



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

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Foreword

Welcome to the March 2014 edition of the Maritime Crime Programme bulletin. In this edition we will focus on UNODC's existing work addressing maritime crime in East Africa and the launch of its new programming in West Africa. In East Africa we continue to work to ensure that Somali nationals apprehended at sea and charged with piracy receive a fair and efficient trial. You will read about how the transfers from the warships to the regional prosecuting states happen in practice and how, with the support of the European Union's MASE Programme, we ensure those states are supported through the investigation and trial process. UNODC's obligations do not end there: you will also read about how those Somalis who choose to serve their prison sentences back home are transferred there and how those who have completed their sentences or who are not prosecuted are repatriated back to their families in Somalia.

UNODC also has a mandate to support the victims of crime and in the context of piracy in East Africa we focus our work on the hostages. In this bulletin the Hostage Support Programme shares details of its sensitive and harrowing work in support of some of the more than 700 men who have been held hostage in Somalia.

Just as piracy in East Africa is on the decline, and UNODC along with the rest of the international community starts to look at the suppression of wider maritime crime in the Indian Ocean, so in West Africa we see increased instances of piracy and armed robbery at sea. In this bulletin we look at how UNODC is taking forward its programming in West Africa and supporting regional states to address a criminal activity which will be no less destructive than piracy off Somalia has been if it is not addressed promptly and effectively.

Alan Cole
Programme Coordinator



The Maritime Crime Programme team

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Putting Victims First: The Hostage Support Programme

Piracy is not a victimless crime. Alongside bringing perpetrators of piracy to justice, UNODC is directly engaged in providing support to hostages of piracy. The Hostage Support Programme advocates for the release of hostages and supports their return home and their reintegration back to normal life.

Development of the Hostage Support Programme

UNODC's Hostage Support Programme was borne out of a desire to provide crucial support to victims of piracy and to recognise the human cost of this crime. Even when piracy captured global attention, hostages were often overlooked. Today, many hostages are still being held in deplorable conditions after months or even years.

Originally supported from general funding, after several successes, most notably the repatriation of 14 Myanmar citizens who had been held as hostages, the programme attracted funding support from the Contact Group for Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) Trust Fund. The Hostage Support Programme continues today under the management of UNODC's Maritime Crime Programme.

The programme has 5 specific elements, all of which are funded by the CGPCS Trust Fund.

- Objective 1: Monitor and track all hostages held in Somalia (pirate victims and others)
- Objective 2: Provide support while in captivity (to captives and families)
- Objective 3: Facilitate recovery to a safe location
- Objective 4: Assist with repatriation to home country
- Objective 5: Provide victim support post release

The Present Hostage Situation

Although rates of piracy off the Horn of Africa are currently ebbing, the important work of the Hostage Support Programme continues with as much urgency as ever.

Ship	Crew	Held Since	Nationalities	Remarks
FV Naham 3	27	26/3/10	China, Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Taiwan	Vessel ran aground in 2013
MV Albedo	11	12/11/10	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Iran	Vessel sank in 2013. 4 missing following sinking
MV Asphalt Venture	7	26/9/10	India	Vessel released earlier
FV Prantaly 12	4	16/4/2010	Thailand	
Sub total hostages ashore	49			
6 dhows/fishing vessels at sea used as mother ships	41	Oct 10 to Apr 13	Yemen/Somalia	
Sub total piracy victims	90			
Other kidnap victims	11		Kenya, USA, UK	Kidnapped from Kenya and Somalia. Held by Al Shabaab/Pirate Groups
Total	101			

Forty-nine victims of piracy are currently known to be held hostage on land, with potentially another 41 at sea on captured dhows used as “mother ships”. Another 11 victims who have been kidnapped by Al Shabaab are believed to be held by groups with piracy links.

Current Challenges

The Hostage Support Programme is currently closely monitoring the status of victims of the vessel MV Albedo, which was hijacked by Somali pirates in November 2010. On 6 July 2013, the MV Albedo sank and four of its crew have been missing since.

A fishing vessel called the FV Naham 3 had been tied astern of the MV Albedo. Eventually the FV Naham 3 ran aground near Hobyo, 27 crew were transferred ashore and remain as hostage.

Despite the hazardous and fragile condition of the vessel, 15 seafarers were kept hostage on board. Eleven hostages from Bangladesh, India, Iran, and Sri Lanka were transferred to another location. The Hostage Support Programme is working with the Federal Government of Somalia, regional administrations, local leaders, the Maritime Piracy and Humanitarian Response Programme, the European Union, INTERPOL, and concerned Member States to determine the precise details and status of the seafarers and update their families.

In August and September 2013, medical support – including two visits by a doctor – were delivered to these seafarers through local contacts. This was the



The FV Naham 3



Returning home and reintegrating into normal life poses many challenges

first time medical aid has been delivered to a crew in captivity.

The Hostage Support Programme is also currently seeking to re-establish contact with a number of individual hostages, as well as the crews from the MV Asphalt Venture and the MV Prantalay 12, both of which have been held for more than three years. This sensitive and painstaking work has recently yielded results, with contact finally being made with some seafarers after two years.

Return and Reintegration

For many hostages, the trauma does not end when they return home. Hostages often return to families who have suffered greatly themselves. The strain on the families is not only emotional but also financial, having gone for months or even years without financial support. Hostages themselves are often in a severe state of trauma and have to deal with the difficulties of reintegrating into society, not to mention facing the prospect of returning to work, at sea.

“*Hostages themselves are often in a severe state of trauma and have to deal with the difficulties of reintegrating into society, not to mention facing the prospect of returning to work, at sea.*”



The Hostage Support Programme helps victims of piracy re-adjust and re-integrate after their release

The Hostage Support Programme has recognised the continuing impact upon hostages and has begun a series of follow up visits to victims and their families, with the aim of assisting them obtain their entitlements and providing medical support. The Hostage Support Programme has also conducted post-release interviews to better understand both the methods used by pirates and also the unique stresses placed on victims.

To date, the Hostage Support Programme has assisted 62 hostages to return home. Some of this support has been indirect, while in other instances team members have had to reach into Somalia to extract these victims and return them home safely. The important work of the Hostage Support Programme will remain a key focus of the Maritime Crime Programme’s mandate in 2014.



Leonardo Hoy-Carrasco and John Steed: The Hostage Support Team

“I have interviewed hostages helped by the programme and their families several months after they return home. They come from different circumstances, different countries and social backgrounds. When I ask them what type of help they need, their answers always astonish me. Nobody asks for compensation, hand-outs or financial support for the years of abandonment and torture they had to endure, and continue to do so on their return. Nobody sees themselves as a victim who needs to be taken care of. They all say, ‘Give me my pay that I earned and deserve and give me the opportunity to work so I can provide for my family.’ Their stories are true testimonials of the decency, dignity and strength human beings are capable of, even under the darkest circumstances.”

*Leonardo Hoy-Carrasco,
Hostage Support team.*

“ *Give me my pay that I earned and deserve and give me the opportunity to work so I can provide for my family.* ”

Maritime Crime Programme Launches New Flag-Ship Training Initiative

UNODC's Maritime Crime Programme has set a new high-water mark for capacity-building training, having commenced the first of its new criminal justice training courses, funded by the Australian Government. The first courses were run in February 2014 and were hailed a great success, with further courses scheduled to run this year and next.

“Excellent and impressive”, “first rate”, “a vital training programme”, “professionally run with expert teachers”. This was just some of the overwhelmingly positive feedback provided by participants attending the first round of the Maritime Crime Programme’s new training courses.

The Maritime Crime Programme ran the first of its intensive training courses in February 2014. The courses are aimed at strengthening states’ capacity to combat maritime crime within a criminal justice framework. 28 Judges, prosecutors and legislative advisors attended an intensive week-long training course in Mauritius on Maritime Crime and Criminal Justice. In Seychelles, two courses were run in parallel, with 26 Police Officers participating in the Maritime Crime and Law Enforcement course and 26 Prison Officers completing the Maritime Crime and Correctional Administration course.

“ *The course is very important in imparting someone with a broader understanding of issues pertaining to maritime crime and critical thinking skills on how to deal with maritime security* ”

- Peter C. Lusesa, Assistant Superintendent of Police,
Tanzania Police Force.

The participants came from the four states in which the Maritime Crime Programme currently supports counter-piracy capacity building: Mauritius, Seychelles, Kenya and Tanzania. The training programmes were developed in direct response to calls from participating

states for more specialised and intensive training courses in the maritime sphere.

The courses centered on the specific maritime crime related challenges faced by the various criminal justice agencies. The legal course focused on the law of the sea, together with the legal frameworks for specific maritime crimes such as piracy and migrant smuggling, as well as international criminal justice cooperation mechanisms. Providing training of a high academic calibre was key to



Participants at the Maritime Crime and Criminal Justice course in Mauritius collaborate in a group exercise on mapping maritime zones

“ *This course has been for me a wonderful opportunity to interact and learn alongside other police officers and colleagues from other countries* ”

- Winifred Baccaire,
Sub. Insp, Seychelles Police Force.



Kenyan participants at the Maritime Crime and Criminal Justice course in Mauritius present on the legal framework for piracy prosecutions in their own jurisdiction

the success of the courses. The training was delivered by in-house UNODC legal experts as well as two leading academics from eminent Australian Universities.

The Police and Prison training courses were also delivered by a mixture of MCP specialists and a number of experts from the REFLECSSS 3 (formerly RAPPICC) centre in Seychelles. The tandem courses in Seychelles were both accredited as short courses by the Seychelles Qualification Authority in conjunction with the University of Seychelles.



Police participants view a demonstration of an effective search of a seized pirate skiff

“ *The training was short but was the most interesting of my entire police career spanning close to three decades. I leave here with a wealth of invaluable knowledge imparted by a group of selfless and dedicated individuals for whom policing appeared to be a real calling rather than a job.* ”

Onyango Arthur Kennedy,
Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Kenya

A highlight of both the Prison and Police courses was the practical component, designed to consolidate the information conveyed in the workshop. The Police participants carried out a practical exercise in crime scene examination and evidence collection, using a seized pirate skiff and pirate paraphernalia, while Prison Officers carried out a simulated prison assessment at Montagne Posse prison. The Legal course in Mauritius placed a strong emphasis on shared learning, with legal officers from the various jurisdictions exchanging their knowledge, expertise and lessons-learned with colleagues from across the region.

A stand-out feature of all of the courses is the opportunity they provide for continued learning and development. All the courses concluded with an assessment and the highest performing participants will receive entry into a graduate certificate programme in their relevant field, fully funded by the Australian Government.

Feedback from the courses was overwhelmingly positive and participating states have conveyed a keen desire to keep sending their nationals to participate in the future. The workshops will be run again in mid 2014 and again in early 2015. By 2015, at least 156 participants from across the region will have benefitted from the intensive short-courses, with advanced graduate-level training provided to the 36 highest achieving participants.

The Acting Australian High Commissioner for Mauritius and Seychelles, Ms Julienne Hince, was present at both the Mauritius and Seychelles courses and commented on the strong commitment of the Australian Government in supporting maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. In partnership with the Australian Government, UNODC aims to build upon the success of these courses through their continued delivery in the future.

Strengthening Somaliland: Capacity Building in Action

Since 2009 UNODC has been leading the way in supporting states around the East African and Indian Ocean region to prosecute piracy. However, prosecution forms only part of the solution to Somali piracy. UNODC remains focused on the long term goal of supporting law enforcement and criminal justice institutions within Somalia, so that they will one day have the ability to deter, apprehend, prosecute and punish piracy and other maritime crimes domestically. Recent technical training provided to the Somaliland Coast Guard brings us one step closer towards this goal.

In December 2013 the Maritime Crime Programme provided much-needed technical training to a group of ten Coast Guard members in Berbera, Somaliland, the first such training targeted at improving the mechanical skills of the Somaliland Coast Guard. The training, conducted by UNODC Marine Engineering Training Coordinator Michael Wilcox, focused on the fundamentals of engine maintenance.

The hands-on training provided participants with an understanding of how both diesel and outboard motors functioned, including an in-depth knowledge of their component parts and how to conduct fault-finding procedures. The training also focused on basic car maintenance to ensure that the many pick-up trucks gifted to the Coast Guard by international donors remain on the road.

With this basic knowledge, members of the Somaliland Coast Guard are now equipped to troubleshoot mechanical

issues that could otherwise hinder the operation of their marine vessels.

As a practical aspect of the training, Coast Guard members stripped down a non-operational six cylinder engine to identify potential mechanical faults. After determining why the engine had been taken out of operation, a maintenance plan was formulated to make it re-operational following a few basic repairs. To complement the technical skills acquired, the training also provided guidance on how to fill out service reports, so that accurate vehicle and marine vessel reference records can be maintained for the future.

This training is a simple example of the capacity building and development projects that UNODC undertakes in Somaliland - and throughout broader Somalia - on an ongoing basis. Over time, these initiatives are paving the way for domestic law enforcement authorities to re-claim responsibility for tackling maritime crime on a sustainable and independent basis.



Members of the Somaliland Coast Guard who received technical training on engine and vehicle maintenance

Piracy on the Indian Ocean: Reduced, but the Risk Remains

The combined efforts of Governments, naval forces and international organisations have resulted in a profound reduction in the rates of piracy in the Indian Ocean over the last three years. However, conditions in Somalia remain unstable and the risk of pirate attacks remains. Two recent apprehensions of suspected pirate groups on the high seas serve as a reminder of this continuing threat. They also demonstrate how the coordinated piracy interception, hand-over and prosecution model is running smoothly throughout the Indian Ocean region.

In late 2013 and January 2014, the Seychelles accepted two more groups of suspected pirates, handed over by NATO and EUNAVFOR after apprehension operations at sea.

On 31 November a group of nine suspected pirates were transferred to Seychelles authorities, following their apprehension in the close vicinity of the Seychelles. The nine were handed over by naval forces that formed part of NATO Operation Ocean Shield. Their apprehension followed alleged attacks against two separate vessels on 6 and 9 November.

A second group of five suspected pirates were handed over to Seychelles authorities on 29 January by EUNAVFOR after an alleged attack on a tanker on 17 January in which a pirated dhow was used as a mothership.

The two handovers demonstrate the streamlined procedures that are now in place for the transfer

of suspected pirates into the custody of domestic authorities. Handovers are a coordinated effort between military forces and domestic law enforcement agencies, carried out with UNODC's support. That support includes the provision of an interpreter on the arrival jetty and in court to ensure the suspects understand the process and their rights, the funding of defence lawyers to ensure they are properly represented in court, and wider assistance to the judicial process.

Somali interpreter Abdullahi Salat has been working for UNODC since 2009 and has been stationed in Seychelles since 2010. He has overseen a number of such handovers and acts as an interpreter in the prison and during court proceedings. On the topic of Somali piracy, Mr. Salat observes "piracy is a terrible crime, but we must ensure that the suspects are given a fair trial, consistent with their human rights." His work forms a crucial part of this process.

Since the commencement of UNODC's counter-piracy initiatives, the Seychelles has taken on several piracy cases following international transfers and has experience in prosecuting over 20 piracy cases domestically in recent years.

The most recent handovers are a reminder that while piracy rates are dropping, the international community must remain vigilant as the risk remains.



A piracy suspect is escorted off the naval vessel and formally handed over into the custody of Seychelles authorities, with UNODC Somali interpreter Abdullahi Salat standing by

Armed Attack on Bosasso Prison Highlights Value of UNODC Prison Support

Safety and security are at the forefront of UNODC's work in the Horn of Africa, but an armed attack at a prison facility in Bosasso, Puntland, served as a reminder of the risks and challenges involved for UNODC staff and our national partners. UNODC's investment in security measures at the prison - including reinforcing the main prison entry gate - helped defeat this concerted attack.

Just after 22.30 on 8 November 2013, Bosasso Central Prison in Puntland came under attack. The attack had been preceded by two coordinated incidents in the area, against the local government's main office in Central Bosasso and the Biyo Kulule Police Station in East Bosasso.

At the Central Prison, a group of 30-40 heavily armed men stormed the prison with rocket launchers, machine-guns and hand grenades. Puntland Custodial Corps guards defended the prison, ultimately repelling the attackers but tragically, two Puntland Custodial Corps officers were killed in action.

UNODC and our implementing partner UNOPS had previously implemented a number of security enhancements at the prison. This included the construction of a new sallyport, providing a reinforced, secure entryway where the previous prison gate had

been exposed and vulnerable in security situations. The sallyport came under sustained fire but could not be penetrated by the attackers, stopping the attackers from achieving their goal of taking over the prison compound and preventing an even more tragic outcome.

UNODC has provided assistance to Bosasso Central Prison under its Piracy Prisoner Transfer Programme, which aims to ensure all Somali persons convicted of piracy and transferred from prosecuting states will serve their sentences in secure and humane detention facilities. Security is an important aspect of this work, but it forms only part of the wide range of assistance and development provided by UNODC. This assistance has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on the standard of this and other detention facilities across Somalia.

The assistance provided by UNODC to Bosasso Central Prison includes placing a full time Prison



The reinforced sallyport installed by UNODC came under intense fire but ultimately kept the attackers out

“ *Showing pride in ones work as a custodial officer cannot be over-emphasised. UNODC recognises and celebrates the bravery of the heroes who - in spite of the attackers’ superior fire power - courageously defended the prison, thereby protecting rule of law.* ”

- Mark Agbosu,
Prison Mentor, Bosasso Central Prison

Mentor in the facility to improve the operation of the prison through promoting best practices and updating operating procedures. The UNODC mentor, Mark Agbosu, has been responsible for updating Standard Operating Orders, Commander’s Operational Orders and the formulation of Contingency Plans. One of the direct consequences of this assistance was the increased level of tactical preparedness and the swift response of prison staff in dealing with the assault on 8 November.

UNODC’s Maritime Crime Programme has also carried out major infrastructural upgrades at Bosasso, including the construction of new 40-bed and 200-bed cell blocks for female and male prisoners respectively. These new facilities provide improved living conditions in line with international standards, with the provision of improved ventilation, sanitation, a borehole water supply and generator powered lighting. As in all UNODC



The exterior of the prison was subjected to a concerted attack



supported detention facilities, welfare, hygiene and recreation items are provided on a regular basis.

In maintaining a detention facility in line with international human rights standards, UNODC also provides in-house medical assistance through a UNODC contracted doctor, and has supported the implementation of an inmate education programme. UNODC also provides recreation facilities and sports equipment, as well as a monthly supply of food for the improved nutrition of inmates.

With a view to enhancing prisoner rehabilitation and ultimate reintegration, UNODC supports vocational training at Bosasso Central Prison, where inmates have been undertaking lessons in carpentry and sewing. Prisoners have been applying their skills to sew new prison uniforms for the new maximum security prison in Garowe, also being constructed by UNODC. Training is also being provided in masonry, plumbing, painting, welding and electrical installation. This training will eventually enable the prison to undertake its own routine maintenance using the skills acquired by inmates.

Despite the risk of insecurity in the area, UNODC and Bosasso Central Prison staff are committed to working together to keep the prison secure and in line with international standards. UNODC staff are personally committed to this project; the UNODC Prison Mentor at Bosasso remains in Bosasso to continue his invaluable work.

Overview: Maritime Crime Programme Counter Piracy Support

The many ways the Maritime Crime Programme has Supported Counter Piracy Initiatives in the East Africa Region

Encouraging agreements between prosecuting states and naval forces for the handover of suspected pirates



Overseeing the smooth handover of pirate suspects into the custody of prosecuting states



Wide-spread capacity building support to legislatures, courts, prisons, police, coast guard, judiciary, prosecution and defence in prosecuting states



Support to piracy trials through interpreters, witness travel and technical support

Facilitating transfer of pirates to serving sentences

Maritime Crime Programme Counter Piracy Support

**the Crime
amme
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port**

Promoting skills and education amongst piracy prisoners to help them build a new life upon release



Transfers and repatriations of individuals from prosecuting/apprehending states back to Somalia



Enhancing prison facilities in Somalia for the secure and humane detention of piracy prisoners with a view to their rehabilitation and reintegration



Capacity building in Somalia to strengthen the domestic criminal justice framework

**Transfer agreements
s for convicted
ve their prison
in Somalia**

Looking West

UNODC Responds to New Maritime Threats on the Horizon

While coordinated efforts have successfully reduced rates of piracy in the East African and Indian Ocean region, the past two years have witnessed the emergence of a new maritime crime threat in West Africa, with a steady increase in cases of piracy, armed robbery, oil bunkering and other maritime crimes concentrated around the Gulf of Guinea. Working closely with States and regional organisations, UNODC is at the forefront of responding to this new maritime threat.

The number of successful piracy attacks in the East African and Indian Ocean region has decreased significantly to date. However, the rise of piracy and other maritime crimes on the West Coast of Africa poses new challenges.

The first piracy incident recorded worldwide in 2014 took place on the seas of the Gulf of Guinea, and attacks have continued early into the year. Tackling maritime crime issues in West Africa will be a defining part of the Maritime Crime Programme's mandate in 2014.

UNODC's engagement in the West African region follows a request from the President of Benin to the UN Secretary-General, requesting assistance from the international community to counter the scourge of maritime crime in the region. UN Security Council resolutions have called for state and international-level cooperation and assistance.

Responding to this call, UNODC's Maritime Crime Programme has developed a new strategy to enhance the capacity of criminal justice systems in Gulf of Guinea states. This strategy will focus on enabling states to effectively handle criminal cases related to piracy and armed robbery at sea, alongside other maritime crimes.

Drawing on its extensive experience in supporting criminal justice reform and development assistance in East African and Indian Ocean states, the assistance to be provided by the Maritime Crime Programme will focus on legislative reform, capacity building of maritime law enforcement institutions, training of

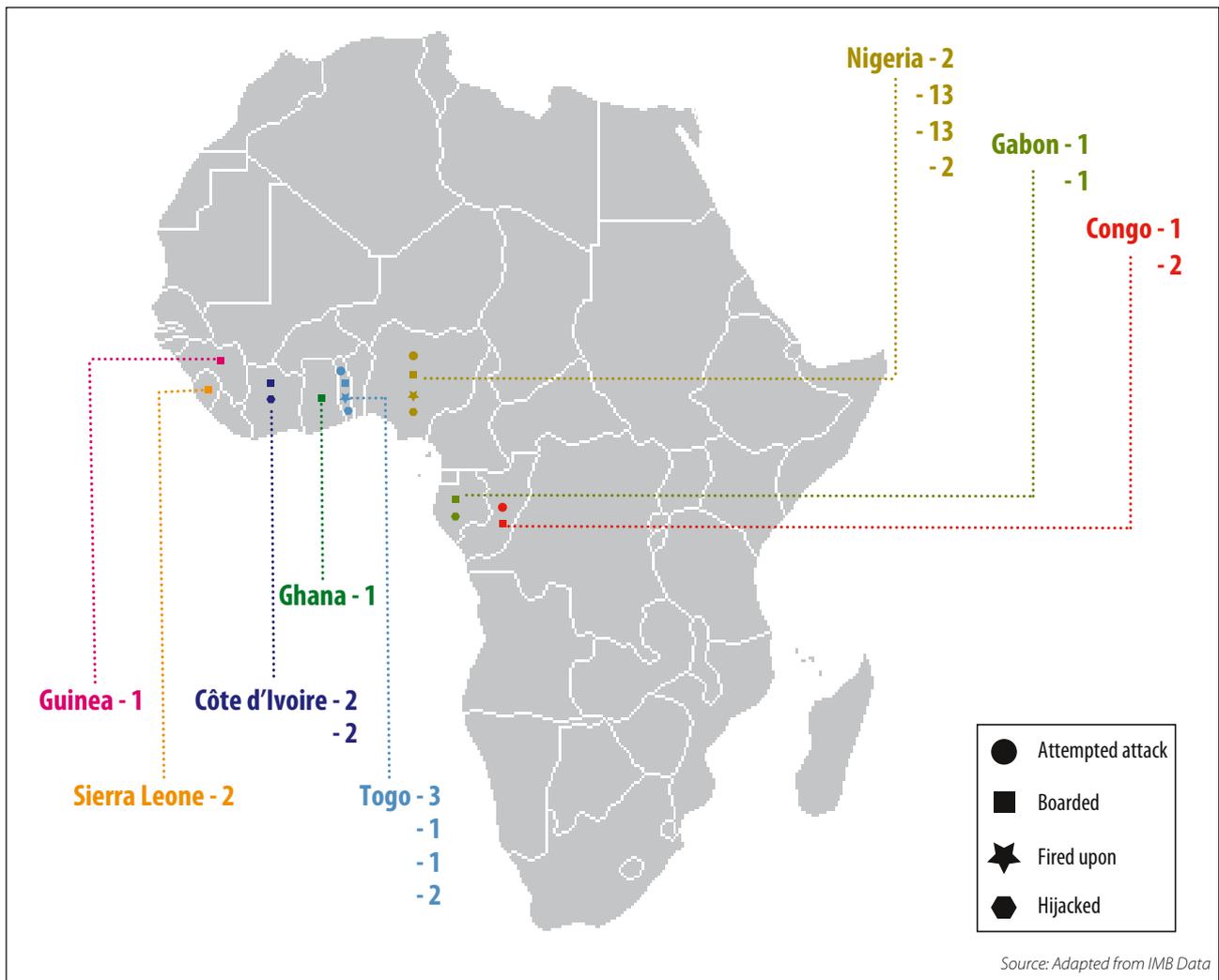
officials, supporting prosecutions and strengthening cooperation mechanisms between countries.

Compared to the *modus operandi* of piracy in the East African and Indian Ocean region, the threat in the Gulf of Guinea has to date been less defined by hijackings for ransom and more geared towards hijacking tankers to extract oil. Nonetheless, many of the lessons learned from supporting states in tackling and prosecuting "Somali piracy" can be applied and adapted to the West African context. UNODC brings considerable experience to the table in terms of its counter-piracy programmes developed over the past five years.

Current Engagement

UNODC's first step in initiating regional cooperation and dialogue in this area was to convene a workshop on the "Legal Facilitation of Gulf of Guinea Maritime Law Enforcement" in Ghana in December 2013, bringing together experts to identify challenges in the maritime security sector. Law enforcement and legal officials from Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon and Sao Tome and Principe, along with representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the International Maritime Organization were in attendance.

UNODC recognises the need for a coordinated response amongst regional states and international stakeholders in tackling piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. A representative from the International Maritime Organization, Ms. Gisela Vieira, was one of the facilitators of the workshop in Ghana and commented on this aspect, noting "the workshop in Ghana



provided an excellent opportunity for regional states and international organisations to identify concerns and map out a framework for addressing them. We look forward to working with UNODC and states in the Gulf of Guinea to provide a comprehensive and coordinated response to tackling maritime crime in the region”.

More recently, the Maritime Crime Programme sent a representative to the “Trans-Atlantic Maritime Criminal Justice: ECOWAS Zone E” conference in Benin to discuss the scope for UNODC building prosecutorial capacity in the maritime criminal justice sector, and share lessons learned from the MCP’s work in East Africa.

Subsequently, UNODC has continued its dialogue with states and regional organisations, working towards a coordinated response in the region.

Where to next?

One of the key conclusions of the Ghana workshop was that many of the participating regional states lack legislation criminalising offences ranging from piracy, people smuggling and drug trafficking at sea. Other challenges included the capacity of front-line maritime

“ the workshop in Ghana provided an excellent opportunity for regional states and international organisations to identify concerns and map out a framework for addressing them. We look forward to working with UNODC and states in the Gulf of Guinea to provide a comprehensive and coordinated response to tackling maritime crime in the region ”

law enforcement and of prosecution and Court services. There is also a compelling need for the establishment of both national and regional coordination systems and for cooperation with regards to prisoner transfers, sharing of information and interventions at sea.

Working in collaboration with other states, the MCP will now begin undertaking detailed legal framework assessments across the region to identify where legislative reform and further criminal justice support may be needed. This will start with an assessment of Togo, with a view to assessing Gabon, Cameroon and Ivory Coast in the future.

With an understanding of the maritime security challenges facing Gulf of Guinea states, the Maritime Crime Programme will move forward to assist states to develop their criminal justice institutions in order to achieve an effective and harmonized solution to fighting maritime crime in the region. This assistance will complement the existence of joint initiatives among regional bodies such as ECOWAS, ECCAS and GGC in establishing a common maritime security strategy. UNODC’s work will also dovetail with the cooperation framework established under the Code of Conduct for West and Central Africa.

Strategy for West Africa



Partners in Fighting Crime: UNODC and the EU Renew Maritime Security Partnership

Following several years of successful collaboration in the maritime security arena, the EU and UNODC's Maritime Crime Programme have renewed their partnership under the Programme to Support Maritime Security ("MASE"). The launch of the new EU - UNODC MASE partnership was celebrated across the region with events in Tanzania, Seychelles and Mauritius.

The renewed MASE partnership between the EU and UNODC reaffirms the excellent working relationship between the two organisations, which has already seen several successful projects implemented across the East African and Indian Ocean region since 2009. Early support provided by the EU and UNODC focused on counter-piracy capacity development and included legislative reform, training for police, prison staff, prosecutors and judges, as well as construction and refurbishment of courtrooms, prisons and police facilities. Joint EU - UNODC assistance to date has also included support to piracy trials through the provision of interpreters, providing for witness travel and defence legal aid, as well as providing suspected pirates with legal and medical support.

Building upon this strong foundation, the renewed MASE partnership will see € 5 million distributed from the EU's overarching MASE programme to UNODC's Maritime Crime Programme over the course of five years. It will be used to continue providing capacity-building support in states fighting maritime crime.

The launch of this major new collaboration was celebrated in Tanzania in November 2013 following the signing of the EU - UNODC partnership agreement, and launch events were also held in Mauritius and Seychelles in January 2014. The events were attended by EU and UNODC representatives, dignitaries, Government officials and representatives from a range of national criminal justice agencies. The events were a chance to acknowledge not only the continued relationship between the EU and UNODC, but also the crucial role of the national counterparts whose cooperation is vital to the success of these initiatives.



EU Ambassador Sebregondi and UNODC Programme Coordinator Shamus Mangan at the launch of the MASE agreement in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The events were also an opportunity to reflect on the broadening scope of the EU - UNODC capacity building support being carried in the region. While initial efforts were focused solely on counter-piracy, both the EU and UNODC have recognised the pressing need for criminal justice assistance in relation to a broader range of maritime crime challenges, ranging from illegal fishing to the trafficking of drugs by sea.

The EU - UNODC partnership has proven to be effective in the fight against piracy in the Indian Ocean. Under the renewed MASE partnership, the EU and UNODC will continue to support states in their fight against a broader array of maritime crime, providing sustainable development assistance to strengthen their criminal justice systems.

The Return Journey

The Maritime Crime Programme has built up a wealth of experience in transferring sentenced prisoners to Somalia and repatriating those who have served their time in third party states. Recently, the MCP applied its considerable expertise in this field to the repatriation of 40 Somali nationals from the Maldives.

UNODC supports the piracy prosecution process from beginning to end. Upon conviction in prosecuting states, UNODC provides for the transfer of sentenced prisoners to Somalia, where they will be held in secure and humane detention facilities, monitored by UNODC. This reduces the burden on the prison systems of prosecuting states. It also brings sentenced prisoners closer to their families, to assist in their rehabilitation and ultimate reintegration back into life outside of prison. Likewise, UNODC repatriates individuals back to Somalia who have already completed their sentences in prosecuting states.

All transfers are carried out with the informed consent of the individuals concerned. UNODC facilitates visits by lawyers from both the sending and receiving states who explain the legal processes involved. Convicted individuals are only transferred for sentence if, upon legal advice, they abandon any further avenues of appeal and agree to the transfer. Those who wish to further pursue any rights of appeal may be transferred at a later stage. Prisoner transfers and repatriations require a high level of organisation and coordination, with UNODC working alongside prison authorities, police, immigration authorities, civil aviation and our national staff on the ground in Somalia, who meet the incoming flight on its arrival.



Preparing for a new beginning, Somali nationals about to be repatriated home after completing their sentences in Kenya

The past months have been a busy period with the Maritime Crime Programme undertaking a number of repatriation and transfer flights. In October 2013, a total of 11 prisoners were transferred to Bosasso prison in Somalia and 5 released persons were repatriated to Galkayo, Somalia, from the Seychelles. Between November 2013 and February 2014 a total of 32 Somali nationals who had completed their prison sentences in Kenya were repatriated back to Somalia.

Before travel, UNODC organises temporary travel documents for those returning to Somalia and provides welfare items such as soap, basic clothing, toothbrushes and blankets. In Kenya in particular, released prisoners have been closely supported by their friends and relatives and have been provided with suits and suitcases for their travel, so they can arrive in their home country looking smart and prepared for a new start in life. It is a time of great excitement for them to be reunited with their families and many have learned new vocational skills and furthered their education while serving their sentences.

In December 2013, the MCP also took the extraordinary step of facilitating the transfer of 40 Somali nationals from the Maldives. These individuals had arrived in the Maldives by sea as early as 2010 in a number of separate groups. While some claimed to be lost fisherman or castaways, some were believed to be conducting pirate activities. However, the Maldives did not have a law criminalizing piracy and lacked an appropriate criminal justice mechanism through which to deal with them. The Somali nationals were kept in the Maldives in administrative detention as unlawful immigrants for a number of years while UNODC worked towards their repatriation. The Maldives now has an anti-piracy bill before its parliament to enable it to prosecute cases of piracy domestically, to avoid such a situation arising again in the future.

UNODC recognises that combating piracy is not limited to apprehension and prosecution. Reintegrating Somali nationals back into their home country with the skills to begin a new, crime-free life is an integral part of the Maritime Crime Programme's vision.



UNODC officer Leonardo Hoy-Carrasco carries out the final administrative checks before 40 Somali nationals are repatriated home from the Maldives following UNODC intervention

Learning New Skills for a New Start

The Maritime Crime Programme works to support the rehabilitation of piracy prisoners, equipping them with the skills to find gainful employment after their release from detention. The recent vocational training scheme in Mandera Prison highlights the value of such work.



Detainees at Mandera Prison working on the foundations for the new accommodation block

As part of the Maritime Crime Programme's mandate to provide secure and humane conditions of detention, a plan was formulated in 2013 to refurbish the prisoner accommodation block at Mandera Prison, Somaliland. It was projected that this refurbishment would require a significant construction component.

The Maritime Crime Programme seized on this opportunity not only to improve conditions within the prison, but to up-skill prisoners with vocational tools that would have enduring benefits. In consultation with custodial authorities, a number of basic construction skills were identified for the refurbishment project, ranging from the brick making and laying that would be required to complete the exterior of the accommodations, through to the welding required for fixtures and prisoner beds.

Four national instructors were involved in providing training in these various disciplines. By the start of 2014, detainees had already developed sufficient expertise to commence making the bricks to be used for the new prisoner dormitory. To consolidate these newly-acquired skills, a UNODC expert engineer will return to Mandera to evaluate these skills with a practical test, providing an official certificate of competency to prisoners who demonstrate a sufficient

“ *By the start of 2014, detainees had already developed sufficient expertise to commence making the bricks to be used for the new prisoner dormitory.* ”

level of expertise in their chosen area. Detainees have shown great enthusiasm and commitment to this programme. In one case, a detainee who was released from prison volunteered to return to the prison daily to complete the vocational training that he had started. Both the trainers and detainees alike recognise the opportunity that this training provides for a new start in life after their release.

As a follow-on from this vocational training, prisoners released from the prison will be provided with an “discharge pack” of basic tools that relate

to their preferred line of work, such as carpentry or brickwork. Helping prisoners to find gainful employment upon their release is one further way UNODC aims to break the cycle of maritime crime and piracy in Somalia.

“ *In one case, a detainee who was released from prison volunteered to return to the prison daily to complete the vocational training that he had started.* ”



Detainees acquiring new skills in brick making and laying

Milestones in Mogadishu

UNODC's expertise in prison reform has now been brought to bear in one of the world's most troubled prisons. Training of custodial staff is amongst the first steps in an ambitious plan to refurbish and reform Mogadishu Prison, building Somalia's justice system from the ground up.

Capacity building within Somalia is an important part of the Maritime Crime Programme's work. Building a fair and efficient justice system that respects human rights is the first step towards Somalia tackling piracy and other maritime crime with its own domestic resources. The MCP continued to lay the foundations for this goal in January 2014 with a training course for custodial staff in Mogadishu.

Twenty five custodial officers benefitted from this three-day training course hosted by the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Group at the United Nations Assistance Mission to Somalia (UNSOM). Delivered by UNODC and UNSOM prison experts, the training focused on strengthening the ability of Somali prison staff to meet international standards in the management of prisons.

Respect for human rights was a core focus of the training, with sessions focusing on topics such as professional conduct for prison staff and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Tailored to the conditions facing local custodial staff, the training also covered prison procedures and Sharia law. The training also covered a range of fundamental areas from prisoner categorisation through to safety and fire management.

Alongside lectures and interactive discussions, the use of role-plays gave trainees an opportunity to apply their knowledge through simulated exercises.

Looking forward, UNODC will now draft a syllabus for the Junior Officers Course and Senior Officers Course for custodial staff, which will be taken forward jointly by a UNODC Prison Mentor and an UNSOM Corrections Advisor.



Mogadishu prison



Training session on security classification

On the heels of this success, the training will be run again in March 2014 with an expanded syllabus including security, vehicle searches and best practices for detainee searches.

The training coincided with the commencement of the UNODC/UNOPS renovation of the prison. Expected to last three years, this renovation will mirror the work that UNODC has already undertaken in Somaliland and Puntland and provide accommodation for prisoners that meets international standards. The staff are also catered for too; UNODC will make their working environment safer and their housing more comfortable.

“ *The participants remarked on how valuable the training was. They were excellent to work with and they were enthusiastic to acquire new knowledge and skills. It was great to have several female participants taking part, as women custodial officers form a valuable part of the prison service.* ”

- Ahmed Koshin
UNODC Prison Expert

UNODC's Maritime Crime Programme already has considerable experience working in detention facilities in Somalia and training custodial staff. Its prison capacity building projects have seen excellent results and have included construction and refurbishment, technical assistance, security enhancement, advocacy and mentoring, with a focus on sustainability and empowering national counterparts. Working in prisons in Somalia poses a number of challenges but the success of these programmes is a strong driving force, with further projects planned for the future.



A trainee receives her certificate after completion of the course



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CONTACTS

If you would like to know more about the work that UNODC is doing in support of piracy prosecutions, please see www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html

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Front Cover: Hostages released from the MV. Iceberg embracing after stepping ashore for the first time in almost 3 years.

Below: Released hostage disembarking from the MV. Iceberg following a sustained fire-fight to release the ship by regional forces

Photos courtesy of the Puntland authorities

