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UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

UNCCT QUARTERLY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

TO THE UNCCT ADVISORY BOARD

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YEAR V OF THE 5-YEAR PROGRAMME
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Abbreviations and acronyms

AU	African Union
BSM	Border Security and Management
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CFT	Countering the Financing of Terrorism
CPPNM/A	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Amendment
CRDF	Civilian Research and Development Foundation
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CT	Counter Terrorism
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CT/PCVE	Countering Terrorism/ Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
DGC	Department of Global Communications
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
ETCIP	Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FTF	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
GCTS	Global Counter Terrorism Strategy
GICNT	Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
GoF VoT	Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

goAML	Anti-Money-Laundering System
GIFCT	Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism
GSTC	Global Sustainable Tourism Council
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority for Development
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
NARS	National and Regional Strategy
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
NuSec	Nuclear Security
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OICT	Office of Information and Communications Technology
OROLSI	Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PMU	Programme Management Unit
PRB	Programme Review Board
PRR	Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons

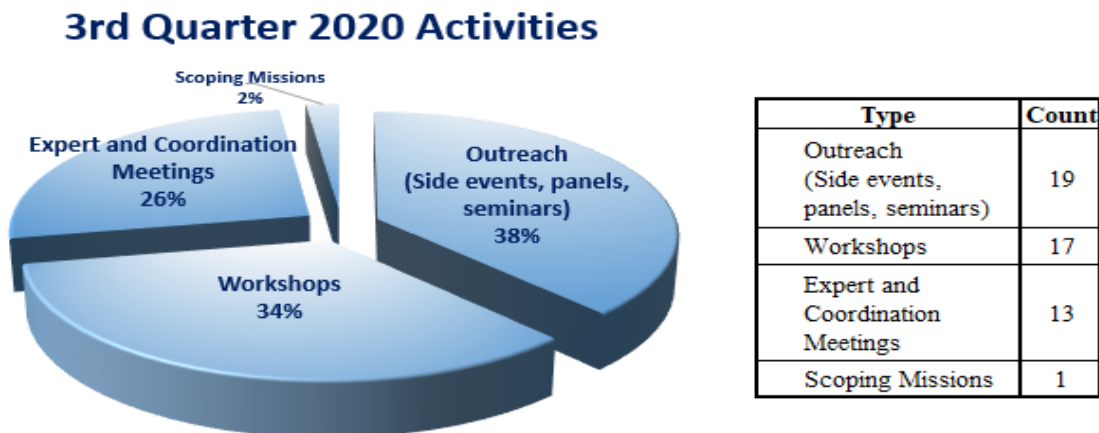
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SEARCT	Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism
SPF	Strategic Programme Framework
SSC	South-South Cooperation
StratCom	Strategic communications
STRIVE	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism
UNCCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNON	United Nations Office at Nairobi
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
USG	Under-Secretary-General
VE	Violent Extremist
VERTIC	Verification Research, Training and Information Centre
VEPs	Violent Extremist Prisoners
VoT	Victims of Terrorism
VR	Virtual Reality
WBSC	World Border Security Congress
WHO	World Health Organization
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction
YEPP	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme

Executive Summary

In the third quarter of 2020, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) delivered impactful results guided by the four outcomes of its 5-year Programme of Work. UNCCT has adapted to a working environment severely conditioned by COVID-19. The introduction of new approaches to our programme of work was therefore critical to continue supporting Member States' efforts to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).

Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNCCT's focus shifted towards online (virtual) engagements, successfully strengthening partnerships, fundraising and preparing to enhance UNOCT/UNCCT coordination and capacity-building roles on the ground. For example, during this period, UNCCT supported Member States to improve their capacity for responsiveness and to raise their awareness of terrorist and violent extremist use of social media and internet-related technologies through a number of initiatives, including a *Strategic Communication workshop on Empowering Youth to Counter Threats of Violent Extremism Online Messaging, Fake News and Hate Speech in the context of COVID-19*.

UNCCT further improved Member States capacity to implement the GCTS as a result of the delivery of technical assistance to Member States through different capacity-building activities that were agile and responsive to the reality imposed by the ongoing pandemic. UNCCT programmes and projects delivered 17 workshops engaging 783 participants and 13 expert and coordination meetings. The Centre also held 19 outreach events (side events, panels, seminars, briefings) to present its flagship global and regional programmes. As most of the activities were delivered virtually, this has allowed UNCCT to reach a broad range of stakeholders, often attended by hundreds of people across the globe.



One of the main highlights of UNCCT results this quarter is the *first UNCCT Virtual Expo* (“the Expo”), organized within *the first Virtual High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week*, launched in July (please see Part 1 of the report). The Expo is an innovative platform which takes audiences on an interactive journey showcasing the work of UNCCT as a Global Centre of Excellence in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism around the world. It also showcases the Centre’s partnerships with Member States, regional and international organizations, civil society, and other key stakeholders, and highlights the importance of UNOCT’s “All-of-UN” and “All-of-Society” approach to countering terrorism.

UNCCT made significant progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of victims of terrorism this quarter. For example, in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (GoF VoT), UNCCT held the third commemoration of the *International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism* (“International Day”) and co-organized, together with the two co-chairs of the Group, Afghanistan and Spain, the Second Ministerial Meeting of the GoF VoT.

Overall, these activities demonstrated renewed commitment going forward for UNCCT to support the promotion and protection of victims and highlighted the United Nations’ role in keeping a victims-centric approach in the counter-terrorism response, setting the stage for next year’s *First Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism*.

During the reporting period, UNCCT significantly enhanced its engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) including through the first roundtable meeting between CSOs and UNOCT/UNCCT. The roundtable, first of several planned, provided a platform for effective and sustained collaboration and learning at which UNCCT drew on the diverse expertise, experience, outreach and knowledge of CSOs. This was undertaken to further enrich the implementation of UNOCT’s CSO Engagement Strategy, strengthen partnerships between UNOCT/UNCCT and CSOs, and to encourage CSOs to provide input to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the GCTS and its Seventh Biennial Review.

Under the UNCCT **Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism** (CFT Programme), UNCCT engaged more intensively with national regulatory authorities to deal with the non-profit sector to inform and train them on the key requirements related to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 8 on protecting the non-profit sector from terrorist abuse.

In this quarter, UNOCT/UNCCT together with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) convened a side event on the margins of the high-level segment of the 75th United Nations General Assembly to highlight the Central Asian experience and the United Nations support available to other Member States that have

repatriated or are committed to repatriating their nationals, in line with international law, human rights, and the best interest of the child, from camps in northeastern Syria and Iraq. The side event, with over 240 attendees, featured the screening of an animated video on repatriation entitled *Returning home, rebuilding lives*, produced jointly by UNOCT/UNCCT and UNRCCA, and provided opportunities for speakers from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to share their experience, best practices and lessons learned.

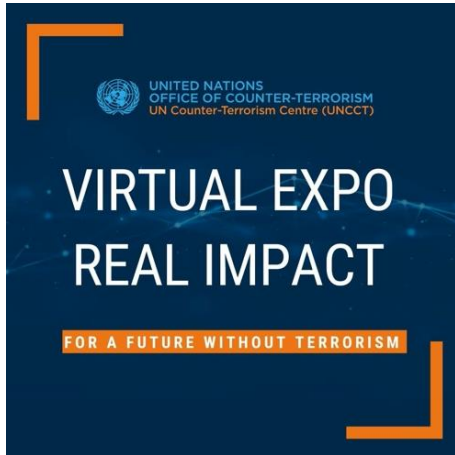
Despite the shift to online activities, the pandemic hindered some activities in the field, such as those planned for this quarter in Burkina Faso. However, UNCCT successfully continued to search for innovative solutions to provide tailored responses to the needs identified by Member States, beneficiaries, and partners. UNCCT also used traditional means for communication, such as radio or animations (see anecdote on pg. 28).

In addition to its own programming, UNCCT also supported, with its expertise, the substantive delivery of several virtual events and activities organized by other organizations, such as the *US Conference on Biometrics* organized by the Biometrics Institute on 22 September. This panel discussion addressed the need for balancing security, privacy and health. UNCCT will also actively participate in the Biometrics Institute Annual Congress which will be held in the fourth quarter of the current year.

Moreover, on 14-15 September, UNCCT provided expertise to the 2020 Chairmanship Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on Effective Partnerships against Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Leads to Terrorism. The event reflected the “state of play” and importance of international co-operation in preventing and countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that leads to terrorism.

In this quarter, the Member States continued to sustain UNCCT financially. In July, UNCCT participated in the first virtual meeting of UNOCT donors, briefing donors on key results achieved by UNCCT in the first six months of 2020 and on adaptations to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The donors’ meeting gathered representatives from 28 Member States who demonstrated their continued interest and support to UNOCT/UNCCT activities. UNCCT continues to build relations with existing and potential donors to mobilize flexible unearmarked funding and further diversify the donor base.

Part I: UNCCT Virtual Exposition (the Expo)



UNCCT launched the Expo as part of the Virtual Counter Terrorism Week in July. The launch was hosted by the Under-Secretary-General for UNOCT and Executive Director of UNCCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov; the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, H.E. Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations; and Mr. Jehangir Khan, Director of UNCCT. The Expo illustrated the work of UNCCT in supporting Member States to implement the four pillars of the GCTS. The following section details the 12 distinct elements of UNCCT’s work showcased in the Expo.

- *UNCCT: Virtual Expo, Real Impact* video welcomes audiences to the first virtual Expo of UNCCT. It aims to invite audiences to interact with the content of the Expo’s digital journey. It also provides a chronological timeline of the establishment of UNCCT and the important work achieved by the Centre in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism across the globe. *UNCCT Global Footprint* is an interactive digital map to showcase UNCCT’s global operations and provide audiences with the opportunity to explore its range of projects and programmes across the 12 key thematic areas under the four pillars of the GCTS. The digital map illustrates the implementation of more than 44 global, 25 regional and 19 country-specific projects worldwide.



- *Fighting Terrorism without Human Rights* video showcases how human rights are key to defeating terrorism and how UNCCT applies a human rights-based approach to

countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism around the world and supports Member States to uphold human rights in the fight against terrorism.

- *Why a Gendered Approach?* video illustrates how women are affected by and involved in violent extremism, and the importance of gender mainstreaming in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) policy and programming.
- *Returning Home* is a powerful animated story of repatriation and reintegration of individuals from Syria and Iraq, told through the eyes of Ali and his mother. The video highlights the United Nations efforts and support to Member States to repatriate their nationals in line with international law. This video received the highest views in the Expo and was featured on the United Nations main website.
- *A World of Solidarity* is an interactive map showcasing 20 stories and experiences of victims of terrorism from all over the world. It illustrates how victims have demonstrated great courage, resiliency and strength despite the terrible experiences they have faced. To further advance outreach and advocacy efforts of the rights and needs of victims of terrorism, UNCCT also shared the video with a network of more than sixty CSOs and victims' associations globally and with the GoF VoT. Representatives of victims and victims' associations expressed appreciation that the map was included in the events of the virtual CT week and they were pleased that their efforts on counter-terrorism were recognised at the international level.
- *Prevent the Virus of Hate that Leads to Terrorism* is an interactive crisis communication simulation which mimics a virus outbreak and how violent extremist group could take advantage of the situation which leads to a surge of terrorist narratives and threats of violence. Interacting with the simulation, visitors play the role of government spokesperson as a crisis unfolds and learn how Member States governments can mitigate the consequences through crisis and strategic communications (StratCom). The video was also used in UNCCT capacity development initiatives, such as the StratCom online capacity building with the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and shared with other United Nations entities, Member States and regional organisations.
- *Countering Terrorism in Cyberspace* video illustrates the vulnerabilities of digital systems that may be exploited by terrorist and violent extremists to promote their agendas.
- *Keeping Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) out of Reach:*
 - The presented scenario, *Radiological and Nuclear Threat – Illicit Trafficking*, explains how UNCCT and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) can work

- together to support Member States to counter the threat of terrorists developing radiological dispersal device (RDD) to carry out a terrorist attack.
- The 3D animated video *Biological Threat – Misuse of Biotechnology* demonstrates the potential threat of misuse of biotechnology to produce new strains of viruses with the intention of perpetrating terrorist attacks. The video shows how UNCCT, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact are investing to understand this threat and how technology could be used as a solution.
 - Under the capacity-building output and the pilot project on **Enhancing National Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Chemical and Biological Terrorist Attacks in Iraq**, UNCCT and the United States Department of State produced and presented videos on *Chemical Threat – Clandestine Laboratories* and *Countering Clandestine Labs in 360*. The latter is a 360° experience to promote joint activities on virtual reality training to detect and counter clandestine laboratories. The interactive digital tour showcases how Member States can prevent, interdict and investigate terrorist chemical laboratories. The video was further shared through different networks of stakeholders operating in the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) field and used by UNCCT and its partners, such as UNICRI and the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) Global (an implementer of the US Department of State) as a tool to demonstrate some of the activities undertaken within the programme.
 - *Securing Borders, Bridging People* video demonstrates the efforts of UNCCT in supporting effective border security and management for preventing and countering the flow of suspected terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) across land, air and maritime borders, as well as the movement of illicit cargo, including weapons, arms and cash that may be used for terrorist purposes.



Key Performance Indicators of the EXPO:

- **Media**

The Expo and press release were featured in more than 20 press articles in English, Arabic and Chinese. A specific interactive website (www.un.org/counter-terrorism-expo/) was created to host the Expo featuring more than 20 videos related to UNCCT and the Expo has recorded more than 4,000 website visits, nearly 200,000 individual video views and engagement with the Expo.

The Expo also gained more than 8.5 million impressions on social media, reaching more than 4.67 million accounts on Twitter globally through audience engagement of the platform. This was one of the most successful social media campaigns conducted by UNCCT, which has increased its visibility and paved the way for future innovative digital products and projects. The top three most viewed products were *Returning Home*, *UNCCT Expo Real Impact* and *UNCCT's Global Footprint*. There were spikes in viewership based on social media promotion efforts as well as personalized emails sent to Member States at the end of the fourth week following the Expo launch, resulting in increased views.

The Expo is now available in the six United Nations languages. Subtitles and translations for the content are in progress. The content of the UNCCT Expo will continue to be used in UNCCT future programmatic, in-person and virtual, capacity building activities. The Expo product indicated audience inclination to engagement with interactive and digital content on social media.

Part II: Monitoring, Evaluation and Oversight

KPMG Evaluation

In 2019, Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi, the Chair of the UNCCT Advisory Board, proposed to conduct an evaluation of UNCCT, which was welcomed by UNOCT/UNCCT management and later endorsed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The evaluation was conducted between January and September 2020 by KPMG.

The main objective of the evaluation was to assess the performance of the current UNCCT 5-Year Programme and, based on evidence, make actionable and balanced recommendations for future programme strategy and design. The evaluation scope included all programmes and projects implemented under the UNCCT 5-Year Programme, completed or ongoing, as of 31 December 2019, as well as operating systems and procedures for programme governance,

management, operations, monitoring and evaluation and communications. It is envisioned that the report will guide the future orientation of capacity-building work, including how to strengthen and promote UNCCT as a Centre of Excellence.

The evaluation process was impacted by COVID-19. As a result of travel restrictions, KPMG was not able to visit beneficiaries to conduct physical face-to-face interviews as initially envisioned. Instead, the evaluation team gathered evidence from four sources: a comprehensive assessment of UNCCT performance self-reporting (2016-2020); an in-depth study of 23 projects from three countries (Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan) and one region (Central Asia); an electronic survey of United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities; and approximately 110 interviews, with 91 individual respondents from UNOCT/UNCCT, the UNCCT Advisory Board, representatives of Global Compact entities and organisations outside of the United Nations system and representatives of beneficiary countries.

During the months of August and September, KPMG prepared and submitted a draft of the evaluation report to UNCCT for review and subsequent technical and managerial response. The final evaluation report was issued by KPMG on 9 October.

The report highlights the overall positive results of the evaluation: across the evaluation criteria the Centre performed in a satisfactory manner. With regard to outcomes, stakeholders, including beneficiaries and implementing partners, it had the perception or experience of positive outcomes from UNCCT projects. KPMG also noted positive trends in the Centre's ability to work with other parts of the UN and external partners. As with any evaluation, KPMG also identified some challenges and areas for improvement, including the need for a more effective measurement of outcomes.

One of the main findings of the evaluation was that UNCCT has benefited from the creation of UNOCT and the elevated political, diplomatic, and administrative clout it has established. Moreover, it was reported that UNOCT has also enabled UNCCT's deeper integration into the United Nations' counter-terrorism architecture. It was noted, however, that strategic and programme governance, monitoring and evaluation, as well as information management, are key areas for continued improvement. The majority of the 16 recommendations proposed by KPMG relate to programmatic issues and the need to develop a "results culture." UNOCT/UNCCT has committed to take immediate steps to respond to the recommendations in this regard including improving knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, updating SOPs and more. UNCCT's new Strategic Programme Framework (SPF), which is currently being prepared, is foreseen as a vehicle to advance a results culture.

UNOCT/UNCCT has agreed to all recommendations in principle and recognises the report provides useful and positive suggestions that will support UNCCT in its further development as a Centre of Excellence, the manifestation of which should proceed in tandem with building the recommended “culture of excellence”. UNOCT/UNCCT will develop an action plan to ensure the effective implementation of the management response and will continue engaging with all stakeholders on further development of UNCCT.

UNOCT Programme Review Board

The UNOCT Programme Review Board (PRB) held meetings on 28 August and 29 September, during which 20 agenda items were considered (12 related to UNCCT). The total value of activities recommended for approval during the third quarter amounted to US\$8.85 million (US\$5.94 million for UNCCT). This included the extension of the existing **Countering Terrorist Travel Programme** and the approval of new programmes, such as the **Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration**, the **Global Programme to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism**, and the **Programme on Unmanned Aircraft Systems**. The first two projects were assigned a Gender Marker Two, as they mainstream gender throughout and are expected to make a significant contribution to gender equality. The latter was assigned a Gender Marker One, as it aims at being gender sensitive with marginal contributions to promoting gender equality.

The PRB also approved several no-cost extensions of ongoing programmes, with delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as new concept notes on the establishment of the UNOCT project office in Rabat, Morocco, and a Counter-Terrorism Investigations Programme. The Board also recommended for approval a pilot project to be implemented with the Department of Peace Operations in Somalia entitled **the Friendship Bench: Somalia Pilot**. These recommendations 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

Main Activities	Key Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nine capacity building activities, 189 participants (100 females and 89 males), covering strategic communications, policy assistance and youth empowerment in PCVE.• Virtual <i>train-the-trainer</i> session delivered to UNDP and local NGO Rupantar in Bangladesh on countering violent extremist messaging, hate speech, fake news and misinformation online.• Hybrid peer-to-peer approach (trainings and workshops) engagement of young women and men in Australia, Sudan and Sweden, tailored to each Member State (Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme).• Capacity building to 13 Member States officials in East Africa (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda) within joint UNCCT-IGAD <i>Virtual Regional Crisis Communications Workshop</i> through UNCCT PCVE COVID-19 Crisis Communications Toolkit and training video game.• Public statement with a range of recommendations on gender and CT/PCVE developed by 142 participants from 43 countries as a result of UNCCT supported Global Compact Gender Working Group consultations with women-led CSOs from the Global South (implemented by UN Women digitally).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased awareness and enhanced Member States capacity to address terrorist and violent extremist use of social media and Internet-related technologies.• Enhanced UNDP's local efforts in Bangladesh to empower youth to understand, analyse and strengthen resilience to the threats of hate speech and misinformation that influence violent extremism and disruption to social cohesion.• Increased capacity of young leaders in Australia, Sudan and Sweden to facilitate difficult conversations related to violent extremism, and to conduct their own youth-led workshop to a network of young people in their local community.• Strengthened Member States preparedness and capacity to respond to terrorists in the context of the pandemic through debunking conspiracy theories, correcting disinformation peddled by terrorist groups, and developing messages for social cohesion.• Enhanced cooperation and partnership between UN entities and women led CSOs from the Global South in the area of CT/PCVE expected to inform the upcoming review of the GCTS.

UNCCT, through its PCVE activities, working closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and other Global Compact partners, enhanced flexible and innovative approaches in its capacity building support to Member States, civil society, regional and multilateral organizations. In total, nine capacity-building activities were delivered to 189 participants (100 females and 89 males) covering strategic communications, policy assistance and youth empowerment. The youth and PCVE session of the Virtual High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week resulted in generating recommendations that support advancement of UNCCT's work in this area.

Looking ahead into the next quarter, UNCCT will ramp up its efforts to support Sudan in its PCVE efforts, as well as building communication approaches to reintegration and rehabilitation, and highlight the fifth anniversary of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security. UNCCT is also redesigning PCVE capacity-building work into a Global platform that will integrate existing programmes into a single, evidence-based, and agile programme.

PVE through Strategic Communications Project (StratComs)

On 3 July, the StratCom team delivered a virtual *train-the-trainer* session to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and local NGO Rupantar in Bangladesh, offering a full curriculum, templates and tools on countering violent extremist messaging, hate speech, fake news and misinformation online, developed with support of UNCCT's Cyber team. As result of its Strategic Communication workshop, held on 8-15 July, *Empowering Youth to Counter Threats of Violent Extremism Online Messaging, Fake News and Hate Speech, in the context of COVID-19*, UNCCT further enhanced Member States' capacities and raised awareness of terrorist and violent extremist use of social media and Internet-related technologies. Here, 28 young people from Bangladesh attended the event and received training on digital security and overall cybersecurity hygiene. UNCCT's contribution further enhanced UNDP's local efforts to empower youth to understand, analyse and strengthen resilience to the threats of hate speech and misinformation that influence violent extremism and disruption to social cohesion.

On 27 and 28 August, jointly with IGAD, UNCCT delivered a *Virtual Regional Crisis Communications Workshop* to 13 Member States officials in East Africa (Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda). UNCCT's PCVE COVID-19 Crisis Communications Toolkit and training video game were implemented as training tools. The participants welcomed these tools as useful aids to enhance preparedness and capacity to respond to terrorists in the context of the pandemic through debunking conspiracy theories, correcting disinformation peddled by terrorist groups, and developing messages for social cohesion.



Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme (YEEP)

UNCCT rolled out its hybrid peer-to-peer approach to engagement of young women and men in Australia, Sudan, and Sweden, using contextualized methods tailored to each Member State. Through this initiative, young leaders gained skills to facilitate difficult conversations related to violent extremism and to conduct their own youth-led workshop to a network of young people in their local community. In Australia, for example, 55 young people (17 male and 38 female) were trained using a hybrid approach of in-person meetings and online trainings and webinars. Following the workshop, 98 percent said they would recommend it to their peers, and the number of young people who had reported that they felt listened to and included in PCVE work increased from 17.5 per cent to 58 per cent.

In Sudan, the 15 UNCCT trained youth will deliver six youth-led workshops in the country in October and November, whereby the results are intended to inform national Sudanese PCVE efforts.

On 12 August, UNCCT partnered with the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) to deliver a webinar in recognition of International Youth Day that gathered 55 young people. The Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Raffi Gregorian, delivered opening remarks and panel members consisted of young people from the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme’s Youth Reference Group and MGCY. The online event created a space to engage young men and women interested in international peace and security and introduce them to the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, opportunities for engagement, and the youth-focused activities of UNCCT.

PCVE Policy Assistance Programme

In furtherance of UNOCT/UNCCT's objective of supporting Member States to hold dialogues on key drivers of terrorism, the Centre supported Bangladesh to conduct a mapping exercise identifying gaps and overlaps in programming designed to address hate speech related to violent extremism in the country. This exercise identified a need for an overarching mechanism and coordination structure to better understand hate speech, and its potential connection to violent extremism and terrorism, and to support collaborative efforts to tackle it. The United Nations Country Team PVE Working Group is being expanded to include United Nations agencies specialized in hate speech to provide additional knowledge on this evolving issue, in addition to the existing participation of the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.



In September, UNOCT/UNCCT drafted an analytical report to examine emerging incidents and trends on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in radicalization, recruitment and reorganization efforts of violent extremist and terrorist groups in Bangladesh. This report has been shared with members of the international community to draw attention to the heightened threat of violent extremism during the pandemic, and to inform PCVE policy and programming.

Gender

UNCCT concluded three briefing sessions with the UNOCT Gender Taskforce in preparation for the development of the UNOCT Gender Policy. The final session undertaken during this period focused on gender analysis and included an informal discussion with CTED and DPPA on their experiences in integrating gender analyses within their work. The Inception Report for the development of the Gender Policy was drafted, shared with Senior Management, and promulgated. It outlines the scope, methodology and timeline for finalizing the Gender Policy for UNOCT. The process includes a gender assessment of all UNOCT programmes/projects, policies and procedures, and UNOCT-wide consultations. It is expected that the policy will be finalized in the second quarter of 2021.

Technical assistance and support on gender mainstreaming was provided for the development of several programme and project documents, including the **Global PCVE programme**, the **Global Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) Programme** and the Concept Note for *Enhancing the capacity of Mozambique's counter-terrorism entities to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism*. As a result, these programme documents were fully gender responsive.

Preparations for ensuring enhanced integration of gender perspectives within technical aspects of counter-terrorism were undertaken. An initiative was started, jointly with CTED, to develop a series of “Issue Papers” to inform gender mainstreaming in aspects such as new technologies, including Cybersecurity, Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records (API/PNR), as well as Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). It is expected that these Issue Papers will be concluded in the first quarter of 2021 and will be instrumental to guide the integration of gender perspectives within counter-terrorism programming and policy development.

UNCCT also supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Gender Working Group to undertake consultations with women-led CSOs from the global South. This initiative was implemented by UN Women digitally and gathered 142 participants from 43 countries. Participants developed a public statement with a range of recommendations on gender and countering terrorism and PCVE, which will be used for a series of advocacy initiatives and to inform the upcoming review of the GCTS.

Pillar II: Preventing and Combating Terrorism

Main Activities

- *Second Virtual Capacity-Building Workshop for Bahrain (CFT Programme)*- 161 officials from Bahrain's relevant ministries and national agencies, private sector institutions and NPOs trained to address FATF Recommendation 8 on the protection of NPOs from terrorist abuse.
- *Virtual training for Malaysian officials on Structured Methodologies for Counter-Terrorism Investigations Online (Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies)* - more than 40 Malaysian law enforcement officials (15 percent women) trained on methodologies and techniques to investigate terrorist activities on the dark web and social media, as well as terrorist use of cryptocurrencies.
- *Virtual Consultations on the Legal, Policy, and Operational Implications of Watchlists (BSM Programme)* with more than 60 national-level counter-terrorism policy representatives and expert participants.
- *Interactive Discussion I – Emerging Threats: Responding to the Threat of Bio and Cyber Terrorism* within the UNOCT Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week (CBRN Programme) with 266 participants from Member States, UN entities, International Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations.

Key Results

- Increased awareness and enhanced Bahrain's capacity to understand practical dimensions on building trust with the non-profit sector and identifying specific areas through which civil society entities and private sector institutions can adhere to national regulations in a manner that is commensurate to the risk posed to the non-profit sector by terrorist groups.
- Improved investigative capacities of Malaysian law enforcement officials that will ensure future effective use of structured methodologies for the collection of open source information from the Internet, social media and the dark web to investigate terrorist activities on-line in compliance with international human rights law, thus enhanced the capacity of Malaysia to collect such activities as electronic evidence admissible to courts.
- Strengthened cooperation between Member States, including GCTF members, as well as international and regional organizations in establishing and maintaining effective terrorist watchlisting frameworks which will lead to increased Member States capacity to develop effective watchlisting procedures that are in line with international legal obligations.
- Increased awareness of Member States, International Organizations and Civil Society about threats of weaponization of biological materials and criminal use of cyberspace by non-state actors and the respective mitigating measures.

Despite continued challenges posed by COVID-19 in supporting Member States to implement Pillar II of the GCTS, UNCCT was able to deliver technical assistance to Member States through direct consultations and a number of webinars. As a Centre of Excellence, UNCCT also took part in webinars and virtual conferences organized by partners both within the United Nations and beyond, on countering terrorism and PCVE matters. This has allowed UNCCT to reach a broad range of stakeholders as the events are often attended by hundreds of people across the globe.

UNCCT staff have also continued to adjust working schedules for virtual trainings planned with partners and beneficiary countries in Southeast and Central Asia. UNCCT staff have shown dedication and adaptability by convening trainings across different time zones.

Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unique issues related to terrorism financing, including in the context of protecting charity organizations and financial relief work from terrorist abuse. For example, COVID-19 causes humanitarian challenges, which increase the potential of non-profit organizations (NPOs) supporting communities under stress. That increased role could potentially attract the interest of terrorists who might use NPOs for fundraising.



Under the UNCCT **Global Coordinated Programme on Detecting, Preventing and Countering the Financing of Terrorism** (CFT Programme) UNCCT engaged more intensively with national regulatory authorities that deal with the non-profit sector to inform and train them on the key requirements related to FATF Recommendation 8 on protecting the non-profit sector from terrorist abuse while maintaining the sector's operational autonomy. As part of this effort, UNCCT organized a second *Virtual Capacity-Building Workshop for Bahrain* on 26 August 2020 to address FATF Recommendation 8 on the protection of NPOs from terrorist abuse. The workshop was chaired by Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Under-Secretary for International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain and attended by 161 officials from Bahrain's relevant ministries and national agencies, private sector

institutions and NPOs. The presentations covered strategic elements of partnerships between NPOs and the private sector, as well as sharing best practices on public-private partnerships related to FATF Recommendation 8. The workshop helped participants understand practical

dimensions on building trust with the non-profit sector and identifying specific areas through which civil society entities and private sector institutions can adhere to national regulations in a manner that is commensurate to the risk posed to the non-profit sector by terrorist groups. Close to full gender parity was registered amongst participants. The workshop was preceded by bilateral talks between the UNCCT CFT Unit and the Bahraini Ministry of Labour and Social Development on the topic of further UNCCT-Bahrain cooperation, and followed by bilateral talks between Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and Sheikh Al Khalifa on the topic of resource mobilization.

On 1 July, the **CFT Programme** jointly convened the first virtual seminar on goFinTel with implementing partners UNODC and the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT). The goFinTel software is the successor technological tool to the goAML platform, which assists national regulatory authorities in collecting, analysing, and disseminating financial information. For the long-term impact and sustainability of the **CFT Programme**, UNCCT in partnership with UNODC and OICT are working to develop goFinTel as a powerful and state-of-the-art United Nations-owned technology to enhance interested Member States' capacity to monitor, disseminate and analyse financial transactions-related data in order to detect suspicious activities using risk indicators. Following the seminar, the **CFT Programme** engaged with multiple Member States on fundraising elements and development of the software.

UNCCT Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies

Under its **Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies**, UNCCT continued its capacity-building for counter-terrorism investigations online. On 5 August, UNCCT conducted a virtual training for Malaysian officials on Structured Methodologies for Counter-Terrorism Investigations Online, in collaboration with the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) and CTED. The training improved the investigative capacities of law enforcement officials to conduct counter-terrorism investigations on-line by collecting open-source information from the Internet, social media, and the dark web in compliance with international human rights law, thus enhancing the capacity of Malaysia to present electronic evidence admissible to courts. More than 40 Malaysian law enforcement officials were trained on methodologies and techniques to investigate terrorist activities on the dark web and social media, as well as terrorist use of cryptocurrencies. CTED provided a briefing on cross-border digital evidence sharing. This activity was funded by a generous contribution from the government of Japan to UNCCT, and it was also part of a series of webinars organized by SEARCCT for Malaysian officials during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNCCT strengthened partnerships and synergies with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), OSCE and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) which will lead to comprehensive capacity-building support to requesting Member States including the development of a guide for national cybersecurity strategies and a framework for metrics and fields for reporting terrorist and violent extremist content on social media.

Border Security and Management Programme (BSM)

Under its global **Border Security and Management Programme**, UNCCT organized two webinars on *Border Challenges in the Context of Counter-Terrorism and Related Transnational Organized Crime*, one focused on South America (Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay) on 16 September; and a second one focused on the Sahel region on 30 September. These webinars were organized in partnership with the World Border Security Congress (WBSC), as well as with key Global Compact entities and regional and national experts.

This series of focused webinars addressed border challenges in the context of counter-terrorism. Each webinar was attended by more than 300 people from across the globe. The webinars brought together counter-terrorism coordinators, border and law enforcement experts and practitioners from national governments, as well as international experts from the private sector, civil society, academia, and other relevant international, regional, and sub-regional organizations. The virtual discussions reflected different perspectives, as well as experiences and ideas presented from key experts from the regions.

These webinars enhanced information sharing and coordination regarding current threats and the evolving terrorism landscape, the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, as well as the main gaps and challenges for border management. The webinars also outlined the need for border security strategies, plans of action, and processes that incorporate counter-terrorism components, crisis and risk management mechanisms within the current global pandemic context.

On 24 July, UNCCT and CTED organized a virtual expert discussion under the framework of the Joint UNCCT-CTED Initiative to enhance the capacities of Member States to responsibly use and share biometric data within the context of counter terrorism. The expert discussion was attended by more than 120 participants and experts from the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and focused on the practical benefits of the use of biometric data in countering terrorism as well as the technical challenges compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, participants agreed on the need to establish supplementary guidelines on the use of biometrics to provide additional support in the face of the global pandemic and to ensure full compliance with domestic and international human rights law. UNCCT and CTED, in consultation with Member States, are delivering tailored technical assistance activities in this specific field.

Following the launch event of the *Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) Watchlisting Guidance Manual Initiative*, co-led by the United Nations and the United States, in January 2020, UNCCT, under the framework of the **BSM Programme**, continued to support the Initiative in the third quarter of 2020 through the delivery of a series of *Virtual Consultations on the Legal, Policy, and Operational Implications of Watchlists*, two of which were organized during the second quarter. The consultations enabled more than 60 national-level counter-terrorism policy representatives and expert participants from Member States, including GCTF members, as well as international and regional organizations to discuss and share best practices related to establishing and maintaining effective terrorist watchlisting frameworks. The webinars will contribute to the development of a comprehensive reference manual in the form of a toolkit designed to support Member States in the development of effective watchlisting procedures that are in line with international legal obligations.

Further thematic support and expertise was provided to the GCTF Maritime Security and Terrorist Travel Initiative during its webinar on *Tools and Responses for Countering Maritime Terrorist Travel & Relevant Public and Private Bodies*, as part of the series of Virtual Consultations on the Global Implications of Terrorist Travel in the Maritime Domain, held on the 28 July.

Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism

The UNCCT programme on **Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism** continued to implement its six-month contingency plan to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and delivered a number of on-line activities under the different outputs.

Under the output on *visibility*, on 6 July, the programme co-organized with the **Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies** and the **UNOCT Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch**, a dialogue titled *Interactive Discussion I – Emerging Threats: Responding to the Threat of Bio and Cyber Terrorism of the UNOCT Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week*. The session, which had more than 260 participants, was moderated by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and included panellists from Canada, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Group of Experts supporting the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 Committee, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Cyber Readiness Institute. The speakers acknowledged the need to prevent and establish response mechanisms against the threat of weaponization of biological materials and cyberspace by non-state actors. The event served to increase the awareness of Member States about these threats and the respective mitigating measures.



With respect to the output on *partnerships*, UNCCT participated in the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) second edition of the Nuclear Security (NuSec) Talks - Security through Law*, which took place on the margins of the 64th IAEA General Conference on 21 September. Mr. Voronkov delivered a talk framing the global threat of nuclear terrorism and together with IAEA Director General, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, called upon Member States to join and enforce the Convention on the

Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Amendment (CPPNM/A) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) to reinforce nuclear security and prevent nuclear terrorism.

Under the output on *capacity-building* and the pilot project on **Enhancing Capabilities to Prepare for and Respond to a CBRN Terrorist Attack in Jordan**, UNCCT and the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) contributed to its visibility through a script - *The Story of Manaf* - of UNCCT's introductory video for the Expo and presented the project during the Third Intersessional Meeting of the Global Partnership Chemical Security Working Group on 1 September.

Within the framework of the pilot project on **Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of the ICSANT**, UNCCT produced an outline of an academic study aimed at enhancing the understanding of the reasons and challenges for Member States which are not party to ICSANT. In addition, UNCCT developed videos and scenarios to facilitate discussions on how the implementation of ICSANT can strengthen nuclear security at borders and facilitate international cooperation. These videos and scenarios were shared with relevant international organizations and other partners engaging in the organization of virtual workshops planned for late 2020 and early 2021.

Under the pilot project on **Addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus: Preventing and combatting the illicit trafficking of Small-Arms and Light Weapons and their illicit supply to terrorists in Central Asia**, UNCCT and UNODC, in close collaboration with CTED and UNODA, finalized the methodology for the virtual deep dive assessments on legislation and operational frameworks.



In support of the output on *international inter-agency coordination* and within the framework of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection (ETCIP) Working Group project on **Technology and Security: Enhancing Knowledge about Advances in Science and Technology to Combat WMD Terrorism** UNCCT and UNICRI organized: (1) a webinar on COVID-19 and future pandemics and the spectre of bioterrorism, on 2 July; (2) an expert tele-workshop on Using Big Data and Blockchain to combat WMD terrorism, on 17 July; and (3) an expert tele-workshop on Using Virtual Reality (VR) and Drones to Combat WMD Terrorism, on 23 September. These virtual meetings allowed for in-depth discussions by practitioners about the threat of bioterrorism, as well as how technology can offer advantages to improve detection, response and recovery in case of CBRN terrorist attacks. These findings will be included in a publication that will be shared with Member States with the objective of raising awareness and informing their policies and actions.

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

Main Activities

- *Provision of technical expertise and guidance* to: inform the new National CT Strategy for Iraq; initiate the National Action Plan for PCVE in Tajikistan; and integrate Pillar II aspects of the GCTS into the regional Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy of the Arab Interior Ministers Council and the development of the Strategic Cooperation Framework 2020-2022 for Bahrain.
- *Updating of the UN Interagency Programme on CT in Burkina Faso* to account for all interagency and bilateral activities in the country.
- *Organized side event at the 75th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly* showcasing the experiences of Central Asian countries with individuals returned from Syria and Iraq, including the production of an animated video to highlight the process and challenges of return.
- *Launched internet radio programme* to reach migrant workers from Central Asia vulnerable to violent extremism and terrorist recruitment in third countries.

Key Results

- Enhanced technical expertise and capacity of: the Government of Iraq to bring the country's CT strategy in line with the GCTS; the Government of Tajikistan to develop a National Action Plan for PCVE; and the Arab Interior Ministers Council to bring the region's CT strategy in line with the GCTS. Strengthened cooperation between the Government of Bahrain and UN entities to work on priority CT areas.
- United Nations Interagency Programme on Counter-Terrorism in Burkina Faso is fully in line with all country needs assessments, UN agency and bilateral activities in the country.
- Improved understanding and increased knowledge of Member State participants considering possible repatriation of their nationals from Iraq and Syria and challenges and options in the process of repatriation, including with regards to protecting human rights.
- A new tool is available to mitigate the risks of violent extremist influence and recruitment to the vulnerable migrant worker populations from Central Asia.

UNCCT Strategic Coordination Section (SCC) continued to leverage regional presence to assist in developing regional and national counter-terrorism and PCVE strategies and frameworks; coordinate targeted “All-of-UN” country programmes; as well as spearhead and support new regional initiatives. The Section also received approval from the UNOCT Programme Review Board to establish a programme office in Nairobi to serve the East and Southern Regions of Africa.

At the strategic level, the draft National Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Iraq was submitted to the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact’s National and Regional Strategy (NARS) Working Group and received technical input and guidance from across the United Nations system. These inputs were collated and transmitted by the Office of the Resident Coordinator to the Iraq Government for consideration in its works toward the finalization of the strategy. At the same time, the Central Asia Team (in coordination with OSCE, and the EU-funded Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) Asia Programme) provided experts to the Government of Tajikistan to initiate the drafting of a National Action Plan for PCVE in that country. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Team produced a comprehensive technical guidance paper on how to integrate Pillar II provisions of the GCTS into the regional Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In the same region, at the national level, UNCCT, through the Resident Coordinator Office in Manama, Bahrain, contributed to the development of a strategic cooperation framework for 2020-2022. This framework aims to provide a basis for cooperation between the Government and various United Nations entities in several priority counter-terrorism areas

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the advancement of field-level country programmes very challenging. The initiation phase of the programme on **Strengthening Burkina Faso’s Criminal Justice Response to Caseload of Detainees Suspected of Terrorist Offences** remains on hold due to travel restrictions. However, the West Africa Team has used this time to establish cooperation frameworks with key partners in the programme such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which is in the process of establishing a Human Rights Office in Ouagadougou, Department of Peace Operations (DPO)/Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) (on provision of Rule of Law expertise) and CTED (to integrate this programme into the wider needs assessment of West Africa). Progress has also been achieved in identifying key funding sources, with the programme obtaining initial resources amounting to some \$2.4 million of the planned \$10 million programme.

In terms of spearheading new regional initiatives, the Central Asia Team, in close collaboration with the PRR Unit, convened an online side event at the 75th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled *Central Asian experience with Individuals returned from Syria and Iraq: successes, challenges, and lessons learned*. The event highlighted

the Central Asian experience and the United Nations support available to Member States that have repatriated or are committed to repatriate their nationals from camps in north-eastern Syria and Iraq. The animated video, produced by UNCCT and UNRCCA, *Returning home, rebuilding lives*, presented Member States with real life scenarios to consider as well as engagement with Central Asian government and United Nations implementers of **FTF/PRR programmes**. Through the panel discussions, practitioners conveyed what they have learned through initial experiences. At the same time, Member State participants considering possible repatriation of their nationals from Iraq and Syria probed panel members about the challenges they could expect as well as options to meet those challenges in compliance with international law.

Another Central Asian initiative launched during this quarter is designed to support the prevention of radicalization and recruitment of Central Asian migrant workers abroad. The project established a pre-recorded internet radio platform with a strong PCVE component, targeting countries with the highest Central Asian migrant worker populations. This new tool is designed to limit the influence of terrorist recruiters on these vulnerable populations. In order to reach the broadest audience possible, the radio programs are being made available in five Central Asian languages.

South-South Cooperation

The UNCCT global initiative to promote **South-South Cooperation (SSC) in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism** progressed in promoting and strengthening the exchange of expertise between experts from selected countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean and overall in enhancing of capacities to design and implement related policies and mechanisms. The project helps build new partnerships, strengthen institutional and technical capacities and responds to the specific counter-terrorism and PCVE challenges of developing countries to enhance cooperation. For example, in response to requests from Pakistan and Niger, UNCCT has initiated the development of a capacity-building project that will leverage its **BSM Programme**. In that context, support will be provided by Pakistan and UNCCT experts to strengthen Niger's regulatory and institutional frameworks to prevent, detect and counter the cross-border movement of terrorists in all modes of cross-border transportation. This triangular cooperation will serve as a pilot for further UNCCT engagement on South-South cooperation.

UNCCT contributed, by participating in working groups and providing inputs to deliverables and activities, to the drafting of United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation's Implementation Plan that will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General for endorsement early December.

Main Activities

- *Third commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (VoT Programme)* convened over 282 participants, including 135 representatives from 81 Member States, eight representatives from three regional organizations and 139 representatives from CSOs, victims' associations and United Nations entities.
- *The Prison Staff Training Centre on Prevention of Extremism* launched in Kazakhstan and two workshops held in Uganda to discuss a new prisoner classification system (**VEPs project**).
- *First roundtable meeting between CSOs and UNOCT* - attended by 21 participants from 19 CSO organizations from Europe, America, Africa, MENA, and Asia Pacific (out of which four CSOs were women-led/focused).
- UNOCT/UNCCT, OHCHR and UNICRI initiated a joint research project on **Human Rights Aspects of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism**.

Key Results

- Increased awareness of Member States and international organizations of the difficulties faced by victims of terrorism, including to access psychosocial support since the COVID-19 pandemic started, and renewed commitment to promoting and protecting the rights and needs of victims through national and international legislation and action plans.
- Enhanced capacity of prison offices to manage high-risk prisoners, to prevent radicalization to violence in prisons, to build effective prisoners' classification system and communication strategies; and strengthened capacity of prosecutors on conducting internal prison inspections (Kazakhstan and Uganda).
- Improved coordination and cooperation of UNOCT/UNCCT with CSOs and defined joint priorities in PCVE going forward such as sustained collaboration and partnerships including between national institutions and grassroots organizations.
- Strengthened cooperation between UNOCT/UNCCT, OHCHR and UNICRI which will lead to enhanced understanding of Member States, technology companies and UN Global Compact entities of how AI technology can be used in CT efforts in full compliance with human rights (15 Member States, 5 tech companies, and all the HR, RoL and VOT Working Group entities).

UNCCT, in collaboration with OHCHR, CTED, UNODC and other Global Compact partners, continued to put human rights at the centre of its counter-terrorism and PCVE efforts, through strengthened CSO engagement, providing a platform for Victims' voices to be heard and supporting Member States to have coherent, human rights-based, age and gender-sensitive **PRR programmes**, among other measures.

Victims of Terrorism Support Programme

On 8 July, UNCCT organised a session on victims of terrorism during the UNOCT Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week entitled *Addressing the Plight of Victims of Terrorism in a Challenging Environment*. The online event, hosted by the Ambassadors of Afghanistan and Spain, co-chairs of the GoF VoT, brought together Member States, United Nations entities, experts, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders to collectively engage on existing and emerging counter-terrorism priorities in the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic environment. UNCCT also finalised the interactive map that included 20 interviews and photographs demonstrating victims' resilience, which was displayed in the UNCCT Exposition during Virtual CT Week.

On 21 August, UNCCT, in collaboration with the GoF VoT, held the third commemoration of the *International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism* ("International Day"). The event took place online and was attended by over 282 people, including 135 representatives from 81 Member States, eight representatives from three regional organizations and 139 representatives from CSOs, victims' associations and United Nations entities.

United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres participated in the event and acknowledged the difficulties faced by victims of terrorism, particularly during the pandemic, and stressed the importance of their human rights. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov opened the high-level segment, which featured remarks from the President of the General Assembly, the co-Chairs of the GoF VoT (Afghanistan and Spain) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and testimonies of two victims of terrorism from attacks that occurred in Pakistan and Uganda.

Following the high-level segment, an interactive panel, which included panellists from the 9/11 Memorial Museum, the EU Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism, two victims of terrorist attacks that occurred in Belgium and Kenya and a victims' association representative, discussed the ability to honour and commemorate victims during the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion highlighted the difficulties faced by victims who have been unable to access psychosocial support since the COVID-19 pandemic started and stressed the key role of national and international legislation and action plans and their proper implementation in promoting and protecting the rights and needs of victims. Speakers also called for more action to strengthen national and international frameworks to protect victims of terrorism and underlined the crucial

role of the United Nations in ensuring that the response to counter-terrorism continues to maintain a victim-centric approach.

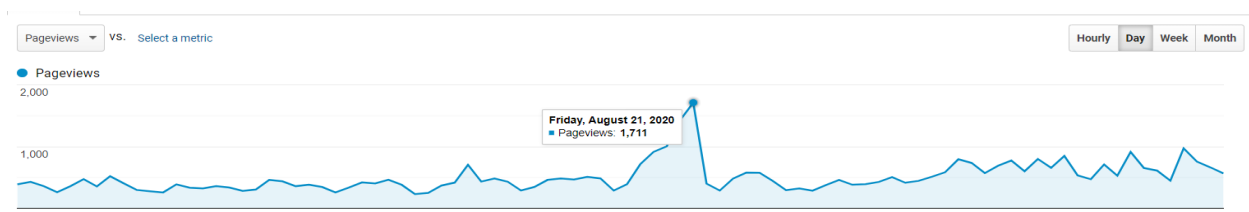
The event was broadcast live on UN WebTV, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and received more than 9,500 views and 130 million social media impressions. Panellists of the high level-segment stressed the importance of remembrance and giving victims a platform to share their stories. The event launched the film *Not forgotten: Stories of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism* which featured interviews with 10 victims (six males and four females) from around the globe, sharing their individual experiences in facing the challenges of 'remembering' as well as commemorating their attack or loss of loved ones, particularly during a pandemic.

Further, in preparation of the International Day, on 12-13 August, UNCCT delivered a *StratComs capacity-building* training for victims and survivors of terrorism who had participated in the film on *Remembrance* and a social media campaign around International Day. The workshop provided these participants with tools, approaches and skills needed to develop their own cohesive narratives, to speak on their own terms, and to use social media effectively and safely when sharing their stories and messages of Remembrance. Participants included 13 victims (five women and eight men) from Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the United States. The training was offered entirely online and English-Arabic simultaneous interpretation was provided. As a result, the beneficiaries enhanced their awareness and skills to develop their own individual narratives; to use social media effectively and safely; and to understand the measure of impact of social media posts. In addition, UNCCT hosted a preview of the film for ten victims of terrorism, who were featured in the film, and prepared them for the impact of the film and the social media campaign surrounding it.

UNCCT also co-organized with the two co-chairs of the Group, Afghanistan and Spain, the *Second Ministerial Meeting of the GoF VoT*, which was held online on 28 September during the high-level week of the 75th session of the General Assembly. Over 75 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from 31 Member States and a representative from UNODC. The meeting was co-hosted by H.E. Ms. Arantxa González Laya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain and H.E. Mr. Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. Both Ministers highlighted that the increased membership of the Group had resulted in improved engagement in promoting and protecting the rights and addressing the needs of victims of terrorism. Additionally, they both welcomed UNOCT's leadership role on this issue, and expressed their readiness to provide partnership and support for the *Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism*, to be held in 2021. Under-Secretary-General Voronkov reiterated the critical role of the Group to sustain and build on the growing momentum at the international level to support

the rights and needs of the victims of terrorism, especially through sustainable, practical, and concrete measures.

In the third quarter, the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal attracted 46,312-page views, representing a 52 percent increase in views compared to the same quarter in 2019. The highest number of page views during this period was reached on 21 August, during the *International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism*, where a series of articles and film clips were shared on the subject of Remembrance. This marked a 39 percent increase in relation to the views for the 2019 International Day. A further spike of users was registered in late September, following the attack that occurred outside of the former headquarters of the Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris, the scene of two previous terror attacks in 2011 and 2015.



Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR) Programme

In September, UNCCT PRB recommended for approval the **Global Programme on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration** which intends to: 1) use its convening capacity to ensure coherent, human rights-based, age- and gender-sensitive PRR support to Member States from a coordinated United Nations system; 2) provide a strategic and coherent framework on PRR and generate knowledge that informs programming and policy; and 3) build the capacity of Member States to develop, adopt and implement comprehensive, coherent and tailored PRR approaches in relation to individuals for whom there are reasonable grounds to believe are terrorists, including suspected FTFs and their accompanying family members, including spouses and children. The Global Programme on PRR will act nimbly, filling gaps in the United Nation's response to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons allegedly associated with terrorist groups and to the acute needs of requesting Member States.

The UNCCT-UNODC-CTED project on **Supporting the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons** implemented in Kazakhstan, Tunisia, and Uganda, is aimed to strengthen the management of Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) and their disengagement, rehabilitation, and reintegration. From 28-29 July, under the VEPs project, UNOCT/UNCCT and UNODC launched a two-day workshop in Tunisia designed to improve communication skills of prison staff to enhance solicitation of improved

community views and to develop solutions to reintegrate prisoners after release. The workshop also resulted in concrete recommendations for the strategic development of partnerships between the prison service and the media. Further project implementation was supported through the Steering Committee Meetings, launched in Tunisia on 28-30 September.

The Prison Staff Training Centre on Prevention of Extremism, which was equipped by the UNCCT-UNODC-CTED VEPs project, was launched in Kazakhstan on 24 July. Following the inauguration of the centre, 16 trainers led a *training of trainers* session on 17-28 August to further provide mentorship and as a complement to the Management of VEPs Training Modules, servicing three categories of prison officers (prison psychologists, PCVE inspectors and prison security officers). Additionally, from 3-5 August and on 8 August, two workshops were held in Kampala, Uganda to discuss a new prisoner classification system developed under the auspices of the VEPs project. This system will be officially endorsed by the Ugandan prison service and is to be inaugurated in the national prison system as the primary risk assessment mechanism. These capacity development initiatives have enhanced the capabilities of prison officers to manage high-risk prisoners, prevent radicalization of violence in prisons, and in building an effective prisoners' classification system and communication strategy. It also strengthened the capacity of prosecutors to conduct internal prison inspections.

Human Rights

In July, UNOCT, OHCHR, and UNICRI initiated a joint research project on **Human Rights Aspects of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism**, to support Member States, technology companies, and the United Nations to use artificial intelligence technologies in counter-terrorism, in full compliance with human rights. The project identified key stakeholders and specialists to conduct research and participate in the planned expert workshop. A concept note was also developed for the workshop. UNCCT continues to provide technical and financial support for the project, aimed at enhancing the understanding of Member States, technology companies, Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities of how AI technology can be used in counter-terrorism efforts in full compliance with human rights.

On 9 July, participants at the UNOCT Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week observed that Member States have not fully lived up to their human rights commitments affirmed in Security Council resolutions, the GCTS, and the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights. They particularly highlighted that some States have adopted heavily securitized and repressive measures in their response to COVID-19, targeting civil society including human rights defenders and humanitarian NGOs. Their recommendations included: 1) the adoption of integrated and systematic monitoring and evaluation in the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, including specific impact assessment of human rights compliance of counter-terrorism and PCVE

measures; 2) increased compliance by Member States, United Nations entities and other duty bearers with Security Council resolution 2462, which has some international law safeguards for humanitarian activities with regard to sanctions regimes and counter-terrorism frameworks; 3) strengthening the application of human-rights compliant risk assessments, including those on counter financing of terrorism; and 4) implementation by UNOCT of its CSO Engagement Strategy and other efforts at ensuring meaningful participation of civil society in decisions and activities of UNOCT architecture. Member States were called upon to abide by their human rights obligations and ensure human rights standards in counter-terrorism and PCVE contexts.

Civil Society engagement

On 18 September, UNCCT coordinated the first roundtable meeting between CSOs and UNOCT. 21 participants from 19 CSO organizations from Europe, America, Africa, MENA, and Asia Pacific participated in the meeting (out of which four CSOs are women-led/focused).

Discussions focused on initial steps towards the roll out of the UNOCT CSO Engagement Strategy, the planned High-level Regional conference with a human right focus to be held in Malaga in 2021, and opportunities for UNOCT to better engage CSOs.

Participants welcomed the initiative and called for related engagements to further strengthen the partnership between CSOs and UNOCT. They specifically requested UNOCT to ensure the continuation of meetings between the Under-Secretary-General and CSOs during country visits and high-level events, including regional conferences. This roundtable helped define the priorities going forward, such as sustained collaboration and partnerships including between national institutions and grassroots organizations undertaking efforts towards PCVE. Participants also agreed on the value of targeted thematic discussions on human rights, humanitarian space, gender and youth, peace and reconciliation, development, justice as well as rule of law.

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

In the reporting period, PMU continued supporting the integrated delivery to the UNOCT/UNCCT mandate, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting, information management and coordination. Activities undertaken in the third quarter of 2020 include upgrading the UNOCT App, producing Programme Performance reports and providing training of UNCCT staff in the areas of Finance and Programme Budget.

PMU progressed in enhancing the UNCCT project database with metadata function. PMU launched a latest version of the UNOCT App to UNCCT and other stakeholders from UNOCT. Enhancements include the introduction of change control mechanism - an approval workflow whereby section heads can review and accept changes to project data which in turn allows for an efficient and timely update of project information. The app launch was followed up with focused training sessions across the UNCCT, attended by a total of 35 staff members. The training is also available on-demand for staff's future needs via video. Additionally, project managers gained quick access to Microsoft PowerBI reports, project documents and financial information in one central location. As a result, the monitoring process of projects/programmes has become more streamlined with increased accountability and transparency, and improved data utilization and management.

PMU delivered three monthly Project Performance Activity Reports outlining the initiatives and activities undertaken by UNCCT. These reports provided an overview of activities per Pillar and highlighted where Member States and regions were receiving services, and the number of participants (with gender disaggregation where available). The monthly activity reports provided statistics and highlights used in the UNOCT monthly brochure, which is shared with Member States, contributing to UNCCT's visibility and transparency of its work.

In response to the COVID-19 crises, system revisions were implemented to enhance adaptability in response to the limitations affecting UNCCT work, with activities additionally categorized as either onsite, online or a hybrid combination of both. For example, for this quarter, 61 percent of the activities reported were provided online. In support of UNCCT's ongoing collaboration with partners, PMU included a database attribute to incorporate and track these partnerships. PMU has been working with internal focal points to assess and define system enhancement needs related to gender scope.

PMU, in cooperation with the functionally related entities across UNOCT, launched the UNCCT second quarter highlight report. The report informs the Members of the Advisory Board, the Member States, beneficiaries, donors and the wider public of the UNCCT deliverables for that quarter, contributing to its visibility and transparency.

PMU conducted three targeted Finance and Budgetary trainings for UNCCT. These trainings covered multiple areas in finance and budgeting at macro and micro levels. Core topics included budget types and processes, key financial terminologies, contribution types, budget components, programme support cost calculations, preparation of programme budgets, the funds disbursement process, a cost plan exercise, mid-point review, reporting on deliverables, certifying authority, planning and monitoring, and reporting. As a result, more than 50 participants across the UNCCT enhanced their knowledge in the training area, are better equipped to deal with budgetary and financial aspects of programming in all its phases.

PMU reviewed and provided feedback to programme managers for UNCCT programme budgets, ensuring budgets are in line with project documents, donor agreements and within the United Nations finance and budgetary framework. In close collaboration with UNOCT Strategic Planning and Programme Support Section and the Executive Office, PMU provided substantive technical and quality assurance support and guidance throughout the process of releasing project and programme funds.

Part IV: Communications and Visibility

UNOCT continues to progress in implementing UNCCT's updated Communications Strategy and Visibility Plan for 2020, which envisions further strengthening the UNCCT brand and the development of innovative communication products. The aim is to further enhance the 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 to adapt to the new context, now focused more on online than offline activities.

For example, the UNOCT website, including UNCCT's, was launched in the six UN Official languages by mid-August. The *UNCCT Expo* was turned into a virtual exhibition that was launched during the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week in July. From April to July over 50 colleagues from across UNOCT and external contractors worked jointly on the development of the videos for the virtual version of the UNCCT Expo (please see Part 1).

Under-Secretary-General Voronkov also continued to promote the activities of UNCCT through the statements that he delivered on the occasion of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week and other virtual events. In order to reach wider audiences and actively participate in more UNCCT or outreach events, Mr. Voronkov recorded *video messages*. For instance, he participated in the second edition of the NuSec Talks "Security through Law," which took place on the margins of the 64th IAEA General Conference (please see pg. 23)

Main activities

In the third quarter, four major communication campaigns were organized to generate visibility and raise awareness on the activities of UNCCT. These campaigns focused on:

1. The *UNOCT Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week* (6 to 10 July), generating 39 million potential impressions with 1,550 tweets from 840 contributors with #VirtualCTWeek as well as 210 media articles in eight languages in 41 countries.
2. The launch of the *UNCCT Expo*, generating 8 million potential impressions with 161 tweets from 840 contributors with #UNCCTExpo as well as 20 articles.
3. The *International Day of Victims of Terrorism* (21 August) with the launch of a documentary entitled “Not forgotten” and related teasers from the UNCCT programme to support Victims of Terrorism. The hashtag #VictimsofTerrorism generated close 130 million potential impressions with 7,910 tweets by 4,351 contributors.
4. During the General Assembly High-Level segment, the Side event on *Child Returnees* co-organized with UNRCCA (25 September), generating 12 million potential impressions.

In order to amplify the outreach efforts, dedicated communications strategies including branding and communications guidelines were developed and shared with partners to promote these events on media and social media in collaboration with the Department of Global Communications (DGC), Global Counter-terrorism Compact entities, Member States and partners. The events were broadcasted live via UNWebTV and its social media channels. In addition, the Centre produced a number of related communication products such as three editions of the UNOCT Monthly Review newsletter, which featured UNCCT’s work prominently. This newsletter has been redesigned in September and continues to be highly welcomed by Member States in briefings and bilateral meetings.

Media

Throughout the reporting period, UNOCT issued six press releases referring to UNCCT’s activities, including to promote the Expo during the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week:

1. [Central Asian Experience with Individuals Returned from Syria and Iraq: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned](#) (25 September)
2. [“Not Forgotten: Stories of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism”, an online high-level event to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#) (17 August)
3. [New partnership forged between EU, UNDP and UNOCT to prevent violent extremism in Southeast Asia](#) (17 August)
4. [The international community reaffirms its commitment to work together to fight terrorism and violent extremism amidst the global pandemic](#) (10 July)

5. [The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre launches its first virtual exposition: "UNCCT Virtual EXPO – real impact" \[English\] – \[Arabic\]](#) (7 July)
6. [The United Nations warns that terrorism did not pause during the global pandemic and calls on the international community to stay united in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism](#) (6 July)

In the context of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week and the Expo, UNOCT worked in close collaboration with the DGC, the Media Liaison Unit, the Media Distribution Centre and the Spokesperson's Office in order to promote these events and ensure maximum dissemination of press releases and other background materials prepared for the media. On 1 July, the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Gregorian, participated in a media briefing on the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week, during which he announced the launch of the Expo and provided details on the sessions promoting UNCCT programmes and activities. On 10 July, Under-Secretary-General Voronkov participated in the United Nations Spokesperson's Noon Briefing at the end of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week and underscored the importance of the Expo and its preliminary results. Internally, Mr. Voronkov also briefed the Secretary-General and senior leadership of the United Nations.

Social media

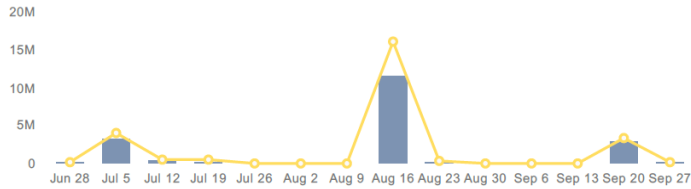
The Centre promoted its virtual activities through the UNOCT Twitter account and UNCCT's hashtag (#UNCCT) in a timely and consistent manner. In this quarter, 111 tweets with #UNCCT were generated by the @UN_OCT twitter account, which represents an increase of 270% as compared to the second quarter. As a result, these UNCCT tweets issued by @UN_OCT generated a total 868,900 owned impressions (potential views via @UN_OCT) during the reporting period in comparison to 79,735 owned impressions during the second quarter.

According to Union Metrics, #UNCCT generated 25,5 million potential impressions on Twitter during the reporting period with 1,154 tweets (including 924 retweets) by 485 contributors. The main contributors were @UN the UN main Twitter account (12.8 Million), @UNESCO (3.3 million), @HumanRights (3 million), @UN_OCT (868,900), @MAECgob, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain (474,500), @AdelaRaz, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan (443,100). The table below shows significant interest generated by the launch of the UNCCT Expo, the International Day of Victims of Terrorism and the UNCCT event organized in collaboration with UNRCCA on returnees, signalling that communication efforts were successful.

16M
POTENTIAL REACH

POTENTIAL IMPRESSIONS
FREQUENCY

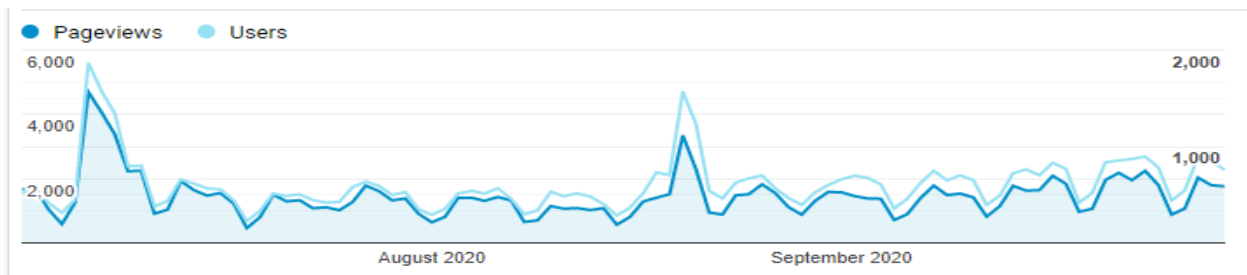
25.5M
1.60



The most popular Tweet was the story of a victim from Australia on the occasion of the International Day of Victims of Terrorism (12.9 million impressions), the UNCCT Expo page dedicated to victims on 8 July (3.4 million) and the announcement of the event on child returnees on 24 September (3.1 million). The most popular urls were bit.ly/INFO-VOT2020 (15M potential impressions); webtv.un.org (3.8M potential impressions) and [bit.ly/UNCCT Expo](https://bit.ly/UNCCT%20Expo) (3.4M potential impressions).

Website

Pageviews and users UNOCT website



UNOCT updated its website in a timely manner including with web stories on UNCCT activities. The website registered a total of 134,625 pageviews in August and September with two peaks in traffic on the occasion of the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week and the International Day of Victims of Terrorism. As a result of the outreach efforts and cross-promotion on social media, during the week of 16 to 23 August, the UNOCT website had a 71 percent increase and the Victims Portal a 107 percent increase in pageviews compared to the previous week (60 percent increase compared to the same week in 2019).

The UNCCT sub-website recorded 15,577 pageviews with an increase of 18 percent compared to the previous reporting period (13,256 pageviews). The most popular pages were the UNCCT landing page (www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct which is also accessible through www.un.org/uncct), and the UNCCT BSM and CBRN programme pages.

The Office will persist in its efforts to leverage the visibility of the Centre and enhance the transparency of its activities, with a flexible, creative and dynamic approach responsive to the COVID-19 impact on UNCCT's operations. To showcase the work of the Centre, UNOCT will

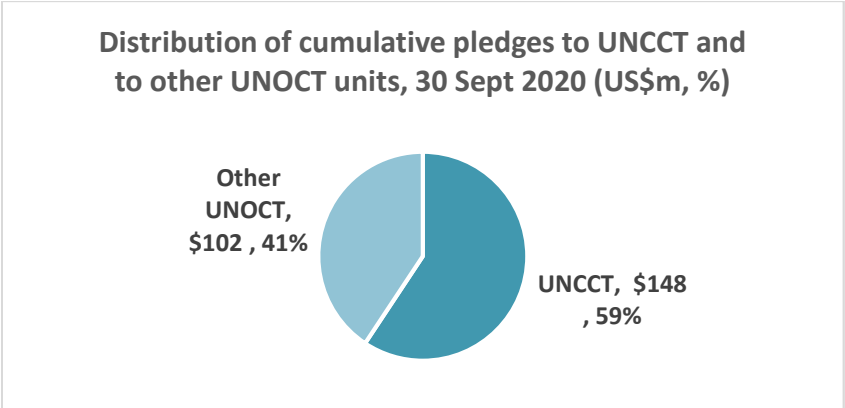
develop, in close collaboration with the DGC, an updated communications strategy in line with the recommendations of the KPMG report.

Part V: Financial Overview

Pledges and contributions for UNCCT

UNCCT and UNOCT senior managers continue to engage actively with existing and potential donors to mobilize more flexible unearmarked funding and diversify the donor base to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for the programmatic activities outlined in the UNCCT 5-Year Programme. In July, UNCCT participated in the first virtual meeting of UNOCT donors, which included a presentation of key results achieved during the first six months of 2020 and efforts made to adapt to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Donors expressed growing interest in priority areas including UNCCT programmes of support to victims of terrorism, countering the financing of terrorism, cybersecurity, border security, upholding human rights while countering terrorism and mainstreaming gender. They also commended the new programmes developed to address emerging demands such as the UNCCT programmes on youth engagement and the terrorism-arms-crime nexus with a focus on illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, as well as acknowledged the critical role of civil society in counter-terrorism efforts.

As of 30 September, the total cumulative pledges dedicated to UNCCT through the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism (since 2009) and from extra-budgetary allocations, amounted to US\$148 million. This makes up 59 per cent of the total pledges for UNOCT of US\$250 million. During the period, UNCCT received a contribution of €80,000 from the Government of Spain to support UNCCT’s Victims of Terrorism Programme and Civil Society Engagement.



The generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided 74 per cent of the cumulative pledges and contributions in support of UNCCT projects and activities. The work of UNCCT is made possible with the pledges and contributions of the 31 donors in Table 1.

Table 1: Cumulative pledges to the Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism^{/a} and other extra-budgetary allocations, and cumulative distribution of resources to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism programme of work

(in United States dollars, as of 30 Sept 2020)^{/a}

No	Donors	For UNCCT	For other UNOCT	Total Pledges
1	Saudi Arabia	110,000,000		110,000,000
2	European Union	9,995,744	6,632,042	16,627,786
3	United States	5,458,903	987,500	6,446,403
4	Japan	4,384,945	500,000	4,884,945
5	Norway	3,806,300		3,806,300
6	Spain	2,476,816		2,476,816
7	EOSG PDF funds (China) ^{/b}	2,068,080	5,200,000	7,268,080
8	Canada	1,485,743		1,485,743
9	Russia	1,441,500	1,058,500	2,500,000
10	United Kingdom	1,434,721	48,013	1,482,734
11	Denmark	683,858		683,858
12	Sweden	677,040		677,040
13	Netherlands ^{/c}	630,455	5,681,818	6,312,273
14	Germany	555,745		555,745
15	Switzerland	548,621		548,621
16	Rep. of Korea	390,000	626,553	1,016,553
17	United Arab Emirates	350,000		350,000
18	Kazakhstan	300,000	28,552	328,552
19	India	275,000	275,000	550,000
20	Belgium	270,855		270,855
21	Qatar	250,000	80,020,000	80,270,000
22	Australia	230,058	454,586	684,644
23	Italy	166,400		166,400

^{/a} since inception of the Trust Fund in 2009

^{/b} Allocation from the UN Sub-Fund for Peace and Security administered by EOSG

^{/c} Excludes in-kind contribution. The Netherlands also provided in-kind contribution valued at USD 11.5 million in 2018.

24	Morocco	130,000		130,000
25	Colombia	125,000		125,000
26	Finland	87,854		87,854
27	Turkey	60,000		60,000
28	Liechtenstein	40,000		40,000
29	Nigeria	10,000		10,000
30	Kenya	5,000		5,000
31	Algeria	2,500	20,000	22,500
Total to UNCCT		148,341,139	101,532,563	249,873,702

As of 30 September, the utilization against the released budget of US\$29 million was US\$13.3 million or 46 per cent of the total released budget which represents the budget of projects implemented by UNCCT during 2020.

Table 2: UNCCT Total budget and expenditure for 2020 and expenditure distribution by pillar, to 30 September 2020*

Pillar	Pillar Description	2020 Budget (US\$) (a)	2020 Expenditures (US\$) (b)	Utilization Rate (%) (c) = b/a	Expenditure distribution by pillar (%) (d)
I	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism	5,710,814	2,346,817	41%	18%
II	Combatting Terrorism	16,496,405	7,702,881	47%	58%
III	Supporting International Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism	3,753,330	1,425,439	38%	11%
IV	Human Rights and Victims	3,048,271	1,846,151	61%	14%
TOTAL		29,008,820	13,321,288	46%	100%

*Includes funds allocated from the UN Sub-Fund for Peace and Security administered by the EOSG.

Part VI: Conclusion

UNCCT continues to successfully adjust to the new global environment and keeps addressing the needs of Member States as a Centre of Excellence. The agile course of action exercised by UNCCT in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic ensured solid and effective ground on which the Centre is delivering high-impact programming to Member States.

During the third quarter of 2020, UNCCT also progressed in the development of its future Strategic Programme Framework, which will take into consideration the recommendations of the KPMG evaluation, advice of the UNCCT Advisory Board, and other relevant factors.

Under the reinforced COVID-19 contingency plan launched in March, UNCCT prioritised assignments that can be completed under the circumstances imposed by the pandemic, while identifying and developing agile solutions to carry out activities on virtual platforms such as: online training, mixed virtual/in-person formats, simulation platforms, and remote needs-assessment methodologies. UNCCT has followed the trend of the previous quarters: minimizing the negative effect of COVID-19 while maintaining the desired impact through the successful delivery of the UNCCT mandate.

While UNCCT advanced the methods to deliver capacity-building workshops and trainings in the post COVID-19 working and living environment, it simultaneously keeps exploring opportunities for safe delivery of those in a traditional manner.

The expertise of UNCCT staff continues to be recognized and requested worldwide by entities within and outside the United Nations. The Centre continually seeks to enhance its engagement and partnerships with relevant regional organizations such as OSCE, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), IGAD and ASEAN. As acknowledged in the previous quarters, these partnerships are vital for applying local knowledge and expertise in the design and provision of UNCCT technical assistance and capacity-building, making the assistance tailored and responsive to the regional specifics.