

Strengthening the Capacity of Prison Authorities in Post-Conflict and Prevention Settings to Detect and Prevent Radicalization and Security Breaches among Violent Extremists and Other High-Risk Prisoners

Brief description of the project

- Objective of the project

To reduce the number of prison incidents and radicalization attempts in prisons conducted by violent extremists, armed groups and other high-risk prisoners in selected mission settings in West and Central Africa.

- Why is the project required?

Prison security breaches, including continued criminal activity while imprisoned, can have destabilizing effects beyond prison walls. These are serious threats that must be addressed, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 2482. Supporting national prison authorities to prevent escapes and disturbances through effective management of violent extremists and other high-risk prisoners requires specific focus. Additionally, in many settings, overcrowded and understaffed prison facilities amplify conditions for radicalization and if not equipped with the right tools and proper training, prison staff will be unable to detect signs of radicalization or organized security breaches. This also generates the opportunity for extremist recruiters to create an ideological space in which they can control expressions about religion and politics. As such, prisons are a platform where armed groups and extremists can network and recruit new members. Building on past initiatives and existing guidelines, this project seeks to address gaps and provide a comprehensive approach to managing the threat violent extremists and other high-risk prisoners pose to fragile peace processes. Applying a regional approach that draws on the various resources of the UN, the project seeks to prioritize prevention and enhance coherence.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

This project will strengthen the capacity of selected target countries to identify and prevent security breaches as well as radicalization through information gathering and implementation of early warning systems. This can reduce serious prison incidents, thereby helping to combat violent extremism and recruitment efforts of armed groups in prisons, reduce organized crime, and fight impunity for serious crimes. Building on existing initiatives and guidance on the subject matter, it will provide a comprehensive regional approach coined by local ownership.

• **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Strengthened capability of national prison authorities to manage threats posed by violent extremists and other high-risk individuals in prison, through integrated systems and administrative frameworks, developed in line with international standards	<p>Desk review performed. Guidance material and database developed</p> <p>Pilot training of toolkit launched</p> <p>Facility-specific security framework developed</p>	<p>Perform a desk review of existing guidance material and capacity building initiatives in three peace operation settings in West and Central Africa aimed at identifying gaps and needs</p> <p>Develop guidance for the national development of administrative frameworks, and a database architecture in</p>

		<p>French and English, for gathering and storing information</p> <p>Support beneficiaries to design and implement local plans to adopt the toolkit, to create facility specific standard operating procedures and subsequently support adjustment and evaluation of these as needed</p> <p>Organize a validation session with partners, member states etc to endorse the revised toolkit</p>
<p>Strengthened capacity of national prison staff to identify and prevent security breaches and recruitment efforts of violent extremists and armed groups in prisons using information gathering mechanisms and related early warning systems, through standardized and continuous training</p>	<p>Toolkit developed and launched</p> <p>Pilot training of trainers conducted</p> <p>Toolkit revised</p>	<p>Develop a toolkit, including training materials, in English and French, for gathering of relevant information to prevent security breaches and detect early signs of radicalization; based on the gap- and needs analysis, as well as existing policies and guidance material.</p> <p>Conduct a pilot training with trainers from selected settings to test the toolkit, identify gaps and revise the toolkit as necessary</p>

- **Implementation timeline**

12 months Jan-Dec 2023. Ideally, a follow-on project for a second year would extend the project to target also a non-mission setting in the region.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

By enabling the early detection and prevention of prison security breaches, this project will contribute to the protection of civilians and the establishment of a protective environment, thereby contributing to the A4P commitment to “strengthening the protection provided by peacekeeping operations”. By preventing the operation of organized crime groups in prisons as well as the radicalization of prisoners and their recruitment by violent extremists and other groups, this project will further the implementation of the A4P commitment to “strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace”.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

Prison systems are commonly designed for the male majority population and as such, gender inequality typically characterizes all aspects of the prison regime. This project seeks to ameliorate such inequality by designing a toolkit and training that are gender-responsive and consider the specific roles and perspectives of women detainees as providers of important information as well as potential threats. In addition, through targeted outreach and communications, the project will seek the participation of women in all aspects, to contribute to the full and equal participation of women in all areas of peacekeeping.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate.**

Should travel again be limited due to the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the pilot training and validation session can be conducted virtually.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Personnel Costs	International consultants: 1x10months, 1x3months	\$117,000
Contractual Services	Graphic design and translation services	\$15,000
Event	Validation session in New York with partners, member states and beneficiaries to endorse the revised toolkit	\$3,000
Travel	DSA and flight tickets for staff, consultants, and training participants; the pilot training will be conducted by the lead consultant and supported by two staff members from the Justice and Corrections Section in UNHQ; the pilot will take place in a country to be determined in Africa, and two trainers from each priority setting will be trained to train on the material	\$55,200
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$24,726
Total:		\$214,926