure implementation of the Global Compact Working Group on Gender Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism project entitled "CSO Consultations to inform debates of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) review: The role of the UN in supporting human rights defenders and civil society" focused on gender equality and women empowerment in the context of counter terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism within the context of the COVID-19 lockdown. Preparations are underway and digital consultations with CSOs from the Global South will be initiated in mid-April.

Part I: UNCCT Advisory Board

The 19th meeting of the UNCCT Advisory Board was held on 20 January 2020 in New York. It was chaired by Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Chairman of the UNCCT Advisory Board, attended by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT and the Executive Director of UNCCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, UNCCT Director Mr.

Jehangir Khan, and with participation of Permanent Representatives, Deputy Permanent Representatives and other senior representatives from the Permanent Missions.



Following opening remarks by Ambassador Al-Mouallimi, by Executive Director Voronkov, and the President of the General Assembly, Members of the Advisory Board were updated on the work of UNOCT.

Substantive discussions included capacity building activities during 2019, expansion of existing project in areas such as countering the financing of terrorism; youth engagement; cyber security and new technologies; victims of terrorism; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; as well as screening, prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

UNCCT's leading role for the International Victims of Terrorism Congress, during the upcoming Counter-Terrorism Week was explained.

Mr. Voronkov informed the board that KPMG is producing a forward-looking report that will evaluate the current status and performance of UNCCT, including by assessing progress towards the implementation of the 5-Year Programme. He mentioned that the advice and recommendations of KPMG would be crucial to understand how to improve UNCCT's business model, which would also help increase transparency and visibility and thereby attract additional funding for financial diversity.

Mr. Voronkov mentioned that the conceptualization of how to position UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence was already underway, starting with developing its new Programme of Work and ongoing considerations to shorten the programme period from five to two or three years, as a

shorter timeframe would allow for better calibration of the programme vis-à-vis available funding and emerging trends.

Member State Feedback

Members of the Advisory Board thanked the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, USG Voronkov, and Mr. Khan, and welcomed Mr. Gregorian as the new Deputy to the USG. They also welcomed the appointment of Spain and Egypt as co-facilitators of the 7th review of GCTS. They noted with appreciation the detailed overview of UNCCT activities in 2019.

Members welcomed the measures to grow the capacity-building activities across all four pillars of the GCTS and are encouraged by the trend of increased UNCCT projects and programmes. Some Members called for an increase in Pillar III and IV to achieve a more balanced implementation of the Global Strategy. Others noted also that capacity-building assistance should be demand-driven and stressed the need for coordination to avoid potential duplication of activities.

Additionally, the Member States supported a streamlined UNCCT Programme of Work, while stressing the need to include more women, civil society, youth and experts, and called for the participation of civil society in Counter-Terrorism Week.

Members welcomed the evaluation being conducted by KPMG and supported the idea of shortening UNCCT's next programme of work. Finally, the Members called for more predictable, sustainable, and regular budget funding for UNCCT.

Part II: Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight

KPMG Evaluation

During the reporting period, a team from KPMG undertook a kick-off mission to New York on 27-28 January 2020 and conducted preliminary interviews and a desk review related to UNCCT's implementation of its 5-Year Programme. KPMG met with Under-Secretary-General Voronkov who shared his vision and expectations from the evaluation exercise, as well as the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, Ambassador Al-Mouallimi. KPMG also held a series of meetings with senior officials from UNOCT, as well as UNCCT project managers.

KPMG submitted a draft inception report on 3rd March 2020 following its second mission to New York. This was followed up with another data collection exercise and consultations in New York on 9-13 March 2020. During this mission and in line with the schedule of meetings requested by KPMG, a total of 34 officials met with KPMG. KPMG held consultative meetings with Project

Managers, Chief of UNCCT Branches/Sections, the Gender Advisor, the Human Rights Officer and a select few representatives from Permanent Missions. KPMG also met with representatives from UN Agencies and other Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

With travel and other restrictions related to COVID-19, KPMG agreed with the Executive Director of UNCCT to review the KPMG work schedule regarding the field visits to the countries where projects implemented by UNCCT were selected for detailed study (Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan). Following the 9-13 March 2020 mission in New York, KPMG provided a revised workplan that took into account the given exigencies of operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and proposed conducting additional on-line interviews and consultations with a wider group of stakeholders. The additional interviews proposed for the second quarter will cover all UNCCT Advisory Board members and the Global Compact entities.

Also, during the reporting period, the draft UNOCT evaluation policy was submitted to the USG for his review.

UNOCT Programme Review Board

During the first quarter of 2020 the UNOCT Programme Review Board (PRB) held one meeting, on 30 January 2020, in which ten (10) agenda items were considered (not all of which related to UNCCT). The total value of activities recommended for approval during the first quarter amounted to US\$13.7 million. Programmes or projects approved by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov as a result of PRB recommendations during the first quarter included project documents entitled “Supporting Lake Chad Basin Countries to Develop and Implement the Strategies for the Screening and PRR of Boko-Haram Associated Persons, “Strengthening Burkina Faso’s Criminal Justice Response to Caseload of Detainees Suspected of Terrorist Offences,” and “Joint Programme in Central Asia.” The Board also recommended approval of the concept note for the “UNOCT-UNCCT Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism”.

In addition, the Board recommended approval of programmes entitled “UNCCT-INTERPOL Project Hotspot,” “Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies” and the “UNOCT Gender Programme” which is housed within UNCCT’s Pillar I & IV Branch. Finally the Board recommended approval of a seed-funding project entitled “Working Group on Border Security and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism entitled “Developing Guidelines for Member States to Facilitate the Implementation of SCR 2370 (2017) and the Relevant International Standards and Good Practices on Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons,” and a no-cost extension and amendment of an existing seed-funding

project entitled “Promoting the Implementation of United Nations Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Approaches to Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration.”

These proposals were also approved by Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Part III: Overview of Programme Implementation

Pillar I: Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism

In the first quarter of 2020, under the umbrella of the project “**Coordinated one-UN support to Member States on PVE policy making and developing National and Regional PVE Plans of Action**”, UNCCT extended its support to Sudan in the development of a PVE National Action Plan. In collaboration with UNDP-Sudan, the project consulted with, and secured buy-in from, all key stakeholders for an “all-of-government” and “all-of-society” approach to the drafting of the National Action Plan. Those consulted included the Prime Minister’s Office, the Sudan National Commission on Counter-Terrorism, various ministries, civil society stakeholders, UN country team and donor embassies. These interactions raised awareness on the need for a non-securitized approach to preventing violent extremism which led to engaging the Ministry of Education that is part of the inter-agency Sudan National Commission on Counter-Terrorism. As a result, in February 2020, a roadmap was developed and members of the steering committee for the drafting of the National Action Plan were identified. In order to respond to the effect of the COVID-19 crisis, UNCCT has been in touch with the Sudanese authorities to explore remote consultation methods for the steering committee.

On 17-22 February 2020, UNCCT participated in the Kenyan government-hosted seminar on “Changing face of terrorism and violent extremism: practical responses” in Nairobi. With the participants consisting of 22 Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors, the seminar saw vigorous debate on PVE including a need voiced by African Member States about pursuing local solutions to violent extremism.

The project-initiated work on support to Togo for development of a PVE National Action Plan, deploying a regional PVE advisory presence for the Gulf of Guinea planned for the third quarter of 2020. Restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic may impact this planned timeline.

In the reporting period, the project delivered a forward-looking review of all PVE programming by UN entities in Bangladesh. This is expected to be presented to the Resident Coordinator in May 2020, and the terms of reference for a proposed inter-ministerial mechanism

on PVE in the country, is also planned to be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May 2020.

Following the designation of UNOCT as the coordinator of the UN Contact Group for the ASEAN Bali workplan, the project also submitted to ASEAN the consolidated list of commitments by UN Agencies towards activities identified in the Bali workplan. It is worth noting that this is the first time that UN agencies have agreed to have UNOCT coordinate and represent their activities to a regional organization.

Through a series of interviews with all stakeholders, UNCCT also launched the drafting of a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework for use by donors and PCVE portfolio managers among Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities. In addition, it delivered a UNOCT position paper on trends in violent extremism in South Asia for the UN's multi-agency Regional Quarterly Review.

As part of the project, UNCCT deployed a UNOCT expert consultant to advise the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Mogadishu to support the mission's PCVE unit in revising Somalia's National PCVE strategy.

The project secured multi-year funding as part of an EU-FPI funded joint UNDP-UNOCT project in South-East Asia. The funding would enable the project to deploy national PVE coordination officers in Resident Coordinators' offices in Indonesia and the Philippines. The deployments are planned for the second half of 2020 and in 2021.

In the first quarter, UNCCT marked a significant advancement in the area of PCVE through youth engagement under the **Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme**. Comprehensive monitoring frameworks and a robust workplan was created, which will ensure improved results-based tracking of youth-focused resource allocation. This has helped form a structural basis on which delivery of youth engagement activities, coordination and capacity-building can take place.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, UNCCT reviewed the programme workplan for 2020 and determined it is able to deliver towards the expected outcomes and outputs with minor adjustments to planned activities. This can be achieved by frontloading the development of induction material, training material for young leaders in PCVE and other knowledge products, communications strategy, and a youth engagement model for PCVE-efforts. UNCCT also engaged with Member States who have expressed their interest to host Youth Forums and related activities later in 2020. These fora have been designed in a way that allows for in-person delivery as well as virtual engagement by proxy, which irrespective of approach will contribute towards the expected outcome of developing a data-driven, evidence-based, human rights compliant and

youth-informed programme and by establishing formal mechanisms and engagement platforms for meaningful youth participation.

Under the project **“Prevention of Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia”**, UNCCT finalized a self-evaluation process with UNESCO where a joint strategic partnership and project coordination/planning workshop in Paris on 26-27 February 2020 was held. The workshop aimed to review the final draft of the self-evaluation report and its recommendations. The process supports project improvements and it will contribute broadly to improving PCVE programming by providing concrete lessons in terms of relevance and efficacy of different youth-focused PCVE interventions. In addition, the workshop provided a platform to improve coordination and communication, particularly with UNESCO field offices, joint planning of activities in 2020, and exploring opportunities for stronger encoding of gender dimension. UNCCT received positive feedback, including from a representative from the Government of Canada who welcomed the “rare but commendable instance of deep self-reflection between two UN entities” demonstrated at the event, which according to the representative had good potential for strengthened UNOCT/UNCCT-UNESCO partnership and enhanced synergies.

In the reporting period, UNCCT continued implementing the project **“Building the Capacity of Technical and Vocational Training Institutes in Indonesia and the Maldives”**. The PVE Field Guide for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes in Indonesia was finalized in English and Bahasa, which is the culmination of a unique partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNCCT that demonstrates the synergies built through the Global Compact. The PVE Field Guide is a contextualized knowledge product that has been tailored to teachers, instructors, counsellors and educators more broadly on how to enhance their role to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism. This guide is currently in use at several TVET institutes in Indonesia under the auspices of the Ministry of Manpower and with the guidance of ILO. Another outcome of the follow-up activities to the workshop series was the production of three short education videos on radicalization, violent extremism and intolerance, that are publicly available on YouTube. The videos are the result of the project partnership with the Wahid Foundation, a national civil society organization in Indonesia.

In the first quarter of 2020, the **“PVE through Strategic Communications”** project focused on UNCCT continued support to Member States, contributing to global efforts to counter terrorist narratives, and the adaptation of capacity building products to help Member States effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 28 January 2020, UNCCT provided a briefing on the

progress of the project and lessons learnt to the Open Meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, “Countering terrorist narratives and preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”. On 19 February 2020, UNCCT briefed the Communications Working Group of the Global Coalition against Daesh on the project’s capacity building work with six East African countries on PVE Crisis Communications.

The project also continued to co-design PVE Strategic Communications capacity building projects with Member States, regional organisations and UN Country Teams. This has included engaging the Government of Iraq’s Working Group on Strategic Communications established within the National Security Council, continuing UNCCT work with IGAD’s International Centre of Excellence in PCVE, and with UN agencies in the field in Bangladesh and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, the project has established new project proposals with the UN Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Global Communications, which aim to build the capacity and skills of peacekeepers and other field-based UN staff respectively.

The increasing exploitation of violent extremist and hate speech narratives in the wake of COVID-19 has highlighted the ongoing need for PVE through Strategic Communications capacity building and technical assistance. The project adapted existing capacity building products related to crisis communications to rapidly deploy a COVID-19 strategic communications toolkit and templates for UNOCT. This material is being tailored to support Member States and UN Country Teams in their response to the crisis, including by helping beneficiaries to foster greater social cohesion and community resilience in the recovery stage of the pandemic. Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 measures impacted the field-based implementation of the project. In response, the project transformed its activities on-line, to the extent possible, including by developing online “scoping missions” for UNCCT work in Bangladesh, and establishing a digital Crisis Communications simulation tool.

Pillar II: Preventing and Combatting Terrorism

The Centre’s work relating to Pillar II of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has now been consolidated into four major programmes relating to border security and management, countering the financing of terrorism, cyber and new technologies, and terrorist use of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear, and Small Arms and Light Weapons. In all these areas, UNCCT is called on to provide its world class expertise to Member States and international and regional organizations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of events had to be postponed and during the reporting period UNCCT staff have taken steps to organize alternative means of delivering capacity-building support to Member States. The Centre will report on the success of these efforts in the next Quarterly Project Highlight Report.

In line with the General Assembly's mandate to step up national, regional and international efforts of cooperation to improve border control and to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists, coupled with supporting the UN system in the reform and modernization of border management systems, facilities and institutions at all levels, the following activities were carried out under the framework of **UNCCT's Global Border Security and Management (BSM) programme**, during the first quarter of 2020.

The UNCCT BSM programme continues to play a substantive leading role in the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) Watchlisting Initiative, and in January 2020, supported the Initiative's Launch Event held in New York. The GCTF Initiative, co-led by the United States and the United Nations, aims to enhance the implementation of the requirements under Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017) by advancing states' ability to put into practice key parts of the New York Memorandum on Good Practices for Interdicting Terrorist Travel. The launch of the event was attended by 72 national-level counter-terrorism policy representatives and expert participants including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), INTERPOL, World Customs Organization (WCO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and GCTF Member States.

A national three-day training on good practices in border security and management to enhance national capacities of customs, port authorities, police, immigration officials and counter-terrorism officers in combatting cross-border threats in Burkina Faso was delivered in Ouagadougou on 5-7 February 2020. The training, which further aimed at effectively preventing, detecting, identifying and intercepting the entry or transit of suspected terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters and their affiliates, through the responsible use of traveler identification systems whilst abiding by international human-right norms, was attended by 35 in-class participants from 12 of Burkina Faso's border-control areas, the National Police, the National Customs Office, along with officials of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Border Commission (Secrétariat Permanent Commission Nationale des Frontières), and the government body for environmental management, water and forestry of Ouagadougou.

Whilst in the G5 Sahel region, a scoping mission was conducted in Bamako, Mali, from 10 -12 February, within the framework of the partnership agreement between UNCCT and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to further expand our joint cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Mali to enhance its border security and counter-terrorism

mechanisms. Consultations were held with the Office of the Prime Minister, the General Directorate of the National Police and the European Union Delegation in the country.

From 3-5 March, UNCCT jointly organized with IOM's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) a three-day national multi-stakeholder workshop, with a view to enhancing intra and inter-agency cooperation to combat terrorism and trans-national organized crime in the Maldives, as well as to support government agencies responsible for border management and counter-terrorism by the sharing of national and international best practices. The workshop took place at the formal request for technical assistance from the Immigration Service of the Maldives to support inter-agency cooperation and integrate best practices on counter-terrorism and intelligence-led risk analysis into broader border security and migration management frameworks within the country. It was attended by 32 senior-level participants from national agencies, such as: Immigration Service, Customs Service, Police Service, National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Monetary Authority, Aviation Security Command, Ministry of Transport, Coast Guard, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, President's Office, Offices of the Prosecutor and Attorney General.

Also, in early March, UNCCT attended the Henry L. Stimson Center's Chemical Security & 1540 National Action Plan Workshop held in Washington, DC, United States and presented the global BSM programme. At the platform, UNCCT also engaged in discussion on further opportunities of partnership and cooperation in capacity building activities with the Stimson Center and advice for the development and implementation of comprehensive national strategies in Paraguay and Suriname aimed at strengthening national border security and management as a means for countering terrorism.

On 24 March 2020, in support of the ongoing Biometrics Initiative, UNCCT participated remotely in two e-conferences: "Technology focus. Accuracy, demographic differentials and other challenges" and "Privacy and data protection focus. Privacy, data security and data sharing – regulating biometrics: what is needed?", organized by the Biometrics Institute.

In light of the current global health crisis, two UNCCT regional activities planned for March 2020 were postponed sine die: the regional workshop to raise awareness and enhance the capacity of Member States in the responsible use and sharing of biometric data to detect, prevent, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and other serious crimes at borders, which was to be held from 3 to 5 March in Singapore; and the high-level regional conference on strengthening border security and strategic trade to counter terrorism in the travel cycle, originally programmed for 26-27 March in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. UNCCT is looking into rescheduling these events once travel restrictions related to the coronavirus crisis are no longer in effect.

While the global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the delivery of some planned activities under the UNCCT BSM programme, active efforts to ensure continued collaboration and building upon ongoing partnerships through innovative solutions has worked to maintain the strong momentum of implementation. This has included substantive exchanges with key partners such as IOM, INTERPOL, UNODC, CTED, and OSCE, as well as identifying new partners such as European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) which will further strengthen the delivery of support and expertise to Member States during and after the crisis.

UNCCT continued to implement its flagship Project on **“Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) through Effective National and Regional Action”** through national and regional training workshops. In addition, UNCCT expanded its offerings of trainings to beneficiary countries by organizing workshops in third-country law enforcement training institutes with which UNOCT has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), such as Italy’s Guardia di Finanza (GdF). UNCCT also concluded a six-month process of sub-regional engagements with member jurisdictions of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) to identify key priorities and capacity-building shortcomings on the implementation of the ESAAMLG Regional Operational Plan on CFT. Finally, UNCCT and CTED made further progress in producing a handbook for Tunisian officials on freezing of assets and terrorist designations, as requested by the national authorities.

From 13 – 17 January, UNCCT and GdF convened the first jointly organized capacity-building training for 22 Mongolian officials belonging to a wide range of ministries and national agencies. The workshop was the result of an MoU signed between UNOCT and GdF for joint trainings in March 2019 and marked the first of such deliveries where practical information on CFT from a law enforcement perspective were shared. The event was the third engagement between UNCCT and the Mongolian authorities, following the two trainings previously held in Ulaanbaatar in October 2018 and April 2019 on asset freezing and protection of the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) sector from terrorist abuse, respectively. The trainings at GdF resulted in practical discussions on implementation of the international framework on CFT, a deeper understanding of linkages with organized criminal networks and the latest methods on data analysis and dissemination to identify, track and suppress terrorist financing sources. At the end of the workshop, the Government of Mongolia expressed an interest to build on the discussions through stronger and more frequent collaboration with GdF.

From 30 – 31 January, UNCCT organized, in collaboration with CTED and the Government of Tunisia, the third round of consultations to benefit Tunisia’s National Counter-Terrorism Committee on the subject of effective freezing of assets and terrorist designations. The workshop benefited from expertise contributed by the Governments of France, Luxembourg and the

Netherlands, as well as the European Union. As a next step, UNCCT and CTED will review Tunisia's existing frameworks on asset freezing and offer additional advice, in the form of direct consultations and material review, to produce a comprehensive guidebook that could be used by Tunisian officials as a sustainable tool for effective efforts to counter terrorist financing and meet international obligations.

Finally, from 27 – 28 February, UNCCT and ESAAMLG jointly convened in Mbabane, Eswatini, the third and last sub-regional workshop on the implementation of ESAAMLG's regional operational plan on CFT. The workshop brought together officials from Eswatini (host), Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia and Seychelles, and helped identify specific priorities at the national and regional levels on making progress on the plan's implementation. The consultations registered an 88% satisfaction rate. As a result of the workshop, ESAAMLG will prepare a work plan going forward on the plan's implementation, which would be considered by UNCCT and its partners, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Secretariat. The plan was also a subject of discussion during the FATF's February plenary meeting from 16 – 21 February, at which UNCCT participated and offered its views on progress achieved on the implementation of the regional plan.

UNCCT also worked on convening a CFT capacity-building workshop for Iraqi officials in Istanbul, Turkey, from 4 – 5 March, which was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the region. Efforts are being made with the relevant governments to identify new dates, subject to changing travel restrictions. More broadly, the CFT programme is engaging with Member States where future events were planned to be held, such as Bahrain, the Russian Federation and Tunisia. In addition, the CFT programme is working with partners, such as CTED, UNODC, OICT and UNICRI to identify remote learning options and deliver trainings through the internet for focus groups at financial intelligence units, mandated government agencies, law enforcement bodies and relevant private sector entities.

During the first quarter of 2020, under its **Cybersecurity and New Technologies portfolio**, UNCCT completed two missions, implemented one regional workshop and consolidated its portfolio into a multi-year **“Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies”**.

In January, UNCCT presented a new programme to UNOCT's Programme Review Board to consolidate and expand all the capacity building initiatives of the Centre regarding cybersecurity and other new technologies. Entitled **“Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies”**, it seeks to support Member States, international and regional organizations and UN entities to raise awareness of the terrorist cyber-threat and to enhance technical capacities required to prevent, mitigate and respond against terrorist and violent

extremist groups misusing new technologies like the internet and Artificial Intelligence to perform attacks against critical infrastructure. The programme also intends to enhance capacities of Member States to counter and investigate terrorist activities by gathering digital forensic evidence and through the use of new technologies.

In January, a scoping mission to Naif Arab University for Security Science (NAUSS) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was conducted to discuss the possibility of cooperation between the programmatic work of the Cybersecurity and New technologies unit and NAUSS. The main focus of the discussions was NAUSS's digital forensics laboratories and other technical capabilities. NAUSS leaders expressed their interest in collaborating with UNCCT and establishing a sustainable partnership where they can provide their expertise in the region. Moving forward, UNCCT will engage NAUSS in collaborative programme activities in the MENA region, subject to the completion of an MoU between the two entities.

On 18 and 19 February, UNCCT conducted its first cybersecurity workshop for Member States of the Sahel, East Africa and Horn of Africa regions. Entitled 'Enhancing the Capacity of Member States to Prevent and Investigate Cyber-Attacks by Terrorist Actors and Mitigate their Impact' the workshop was attended by 61 participants from 15 countries, namely Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Additional participants and contributors included delegates from IGAD, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the private sector. During the discussion it became clear that there is a strong general need for enhancement of capacities in the areas of: 1) all-of-society cybersecurity awareness raising; 2) national criminal legislation and cybersecurity strategy development; 3) information sharing among national, international and regional cybersecurity actors; 4) protection of critical information infrastructure; and 5) development of national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). Based on these outcomes, the programme will continue conversations with Permanent Missions in New York and with relevant national counterparts of the beneficiary Member States in order to plan the next steps of national-level capacity building activities in Africa.

On 10 and 11 March, UNCCT conducted a mission to Brussels to introduce the new Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies to potential donors and partners through participation in a European Union (EU) Cybersecurity Capacity-Building Network (EU CyberNet) workshop. Other activities scheduled for this mission were cancelled as part of the mitigation actions for the COVID-19 outbreak.

In March, a new project was launched under the Global Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme. Funded by the Government of Japan, the project "Enhancing skills of Asian officials in relation to structured methodologies for the collection of Open Source

Information from the Internet and Social Media for counter-terrorism investigations” will be implemented in South Asia and South East Asia from April 2020 to March 2021. The goal of the project is to raise awareness and contribute to the ability of beneficiary Member States to counter and investigate terrorist activities online and prevent the radicalization of other violent extremists using Social Media and Internet-related technologies. The project has a strong focus on research of best practices and opportunities regarding technical capacities like the use of Artificial Intelligence and investigation of encrypted communications on the dark web.

In response to the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the end of the reporting period the Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme plan was revised. As a result, activities involving travel were postponed and desk-based activities like the compilation of reports and the preparation of research papers was brought forward in the project plan.

During the reporting period, the programme on **“Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism”** extended its portfolio to include small arms, light weapons and improvised explosive devices. In addition, the programme worked on a six-month contingency plan to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of activities for upcoming quarters. The programme is currently focused on developing alternative methods of delivery of activities.

Under the visibility output, UNCCT participated at the Rogue Tango Regional Tabletop Exercise organized by the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Governments of Argentina, Canada and Mexico. The event, which took place from 3-6 March 2020 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, convened 70 participants coming from Member States in Latin America, as well as International Organizations, and focused on the response to a terrorist attack perpetrated with a radiological dispersion device. UNCCT presented its work on nuclear security, including the workshops on nuclear security at borders and awareness-raising on the relevance of international legal framework.

With regards to the output on partnerships, UNCCT strengthened its collaboration with the UN Security Council 1540 Committee by becoming an official provider of capacity-building assistance to Member States. This is the result of a letter sent by UNOCT USG in October 2018 to the Chair of the Committee (at that time Bolivia) offering UNOCT/UNCCT support for the implementation of the resolution 1540 (2004). Following the appointment of the new Group of Experts of the Committee, UNCCT was informed that the Committee accepted the offered support and decided to include UNCCT as a provider of assistance. It is worth noting that, through resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council affirmed that the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and their means of delivery constitute a

threat to international peace and security. The resolution furthermore obliges States, inter alia, to refrain from supporting by any means non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using CBRN weapons and their means of delivery.

Under the output on threat and risk analysis, on 30 March UNCCT and INTERPOL signed an agreement to conduct a global study on the threat posed by CBRN terrorism. The first phase of the study will focus on the region of Middle East and North Africa and will last 15 months. The work on the study is expected to begin in the second quarter.

Under the capacity-building output, UNCCT and UNODC, in close collaboration with CTED and UNODA, launched a joint pilot project on “Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: Preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of Small-Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their illicit supply to terrorists in Central Asia”. The high-level launch event took place on 21 February 2020 at the UN Headquarters, with welcoming remarks by USG Voronkov, and was attended by more than 130 participants from Member States and International Organizations, including UNODC Executive Director Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly and the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. The day before the launch event, UNCCT and UNODC organized an expert meeting to discuss the technical aspects of the project with the representatives of Member States from Central Asia.

Within the framework of the pilot project on “Enhancing national capacities to prevent and respond to chemical and biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq”, UNCCT and the US Department of State and US Department of Energy organized a workshop on Countering Clandestine Chemical and Biological Threats Through Virtual Reality Exercises on 24-26 February 2020 in Antalya, Turkey. The workshop gathered 40 participants from Iraq and increased awareness and knowledge among academia, industry, and law enforcement to recognize and disrupt efforts by terrorists to build mobile chemical and biological weapons laboratories.

Also, under the capacity-building output and the pilot project on “Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)”, UNCCT worked with GICNT and the Government of France on the preparation of the workshop and table-top exercise “Lutetia: Detection Based on Information and Links to Traditional National Security”. The exercise, engaging participants from the Sahel region and other GICNT States, was to address the interaction between the detection of criminal acts with nuclear security implications in the context of national security architectures. However, as a result of the global situation surrounding COVID-19, the event originally scheduled to be held on 7-9 April 2020 in Paris, France, has been postponed.

Similarly, UNCCT and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) worked together to organize a CBRN first-responders training course within the framework of the pilot project on “Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare for and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan”, which was ultimately postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The training of 20 Jordanian officials had been scheduled to take place on 20-24 April 2020 at the NATO Training Centre of Excellence in Vyskov, Czech Republic.

In support of international inter-agency coordination output, and through the Global Compact Working Group on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, UNCCT worked with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the finalization of the Working Group project on “Ensuring Effective Interagency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks - Phase III (Implementation)”. Additionally, through the Working Group project on “Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism” UNCCT and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) made preparations for a workshop on technology solutions to combat WMD Terrorism to take place on 7 April 2020 in Geneva. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the event was also postponed.

Pillar III: Building States’ Capacity and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations

During the reporting period, UNCCT maintained close engagement with its partners in relation to the project “Strengthening Burkina Faso’s Criminal Justice Response to Caseload of Detainees Suspected of Terrorist Offences”. While the deployment of an “Experiences and Options Mission” (EOM) to Burkina Faso had to be postponed sine die given the current global health crisis and restrictions, UNCCT continued its coordination efforts in order to assess the feasibility and relevance of holding virtual sessions with partner agencies (IOM, OHCHR, DPO (OROLSI PD/JCS/DDR), UNODC, CTED, UNDP, UNMAS and INTERPOL) to complete all preparatory work needed ahead of the deployment of the EOM. By doing so, it will allow UNCCT to swiftly conduct the EOM to Burkina Faso once the necessary conditions have been met. The EOM will follow a one-UN approach, by bringing together UN partner agencies that have concrete experience in supporting similar programmes in the region, to present the Government of Burkina Faso with different strategic options to consider, including in managing caseloads of detainees suspected of terrorism. In addition, overall coordination on Burkina Faso with key partners, including Member States, was ensured so UNCCT could better position itself in sync

with ongoing or planned initiatives (e.g., Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment, Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel, and the International Coalition for the Sahel).

In September 2019, UNCCT and the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) co-organized the first meeting of the Arab High Committee to launch “**Supporting the Development and Implementation of a Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the Arab World**” in Tunis. Under the same project, UNCCT held a strategic meeting with the Arab High Committee on 11 February 2020 and discussed strategic and policy aspects pertaining to the strategy, including its name and objectives as well as the guiding principles and working methodology in the review and development exercise. In addition, from 12-13 February, UNCCT co-organized with the Council a consultative workshop where members of the Arab Expert Sub-Committee gathered with UN and international experts to discuss matters pertaining to the Pillar II of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS). Areas discussed include international cooperation in criminal matters, linkages between terrorism and organised crime, criminalisation of terrorist acts, and countering the threat of foreign terrorist fighters and returnees.

On 1 March, UNCCT took part in the 37th session of the AIMC, where Interior Ministers and high representatives from security and law enforcement agencies across the Arab world gathered, together with heads of regional and international organizations, to discuss security matters, including organized crime. UNCCT provided an update on the status and activities of the project and reiterated its commitment to support Member States and the Council in addressing counter-terrorism challenges across the region.

As part of the “**Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism in Asia**” (**STRIVE Asia Programme**), under the overall coordination of UNCCT, a multi-agency team comprised of staff from UNCCT, UNODC and UNDP conducted scoping visits to the Philippines and the Maldives, from 22-23 January and 9-12 February 2020, respectively. During the meetings, the UN team met with government agencies, civil society organizations, other UN agencies, as well as potential donor community working in these two countries.

On 28 January 2020, the three UN partners and the EU held a technical coordination meeting to assess the project’s development and to finalize the selection of beneficiary-countries under the Programme, the objective of which is to contribute towards PCVE in Central, South and Southeast Asia through a multi-stakeholder approach, including governments, security actors, civil society and private sector entities.

During the reporting period and within the framework of the **Phase III** of the project “**Towards the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia**” preparation of an animation documentary commenced. In this film, the Central Asian states will

share their experience and practices on the repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration process of their citizens, in particular women and children from conflict zones.

In addition, development of an online capacity building training on human rights and terrorism for Central Asian Government Officials was initiated. It is expected that the training will be launched in July 2020.

Constantly evolving information and communication technologies provides a wide field for reaching an audience. To support the prevention of radicalization and recruitment of Central Asian migrant workers abroad, the project started the development of an internet radio with a strong PVE component. The use of this new tool will support the work to limit the influence of the destructive ideas of recruiters on one of the most vulnerable groups. The radio programs will be available in five Central Asian languages.

Under its global initiative to promote **“South-South Cooperation (SSC) in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism”** UNCCT worked during this reporting period on organizing a regional workshop to be held in Amman, Jordan from 14-16 April. This event would build on the outcome of the Expert Meeting on Promoting South-South Cooperation in CT/PCVE held in New York from 20-21 November 2019 in which senior experts from 16 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as representatives from regional organisations and UN agencies participated. The planned workshop would have been the first of a series, from which outcomes would feed into a handbook of CT/PVE good practices available in the global South. However, the workshop was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and related travel restrictions. UNCCT is preparing a contingency plan to adapt the project to the new reality and deliver its main outputs using alternative methodologies.

UNCCT has continued, during the first quarter of 2020, to engage with Member States following the call of the Secretary-General on United Nations entities to further enhance advocacy and outreach measures, both within and across organizations, to sustain and expand South-South cooperation initiatives. In that regard, consultations were undertaken with interested Member States and regional organizations to establish partnerships to enhance the visibility of and access to CT/PVE expertise available in the global South, which are in line with human rights standards.

In line with its role of facilitator of peer-to-peer learning and bearing in mind the important role that Triangular Cooperation can play in bringing together resources and expertise from both developed and developing countries/organisations, UNCCT developed a capacity-building project, further to a request by Member States that are interested in sharing and benefitting from each other counter-terrorism knowledge and in consultation with the Division

of Policy, Evaluation and Training of the Department of Peace Operations in view of its related experience.

Lastly, UNCCT contributed to two important documents coordinated by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, namely the 2020 Report of the Secretary General on the State of South-South cooperation and the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which aims to provide a system-wide policy orientation to UN entities to promote a coordinated and coherent approach of policy, programmatic and partnership work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and increase impact across UN activities.

Pillar IV: Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law

During the reporting period the COVID-19 pandemic impacted some of the activities held under the **Victims of Terrorism Support Programme**. However, work has been adapted to take place virtually instead. The validation conference for the ‘Guidelines and Principles to Assist, Protect and Support Victims of Terrorism in Asia Pacific’ that was due to take place at the end of February, will now take place online in the second quarter of 2020. Travel restrictions also impacted the ability to develop a number of visual products, such as the documentaries and interviews in different countries, and focus has instead been on developing new concepts for future documentaries under the UNCCT Victims of Terrorism Documentary series as well as finalization of the guest interviews that will also be viewed over social media. The Programme continued to develop a number of communication products, including a draft communication strategy for the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, which includes the development of concept notes for documentaries and interactive films.

USG Voronkov recognised the potential impact the current COVID-19 pandemic would have on victims of terrorism, and on 27 March 2020 issued a statement of support and solidarity to victims of terrorism all over the world, which was shared on the UNOCT website, the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and across various social media platforms.

Mr. Voronkov’s statement highlighted the shared stress of the situation, where the movement of victims of terrorism has been restricted, and the impact this has had on their mental health. He went on to recognise that these feelings of anxiety “may be exacerbated or activated by the previous trauma [you] suffered” and encouraged victims to ask for help when it is needed. So far, the Statement has been liked and shared by victims from, or affected by attacks in, several different countries, including Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, France,

India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The response to the statement from victims has been extremely positive, especially the recognition of how previous trauma can be retriggered in these types of situations.

In the lead up to the 7th anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing on 15 April, one survivor said: "The message of solidarity from Mr. Voronkov about the potential impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on victims of terrorism was really incredible. Thank you for hearing us and utilizing all we have shared about our experiences for an impactful statement of recognition. I personally was very moved and feel hopeful about the leadership role the UN is taking in respect to better understanding the victim experience."

During the first quarter of 2020, the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal attracted 35,268 page views, which is a 58% increase in views compared to the same quarter in 2019. During this period, a spike of users was registered in late February following well-publicised attacks in Hanau, Germany and Toronto, Canada, and the bombing of a rally in support of the Ethiopian Prime Minister just outside Addis Ababa. A further spike in views was observed following the publishing of the statement of USG Voronkov to share the UN's solidarity with victims of terrorism by recognising the increased anxiety levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the overall programme for "**Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Individuals Suspected or Convicted of Committing Terrorist Acts**", UNCCT undertook several activities to continue developing the global programme. On 26 February, UNCCT convened a workshop with 15 UN entities to develop a Global Framework on UN Support to Member States on Individuals Returned from Syria and Iraq (the Global Framework). The Global Framework provides an all-of-UN human rights-based, age and gender-sensitive approach to protection, repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of individuals living in or returned from camps in north-eastern Syria and Iraq, including men, women, boys, and girls, recognizing that most are women and children.

To consolidate the Global Framework, UNCCT held four focused workshops with the 15 UN entities on 10-12, and 22 March 2020 to discuss minimum standards for engagement, mainstreaming of gender and human rights, and governance, respectively. The Global Framework will be finalized in the second quarter and tailored for implementation in priority Member States that have repatriated or are willing to repatriate its nationals in Central Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere, upon the request of Member States and in collaboration with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams. The Global Framework is a

unique initiative that leverages existing work and ensures coordination and coherence across humanitarian, protection, and security imperatives.

Under the joint UNCCT and UNODC project “**Enhancing the Capacity of States to Adopt Human Rights Based Treatment of Children Affected by Terrorism, in particular, by the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon**”, and further to the Central Asia regional meeting held in October 2019 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on the Prevention of Child Recruitment and Exploitation as well as the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist or Violent Extremist Groups, extensive planning and desk research was undertaken during the first quarter to plan for a national Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) mission to Tajikistan. The TANA is planned to take place in the third quarter, pending resumption of travel following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Activities under the UNCCT-UNODC-CTED project on “**Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalisation to violence in prisons**” continued in Kazakhstan, Tunisia, and Uganda. In Kazakhstan, a workshop on prisoner classification was held on 27-28 January 2020 for 28 prison and law enforcement officers, 29 per cent of whom were women, to assess and manage risks and needs of prisoners, including violent extremist prisoners. International experts from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands shared promising practices in relation to risk assessment and prisoner classification tools.

From 10-29 February 2020, national trainers from the newly established Prison Staff Training Centre implemented the first cohort of a two-week training course on preventing violent extremism in prisons for 39 prison staff. This training gathered 17 operations and security staff, 21 prison squad leaders and one PVE prison inspector from Regional Prison Departments.

On 24 January 2020, **in Tunisia**, a workshop on the Assessment of Risks and Needs of Violent Extremist Prisoners was implemented for 47 participants, 23 per cent of whom were women. The workshop highlighted current assessment practices for both the general prison population and violent extremist prisoners in the Tunisian prison system.

In Uganda, a workshop was held from 20-23 January 2020 on strengthening the Uganda Prisons System (UPS) through the development of training on PCVE for 24 prison officers, with 24 per cent women participants. As a result of the workshop, modules on PCVE in prisons were integrated into the UPS staff training curriculum.

A workshop on developing a prisoner classification framework for Uganda was held from 20-21 January 2020 to strengthen the capacity of 26 prison officers to assess and manage prisoner risks. From 22-24 January 2020, a workshop on Strengthening Inter-Agency Cooperation

Between Law Enforcement and Prison Services was held for 11 police officers and 17 prison officers. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, a draft framework for intelligence-sharing was developed and shared with the Uganda Police Force and Ugandan Prison Service (UPS) for review and approval.

UNCCT continued the promotion and protection of human rights in countering terrorism through its project **“Training and Capacity Building of Law Enforcement Officials on Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Prevention of Terrorism”** implemented by UNCCT and OHCHR under the umbrella of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and Supporting the Victims of Terrorism. In the reporting period, the project delivered one Training-of-Trainer workshop in Bamako, Mali from 10-14 February and two in Douala and Kribi, Cameroon from 17-28 February for a total of 45 middle and senior-level Malian and Cameroonian law enforcement and security officials (38 men, 7 women).

The workshops, conducted under Phase III of this project, aimed to enhance the capacity of State officials to integrate the norms and standards of international law, particularly international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, in their daily work within the context of counter-terrorism. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office supported the delivery of the workshops in Mali and Cameroon, respectively. A similar event to benefit Nigerian law enforcement and security officials had been scheduled for 16-20 March in Abuja but the event was postponed due to the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNCCT and OHCHR are planning the project evaluation for all six countries.

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

The Programme Management Unit was established in June 2019, in response to OIOS recommendations for improvement of the UNOCT/UNCCT programme and project management and in line with the UNOCT change management process, which was initiated in 2018, at the request of the Member States, and completed in 2019. PMU’s mandate was further defined by the internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued in 2019. The Programme Management Unit (PMU) plays an important role in UNOCT/ UNCCT’s aim to standardize programme management approach, create tools that will enable better reporting and implementing best practices.

In the reporting period, PMU was fully staffed and enhanced its deliverables in line with its five main functions: support integrate delivery to UNCCT /UNOCT mandate, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting, information management and coordination. Each of these will contribute the larger aim to effectively contribute to UNCCT's vision.

Support integrated delivery to the UNCCT /UNOCT mandate

In line with function one, the PMU assisted the Director of UNCCT in formulation and implementation of the Centre's programme delivery activities, including project management, planning, budget, and reporting. PMU supported the UNCCT Director and the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director in overseeing the overall performance of the Centre against the planned programming including its aligning with cost plans approved for 2020.

In addition, the PMU coordinated the preparation by project managers of 4 weeks and 6 months tailored project work plans, in response to COVID-19 crisis. As a result, UNCCT ensured effectiveness and coherency of UNCCT plans and the timely submission of performance reports against them. In that way, the PMU contributed to translating UNCCT's mandate into concrete, measurable and desirable results in line with the OIOS recommendations and the new requirement in context of the COVID-19 crisis.

In January, the PMU provided substantive and technical support to UNCCT Advisory Board in conveying of its ambassadorial-level meeting.

Quality Assurance

During the reporting period, the PMU advanced UNCCT's quality assurance process by monitoring project management activities and provided guidance to ensure compliance of UNCCT programming to internal SOPs and application of PRINCE2 methodology. Thus, it contributed to harmonization of planning, monitoring and reporting processes with the requirements of the SOPs issued in 2019.

PMU also continued to work with UNCCT project managers to build the quality of project proposals presented to the UNOCT Programme Review Board (PRB).

Information Management

In the first quarter of 2020, in line with its third function, PMU developed and enhanced a number of information management products. This expertise and available products supported

the smooth information flow in the new working environment with all staff telecommuting as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The PMU focused on the first step of the enhancement of the UNOCT Project Performance Master List, launched in October 2019. The Master List reflects project information, including financial data, and CTED recommendations and is a valuable tool for performance monitoring and analysis that helps inform programme and resource planning, supports quarterly and annual reporting and improves accountability.

Furthermore, the PMU worked on further development of the UNCCT programmes and projects database with metadata function, including its financial module, which is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2020. The Unit supported migration of UNCCT files to Share Point to allow remote access and provided continuous support to UNCCT staff in using this new solution. With its technical expertise, the PMU also provided support to UNCCT and other OCT units in organizing virtual meetings, including supporting the organising of OCT virtual townhall meetings, as well as provided training on how the virtual meetings platform can be utilized.

As a result of the PMU's products and expertise, UNCCT continued improvements in the coordinated collection and utilization of data. It further enhanced coordination and streamlined the information flow within UNCCT, as well as between UNCCT and other units of UNOCT.

Monitoring and Reporting

From January to March 2020, the PMU produced three monthly reports and finalized the draft of the UNCCT 2019 Annual Report, which is expected to be launched and published in the second quarter.

The PMU also successfully supported monitoring and controlling of budgetary allocations through the coordination of UNCCT financial statements and reports. In cooperation with the functionally related entities across the UNOCT, the Unit helped in enhancing the process of planning and forecasting.

As a result of its work and the products, the PMU is continually enhancing UNCCT's capacity for improved, quantitative and qualitative reporting of UNCCT programme performance and increased accountability, improved transparency and visibility, and strengthened coordination and information sharing across the UNOCT, including supporting project managers in adapting project plans in response to the COVID-19 crises.

Part IV: Communications and Visibility

Starting even before the fourth quarter of 2019, the Office of the Under Secretary-General of UNOCT started the process of implementing UNCCT's updated Communications Strategy and Visibility Plan for 2020, which envisions further strengthening UNCCT branding and the development of innovative communication products. The aim is to further enhance promotion of UNCCT's activities, projects and results. While the outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted the planning and delivery of UNCCT activities, the Office has developed contingency communication plans and tools (for example a UNCCT Communications toolkit for the COVID-19 crisis) to adapt to the new context, now focused more on online than offline activities.

An important example of this flexible and impactful approach was given shortly after the COVID-19 outbreak started to become a global crisis: UNCCT prepared a public statement from Mr. Voronkov expressing solidarity with victims of terrorism around the world given the exacerbated difficulties they are facing due to COVID-19 and noting UNCCT's important work to support them. The statement was posted on UNOCT's website and on the UN Victims Support portal.

Throughout this quarter, Mr. Voronkov continued to systematically present UNCCT's programmes and projects in his public statements during country visits, regional conferences and bilateral meetings with Member States. For example, during the February high-level joint visit with CTED to Indonesia and the Philippines, USG Voronkov engaged in substantial discussions with his interlocutors on UNCCT's capacity-building portfolio and priorities for the region, such as the UN-EU STRIVE Asia Project. Mr. Voronkov was a keynote speaker at the International Conference on Nuclear Security that took place in Vienna in February, and focused his remarks on UNCCT's CBRN Programme.

During this quarter, besides promoting the regular activities of the Centre, the Office has also organized or participated in important outreach events that contributed to raising UNCCT's visibility. These included, among others:

1. The 19th Advisory Board Meeting with the participation of the President of the General Assembly H.E Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (New York, 20 January);

2. The Regional High-Level Conference on Foreign Terrorist Fighters held in Vienna in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Government of Switzerland (Vienna, 11-12 February);
3. The open meeting of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee on Countering terrorist narratives (New York, 28 January);
4. The high-level launch of the UNCCT project on addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: preventing and combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their illicit supply to terrorists in Central Asia in collaboration with UNODC, CTED and the UN Office of Disarmament affairs (UNODA) and with the participation of the Permanent Missions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation (New York, 21 February); and
5. The commemoration of the European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism, for which Mr. Voronkov sent a video message that was also published on social media. (New York, 11 March).

All of these events and UNCCT activities were promoted by the Office through the website and social media, which contributed to enhancing the visibility of the Centre with Member States and other key stakeholders. Communications products on UNCCT’s work, including brochures, banners and publications and promotional materials were specifically designed for and disseminated at these events and meetings. UNCCT-branded promotional materials including folders, notebooks and lanyards were also distributed in trainings and workshops.



For example, to raise visibility on the launch of the new UNCCT project on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the Office developed a communication plan that outlined concrete communication deliverables to support the project, including a project flyer, banner, media and social media engagement. The launch event was broadcasted live on UN YouTube, UN WebTV, Twitter and Facebook and generated 7,000 views. A press stake-out with the donors was organized at the end of the event and was covered by the UN News Centre and international media. As a result, more than 40 articles from news agencies,

local and online media were issued on the project launch, in Russian, French, Arabic, English and Chinese.



Website

During the 1 January to 31 March reporting period, the new website that was launched in English continued to be developed, populated and translated in the 5 other languages.

In December 2019, UNOCT launched a new website that is currently only available in English and being translated in the 6 UN Official languages. From 1 January to 3 March the UNCCT sub-website recorded 12,491 pages views. The most popular pages were the UNCCT landing page (www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct which is also accessible through www.un.org/uncct), the “projects and programmes” page and key documents.

Social media

UNCCT’s activities, trainings and workshops, were promoted through the UNOCT Twitter account and UNCCT’s hashtag (#UNCCT) in a timely and consistently manner. Through a strategic use of social media, the Office also enhanced the visibility of UNCCT programmes and projects—including in March, after the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to the regular implementation of UNCCT projects.

During the first quarter of 2020, 34 per cent of all UNOCT tweets were UNCCT tweets, which is significantly higher than the percentage of UNCCT tweets, 19 per cent, issued in 2019. The reach and visibility of UNCCT tweets also benefited from a 20 per cent expansion of number of followers. As a result, the UNCCT tweets generated 122,163 impressions (potential views).



United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism @UN_OCT · Jan 20
The 19th meeting of #UNCCT Advisory Board took place with its 21 Member States and the EU, chaired by @amouallimi of @ksamissionun & joined by @UN_PGA.

USG Voronkov presented UNCCT achievements in 2019 & plans for 2020.

More info on UNCCT new website: un.org/uncct



UNICRI, CTED, UNODA, and UNRCCA.

Furthermore, on the occasion the 19th UNCCT Advisory Board, the Office issued 3 tweets, with visual assets including a quote card and gif, which generated nearly 10,000 impressions. To enhance the visibility of UNCCT’s programme on victims of terrorism, 4 tweets were issued, including one video message on the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism and one message of solidarity from Mr. Voronkov to victims during the COVID-19 crisis. These tweets generated 10,261 impressions.

Other outreach activities

During the first quarter of 2020, the Centre continued to produce significant publications, for example: a UNCCT Handbook on Children Associated with Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Russian, Arabic and French; and a “Trainers guide on Human Rights at International Borders” in collaboration with the OHCHR.

In addition, the Centre has produced communication products, including flyers and banners for outreach activities, as well as three (3) editions of the ‘UNOCT Monthly Review’ newsletter, featuring UNCCT’s work prominently. This newsletter has been highly welcomed by Member States in briefings and bilateral meetings. In January, the Office also published the ‘UNOCT 2019 Review’, which also displayed prominently UNCCT’s main highlights and achievements of the year.

Going Forward

For example, to promote the launch of the new UNCCT SALW project, 9 tweets and retweets were published, and accumulated over 37,260 impressions. The reach of these tweets was expanded by numerous retweets, including from Twitter accounts of Permanent Missions to the United Nations (e.g. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, etc.) and UN entities such as UN Secretariat, UNODC,

The Office will continue its efforts to leverage the visibility of the Centre and enhance the transparency of its activities, with a flexible, creative and dynamic approach given the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on UNCCT’s operations. To showcase the work of the Centre, the Office will continue to work in close collaboration with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) to develop and launch the UNCCT Exhibition. Originally scheduled to take place in June/July 2020, the exhibit will now be launched virtually. The Office will also continue to strengthen the presence of the Centre in the media and online through social media products and the new website, which is expected to be launched in all 6 official languages and presented to Member States in the next quarter.

Part V: Financial Overview

Resource Mobilization

The Resource Mobilization and Donor Relations team of UNOCT and senior managers continued to actively engage with donors to mobilize extra-budgetary funding to support the implementation of programmatic activities outlined in the UNOCT mandate and the UNCCT 5-Year Programme. Information in this section relates to the mobilization of funding for UNCCT only.

The Government of Japan continued its strong support of UNCCT’s work with a contribution of US\$1,438,444 to support two projects: 1) an allocation of US\$700,000 to “Enhance skills of Asian officials in relation to structured methodologies for the collection of open source information from the Internet and Social Media to investigate terrorists and other violent extremists”, which is part of the UNCCT global counter-terrorism programme on cybersecurity and new technologies, and is a close collaboration with UN CTED; and 2) an allocation of US\$738,333 to “Increase and strengthen awareness, knowledge and capacity of Member States to use and share biometric data in a responsible manner to enhance border security and Counter terrorism and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2396 (2017)”, which is part of the overall UNCCT border security and management(BSM) programme.

Additional support was received from the Government of Canada with the pledge of CAD394,771 to the existing project on the “Middle-East and North Africa - training & capacity building of law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism”. The additional resources provide for training to Iraqi law enforcement and security officials, particularly border officials involved in counter-terrorism work, on ensuring human-rights compliant and gender-responsive CT and P/CVE measures in responding to the foreign

terrorist fighter phenomenon, specifically in their treatment of women and children accompanying or associated with suspected FTFs.

As of 31 March 2020, the total UNCCT cumulative pledges since inception of the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism in 2009 and from other funds to date, amount to US\$147.9 million. Of this amount, US\$140.4 million has been received from 31 donors, with a further US\$7.5 million in receivables where agreements have been signed but contributions will be received in future periods. The generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided 74 per cent of the total cash contributions and receivables in support of UNCCT projects and activities into the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism since its inception in 2009. The cumulative pledges for UNCCT makes up 60 per cent of the total pledges for UNOCT of \$249.0 million.

Table 1: Cumulative pledges to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, through the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism (since its inception in 2009) and other allocations

(in United States dollars, as of 31 March 2020)

No	Donors	Total	Contributions Received	Accounts Receivable
1	Saudi Arabia	110,000,000	110,000,000	-
2	European Union	9,995,744	3,299,680	6,696,064
3	United States	5,458,903	5,458,903	-
4	Japan	4,384,945	4,384,945	-
5	Norway	3,806,300	3,334,862	471,439
6	Spain	2,291,667	2,291,667	-
7	EOSG PDF funds (China)*	2,068,080	2,068,080	-
8	Canada**	1,485,743	1,161,040	324,703
9	Russia	1,441,500	1,441,500	-
10	United Kingdom	1,434,721	1,434,721	-
11	Denmark	683,858	683,858	-
12	Sweden	677,040	677,040	-
13	Netherlands	630,455	630,455	-
14	Germany	555,745	555,745	-
15	Switzerland	548,621	548,621	-
16	Republic of Korea	390,000	390,000	-
17	United Arab Emirates	350,000	350,000	-
18	Kazakhstan	300,000	300,000	-
19	India	275,000	275,000	-
20	Belgium	270,855	270,855	-

21	Qatar	250,000	250,000	-
22	Italy	166,400	166,400	-
23	Colombia	125,000	125,000	-
24	Finland	87,854	87,854	-
25	Turkey	60,000	60,000	-
26	Liechtenstein	40,000	40,000	-
27	Australia	30,058	30,058	-
28	Morocco	30,000	30,000	-
29	Nigeria	10,000	10,000	-
30	Kenya	5,000	5,000	-
31	Algeria	2,500	2,500	-
Total to UNCCT		147,855,990	140,363,784	7,492,205

* Allocation from the UN Sub-Fund for Peace and Security administered by EOSG

** Canada agreement signed 31 March, recorded as receivable 1 April 2020 Financial Overview

As of 31 March 2020, the utilization against the released budget of US\$16.1 million was US\$3.4 million or 21 per cent of the total released budget which represents the budget of projects implemented by UNCCT in the course of 2020.

Table 2: UNCCT Total budget and expenditure for 2020 and expenditure distribution by pillar, to 31 March 2020*

Pillar	Pillar Description	2020 Budget (US\$) (a)	2020 Expenditure (US\$) (b)	Utilization Rate (%) (c) = b/a	Expenditure distribution by pillar (%) (d)
I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	4,720,598	1,114,549	24%	33%
II	Combatting Terrorism	5,411,639	1,239,937	23%	36%
III	Supporting International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism	2,840,537	374,600	13%	11%
IV	Human Rights and Victims	3,155,791	686,512	22%	20%
TOTAL		16,128,565	3,415,598	21%	100%

*Includes funds allocated from the Peace and Development funds under EOSG.

Part VI: Conclusion

UNCCT continues to grow to meet the demands of Member States. In spite of the beginning impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre continued to deliver high-impact programming to Member States at their request during the course of the first quarter of 2020, the final year of the UNCCT 5-Year Programme (2016 – 2020). The quarter also included the review by the PRB of new key UNCCT programmes on countering the financing of terrorism, cyber and new technologies, gender-related activities, Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of FTFs and associated family members that will be implemented over the coming years.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, UNCCT activated its business continuity plan in March with all staff telecommuting, and reviewed its planned activities to the end of the first quarter and into the second quarter of 2020, to ensure that UNCCT continues to develop as a Centre of Excellence. Under the contingency planning exercise, the Executive Director instructed staff to assess planned activities and prioritise assignments that can be completed during telecommuting, including the development of handbooks, guidelines, training materials and cooperation agreements with partner entities, as well as identifying new methods of carrying out activities on virtual platforms. UNCCT is using the opportunity to advance efforts to supplement traditional capacity-building workshops and trainings with e-learning. During the second quarter, UNCCT is expected to make significant advancements in this regard, including through the development of a dedicated UNOCT/UNCCT Learning Management System (LMS).

As noted in this and earlier reports, UNCCT staff are increasingly being called on to provide their expertise to institutions inside and outside the UN-system. In this regard, the Centre will continue to expand cooperation with relevant regional organizations such as OSCE, NATO, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), IGAD and ASEAN. These partnerships allow UNCCT to leverage local knowledge and expertise in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building.