



JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS STANDING CAPACITY (JCSC)

JCSC News

JANUARY 2018

Introduction

2017 was again a very busy year for JCSC. The United Nations Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) continued to be major clients for JCSC. A major development was the establishment of a new peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), and the reestablishment of justice and corrections capacity in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), to which JCSC provided start-up support. JCSC has also been proactive in increasingly assisting missions in carrying out mandated activities supported by programmatic funding. Support focused on the conduct of assessments of rule of law mandates, the design of operational and expenditure plans, the development and implementation of joint United Nations rule of law programming, and the implementation of partnership arrangements based on comparative advantages to fulfil mandated tasks.

JCSC is part of the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS), Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). 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. JCSC has three core functions: (1) starting up justice and corrections components in peace operations; (2) reinforcing existing peace operations in the areas of justice and corrections by providing time-limited and targeted support; and (3) conducting needs assessments and reviews in the areas of justice and corrections. 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 Team Assistant. JCSC staff are multi-lingual and geographically diverse.



'Family Photo' after the inaugural session of the Criminal Justice Chain Task Force in Goma (DRC), including: 1) M. Chuma, MONUSCO JCS Corrections Coordinator, Goma (second from left), 2) S. Chando, Deputy Sector Commander, UNPOL, Goma (third from left), 3) C. Weber, JCSC Team Leader (fourth from left), 4) E. Bamba, UNDP Head of Office, Goma (sixth from left), 5) D. Ruiz, MONUSCO Head of Office, Goma (seventh from left). Credit: J. Simpoire (MONUSCO JCS)

Overview of deployments in 2017

Support provided at start-up phase of components

MINUJUSTH (Haiti) - To ensure a smooth start, JCSC deployed to Haiti on 16 October 2017, the very first day of the newly created Mission. JCSC continues to assist the Mission and Haitian authorities with the development of a strategic plan to improve the capacity of the national prison service, the *Direction de l'Administration Pénitentiaire* so that it can be elevated to a central directorate within the *Police Nationale d'Haïti* with autonomy over its budget and administration.

UNMISS (South Sudan) - Between June and July 2017, JCSC deployed to UNMISS to assist in the start-up phase of the Rule of Law Advisory Unit. JCSC advised on potential national accountability mechanisms to investigate and prosecute the commission of serious conflict-related crimes. This deployment resulted in a series of strategic outputs related to the protection of civilians, the prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence, and the enhancement of accountability mechanisms.

Support provided at closing phase of missions

UNMIL (Liberia) - Since November 2017, the JCSC Team Leader has deployed to Liberia to support the closure of the Mission's rule of law portfolio and the coordination of a comprehensive lessons identification study, covering the entire 14 year lifespan of the Mission. Recommendations from the study undertaken by the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT), along with OROLSI and OHCHR colleagues, will inform future rule of law approaches and transitions in other peace operations. It will also assist the Government of Liberia and international partners to determine how best to sustain and build on the Mission's support in the rule of law area.



JCSC Team Leader, Carsten Weber (right), with Prison Director, Joseph G. W. Sumo, at the National Palace of Corrections in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, Liberia. Credit: Susan Koker

Support provided to existing missions



JCSC Corrections Officer, Ingrid Jeunhomme (centre), during a working visit to Bambari (CAR). Credit: MINUSCA staff

MINUSCA (Central African Republic) - Between January and May 2017, JCSC deployed to MINUSCA to support the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court (SCC). JCSC assisted with the drafting of an operational plan to set up the SCC; the selection of potential implementing partners for mandate delivery financed through programmatic funding; and the development of an expenditure plan for the management of US\$ 2.5 million in programmatic funding. In a further deployment between July and October, JCSC supported Mission initiatives in prison security. As part of the Government's efforts to strengthen prison security and demilitarize the national prison service, JCSC assisted with the completion of a project proposal for the construction of a high-security prison facility in partnership with UNOPS, and the establishment of cooperation agreements with Penal Reform International (as implementing partner for the Government to develop its demilitarization strategy).

MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) - From January to February and from July to September 2017, JCSC deployed to MONUSCO to temporarily manage the Mission's Justice and Corrections Section (JCS). JCSC developed a new strategic outlook for the Section based on the 2016 MONUSCO Mission Concept and Civilian Staffing Review and the 2017 Strategic Review. The Mission now focuses its programmes on the protection of civilians through a strengthened role of the Prosecution Support Cells (a mechanism that consists of international experts seconded to the Mission by Member States to assist military justice authorities in the investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes) and enhanced support to prison security.

MINUSMA (Mali) - Between March and September 2016, JCSC deployed to MINUSMA to provide strategic guidance to support national authorities in strengthening prison security, by focusing on high-risk inmates suspected/convicted of terrorism and/or transnational crimes. With this aim, JCSC liaised with the Government and drafted concrete project proposals for securing or upgrading prisons in Bamako, Dioila, Mopti, Gao and Kayes. Strengthened prison security will also maximize the impact of the *Pôle Judiciaire Spécialisé en matière de lutte contre le terrorisme et la criminalité transnationale organisée* – the Malian specialized judicial unit which has exclusive national jurisdiction over terrorism and transnational organized crime cases in Mali.

UNAMID (Darfur) - Between January and March 2017, JCSC deployed to UNAMID to assist in the reestablishment of the criminal justice chain in places of return of displaced persons to improve security and create a safe environment for Darfurians, particularly Internally Displaced Persons (IDP). The purpose of this deployment was to implement the Mission's rule of law transition plan, which was prepared during a JCSC deployment in 2016, and to further develop the joint United Nations rule of law programme that seeks to provide sustained rule of law support for the people of Darfur.



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, Ignacio Tredici (centre, back), meeting IDP representatives to discuss the security and rule of law situation in Kabkabiya (Darfur). Credit: UNPOL UNAMID



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, Marie Pegie Cauchois (second from right), with the Somali Minister of Justice (fifth from right) and UNSOM ROLSIG Team. Credit: UNDP staff

UNSOM (Somalia) - From August to October 2017, JCSC deployed to UNSOM to support the planning and development of a new United Nations joint rule of law programme 2018-2021, including by convening and coordinating national and United Nations rule of law partners and donors in Somalia and building on successes and lessons learned from the current programme (2015-2017).

Training

In light of the increased emphasis placed by the United Nations Security Council on tackling corruption at the earliest possible stage in post-conflict situations, in May 2017 JCSC and the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) organized a joint anti-corruption training in Brindisi for their respective staff by the Anti-Corruption Section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The training enhanced JCSC's ability to advise on the concepts and procedures of the United Nations Convention against Corruption during deployments to relevant mission settings. During 2017

JCSC staff underwent training on strategic planning, on the use of programmatic funding and on joint project implementation within the framework of the Global Focal Point arrangement for Police, Justice and Corrections (GFP)¹. JCSC also attended training on UN Transitions to better enable the Capacity to serve missions that are drawing down.

Looking ahead: The new UN architecture and the JCSC

In his October 2017 report to the General Assembly on the restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar, the Secretary-General emphasized the need ‘to place conflict prevention and sustaining peace at the core of [the Organization’s] efforts’². He stressed that the United Nations, and particularly the peace and security pillar, needs to be more nimble, pragmatic, coherent and flexible and that three key parameters shall shape the way we conduct our work: a) the growing scale and complexity of modern conflict; b) the need to address the root causes of conflict; and c) the importance of nationally owned, people-centred solutions. The report also highlights the need for smoother and more effective transitions between different types of engagements and calls for more effective coordination with both United Nations (*e.g.*, through the GFP) and non-United Nations actors to ensure coherent programme delivery.

Given the Secretary-General’s stated priorities regarding prevention and sustaining peace, robust United Nations rule of law support in conflict and post-conflict settings will become increasingly important. JCSC will remain a critical rapid response tool to bridge immediate peacekeeping rule of law needs and medium/longer term peacebuilding goals. In addition, JCSC will continue to play an active role to assist peace operations and other United Nations actors during mission start-up and transition, as well as provide surge support to assist missions when needed. JCSC will draw on its cross-mission expertise to (i) enhance coordination and complementary delivery between peace operations, national authorities and United Nations rule of law partners, (ii) support responsive and flexible justice and corrections initiatives on the ground, and ultimately, (iii) successful and meaningful transitions to national and international rule of law partners, which sustain previous gains and foster inclusive and robust national rule of law institutions.

¹Established in 2012, the United Nations Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections (GFP), under the co-lead of DPKO and UNDP, aims at improving the coherence and quality of the United Nations’ police, justice and corrections support to crisis- and conflict-affected countries.

²Secretary-General’s Report ‘Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar’, A/72/525, 13 October 2017

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