

# Combating drugs, crime and terrorism

Drug control, crime prevention  
and combating terrorism

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United Nations personnel conduct an inspection  
under the Initiative on the Safe Transportation of  
Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports  
(Black Sea Initiative).

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(Istanbul, Türkiye; February 2023) © UNODC/Duncan Moore

## What we do

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- Countering the world drug problem
- Countering transnational organized crime
- Countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism
- Countering corruption
- Justice
- Research, trend analysis and forensics
- Policy support
- Technical assistance

## Our team

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- United Nations Office on  
Drugs and Crime
- Office of Counter-Terrorism

An officer trains to inspect a vessel in Bangladesh through the Global Maritime Crime Programme.

(Patuakhali; November 2023) © UNODC/  
Duncan Moore



## Our achievements

The world confronted increasingly complex challenges related to drugs and crime in 2023, including the alarming growth of synthetic drug markets, escalating cybercrime and rising environmental crimes. We leveraged our **expansive field network across 150 countries and territories** to support Governments in advancing more dynamic response strategies.

In Afghanistan, we **provided over 80,000 people with opium-alternative sustainable livelihood opportunities**. We also provided psychosocial support, testing for HIV and hepatitis B and C and drug use prevention activities to nearly 40,000 people.



“The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is emblematic of the multilateral resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.”

**Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism



“The impact of drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism is growing, as they intersect with global crises. We must invest in prevention and build resilience to these threats, to protect people and make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.”

**Ghada Waly**, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Context

In today’s complex global landscape, **terrorism and transnational organized crime destabilize regions, communities and lives**, especially in conflict areas. Climate change, political instability and displacement amplify existing vulnerabilities and can be linked to escalating illicit trade and diverse forms of trafficking.

## Our goals

**The United Nations is committed to making the world safer** from drugs, crime and terrorism. Our work supports Governments in combating these threats through prevention, criminal justice responses and international cooperation. We assist in setting and implementing international standards and norms, as well as in **ensuring compliance with obligations in international instruments on drugs, corruption, transnational organized crime and terrorism**.



The General Assembly adopts the eighth review resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

(New York; June 2023) © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

## Our support for crime prevention, drug control and anti-corruption

**176,000**

user visits to the early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances database

**64,000**

registered users of the United Nations Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs

**2,200+**

seizures of illicit commodities, drugs and explosive precursors

**4**

anti-corruption hubs

To contain illicit trafficking and related crimes, we increased our border management support, which contributed to the **seizure of 250 tons of cocaine, over 200 tons of precursor chemicals and nearly half a million weapons and explosives**. We provided quality assurance to forensic drug testing and toxicology laboratories worldwide, leading to the safe disposal of 350 tons of cocaine. We also **supported 83 countries in combating maritime crime, emphasizing regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing**. To assist in tackling maritime security challenges in the Gulf of Guinea, we supported eight countries in assessing and amending their legal frameworks to address piracy and maritime crimes. To support evidence-based policies in the Sahel, we released threat assessments of transnational organized crime, offering comprehensive insights into illicit trade and its socioeconomic impact in the region.

To assist the most vulnerable people with addictions, **we reached over 67,000 individuals in 43 countries with drug treatment and care services**, such as quality assurance, treatment referrals and family therapy, including in humanitarian settings. We also trained over 2,000 local service providers in evidence-based, gender-responsive and human rights-based HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs and people in prisons.



The United Nations delivers a patrol vessel and essential equipment to the Somali Police Force Coast Guard to strengthen coastal security.

(Mogadishu; February 2024) © UNODC/Mokhtar A. Mohamed



Participants at the opening session of the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

(New York; June 2023)  
© UN Photo/Manuel Elías

To help to combat trafficking in persons and in firearms, we worked to deepen international commitments for action. In 2023, the number of countries that ratified or acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, both supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, increased to 182 and 123, respectively. On the ground, **we provided technical assistance to over 3,300 crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners**, fostering expertise worldwide. To help to protect those most vulnerable, we aligned our system-wide efforts behind a new strategy focused on ending violence against children.

In order to further accountability in the fight against corruption, **we organized the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**, underlining the need to safeguard the rule of law and restore trust in institutions. This was the most inclusive Conference yet, with **over 2,000 people in attendance**, representing Governments, civil society, academia, business and youth.

On the ground, **we trained over 3,000 officials in 75 countries on criminal justice responses to terrorism** and supported Mozambique in developing a national counter-terrorism strategy.

## Using behavioural science to counter violent extremism

In the Middle East, we launched the Behavioural Insights Academy in Qatar with Hamad Bin Khalifa University to integrate behavioural science into global strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

## Our data and research impact and reach

**4M**

downloads and 3 million visits to research websites

**500,000+**

data points available on the drugs and crime data portal

**3,250+**

people trained on drugs and crime statistical methods

**29**

research partnerships established

## Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

**237,250**

visits to the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform

**137**

Member States and 47 Compact entities

**28**

country assessments by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

## Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week

In 2023, we held the third Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations in New York. We brought together over 1,000 people from 160 countries, international and regional organizations, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, think tanks, academic and research institutions and private sector companies to participate in the third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened on the theme of addressing terrorism through reinvigorated multilateralism and institutional cooperation. The multi-stakeholder event provided a platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration and in-depth discussions on the practical implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Supporting the fight against terrorism remained a top priority. In alignment with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, our targeted efforts prioritized human rights and gender equality. To help to confront terrorism in Africa, **we convened the second high-level meeting of the Marrakesh Platform in Morocco**, enhancing coordination among African counter-terrorism agencies. Nearly 70 Member States have joined the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. Over 130 Member States participated in the Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Our new Gender and Identity Factors Platform, launched during Counter-Terrorism Week, is facilitating knowledge exchange between Governments, civil society and academia worldwide. The Week culminated in the adoption of the eighth review resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly, preserving the consensus behind the Strategy since 2006. In addition, in 2023, the International Monetary Fund became the forty-sixth member of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, **the largest coordination framework within the United Nations system.**

On the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, we launched the Legacy Project **to showcase the testimonies of victims and the resources critical to their recovery and healing**, aimed at inspiring and educating younger generations. We also honoured the voices and experiences of victims and survivors of terrorism through the “Memories” campaign, with exhibitions across Spain emphasizing the importance of remembering and paying tribute to victims worldwide.



People attend the release of the “Memories” campaign for victims of terrorism.

(Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; June 2023) © United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

## Counter-Terrorism Week by the numbers

**4,500+**  
participants

**160**

Member States represented

## Our counter-terrorism work

**7,700+**

people trained through 109 capacity-building activities

**1,000+**

focal points connected through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Platform

**140**

high-level bilateral meetings with Member States and other partners

**9**

high-level and 8 regional conferences organized on technical issues relating to counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism