

NEWSLETTER

*Supporting the Management of Violent
Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of
Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*

OVERVIEW

“Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons” is a four-year (2018—2021) joint initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office (UNCCT), in close coordination with United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED), as a response to the emerging and significant challenge of potential radicalization to violence in various prison settings.

It supports Member States in the management of violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) as part of broader prison reform efforts and in full compliance with international human rights standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and from a gender perspective. This programme is co-funded by the European Union, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Netherlands.



**SECURITY &
SAFETY**

**RISK AND NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

**PRISON-BASED
REHABILITATION**

**SOCIAL
REINTEGRATION**



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BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

KAZAKHSTAN

A country in Central Asia, Kazakhstan currently manages 29,402 (2020) prisoners with a total of 721 people convicted for terrorism and extremism related crimes. Not all 721 people are placed in prison however. Out of 721, 91 people are on probation, 2 people are serving their sentence in semi-open prisons, while the rest are located in closed-setting prisons. Following the February 2018 selection of Kazakhstan as a project beneficiary country, the team conducted a scoping mission on September 2018, which informed the development of the country workplan. The nomination of two initial pilot prisons was supplemented by the inclusion of six additional prisons in February 2020.



TUNISIA

Situated on North Africa, Tunisia has a prison population of 22,694 (2020) with around 1000 violent extremist prisoners. Subsequent to its selection on February 2018, the first draft of the national project on preventing violent extremism in prisons (Tawassol project) was developed in April 2018. An introduction mission in September 2018 and scoping mission in November 2018 contributed to a larger discussion about the United Nations' role as a partner in countering violent extremism through both the Tawassol Project and the VEP Programme. Country workplans for both initiatives were endorsed by the Ministry of Justice of Tunisia in July 2020.



UGANDA

This East African country has a total prison population of 63,581 prisoners (2020) spread out amongst 253 prisons. The prison system is operating at 322% capacity with approximately 55% of all prisoners being pre-trial detainees. There are 158 violent extremist prisoners in the Ugandan system, of which 16 have been convicted and 142 are in pre-trial detention. Additionally, Uganda Prison Service (UPS) classified 350 persons, including 22 women, as VEPs. After its selection as a project beneficiary country in March 2019, a scoping mission followed in June 2019, after which key findings and a draft country workplan were presented to key national counterparts. The VEP Programme was officially launched in Uganda at an event in September 2019.



PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION



TURNING RULES INTO ACTION : PARTNERSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAMME

In order to continuously advance the implementation of international human rights standards not only in Beneficiary Countries but also for other Member States, the Programme continues to advocate for comprehensive prison management as the basis for prevention of radicalization to violence and management of violent extremist prisoners.

The Vienna-based Group of Friends of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners convened for a special meeting to renew its commitment to the practical application of the Rules and the work of UNODC in the field of prison reform. In that spirit, around 3,000 prison officers in the VEP Programme beneficiary countries have completed the UNODC e-learning course on Nelson Mandela Rules.

On June 2019, UNODC together with Belgium, Burkina Faso, Indonesia and Norway, co-organised the first ever high-level dialogue on the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons. Throughout the discussion, speakers highlighted the continued relevance of the "Nelson Mandela Rules", in their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism in prisons. The message was further emphasised during the first ever Security Council Open Arria-formula meeting on "Challenges of Radicalization in Prisons" on November 2019 in New York.

"A prison system which is managed in compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules will serve as an important barrier against violent extremism taking root in prisons...We must not put the cart before the horse by overwhelming prison services with highly sophisticated interventions when basic sound prison management practices are not yet in place."

**- Ms. Miwa Kato,
UNODC Director of
Division of Operations
at High-level Dialogue on the
Prevention of Radicalization
to Violence in Prisons"**



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The Group of Friends reconvened in July 2020 to discuss the challenges of COVID-19 mitigation in prison as physical distancing is often not an option. This vulnerability is aggravated by the weaker health profile of prison populations, poor prison conditions and prison overcrowding, which continues to affect countries worldwide. **Ms. Ghada Waly**, UNODC Executive Director, stated that in order "to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and mitigate future risks, we must improve prison conditions and how prisoners are treated, and address how imprisonment is used."

The Programme also facilitated political will of Member States to ensure effective rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners during 2020 Counterterrorism Week. During one of the interactive discussions on threats related to returning foreign terrorist fighters, issues of radicalization to violence in prisons as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners were discussed.



During 2020 Counterterrorism Week, **Ambassador Kairat Umarov**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan stated the importance of the VEP Programme for Kazakhstan.

"It should be noted that upon arrival in Kazakhstan, approximately thus far 45 returnees under Operation Zhusan were arrested and convicted with various sentencing terms for their involvement in terrorism. Of these 45, there are 33 men and 12 women. With regard to methods of treating radicalized violent extremists and FTFs sentenced to imprisonment, we are seeking guidance from and launched together with UNODC, UNOCT/UNCCT, and CTED, a large successful project entitled, "Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization toward violence in prisons."



The Government of Tunisia reiterated its commitment to the success of the VEP Programme through the official endorsement of the Country Workplan by the Minister of Justice. The First Steering Committee Meeting on the implementation of the VEP Programme and the Tawassol Project (28-30 September 2020) was opened by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Boussetta, the Minister of Justice of Tunisia, and included other high-level state representatives, implementing partners, and donors. Mr. Boussetta stressed the importance of P/CVE work in prisons, noting that “prevention is always better than cure.”

During the event, progress on implementation in all beneficiary countries of the VEP Programme was presented. Afterwards, members of the Steering Committee discussed the practical issues of implementation of the project including managing prison staff working with violent extremist prisoners, assessing the risk and needs of violent extremist prisoners, the advanced usage of online platforms for capacity building activities, implementing disengagement interventions and preventing radicalization to violent extremism in prison.

In addition to the steering committee meeting, a synergy meeting was also held to ensure that the VEP Programme and the Tawassol Project deliver complementary activities that maximize the impact on preventing and countering violent extremism in prison settings in Tunisia.

“Preventing radicalization inside prisons is of utmost priority. Prison officials are working on the frontlines of the fight against terrorism and extremism. Their everyday routine work provides an opportunity to prevent radicalization and recruitment in prisons.”

**-Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under Secretary General for
Counterterrorism**

“Preventing radicalization to violence and the management of VEPs requires an interdisciplinary and multilateral approach that draws upon the whole of society, including Government, law-enforcement agencies, correctional systems, and civil society.”

**-Ms. Michele Coninx
Assistant Secretary General
and Executive Director of CTED**



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STRENGTHENING KAZAKHSTAN PRISON STAFF TRAINING ON PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN PRISON SETTINGS

The key to effective management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence lies in the knowledge and skills of the prison officers. New security equipment and risk and needs assessment tools are beneficial for delivering effective rehabilitation and reintegration interventions. However, skilled prison staff are required for effective implementation of policies to ensure a safe and secure prison environment.

To ensure sustainability, a standard curriculum for prison staff must be institutionalised in order to systematically deliver training on the management of VEPs and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons.

In collaboration with the VEP Programme, Kazakhstan invested in the enhancement of skills and knowledge of prison staff on the management of violent extremist prisoners by establishing the "Centre on Preventing Violent Extremism in Prisons" within the Kostanay Police Academy.

ADVANCEMENT IN SECURITY AND SAFETY MECHANISMS

The ability of prison administrations to ensure safety and security in their facilities constitutes a pre-condition for any effective intervention strategy. However, best practices demonstrate that security must go beyond physical security (typical CCTV and fencing) and even procedural security (such as strict searches and visitation procedures). It is also essential to pay attention to dynamic security, prison intelligence, and staff capacity to effectively carry out their roles and responsibilities. The VEP Programme focuses on ensuring the sustainability of the training on management of violent extremist prisoners by training prison academy training staff and procuring equipment for the training centres in Uganda and Kazakhstan. Relevant workshops on dynamic security, prison intelligence and prison security audit were held in all three countries.

On the policy front, the VEP Programme supported the implementation of the Prison Security Audit Framework in Kazakhstan and supported the development of an Intelligence Sharing Framework in Uganda, which is crucial for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence information within the Prison Service and connecting it with intelligence gathered by other law enforcement agencies.



The Kostanay Police Academy is a dedicated training academy for prison staff in Kazakhstan. Under the VEP Programme, the training academy has developed relevant training materials based on the *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons* and delivered a training of trainers for 20 academic staff of the facility. The Centre on Preventing Violent Extremism in Prisons was officially opened in July 2020 and has achieved its annual goal to educate 200 prison staff, which included prison psychologists, prison security and safety officers, and prison PVE inspectors.

Since the launch of the Centre, the VEP Programme and Kostanay Police Academy have conducted webinars on the prevention of radicalization to violence in Kazakhstan prisons.

In an effort to ensure sustainability, the VEP Programme empowered national trainers from Kostanay Police Academy through the delivery of training-of-trainers (ToT) activities.

The VEP Programme collaborated with the Centre for Communicative Development (NIKA), which led the two-week long capacity development training. The ToT highlighted the challenges in providing online training, including participant engagement, task assignment, group work through virtual break rooms, and evaluation methods to assess training effectiveness.

The training also provided information on cloud-based programs to create and manage groups of trainees online during webinars. The training has been regarded as effective for training participants.



"[The VEP Programme] responded to our need just in time with this webinar on effective online training. I can confidently say that the knowledge I acquired has already brought results."

**-Major Yelena Fedotova,
Head of the Centre for
Psychologist Training
and Sociological
Research, Kostanay
Police Academy**



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VALIDATING TRAINING MODULES ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN UGANDA PRISONS

Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) undertook a rigorous process in the development of the new Training Modules on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (P/CVE). These six training modules were developed to strengthen prison security and safety mechanisms and capacities amongst prison staff in Uganda. The development process included (i) consultations with international partners, (ii) assessment of Uganda Prison Academy and Teaching School (PATs) training capacity, (iii) revision of P/CVE related course content, and (iv) teaching approaches for P/CVE specific topics in the PATs curriculum. The draft modules were revised by PATs in August 2020 before undergoing a final review process.

In November 2020, UPS completed a five-day Training of Trainers for over 35 PATs staff to validate new Training Modules on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (P/CVE). The training was also intended to evaluate the readiness for further inclusion of the modules in the basic training curriculum. The third objective of the training was to enhance the national trainers' facilitation knowledge and skills. The ToT focused on hands-on mentoring of PATs staff to deliver training of six topics including Introduction to Uganda Prisons Service; Treatment of Prisoners; Social Rehabilitation & Reintegration Programs; Human Rights and PCVE; Introduction to Law and Prisons Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism. During the opening remarks, Commissioner General of Prisons, **Dr. John Byabashaija** emphasised the importance of a specialised training for Prison Staff to better manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization to violence in prisons, which present potential breeding grounds for radicalization to violence and recruitment to terrorism in Uganda.



Mr. Nicolas Gonze, Head of Governance and Human Rights at the European Union in Uganda, welcomed the training as timely in light of the ongoing recruitment of new staff by the Uganda Prison Service. He reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to provide strategic support to the Uganda Prisons Service and stated that the joint global initiative builds on and strengthens the European Union's long-term partnership with Uganda in promoting the rule of law and delivering justice.



Upon completion of the ToT, participants emphasised that after the endorsement of six modules on preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons it would be essential to develop a toolkit to support the cascading exercise of the training to teaching staff and recruits and prepare a bespoke specialised course for in-serving staff in UPS.



"Dynamic security, or maintaining relationships of mutual respect and trust between staff and prisoners, is by far the best way of keeping prisons safe and secure, as well as encouraging prisoners to engage willingly in rehabilitation programmes."

**-General Major Meyram Ayubaev
Deputy Chairperson
Kazakhstan Prison Committee**

"The work of [the VEP Programme] in preventing violent extremism in prisons in Uganda, Tunisia and Kazakhstan, is an example of striking the right balance between a preventive and a more repressive approach towards violent extremism. In the Netherlands, we continuously seek to achieve that balance. Besides the protection of potential targets and the prosecution of terrorists, we therefore also invest in recognizing radicalization before people turn to violence as well as in building resilience for vulnerable groups. These are important cornerstones of our CT-policy."

**-Mr. Huib Mijnaerends,
Special Envoy for Counterterrorism of
the Netherlands**



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RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND CLASSIFICATION

Violent extremist prisoners do not represent a homogeneous group, but are comprised of individuals with very different push and pull factors, disengagement factors and levels of commitment. They also present different levels of risk posed to themselves, other inmates, and to prison officers. Accurate risk and needs assessment is necessary for proper classification of the violent extremist offenders. Effective classification is a cornerstone of an effective and humane prison system, along with individualised case management and efficient use of resources.

Through individualised sentence plan, VEPs will receive the best activities that could ensure the success of their rehabilitation and reintegration to society. That is why in all three beneficiary countries, efforts to develop a violent extremist prisoners' risk and needs assessment tools and classification framework has taken place. In Tunisia, Uganda, and Kazakhstan, workshops on

comprehensive prisoner classification system was conducted and facilitated by Dr. Andrea Moser, an expert on risk and needs assessment and one of the contributors to UNODC *Handbook on Classification of Prisoners*. During the workshops, Dr. Moser emphasised that the assessment tool used for violent extremist prisoners cannot be a stand-alone tool, but rather a complementary tool to the risk and needs assessment tool that is used for the general population.

While the basis of comprehensive classification and assessment is the same for all countries, adjustments need to be made based on the situation and capacity in the respective countries. In Uganda, the programme has drafted a prisoner classification framework and standard operating procedures that were piloted in Luzira Male Prison and Luzira Female Prison. The Uganda context has prison regulations that identify classes of prisoners, as well as the prerequisites to transfer between classes. However, it is

"Prisoner classification has a direct impact on many aspects of prison management, including the safety and security of prisoners, prison staff and the general public, the humane custody of prisoners and the ability to individualise case and sentence planning."

**- Mr. Wilson Francis Magomu
Commissioner of Prisons
Safety and Security
Operations, Uganda
Prison Service**

necessary to perform risk assessments that are informed by a sophisticated understanding of the characteristics of any organization to which the violent extremists prisoners belong to and their motivation. The VEP Programme has trained 28 Uganda Prison Service staff on prisoner classification to conduct the piloting process. To ensure effective oversight of the process, UPS established a Technical Working Group (TWG) to oversee the development process. In August 2020, a virtual workshop was held for the TWG to conduct an initial review of the Prisoner Classification Framework and related tools.



In November 2020, the Programme delivered a three-day workshop in collaboration with UPS to finalise the prisoner classification framework and related tools. **Commissioner Magomu** noted that “The main objective for the development of the Prisoner Classification Framework was to strengthen security and safety mechanisms and improve capacities of prison officers to prevent radicalization to violence in prisons.” He continued that “classification entails a structured and individualised assessment of the risks and needs of

each prisoner to assist in decision-making regarding the most appropriate placement and interventions.” Following the above-mentioned interventions, UPS organised a three-day workshop for the Technical Working Group to undertake a final review and finalisation of the Prisoner Classification Framework and related tools on preventing and countering violent extremism. Following the review process, the TWG provided final feedback on the tools and agreed on a Roadmap for Piloting of the framework and related tools, including a Training of Trainers session for the TWG to support their role in onward training of Prison officials in the use of the tools; as well as embarking on a process of digitalising the tools for their effective implementations.



“Enhancing skills on prisoner classification is crucial to good prison management and we welcome the constructive co-operation with the EU/UN Joint Global Initiative.”

**-Mr. Hichem El Ouni,
General Director of Penitentiary
Regions Affairs Unit, Tunisia**



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"The Government of Kazakhstan is committed to work in partnership with [the VEP Programme] to improve effectiveness of the prison service to manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent further radicalization to violence in prisons."

**-Mr. Stanislav Vasilenko,
Special Envoy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Kazakhstan**

In Kazakhstan, the development of the risk and needs assessment tools and classification framework required two workshops (in July 2019 and January 2020) and a one-week mission to Nur-Sultan and Karaganda in July 2019. The first workshop

in July 2019, was aimed at raising the awareness of the prison staff of Kazakhstan on basics of the prisoner risks assessment and classification system and its compliance with relevant international standards and norms which are essential in developing a tailored country-specific one. The one-week mission was done to ensure that the tools and framework are based on both the international standards, a detailed situational analysis and country-specific context of the penitentiary system of Kazakhstan.

At the second workshop held on January 2020, Ben Zengerink, an International Expert on Prison and Probation Management from the Netherlands highlighted that there is a direct connection between the prisoner risks and needs assessment and public safety. Earlier punishment of offenders was mostly based on retaliation while now penitentiary systems lean towards a rehabilitative, reintegrative, or even restorative approaches. Thus, both the probation and prison services need to know what have to be done to change the inmates' behaviour so that they would not reoffend.

The structured and scientifically developed prisoner risks and needs assessment system provides the tools to

develop the proper prison-based rehabilitation programmes and support their social reintegration after release."

The event was attended by representatives of the Prison Committee, Department for Combating Extremism of the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Kostanay Police Academy, Ministry of Information and Public Development of Kazakhstan and other relevant stakeholders.





"Safeguards need to be put in place to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies to other prisoners while upholding the protection afforded under international law standards and norms...this is a time to seize the opportunity arising from our shared experiences and put in place appropriate measures and address the related challenges in this area of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in [Uganda] and more particularly in prisons and remand centres."

**-Mr. Obiga Kania,
State Minister of Internal Affairs
Uganda**

"The signing of the global and national initiatives reflects the commitment of the Tunisian Minister of Justice and the State to the global approach on preventing violent extremism, in accordance with the UN Secretary General Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism"

**-H. E. Mohamed Boussetta
Minister of Justice
Tunisia**



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TOWARDS INDIVIDUALISED APPROACH : REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Prison-based interventions should be put in place to prepare prisoners for their release and re-entry into the community. This is particularly important for violent extremist prisoners who face stigma and unique challenges in reintegrating to society. The VEP Programme has enhanced capacity of prison administrations to deliver interdisciplinary disengagement interventions for VEPs, which forms part of the social reintegration strategy.

In Tunisia, UNODC, UNOCT and UNCTED have continued to consult with prison authorities on the existing needs and challenges of prison-based disengagement programmes. While in Uganda, the VEP Programme encouraged the use of sports, particularly teamwork-building sports such as soccer, as part of the prisoner rehabilitation program. To that end, the VEP Programme supplied a range of sports equipment (including footballs, volleyballs) and games (such as Scrabble) to support the implementation of this effort. The VEP Programme has also facilitated communication between prisoners and the outside world with the procurement of telecommunication equipment. Of course, this equipment are used at the designated area and under the supervision of prison officers.

Meanwhile in Kazakhstan, the VEP Programme collated the data and statistics on violent extremist prisoners to better understand the landscape and recommend a fitting approach. This data collection included an online-consultation with national experts for a sociological survey on the push and



pull factors for radicalization in prisons. Additionally, field visits to eight prisons in Kazakhstan were arranged in order to assess prison conditions and discovered challenges to the implementation of disengagement strategies.

The VEP Programme also delivered direct rehabilitation programme in the form of painting masterclass. The activity was intended as a form of art therapy in collaboration with the Kazakh National University of Arts "Shabyt" in Nur-Sultan. The masterclass was held on-line for prisoners in eight correctional facilities. During the master class, prisoners learned about the basics of abstract painting and acrylic painting techniques. By providing art therapy, the VEP Programme and the Prison Committee hope to facilitate the construction of art stimuli, improve mental stimulation, reduce stress, boost prisoner self-esteem, and provide employable vocational skills. The VEP Programme further highlighted the Kazakhstan prisoners' art skills by hosting an online photo-exhibition of their works. The exhibition displayed photos submitted through competition among pilot institutions.



"I am very proud of our partnership with UNODC and UNCTED, which illustrates the true value of an 'All-of-UN approach' to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. Preventing radicalization inside prisons is of utmost priority. Prison officials are working on the frontlines of the fight against terrorism and extremism. Their everyday routine work provides an opportunity to prevent radicalization and recruitment in prisons."

**-Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under Secretary General of
the United Nations Office of
Counterterrorism**



"Preventing and managing violent extremist prisoners is an important priority for the European Commission, since we know the potential risk these persons pose, especially upon release. This important endeavour requires a multi-agency approach between prison and probation administrations, judicial authorities, police forces, local governments, social workers and other local actors, including local communities. In this field, [the VEP Programme] is showing sustained dedication and leadership through our joint programme, implemented in Kazakhstan, Tunisia and Uganda."

**-Mrs. Hilde Hardeman,
Director - Head of Service
Service for Foreign Policy Instruments
European Commission**



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LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

The VEP Programme provided COVID-19 mitigation support to Correctional Facilities

Despite efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prison facilities, at least 100,000 prisoners as well as officers in more than 80 countries have become infected. As a result of the restrictions imposed on the regular prison regime, adding to the anxiety and fear caused by COVID-19, tension has been growing in prisons, as evidenced by demonstrations and prison riots in more than 40 countries. Together with other UN agencies, UNODC, UNOCT and UNCTED have advocated for and assisted in emergency release efforts to reduce populations in prisons and other closed settings, and also promoted efforts to sustain and firmly institutionalize a resort to non-custodial measures in suitable cases for all three beneficiary countries.

The response of the Tunisian General Committee for Prisons and Rehabilitation (CGPR)



to the COVID-19 crisis was swift and included preventative measures put in place as early as March, including the cancellation of workshops and conferences. Through the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, sensitization material relevant to the prevention of COVID-19 in at-risk categories of prisoners, such as detainees with addictions or HIV, has been provided. The Fund also procured PPE for the CGPR staff and detainees, necessary medical equipment for Oudha prison and coordinated support with relevant authorities to minimize duplication. The project team and CGPR have modified both the VEP Programme and Tawassol's workplans to effectively continue implementation under the current circumstances. Procurements and refurbishments have been frontloaded and capacity building and other activities will be provided through electronic means.



"COVID-19 has brought home the hard truth that poor prison conditions, overcrowding and a lack of resources pose serious threats to not only the health of 11 million people in prisons worldwide, but also to communities outside."

**- Ms. Ghada Waly
Executive Director, UNODC**

The COVID-19 crisis has also led to a number of unprecedented adaptations in the prison system in Kazakhstan. Visits were temporarily prohibited, but replaced by phone and online video calls. Court proceedings have been ensured via video conferencing and probation services have switched to working remotely, with visits organized only on an emergency basis. In response to new needs in the prison system, the project has proposed to prepare relevant guidance material to the Prison Committee on preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and move in-person capacity building activities online.

Similar to Kazakhstan, the Uganda Prison Service (UPS) has also halted in-person visits. However, the lack of available logistics made it hard for prisoners to contact their friends and family members. To assist the UPS in creating a conducive prison environment, UNODC provided seven video conferencing systems, 10 desktop computers, two laptops, two printers, fuel to transport 4,000 prisoners, 40 high-dependence hospital beds with mattresses, 80 bedsheets, 80 blankets, 16 (5,000 litre) water tanks, 3,000 mattresses, 3,000 blankets, 150 cartons of soap, 32 handsets, pre-purchased mobile airtime, a range of sports equipment, games, and 3,000 posters on COVID-19. The consignment was intended to enhance prisoners' communication with the outside world, to provide recreation options, further develop prisoners' skills through sport, and to support continued capacity building of staff in the Uganda Prisons Service. The sizable consignment was received by the Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Johnson Omuhunde Rwashote Byabashaija, during a ceremony at Luzira Prison in Kampala that included representative of the Netherlands, UN partners in Uganda, and members of the Justice Law and Order Development Partners group in Uganda.



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“In order to maximize the unique characteristics of the prison environment to enhance and strengthen the resilience of societies, violent extremist prisoners and those who may be vulnerable to radicalization to violence within the prison context must be managed in full compliance with human rights standards, and gender- and age sensitive approaches must be in place.”

**-Ms. Michele Coninsx,
Assistant Secretary-General
and Executive Director of
the United Nations Counter-Terrorism
Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

“The generous funding from the European Union, the Netherlands and Office of Counter Terrorism contributes to successful social reintegration of ex-prisoners through promoting access to justice and good prison management.”

**-Dr. Johnson Omuhunde
Rwashote Byabashaja
Commissioner General
Uganda Prisons Service**



PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH SHAPING THE GOOD NEIGHBORS FOR TOMORROW



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