

Reducing Organized Crime, Radicalization of Prisoners and Recruitment of Detainees by Armed Groups through Improved Prison Intelligence

Brief description of the project

- **Objective:** To strengthen the capacity of prison authorities in selected mission and non-mission settings to improve prison security through prison intelligence mechanisms. This project is part of the DPO Justice and Corrections Service's focus areas of prison security and criminal accountability.
- **Why is the project required:** Prison services that respect international norms and standards are central to maintaining peace and security, public safety and respect for human rights. Prison security breaches, including continued criminal activity while imprisoned, can have a destabilizing effect well beyond prison walls. Armed groups regularly target weak prisons all over the world, to replenish their ranks with detainees. In addition, the inflow of individuals charged or convicted for terrorism-related offences has highlighted the risk of violent extremism in prisons, including recruitment efforts and radicalization to violence – serious threats which must be addressed, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 2482. Corrections components in a number of peace operations assist prison administrations to build dynamic security systems which include intelligence gathering alongside infrastructure and technology. E.g. in Mali, MINUSMA has supported the establishment of a pilot Early Warning Prison System and an electronic data management system to better identify security threats and signs of radicalization. UN peace operations have identified a number of common gaps in prison security intelligence, such as the lack of secure channels for information sharing between prisons and with other government agencies as well as the need to strengthen the intelligence capabilities of prison staff in line with international norms and standards, through standardized and continuous training.
- **Expected impact:** Through the development of sustainable prison intelligence training and capacity building tools, and building on existing guidance, such as the UNODC Handbook on Dynamic Security and Prison Intelligence, this project seeks to strengthen the capacity of selected target countries to identify and prevent planned security breaches through prison intelligence mechanisms and related early warning systems. This will lead to a reduction in serious prison incidents, thereby helping to reduce organized crime, violent extremism and recruitment efforts of armed groups in prisons as well as fighting impunity for serious crimes.

Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Enhanced capacity of prison services to gather prison intelligence for the early detection and prevention of security breaches.	Desk review conducted.	Conduct a desk review of prison intelligence related knowledge products and capacity building initiatives in three-four peace operation settings, such as DRC, Haiti, Mali, Somalia, and one priority prevention setting, and identify gaps and needs.
Reduction in the number of prisons incidents and early	Toolkit developed.	Based on the analysis of gaps and needs, as well as existing policies and guidance, develop a comprehensive toolkit for prison intelligence, including training materials, guidance for the development of related policy documents as well as database architecture, in French and English.

detection of potential threats	Pilot training workshop conducted.	Conduct a pilot training in one of the selected field settings with trainers from the other selected settings to trial the draft toolkit, identify gaps and revise toolkit accordingly.
	Toolkit launched.	Conduct a validation workshop to validate and launch the toolkit.

- **Implementation Timeline**

12 months; Jan-Dec 2022 (start date flexible). It is proposed that 6 to 12 months after completion of the project, a good practices and impact study be conducted as a follow-on project.

- **How will the project further the implementation of the A4P commitment and 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 on “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 armed groups, this project will further the implementation of the A4P commitment on “strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace”.

- **Have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department to implement their Women, Peace and Security and Gender Parity commitments?**

Prison systems are commonly designed for the male majority population and as such, gender inequality typically characterises all aspects of the prison regime. This project seeks to ameliorate such inequality by designing a prison intelligence toolkit and trainings that are gender-responsive by taking into account the specific roles and perspectives of women detainees as providers of prison intelligence as well as potential threats. In particular, the project will provide an analysis of the roles and motivations of women prisoners as recruits of violent extremist organizations, which are often distinct from those of men, and not very well understood. In addition, a particular focus of this project will be on identifying threats related to conflict-related sexual violence.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them, including with regards to the impact of COVID-19 (if relevant).**

Should travel be limited due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the envisaged pilot training and validation workshops will be conducted virtually, although the strong preference, if feasible, is to conduct in-person workshops.

- **Proposed Budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Personnel support for five working months	Consultant to lead the development of prison intelligence toolkit	\$42,000
Travel and DSA for consultant and three trainers for two weeks	Implementation of pilot training in one of the four country settings	\$20,000
Finalization of toolkit	Graphic design, translation into French and printing of toolkit	\$15,000
Launch toolkit	Implementation of launch event, including catering	\$3,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$10,400
		Total: \$90,400