

JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS STANDING CAPACITY (JCSC) NEWS

JANUARY 2020



The United Nations Secretary-General (centre) and the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support visit the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) and JCSC booth at the United Nations Global Service Centre (UNGSC) 25th anniversary celebrations. Both standing capacities are located and administered at the UNGSC as tenant units. Also in the picture: JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber (second from right) and SPC Team Leader Jaime Cuenca (right). Credits: SPC

Overview of deployments in 2019

Mission start-up

Haiti (BINUH) - Until February 2020, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer is deployed to Port au Prince to support the establishment of a functioning judicial reform team as part of the Political and Good Governance Section in the new Mission. Upon conclusion of the assignment, the JCSC Officer will have helped set up the team and integrated structures between BINUH and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), contributed to the revision of the Common Country Analysis and the Integrated Strategic Framework, developed joint work plans, built good working relationships with national institutions, informed the good offices and advocacy work of BINUH, as well as helped strengthen partnerships and cooperation with rule of law partners.



Supporting transitions has been a major area of support for the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC). 2019 witnessed the closure of MINUJUSTH and the launch of its successor operation BINUH, with JCSC providing both transition and start-up related support. The capacity also assisted in the implementation of UNAMID's transition concept, including in the area of organizational learning and best practices. Moreover, JCSC provided specific assistance in various substantive areas: prosecuting and trying international crimes in Afghanistan; case review processes in Kosovo; the prevention of radicalization in prisons and other prison security matters in Mali and the DRC; and support to the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic (CAR). Despite its limited staffing and high engagement with United Nations peace operations, JCSC was able to fulfil its role as a system-wide service provider in assessment missions to Burkina Faso, The Gambia, and Ghana. In its support to rule of law transitions, JCSC – in close cooperation with MINUJUSTH – directly supported UN Women in Haiti in order to ensure that crucial corrections operations could continue after the closure of MINUJUSTH in October 2019.

Underlining the need for a holistic approach to rule of law reform, a variety of deployments have also been undertaken together with the Standing Police Capacity (SPC). While peace operations continued to contend with a challenging fiscal climate, which made it difficult for them to cover the low costs associated with JCSC deployments, JCSC continued to seek alternative avenues for funding. This included support through the DPO/DPPA/DOS/UNDP Transition Project in Haiti; bilateral project funding to peace operations in Mali and especially a generous extra-budgetary contribution by Germany.



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Alice Mauske (second from left) attends a workshop on judicial inspection organized by the Haitian Ministry of Justice and Public Security with UNDP logistic and technical support. Credits: UNDP

Supporting transitions (planning, implementation, organizational learning)

Haiti (MINUJUSTH) – Until February 2019 and again between June and September 2019, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer assisted MINUJUSTH and the Resident Coordinator's Office, under the leadership of the DSRSG, with the Mission's transition planning to enable a smooth continuation of essential rule of law support in the post-MINUJUSTH era. As part of this support, a joint resource mobilization strategy action plan and essential workplans were developed capturing transitional arrangements. Furthermore, the Officer actively participated and partly co-led consultation and strategic planning processes within the United Nations. She supported the coordination and development of joint project proposals for submission to the Peacebuilding Support Office (eligibility package and submission of project documents), the Spotlight Secretariat (preliminary phase) and the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund, which helped secure USD 20 million for projects related to peacebuilding and preventing violence against women.

Haiti (UN Women) – Between January and April and May and June 2019, a JCSC Corrections Officer supported UN Women with the aim of ensuring essential corrections support post-MINUJUSTH through the UNCT in Haiti. As part of this deployment, the Officer supported

- the finalization of a comprehensive project document to the EU (with a budget of USD 450,000) for supporting three essential prisons (Cabarets, Cayes and Cap Haitien), and
- the development of an operational plan together with the Haitian prison service for the implementation of its comprehensive gender directive.

The latter aims to improve prison conditions and opportunities for the rehabilitation/reintegration of women prisoners and the participation and promotion of female prison staff.



Darfur/Sudan (UNAMID) – Between March and April and July and November 2019, the JCSC Team Leader deployed to UNAMID to provide strategic support to the Mission's Rule of Law Section and the Deputy Joint Special Representative. He provided start-up assistance for the establishment and operationalization of the Joint Transition Cell (JTC), which is the main coordination and oversight body for UNAMID's transition. He also provided a strategic outlook for the continued implementation of the State Liaison Functions (SLFs) – the unique mechanism for the Mission's programmatic transition – in the rule of law area. A concept for the rollout of SLFs into the Greater Jebel Marra (UNAMID's peacekeeping area) and the streamlining of all areas of UNAMID's transition (political/security/programmatic) under the Joint Transition Action Plan was developed.

Kosovo (UNMIK) – In March 2019, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer assessed the criminal justice file review project, during which the Mission reviewed files to be transferred from the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) to Kosovo authorities to ensure that witness protection and other concerns were taken into account. The deployment also documented lessons learned and best practices which may be relevant to other missions or hybrid justice mechanisms which might be involved in similar transfer processes to national authorities in the future. It benefited Kosovo authorities by setting out procedures whereby they can request access to classified information, as they seek to investigate and prosecute cases of international crimes.

Supporting the investigation and prosecution of destabilizing crimes



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Gisele Samvura with the Registrar of the Special Criminal Court in CAR, Mr. Dieudonné Senego. Credits: UNDP

The Central African Republic (CAR) (MINUSCA) – A JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer deployed twice (between April and June and August and October 2019) to Bangui to provide support for the ongoing operationalization of the Special Criminal Court (SCC). She supported the proper planning and spending by the Mission of assessed programmatic funding for the SCC. She led a process with national and international counterparts to identify the needs of the next four years for the Court's operation and developed a project document including the estimated budget to this effect. She also strengthened the capacity of members of the SCC to plan and budget according to specific targets and future needs of the Court. The SCC remains a crucial mechanism for the fight against impunity and reconciliation in CAR.



JCSC is part of the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS), Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO). JCSC is based at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy. It is a rapid response team that deploys to support United Nations peace operations and other UN partners, including under the auspices of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP). Currently, it has a staffing strength of seven posts: one Team Leader, two Corrections Officers, two Judicial Affairs Officers, one Rule of Law Officer and one Administrative Assistant.

Afghanistan (UNAMA) – JCSC boosted UNAMA’s justice work with a view to support ongoing peace efforts as well as the implementation of Afghanistan’s new Penal Code. Together with SPC, between January and February and March 2019, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer assessed the capacity and resulting needs of the then newly established International Crimes Directorate of the Afghanistan Attorney General’s Office, created following changes to the Afghan Penal Code in 2018. The Directorate is charged with the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In a follow-on deployment between April and May 2019, the JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer analyzed legal possibilities and options for the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related crimes in Afghanistan. The deployment allowed the Mission to develop strategic positions on amnesties in past legislation/peace agreements as well as proposals regarding amnesty issues in the ongoing peace negotiations. Both deployments led to concrete support initiatives of UNAMA for the benefit of the Afghan judiciary and helped to obtain donor funding.

Supporting prison security

Mali (MINUSMA) – A JCSC Corrections Officer was deployed between April and June and October and December 2019 to Bamako to assist the Mission’s Justice and Corrections Section in its efforts to prevent radicalization in prisons. She developed a training curriculum for prison staff, including on the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, assisted national authorities with the planning of a high-risk security area in Diolia Prison, and organized capacity building workshops for national prison staff regarding the detention of suspected terrorists, including methods to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in prison settings. In the follow-on deployment, she supported the development of a strategic vision for 2020–2023 and advanced the implementation of prison security related projects.



JCSC Corrections Officer Anna Olafsson with Mr. Sidi Yaya Tounkara, Director of Diolia Prison. Credits: MINUSMA

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO) – A JCSC Corrections Officer is deployed since November 2019 to support prison reform efforts. After the general elections in 2018, an opportunity has been identified to re-engage with the Government of the DRC on prison reform with a focus on prison security aspects. The JCSC Corrections Officer is working with MONUSCO’s Corrections Advisory Unit in advising the Government on the implementation of a prison reform package and its integration within the larger context of rule of law reform in the country. The Corrections Officer is part of and actively contributes to the Government-led prison reform working group.



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Erica Bussey (centre), SPC Investigations Advisor Steven Monaco (third from left), UNAMA Chief of Rule of Law Unit Romana Schweiger (second from right) with Prof. Ashraf Rasooli, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Justice, Afghanistan (third from right). Credits: Ministry of Justice of Afghanistan

Serving as system-wide service provider



JCSC Officer Anna Olafsson visits the MINUSMA funded workshop at the Central Prison in Mopti, where prisoners undergo a social integration programme. Credits: Mopti Central Prison

CAR (MINUSCA) – From January to March 2019, a JCSC Corrections Officer supported the United Nations Division of Policy, Education and Training in rolling out the Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS) in CAR. CPAS has been developed to address Member States’ frequent requests for peacekeeping operations to measure their performance and impact based on reliable indicators. Both JCSC and SPC have been engaged by DPET to assist the process and rollout CPAS in peacekeeping operations because of their in-depth knowledge of and experience in peacekeeping contexts. JCSC’s interest in CPAS stems from the opportunity to work with rule of law components in field operations to enhance the impact of their mandated activities.



Burkina Faso – As a result of the deteriorating security situation in Burkina Faso, the United Nations scaled up its strategic and operational engagement in Burkina Faso. At Headquarters, an Emergency Task Force was established to identify resources for sustained engagement in the country. In this context, *between July and August 2019*, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer traveled to Ouagadougou in order to identify entry points in the rule of law area, and in particular in relation to the backlog of terrorism-related cases. In-depth discussions were held with the various United Nations and national stakeholders, including on initial proposals for joint support with UNODC on case management, witness and victim protection, prioritization of cases and on various corrections-related initiatives. The Officer also helped lay the groundwork for support in the longer-term to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNDP justice and terrorism-related projects.

Ghana – In October 2019, together with SPC, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer joined an assessment mission conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Committee (CTED) to Ghana in order to evaluate the country's capacity to prevent and effectively respond to terrorism. JCSC assisted CTED in assessing the extent to which Ghana's legislative framework and the implementation of this framework complied with relevant Security Council resolutions and international conventions on counter-terrorism. The JCSC Officer assisted CTED in its analysis in the areas of legal and criminal justice, and provided input into recommendations to the Ghanaian authorities on the implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Act, witness protection measures and enhanced inter-agency cooperation, as well as technical assistance.



Erica Bussey, JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, takes part in a CTED assessment mission to Ghana. Pictured here on 3 October 2019 at Nsawam Medium Security prison outside Accra with Ghanaian prison officials and CTED Senior Legal Officer Kelly Low. Credits: Ghanaian prison

The Gambia – In November 2019, a JCSC Corrections Officer, together with SPC, participated in an OROLSI/Security Sector Reform Unit-led visit to The Gambia to take stock of the country's capacity in order to further strengthen its efforts in tackling rule of law and security challenges. The mission produced a comprehensive report with concrete recommendations for United Nations rule of law support in the future, also in the framework of extended funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. Based on this, JCSC is ready to provide further assistance as required for the benefit of The Gambia Prison Service and judiciary.



JCSC Corrections Officer Cheikh Basse (third from left) at the Central Prison in Banjul with the Director General Mr. Ansumana Manneh (second from left) and his Deputy (third from right). Credits: Gambian prison

Capacity building of staff members

Throughout 2019, JCSC continued to further advance its areas of specialized expertise through targeted capacity building activities. In July 2019, JCSC, together with SPC, organized a three-day workshop on *'Gender in Rule of Law'* at the UNGSC in Brindisi, Italy which was facilitated by the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and its International Security Sector Advisory Team. The workshop, which was also attended by UN Women and UNDP, aimed at further enhancing the skills of the two standing capacities to serve their clients in the field in the areas of gender mainstreaming, including preventing and combating sexual and gender-based violence.

In November 2019, JCSC participated in the workshop *'Anti-Corruption Challenges Facing United Nations Peace Operations in the Rule of Law Sector'*, organized by the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center and OROLSI in Doha, Qatar. The workshop brought together experts from United Nations field operations, UNODC, UNDP, the International Development Law Organization, the *Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) and the United States Institute for Peace to discuss corruption-related challenges, entry points, lessons learned and concrete ways for cooperation within the United Nations and beyond.

Looking ahead ...

Transitions, peace sustainment and conflict prevention will continue to be major areas of work for the Organization in 2020. To this end, JCSC priorities for 2020 will be:

- Strategic support to the closure of UNAMID and start-up support to any new configuration of the UN in Sudan.
- Further strengthening its role as a system-wide service provider within the framework of the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law and providing rule of law assistance in non-mission settings, as well as supporting the United Nations regional offices through the provision of rule of law expertise to inform good offices of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General.
- Enhancing efforts to provide a holistic approach to rule of law reform together with SPC.
- Continued, and more intensive specialization in rule of law areas that, if unaddressed, can have a destabilizing effect. In this context, JCSC seeks to enhance capacities in the areas of anti-corruption and preventing/combating violent extremism.

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