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<td>Airport Communication Project</td>
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<td>ARINWA</td>
<td>Asset Recovery Interagency Network for West Africa</td>
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<td>ASCE-LC</td>
<td>Superior State Control and Anti-Corruption Authority (Burkina Faso)</td>
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<td>CCAD</td>
<td>Coordinating Commission of Alcohol and other Drugs</td>
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<td>CCP</td>
<td>Container Control Programme</td>
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<td>CENOZO</td>
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<td>CEPIAD</td>
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<td>UNODC Country Office in Nigeria</td>
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<td>CoP</td>
<td>Community of Practitioners</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>CTED</td>
<td>Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate</td>
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<td>DUD</td>
<td>Drug Use Disorder</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<td>EMSA</td>
<td>European Maritime Safety Agency</td>
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<td>FIU</td>
<td>Financial Intelligence Unit</td>
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<td>FTF</td>
<td>Foreign Terrorist Fighter</td>
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<tr>
<td>HALCIA</td>
<td>High Authority for the Fight against Corruption and Related Offences (Niger)</td>
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<td>IATA</td>
<td>International Air Transport Association</td>
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<td>International Civil Aviation Organisation</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration</td>
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<td>JAITF</td>
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<td>LEA</td>
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<td>MINUSMA</td>
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<td>MoU</td>
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<td>NEMO</td>
<td>Navy’s Exercise for Maritime Operations</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>PCMS</td>
<td>Security Cooperation Platform</td>
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<td>PCU</td>
<td>Port Control Unit</td>
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<td>RBM</td>
<td>Results Based Management</td>
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<td>RCT</td>
<td>Randomised Control Trial</td>
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<td>ROSEN</td>
<td>Regional Office for West and Central Africa in Senegal</td>
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<td>RP</td>
<td>Regional Programme</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SOM</td>
<td>Smuggling of Migrants</td>
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<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standards Operating Procedures</td>
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<td>StAR</td>
<td>Stolen Asset Recovery</td>
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<td>TCU</td>
<td>Transnational Organised Crime Unit</td>
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<td>Trafficking in Persons</td>
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<td>UNCAC</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNIOGBIS</td>
<td>United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau</td>
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<td>UNISS</td>
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<td>UNHRDDP</td>
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<td>UNOWAS</td>
<td>United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel</td>
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<td>UNPOL</td>
<td>United Nations Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNTOC</td>
<td>United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime</td>
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<td>WACAP</td>
<td>West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organised Crime</td>
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<td>WACI</td>
<td>West African Coast Initiative</td>
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<td>WANCSA</td>
<td>West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse</td>
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<td>WCO</td>
<td>World Customs Organisation</td>
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<td>WENDU</td>
<td>West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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The implementation of the UNODC Regional Programme (RP) for West Africa (2016-2020) is possible thanks to the generous financial and technical contributions of the governments of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It also receives generous financial support from the European Union.

UNODC would like to express its sincere appreciation to the governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo for their unwavering commitment in the delivery of the Regional Programme. The RP summarises these countries’ goals for the region and sets strategic priorities for West Africa. It also highlights operational responses to address security threats and reinforce the rule of law in the region. Without these countries’ constant and common engagement none of the results outlined below would be possible.

Our appreciation goes to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the G5 Sahel for their strong partnership in tackling terrorism and organised crime in the region, as well as the large variety of partners who have assisted us along the way: without the efforts and dedication of these partners the achievements presented in this midterm report would not be possible.
The UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa covers the period 2016-2020, in line with the ECOWAS Action Plan to address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organised Crimes and Drug Abuse in West Africa. It includes all priorities identified in this Action Plan and contributes to its implementation. The RP is a strategic document that guides UNODC’s support to countries in West Africa.

The RP adopts a holistic approach to implementation by combining and synergising elements of UNODC’s global, regional and country programmes that work together to leverage commonalities and maximise impact. The RP also takes on board a tailor-made Regional Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (2015-2020), developed and endorsed by countries in the region. The Regional Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants is implemented by strengthening national legal frameworks, policies and strategies on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and by providing capacity building for criminal justice actors in the region and boosting international cooperation.

This midterm report is an analytical review of activities delivered and results achieved by the different programmes and projects (cf. below for a list) between 2016 and 2018. The aim is to objectively identify progress in tackling the numerous challenges in the region outlined in the RP.

A Results Based Management (RBM) approach was adopted to review achievements against the RP’s goals and the UN strategic framework such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) at the country level and the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level (cf. Graphic 1 below).

The implementation of the RP started in July 2016 following an Experts’ consultation meeting in May 2016, in Dakar, Senegal. During this meeting, experts from the region and representatives from ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania validated the UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa 2016-2020. The timeframe of this midterm report thus begins in July 2016 and ends in July 2018.

Graphic 1: Interlinkages between the SDGs and the UNODC Regional Programme for West Africa
Regional Initiatives

The Sahel Programme covers Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, with linkages to other countries in the region, such as Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. To ensure a comprehensive and sustainable approach to the challenges of the region, the neighboring countries of the Maghreb region (Algeria, Libya and Morocco) also participate in the Programme. The Sahel Programme supports the development of accessible, effective and accountable criminal justice systems to effectively combat drug trafficking, illicit trafficking, organised crime, terrorism and corruption in the Sahelian region.

The Support Project to the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, organised crime related to it and drug use disorders (DUD) in West Africa is a EU-financed initiative launched in 2015. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a reduction of DUD, illicit drug trafficking and related organised crime in West Africa.

The West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) was launched in 2009 as a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder partnership with the UN Department of Political Affairs, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL). The Initiative aims to support the creation and operational strengthening of Transnational Crime Units (TCU) in five ECOWAS Member States, namely Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Protection of Migrants (PROMIS) project is a joint initiative between UNODC and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that aims to strengthen the capacities of West African States to develop a human rights-based response to smuggling of migrants and to effectively respond to human rights violations related to irregular migration.

Established in 2003, the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) is a network of 24 focal points of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania. The WACAP enables central authorities and relevant practitioners to exchange information about their respective legal systems and procedures in order to respond to requests for mutual legal assistance (MLA) and extradition.

©UNODC - UNODC celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017, Dakar, Senegal
Global Initiatives

The **Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration** aims to promote a culture of lawfulness by helping countries achieve a positive and sustainable impact on crime prevention, criminal justice, corruption prevention, and the rule of law.

The **Global Programme on Terrorism Prevention** is active in the region in particular building capacities in criminal justice measures against terrorism and violent extremism in compliance with the rule of law and human rights.

The **Container Control Programme** (CCP) supports States in establishing port control units, with trained and equipped officers, to combat drug trafficking and other transnational organised crime activities.

The **Global Maritime Crime Programme** supports States in strengthening their national capacities to combat maritime crime. Support provided includes legal advice and support for updating and harmonising of national legal frameworks, as well as mentoring and training on maritime law enforcement and evidence collection at sea.

The **Global Programme against Money Laundering, the Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism** strengthens capacities to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It also assists countries in the detection, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

The **Global Anti-Corruption Programme** supports States in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) through legislative assistance, the development of national policies and strategies, as well as capacity building activities.

The **Global eLearning Programme** delivers online and offline training through thematic courses designed to address human and security challenges in line with United Nations standards and norms.

The **Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration** aims at supporting Member States in their efforts to provide evidence-based drug dependence treatment services for individuals affected by drug use disorders, with special focus on low and middle-income countries.

The **Global Programme on Drug dependence Treatment and Care** provides focused technical assistance for capacity building, prevention and awareness raising, international cooperation and analysis on the phenomenon, principally in developing countries.

The **Global Programme on Cybercrime** provides focused technical assistance for capacity building, prevention and awareness raising, international cooperation and analysis on the phenomenon, principally in developing countries.

The **Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP)** is a global project managed and led from Dakar that covers over 30 countries worldwide. Its objective is to root a culture of intelligence gathering and information sharing in regular working practices of law enforcement agencies present at international airports and to build their capacities to detect and intercept high-risk passengers, including foreign terrorist fighters, as well as drugs and other illicit goods.
From July 2016 to July 2018, **924 activities were implemented** reaching **26,348 beneficiaries**.

*Estimated figures between July 2016 and July 2018

**UNODC Country Office, Abuja, Nigeria
SECTION 1
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME
The UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROSEN), the UNODC Country Office in Nigeria (CONIG) together with the various thematic branches and sections of UNODC based in Vienna are working towards the delivery of the RP. To respond efficiently to threats and challenges in West Africa and the Sahel, UNODC adopts an integrated, evidence-based, response anchored in partnership. This response is based on the Sustainable Development Goals, mainstreaming human rights and gender throughout its implementation.

1. An Integrated Response

Considering the interconnectedness of threats in the region, such as terrorism and transnational organised crime; corruption and justice; illicit financial flows and terrorism, a multi-dimensional and integrated approach is required to efficiently tackle these existing and new emerging threats. Furthermore, the transnational nature of illicit trafficking, combined with the increasing varied portfolio of organised criminal groups, underlines the necessity for a cross-cutting horizontal approach and stronger cooperation between national authorities.

UNODC's comparative advantage is its expertise in numerous areas, going from criminal justice system reform, law enforcement, corruption, research and terrorism prevention. Indeed, at least one expert in each of these thematic is based in the UNODC ROSEN. Besides, thanks to the strategic framework given by the RP, UNODC experts work towards the same objectives and coordinate their projects in the region. A number of projects implemented by UNODC in the region are thus cross-cutting. For instance, the Sahel Programme which tackles drug trafficking, illicit trafficking, organised crime, terrorism and corruption.

By capitalising its expertise and using an integrated approach to crime and criminal justice issues, UNODC supports institutions along the whole justice chain, from seizures to arrests, from investigation to prosecution and adjudication. Indeed, by covering the whole steps and strengthening capacities of all stakeholders along the chain, the efficiency and sustainability of States’ response to transnational organised crime and illicit trafficking at large is improved.

2. An Evidence-Based Approach

The Regional Programme underlines the importance of relevant and reliable data, with research and trend analysis being a cross-cutting theme of the RP. Indeed, an evidence-based approach informs all aspects of UNODC's work and is central for activities delivered in the region.

The UNODC ROSEN in Dakar has its own Research Section to ensure a deep understanding of drug and crime-related threats in the region, support countries in developing an evidence-based response to these threats and define tailored-made policies at national and regional level. The Office produces comprehensive analytical studies on specific subjects of concern, such as the profile and modus operandi of organised criminal groups, illicit trafficking routes, corruption practices and potential connections between organised crime and terrorism.

Reports produced in Dakar raise awareness amongst national and international stakeholders on factors underlying threats in the region, their impact on stability, governance, security, public health and human rights. Indeed, publications such as “Nigerian Organised Crime involved in production and trafficking of Amphetamine Type Stimulants” (2016) and “Terrorism and organised crime in the Sahel: which nexus? (Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Chad)” (2017) inform countries and the international community of particular forms of crimes and their impact in West Africa.

By operationalising research through the RP’s implementation, UNODC also helps strengthen national capacities to produce, disseminate and analyse data related to illicit trafficking and organised crime. Supporting the set-up of national drug and crime information systems improves national data collection and analysis, allowing Member States to integrate intelligence techniques and deliver a tailored response to illicit trafficking and organised crime. Moreover, regional workshops such as that of October 2017 on Intelligence Acquisition, Analysis and Sharing against Transnational Organised Crime held in Dakar, Senegal, contribute to boosting regional information exchange.

Since the launch of Agenda 2030, the importance of data collection and analysis, including the use of statistics, has become more crucial as countries report back on SDG progress. As a result, UNODC is stepping up its efforts to support countries’ capacities to monitor and report back on SDG targets in its mandate areas.
3. Partnerships

A thick web of collaboration is in place to support the implementation of the RP, be it with sister UN agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) or regional organisations. Partnership ensures that the best knowledge and expertise is brought to the table to support countries in addressing issues of justice or organised crime. Partnership locally also ensures that results achieved are sustainable and anchored within the national or local context. A few examples of these rich partnerships include:

UNODC and ECOWAS collaborate closely on the delivery of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on illicit drug trafficking, organised crime related to it and drug abuse in West Africa (cf. page 08) via a tailor-made support project, as well as a multitude of other projects that support ECOWAS and its Member States in achieving the aims of the Action Plan. Keeping abreast a changing regional context, both organisations also work hand in hand on new initiatives and policy documents such as the forthcoming ECOWAS Political Declaration on Transnational Organised Crime that will mark the 10th anniversary of the 2008 Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organised Crimes in West Africa.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2423 (28 June 2018) requests all relevant UN agencies including UNODC "to enhance [their] awareness of the financial sources of conflicts in Mali, including trafficking in persons, arms, drugs and natural resources, and the smuggling of migrants […] in support of long-term peace and stability in Mali and the region". In March of the same year, the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and UNODC signed a partnership agreement to support the Specialised Judicial Unit with the provision of equipment and training. The project also focuses on supporting the Unit’s Specialised Investigation Brigade, which has exclusive jurisdiction for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism and transnational organised crime and forms part of the G5 Sahel Joint Force Police Component.
UNODC has been cooperating with the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) through several projects and initiatives in Guinea Bissau in the areas of fight against transnational organised crime, trafficking in persons, counter terrorism, as well as border control and countering illicit trafficking.

UNODC-UNIOGBIS’ partnership has been instrumental in achieving results in terms of seizures, arrests and capacity building. One of the key outcome is the establishment of a WACi inter-agency, intelligence-led TCU that led to significant seizures and arrests. Training and mentoring activities have been delivered to TCU officials by UNODC and UNIOGBIS. The later also deployed a dedicated United Nations Police (UNPOL) to the TCU.

Furthermore, in 2017, a United Nations Joint Programme on Police, Justice and Corrections was developed by UNIOGBIS, UNODC, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and UNWOMEN as part of the UN Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections. Finally, in April 2018, the AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) was established at the airport of Bissau leading to numerous cocaine seizures.

As a result of UNODC-UNIOGBIS collaboration, the UN Security Council Resolution 2404 (28 February 2018) called upon UNODC to enhance its presence in the country to support national authorities in fighting drug trafficking, organised crime and money laundering.

UNODC has been working closely with the G5 Sahel since its creation in 2014 to support the criminal justice chain in the region and efficiently combat illicit trafficking, drug trafficking, organised crime, terrorism and corruption. UNODC supported the G5 Sahel in establishing the Security Cooperation Platform (PCMS) adopted in November 2015 by G5 Heads of State. The PCMS is a regional police cooperation mechanism to initiate and foster information exchange between the five States.

In November 2017, the G5 Sahel also gave UNODC the mandate to support the creation and operationalisation of the G5 Sahel Joint Force’s Police Component. The role of the Police Component is to perform civilian functions regarding the identification and investigation of terrorism cases and transnational organised crime. This fruitful partnership is already yielding promising results, including:

- In December 2017, the adoption of a conceptual framework for the organisation and functioning of the Police Component;
- In April 2018, further defining the mandate of the Police Advisor and the role of the Specialised Investigation Units; and
- From July to October 2018, the organisation of joint missions to Sahelian countries to define national needs and further operationalise the Police Component.

Partnership with CSOs is key for advocacy and to bring grass-root knowledge and expertise to the implementation of the RP. It is particularly present in the areas of drug and HIV prevention and treatment, trafficking in persons, juvenile justice and anti-corruption.

For example, UNODC partners with the Cell Norbert Zongo for Investigative Journalism in West Africa (CENOZO) and, through the RP, provides capacity building and supports its promotion at international level. UNODC also supports new initiatives such as the West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse (WANCSA) to boost CSOs coordination efforts on drug prevention and treatment in the region. CSOs are also central partners in the organisation and success of sensitisation events such as the World Drug Day or World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
Supporting countries in meeting SDG commitments forms the backbone of the RP, with a strong focus on SDG 3 and SDG 16. The RP also contributes to SDG 5 on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment as a cross-cutting goal of its activities.

Whilst this report focuses on SDG 3, 5 and 16, it is important to highlight that the RP also contributes to meeting other SDGs throughout its pillars. For instance, it also contributes to SDG 10 which aims to “reduce inequalities within and among countries” since one of the goal’s targets is directly linked to combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. While the RP’s activities to combat maritime crime contribute to SDG 16, they also have an impact on SDG 14 that aims to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by reducing illegal fisheries”. Many more examples of these interlinkages exist due to the integrated and cross-cutting approach to the RP’s implementation.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

UNODC’s work on drugs and health is inextricably linked to multiple targets of SDG 3, especially target 3.5 to “strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”. The delivery of the RP assists States in meeting this target through prevention and repression activities against drug trafficking and DUD in West Africa. Moreover, research work supports countries in monitoring and reporting on SDG 3 by implementing drug monitoring systems to collect reliable data. Finally, support to countries’ forensic capacity and, in particular, the identification and detection of substance abuse is a crucial step for evidence-based interventions, including treatment.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Given the cross-cutting nature of SDG 5, gender equality and women’s empowerment is integrated throughout the implementation of the RP’s activities. Indeed, the delivery of the RP contributes to targets 5.1 and 5.5 to “end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere” and to “ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life” by promoting the designation of women as participants to its activities, as well as by delivering training modules on fair and non-discriminatory treatment (cf. page 19).

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The implementation of the RP contributes to target 16.1 to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” by supporting national authorities in strengthening their capacities to investigate, arrest, dismantle and prosecute organised crime and terrorism and by enhancing criminal justice responses to terrorism in conformity with the rule of law and human rights. Moreover, the RP’s activities aiming at rebuilding trust between national authorities and the population are crucial to preventing violent extremism and achieving real change.

1 Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.
Regarding the target 16.2 which aims to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”, the RP has delivered several initiatives that are directly related to indicator 16.2.2, the “number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation”. One important initiative that has achieved promising results during the reporting period is the Senegalese project against child begging. Since 2016, child begging was reduced by 50% in the municipalities of Medina and Gueule Tapée Fass Colobane3 (cf. page 35).

By “promot[ing] the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all”, the RP contributes to target 16.3.2 “unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population” by prioritising better access to justice and strengthening access to legal aid. For example, in Niger, UNODC supports the provision of legal aid to detainees awaiting trial in terrorism cases (cf. page 27).

Meaningful strides have been made towards target 16.4 to “significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime” in West Africa. For example, UNODC delivered training workshops to law enforcement officers and supported the marking of 60,244 weapons in Burkina Faso (5,500), Mali (33,000), Niger (277), Senegal (10,967) and Togo (10,500) (cf. page 27).

Through its work to fight corruption, UNODC contributes to fulfilling several targets including target 16.4 to “strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets”, target 16.5 to “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms”, target 16.6 to “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”, and target 16.10 to “ensure public access to information […]”. Moreover, steps taken are anchored in the national education systems through the roll out of a first Master’s Programme on Anti-Corruption in Ouagadougou University in Burkina Faso (cf. page 45).

Finally, the majority of activities implemented in the framework of the RP contribute to meeting target 16.a to “strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime”. A multitude of regional, national or local-level activities are organised in the entire region to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime. One example is the support to the Sahel Judicial Platform which promotes international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime (cf. page 26).

5. Human Rights

Beyond the criminal aspects of organised crime and terrorism, there is also a serious threat posed to human rights. Indeed, trafficking in persons, for instance, represents a human right violation against the victims that are subjects to exploitation. Similarly, smuggling of migrants, especially when accompanied by aggravating circumstances, can expose migrants to various abuses and fundamental rights violations, as well as endanger their lives while generating major profits for smuggling networks. What is more, in the case of terrorism, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy states that “acts, methods and practices of terrorism […] are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening territorial integrity, security of States and destabilising legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism.”

Such human rights concerns form the backbone of UNODC’s thinking in integrating human rights components in the implementation of the RP’s activities. Indeed, all activities implemented in the framework of the RP take into account the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy4. If grave violations of human rights are detected within the units trained by UNODC, a risk mitigation strategy is applied, or, in the most serious cases, support will be halted. In the case of US funded initiatives, the Leahy Vetting5 is systematically applied and enforced.

Lack of substantive and technical knowledge by criminal justice institutions are often the reason for human rights violations. The RP assists countries in West Africa in strengthening the capacity of criminal justice and law enforcement officials in applying criminal justice measures while respecting access to justice, defender’s rights and human rights. In the implementation of the RP, UNODC provides tailored technical assistance such as: legislative assistance to help countries put their legislation in line with international legal requirements, especially human rights; direct specialised training on the investigation, prosecution and judicial cooperation where human rights are mainstreamed.

2 Based on results of USAID’s final independent evaluation of the project.
3 The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), adopted in July 2011, requires all United Nations entities to be diligent in ensuring that support to non-UN security forces is provided in a manner that is in compliant with, and promotes respect for, international human rights and humanitarian laws.
4 The term “Leahy law” refers to two statutory provisions prohibiting the U.S. Government from using funds for assistance to units of foreign security forces where there is credible information implicating that unit in the commission of gross violations of human rights.
6. Gender Mainstreaming

Socio-cultural barriers and gender inequalities are deeply entrenched in most societies, including in West Africa. In several cases, society tends to restrain the sphere of action of women by confining their work to traditional chores. These limitations, combined with the security and judicial sectors being traditionally populated by men, leads to the underrepresentation of women in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Accordingly, one of the main challenges and cross-cutting area of intervention for the RP is the empowerment of women in law enforcement and justice sectors.

With this in mind, UNODC developed specific resources for gender-sensitive capacity development: the UNODC Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in Alternative Development (2000), the Gender in the Criminal Justice Assessment Tool (2010), that guide project formulation, implementation and close monitoring, as well as the UNODC Guidance Note on Gender mainstreaming in the work of UNODC (2013). The latter document states that women and men are impacted differently by crimes and that criminal justice responses must be adapted accordingly. Together with the Secretary-General's Report on Women in Peace and Security (S/2017/861), this document stresses that the participation of women in the criminal justice response systems is crucial to ensuring sustainable peace and security.

On 8 March 2018, UNODC adopted its Strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women (2018-2021) and the UNODC ROSEN established a permanent Working Group on Gender to support the promotion of gender equality and the inclusion of women in projects and initiatives implemented in the RP. The Office has undertaken a series of initiatives to mainstream gender-related considerations in its activities including continued engagement with governments to encourage the designation of female participants to training workshops organised in the region.

For example, the WACAP network encourages the nomination of female focal points and, as of today, 10 out of 24 focal points are women. The CCP created a Women’s Network in August 2015 and developed a gender awareness training module that has become a mandatory part of their two-week training course. Since 2013, in West and Central Africa alone, the AIRCOP Project trained 2,531 persons including 221 women (9%). AIRCOP also developed a specific module on gender mainstreaming in law enforcement to sensitise front-line officers working in airports. Finally, among the 13,000 beneficiaries reached by the Sahel Programme, 13% were women.
**CABO VERDE**
- February 2017: The Drug Law, the Law on Criminal Policy and the Criminal Investigation Law were revised and a law on cybercrime was drafted and approved by Parliament.
- August 2017: Over a ton of cocaine seized by the Judicial Police in Mindelo, leading to the arrest of 4 persons.

**MAURITANIA**
- The regional PCMS relayed information that enabled the National Office for the Fight Against Narcotics in Mauritania to arrest a Malian national sending drugs to Nouakchott.
- An Action Plan to identify and implement counterterrorism goals and priorities from a criminal justice perspective was developed.
- A new curriculum on organized crime and international cooperation was adopted for Magistrates’ schools.

**SENEGAL**
- Development of SYSTRAITE, a data collection tool on trafficking in persons.
- Dakar JAIF: 140 kg of counterfeit medicine, 33.5 kg of amphetamine, 5 kg of cocaine and 5 kg of methamphetamine seized.
- April 2018: First course on Addictology launched at UCAD University of Dakar.

**GUINEA-BISSAU**
- April 2018: First JAIF established and operationalised, 36 kg of cocaine seized.
- The TCU investigated 70 cases of drug trafficking, with 83 persons arrested and 57 kg of cocaine and 216 kg of marihuana seized.

**THE GAMBIA**
- Banjul JAIF: USD 42,000 of undeclared cash, 33 kg of gold and 8 stolen travel documents seized.

**BURKINA FASO**
- May 2017: First JAIF established and operationalised in Ouagadougou. A possible foreign terrorist fighter intercepted in April 2018 as well as USD 800,000 in undeclared cash, 6.4 kg of heroin and 1 kg of cocaine seized.
- Adoption of new training modules on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants for Police, Gendarmes and Magistrates Institutes.
- First professional master’s programme on anti-corruption of the region developed for the University of Ouagadougou.
- 5,550 weapons were marked and recorded.

**GUINEA**
- 50 firearms seized and 50 trace requests submitted.
- The Asset Recovery Management Office was established.

**SIERRA LEONE**
- The TCU investigated 690 cases, with 410 persons prosecuted and 1,697 kg of marihuana, 12 tons of hashish, 142 kg cocaine, 8 kg heroin and 226 kg of tramadol seized.
### OF RESULTS

#### CÔTE D’IVOIRE
- December 2016: Adoption of a holistic legislation against trafficking in persons, creation of a National Committee and adoption of a 5-year action plan against trafficking in persons.
- February 2017: First TCU established in Côte d’Ivoire.
- Abidjan JAITF: One potential foreign terrorist fighter and 7 victims of human trafficking intercepted + 24 kg of cocaine, 13 kg of cannabis and 341 kg of fraudulent medicine seized.

#### MALI
- Adoption of new training modules on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants for Police, Gendarmes and Magistrates Institutes.
- Bamako JAITF: 90 kg of khat, 11 kg of heroin, 9kg of cocaine and 5 kg of methamphetamine seized.

#### GHANA
- July 2018: New Drug Law Enforcement Unit established in Koforidua and equipment provided.
- Accra JAITF: 20 kg of cocaine, 56 kg of methamphetamine, 712 kg of cannabis, 23 kg of heroin and 125 kg of khat seized.
- 2018: Integration of a programme on integrity and ethics in the current training offer of the Police.

#### BENIN
- Cotounou JAITF: 513 kg of pangolin scales, 86kg of cocaine, 320 kg of methamphetamine, 20 kg amphetamine, 47 kg of cannabis, 20 kg of heroin and 430 kg of precursors seized.
- The Asset Recovery Management Office was established.

#### NIGER
- Niamey JAITF: Two potential foreign terrorist fighters intercepted + 5 kg of cocaine, 3 kg of methamphetamine, 2.5 tons of cannabis, USD 2 million undeclared cash, 60 kg of gold and 114 stolen IDs seized.
- July 2017-July 2018: Provision of legal aid to more than 820 detainees which led to 141 procedural files to be closed.
- In early 2017: First two convictions for terrorism financing involving 8 suspects, and a third conviction for participation in terrorist acts, involving one suspect.

#### NIGERIA
- 641 Officers of the Nigerian Police Force trained on Human Rights.
- 4,048 clients had access to treatment services in 5 community-based drop-in-centres.
- Lagos JAITF: 26.66 kg of ephedrine, 106 kg of cocaine, 312 kg of methamphetamine, 155 kg of cannabis, 82 kg of heroin, USD 790,000 undeclared cash, 5 tons of fraudulent medicine, 250 kg of precursors, 10 kg of gold, 160 kg of ivory, and 130 stolen credit cards seized.
- December 2017: New JAITF established in Abuja, and already 9 kg of cocaine, 7 kg of methamphetamine, 8 kg of heroin and 11 kg of precursors seized.

#### TOGO
- Lomé JAITF: 6 kg of methamphetamine, 80 kg of cocaine, 120 kg of khat and 390 kg of counterfeit medicines, 4 kg of heroin, 10 kg of ivory and 13 stolen IDs seized.
- 2016: The legal framework on maritime crime was revised with a new law on maritime law enforcement operations and a new penal code.

#### LIBERIA
- The TCU investigated 230 criminal cases, with 282 persons prosecutions, 1,553 kg of marijuana, 13.8 kg of cocaine, 2,776 kg of precursors, 2.9 kg of methamphetamine, 45.8 kg of heroin, 521 strips of tramadol and 184 kg of khat seized.
- December 2017: First joint patrol conducted by two units of the Coast Guard with the support of the Fishery Bureau.
SECTION 2
RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME BY PILLAR
Pillar I contributes to achieving SDG 16 through the reduction of violence and deaths of persons in police custody and in prisons, strengthening the sense of justice and preventing violent extremism (Target 16.1). Activities in this Pillar also contribute to the reduction of unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population, promoting rule of law at the national level (Target 16.3) and supporting mechanisms that encourage transparency and accountability of institutions (Target 16.6). Furthermore, UNODC work on children associated with violent extremism and terrorism relates to target 16.2, especially as it contributes to reducing the “proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month” (Indicator 16.2.1). All activities have a direct influence on the promotion, respect and fulfilment of human rights and of gender equality (SDG 5) in the criminal justice systems.

From July 2016 to July 2018, 174 activities were implemented reaching 4,607 beneficiaries.
1. Forensics

Reliable forensic service capacity is crucial to strengthen criminal justice systems as it generates data and information that provide an objective evidence base to inform effective drug control, crime prevention, strategic interventions, policy and decision making.

Since the launch of the RP, UNODC has been conducting assessment missions of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania’s forensics capacities. A total of 15 assessments missions took place allowing for a tailored and informed approach to supporting countries in forensic analysis. While most West African countries face similar challenges in the provision of forensics, some countries are more advanced and have the capacity to provide technical assistance to neighboring States.

Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana have thus come to the fore as regional forensics hubs and, as such, form the pillars of a new coherent regional forensic strategy. Together, they bring stability, leadership and technical expertise and combine the two judicial systems as well as three official languages used in West Africa.

The RP also provided the required framework for the creation of a regional network of forensic providers. Such networks are not new and exist in other regions in the world. They are central to sharing experience and expertise between countries to strengthen both national and regional forensic capacity and law enforcement.

2. Criminal Justice and Regional Cooperation

International cooperation in criminal matters is the cornerstone of coordinated efforts to prevent and combat organised crime. For practitioners, formal processes can seem cumbersome, slow and frustrating. However, in many cases, the process can be eased by following good practices and using informal contacts before sending a formal request for assistance. To foster international cooperation in criminal matters, UNODC supports the creation and development of networks of prosecutors, central authorities and focal points within Ministries of Justice. Cooperation is indeed vital in a region divided between civil law and common law traditions, where three languages are in use.

The WACAP is a network of focal points from 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania facilitated with the support of the ECOWAS Commission and Court of Justice. Since 2016, more than 15 MLA cases were facilitated by the WACAP. For instance, following the January 2016 Ouagadougou terrorist attacks, WACAP focal points in Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire quickly collaborated via the network to exchange information and process to MLA requests through official channels. Investigations were conducted easily, evidence was obtained and used in trials.

UNODC acts as WACAP’s Secretariat, organises the network’s plenary meetings and promotes synergies across areas, with other networks existing, such as the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa (ARINWA), to encourage the exchange of experiences on extradition, seizure, confiscation and freezing of criminal assets. These regional meetings enable face-to-face contacts between prosecutors, build trust and provide a safe forum for information exchange.

In 2016, as part of the WACAP train-the-trainer programme on international cooperation in criminal matters and adult learning methodology, 109 criminal justice practitioners from all WACAP Member States were trained to teach international cooperation in criminal matters to their peers in their respective countries. In 2017, their competencies were put in practice through several transference training sessions targeting national judicial system professionals. As a result, 333 prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers and INTERPOL agents, among them 55 women, were trained on international cooperation in criminal matters and MLA.

Thanks to this training initiative, WACAP developed regional expertise in a sustainable way, ensuring that international cooperation in criminal matters is constantly included in the curricula of judicial training and law enforcement schools in much of West Africa.
Furthermore, in synergy with the WACAP and through the PROMIS project, UNODC builds capacities of States to detect, investigate and prosecute migrant smuggling through facilitating international judicial cooperation. To do so, since February 2018, a Nigerian prosecutor from the Ministry of Justice was appointed as liaison magistrate to prosecution offices of Catania and Palermo in Italy. The aim is to enhance cooperation by offering legal assistance, logistical support and expertise, serving as a link on cases between Nigerian and Italian authorities. For instance, the Nigerian liaison officer is facilitating information sharing and MLA between Italy and Nigeria on cases of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In May 2018, the Nigerian prosecutor and liaison magistrate briefed the UN Security Council Open Arria Formula Meeting on «Maritime Crime as a Threat to International Peace and Security» on the pilot project’s results and its positive impact on regular coordination and joint operations.

Another example of active network in the region is the Sahel Judicial Platform, which was created in June 2010 and includes Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal as members. One of the main objectives of the Sahel Platform is to facilitate cooperation and allow the transmission and execution of both MLA and extradition requests among Member States.

To date, the Sahel Platform facilitated international cooperation in criminal cases in dozens of cases. In 2016, 62 MLA requests and 9 extradition requests were facilitated through the Platform. In 2016, Niger successfully received MLA from Burkina Faso who requested banking information in three cases on money laundering. Furthermore, Mauritania requested the extradition by Senegal of a French citizen charged with criminal association and conspiracy of drug trafficking for which Senegalese authorities issued a favourable opinion in March 2018. The extradition is currently suspended as an appeal has been filed.

### 3. Legal Aid

Access to legal aid is central to ensuring access to justice, especially for the poor and most vulnerable. It is an essential aspect of a fair, human and efficient criminal justice system based on the rule of law. Without access to legal aid, millions of people around the world are at high risk of having their rights ignored or violated, including through arbitrary pretrial detention, torture, coerced confessions and wrongful convictions⁶.

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⁶ Global Study on Legal Aid, UNDP and UNODC, 2016, page IV

https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/LegalAid/Global_Study_on_Legal_Aid_-_FINAL.pdf
SECTION 2: RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME BY PILLAR

Niger Provides Legal Aid to 823 Detainees in the Context of Fighting Terrorism

Since Boko Haram began to extend its reach into Niger in 2014, around 1,200 suspected terrorists were arrested. Facing a high number of cases, the Nigerien justice system and especially the Specialised Judicial Pole in charge of the terrorism cases has been under pressure.

In January 2017, UNODC launched a project to support the Specialised Judicial Unit and provide legal aid to detainees. UNODC recruited and trained 10 UN Volunteers (five women and five men, to ensure gender parity) to support the country in processing cases. UNODC provided training and guidance on legal aid, rights of the defence and legal aid services, especially for detainees suspected of terrorism offences to the 10 Volunteers. Whilst in line with international standards, the training was adapted to the Nigerian legal context.

The Volunteers became operational in July 2017 and kicked off their work with weekly prison visits to the three prisons of Niamey, Kollo and Koutoukalé. Since then, the project assisted 823 detainees, of which 270 persons were released, 133 were convicted and 242 procedures were settled. To ensure equal access to justice, the Volunteers visited detainees in prisons, identified people who have exceeded the statutory period of remand as well as vulnerable persons in need of legal or judicial assistance (women, minors, elderly); brought cases requiring assistance to the attention of the competent authorities; and, if necessary, assisted inmates to complete court formalities.

Mr. Cheibou Samna, Prosecutor at the Judicial Unit, acknowledged the UNODC Volunteers’ added value: “The Volunteers make the link between the Unit and the detainees suspected of belonging to terrorist groups and allow the treatment of so many procedures. They continue to be a lever for the Specialised Judicial Unit”.

Results were beyond expectations and Mrs Amadou Bibata, Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice in Niger, expressed the country’s willingness to extend this cooperation: “We wish to thank UNODC for its support, which has been crucial, and we guarantee that the State of Niger will undertake everything to see this partnership continue”.

This pilot project contributes to achieving SDG 16 by reducing the number of “unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population” (SDG indicator 16.3.2). The project also puts an emphasis on gender equality as half of the 10 legal aid Volunteers are women and a gender-sensitive approach was taken through the project, addressing specific needs of women in prison settings. Finally, this pilot project is also reducing the sense of injustice among detainees and thus indirectly contributing to prevent radicalisation in prisons (Target 16.a).

4. Prison Reform

4.1. Security and Prevention of Radicalisation

The RP prevents radicalisation in prison settings, namely by providing support to West African and Sahelian countries facing an increase number of persons arrested and detained under charges related to terrorism or allegedly belonging to a terrorist organisation. In June 2016, UNODC undertook a security audit of several prisons in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In total, seven prisons were selected based on their large numbers of potentially violent extremist prisoners and their overcrowding.

Support was provided in the development of a tailored risk assessment tool composed of several questionnaires and detailed guidelines to allow prison authorities to classify prisoners based on their individual needs and security risk. This risk assessment tool is considered as one of the common practices of modern prison management and has a direct impact on the structure and security of prisons.
The security audit, combined with the elaboration of the risk assessment tool and several training workshops for prison staff and social workers, had a real impact on the ground by placing human rights and reinsertion as pillars of prison administration. This impact is highlighted by the adoption by prison authorities of good practices on prison management in line with the Mandela Rules. For instance, improvements were made regarding the supervision of visitors, cellphones and prison staff. A new security wall was built in Niamey prison and the road across the prison was closed to circulation.

“Through UNODC assistance, at least 500 prisoners were interviewed and assessed. This is a first step to improve safety and security in the prisons as the risk evaluation tool provides the basis for a better sorting of the prisoners, allowing to separate those who are genuinely at high risk from others, and to ensure that those in need of protection are protected. The challenge ahead is to ensure that the tool becomes part of regular prison management in the three countries without the need of our support” explained UNODC’s Senior Inter-Regional Advisor.

A similar methodology was also used in Cabo Verde, where an audit conducted in 2017 surveyed the five Cabo Verdenan prisons from a security perspective, identified potential risks and solutions. The report was presented to Cabo Verdenan authorities in July 2018.

4.2. Juvenile Justice

With UNODC’s support, Cabo Verde drafted its internal operation regulation, pedagogical and therapeutic programmes for the Socio-Educational Centre “Orlando Pantera” for children in conflict with the law. Indeed, for instance, UNODC sponsored the organisation of a study tour to Portugal in February 2018. Support extended to the delivery of Local Safety Audits with the preparation of local plans for crime prevention in four Cabo Verdenan counties namely, Praia, Sao Filipe, Sao Vicente and Sal.

What is more, as part of the Global Programme on Violence against Children, technical assistance to juvenile justice professionals was provided in Cabo Verde to prevent and effectively respond to violence against children. The multidisciplinary training focused on building the capacities of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials as well as child protection professionals dealing with children in contact with the justice system, and in particular those deprived of their liberty.

5. Children Associated with Violent Extremist Groups

Since 2017, UNODC has been supporting the Ministry of Justice of Niger with the situation of children formerly associated with Boko Haram by providing legal advisory services, carrying out in-depth assessments and undertaking two training cycles on the treatment of such children, reaching over 300 justice and law enforcement professionals all over the country. Following this support, the government of Niger took a crucial step by recognising the rights of children associated with terrorist groups and ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of Niger and the United Nations System in Niger on children allegedly associated with armed and terrorist groups. The 2017 ratification of this MoU is crucial as it recognises that in situations of conflict, human rights violations are perpetrated, and children are particularly exposed to serious violations, including through their recruitment by armed and terrorist groups. The MoU also foresees the transfer of children apprehended following their association with terrorist and armed groups to specific centres of rehabilitation, where they receive assistance, including psycho-social support, to begin a process of reintegration into their families and communities. Since the adoption of the document, children who are deprived of liberty in connection with terrorism in Niger have been transferred to the centres and begun a process of reintegration.

In January 2018, UNODC published a dedicated “Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System” (available in Arabic, English, French) to provide guidance on relevant international legal framework as well as on good practices in this area of work. The Handbook serves as basis for the design of training curriculum for the Niger Advanced School of Judicial Training.
From July 2016 to July 2018, 394 activities were implemented reaching 10,290 beneficiaries.

Pillar II contributes to meeting SDG 16 through the reduction of “all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” (target 16.1), while reducing “illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime” (target 16.4) and “develop[ing] effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” (target 16.6). The SDGs also include several specific targets, under Goals 5 and 16, that are directly linked to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. These targets aim, among others, to “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation” (target 5.2) and to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children” (target 16.2).
As of July 2018, 12 AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAIFTs) are operational in West Africa, namely in Benin (Cotonou), Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou), Cabo Verde (Praia), Côte d’Ivoire (Abidjan), The Gambia (Banjul), Ghana (Accra), Guinea Bissau (Bissau), Mali (Bamako), Niger (Niamey), Nigeria (Lagos), Senegal (Dakar) and Togo (Lomé). Three new JAITFs were established since 2016, one in Burkina Faso, in May 2017, one in Guinea-Bissau in February 2018 and a new JAITF was established in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2017 and will be operational before the end of 2018.

In total, 279 officials are currently assigned to established JAITFs in the region, including 53 women. All operational JAITFs have access to Customs Enforcement Network Communication Platform (CENcomm) and 8 JAITFs have access to a Global Police Communications System called Interpol I-24/7.

The work of UNODC to counter organised crime and illicit trafficking focuses, at the national level, on providing capacity building through training workshops and eLearning courses (cf. page 31) on intelligence-led policing, detection and investigation techniques, crime scene management, electronic evidence collection and analysis, profiling and targeting, criminal intelligence analysis, reporting technique, cooperation between law enforcement and the judiciary and post-seizure investigation. At the regional level, work focuses on establishing interagency cooperation platforms and mechanisms, such as in the case of the AIRCOP project (cf. page 30), the WACI Initiative (cf. page 32) and the Container Control Programme (cf. page 33).

UNODC adopts a multi-dimensional and integrated approach addressing existing and emerging threats related to illicit trafficking of drugs, precursors and counterfeit products, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, firearms trafficking, piracy and maritime crime as well as money laundering.

1. Illicit Trafficking of Illegal Drugs, Precursors and Counterfeit Products

1.1. Airport Communication Project

As of July 2018, 12 AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAIFTs) are operational in West Africa, namely in Benin (Cotonou), Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou), Cabo Verde (Praia), Côte d’Ivoire (Abidjan), The Gambia (Banjul), Ghana (Accra), Guinea Bissau (Bissau), Mali (Bamako), Niger (Niamey), Nigeria (Lagos), Senegal (Dakar) and Togo (Lomé). Three new JAITFs were established since 2016, one in Burkina Faso, in May 2017, one in Guinea-Bissau in February 2018 and a new JAITF was established in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2017 and will be operational before the end of 2018.

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West African AIRCOP Task Forces have recorded the following seizures:

Since 2016, UNODC intensified the delivery of training and mentoring to operational and established JAITFs in the region. 125 capacity building activities were organised during the reporting period on a wide range of topics including, among others, documentary fraud; false identification and travel documents profiling and targeting of passengers at risk; cargo and postal mail profiling; techniques of concealment; drug detection and use of drug test kits; wildlife trafficking, X-ray imagery analysis; threat analysis; the use of communication tools provided by World Customs Organisation (WCO) and INTERPOL as well as effective investigations following drug seizures. 1,622 agents were trained since 2016, including 318 women, representing 20% of the total number of persons trained by AIRCOP. Also, in April 2018, the heads of all African JAITFs met in Dakar, Senegal, to discuss common issues, share experiences and good practices and agree on future improvements.

West African JAITFs have also taken part in multiple joint operations during which controls targeted at a special type of commodity or concealment method during a limited period of time at selected airports. Such operations include, for example, Interpol-led ADWENPA I, II and III (linked to general border control in West Africa), WCO-led Westerlies IV (on new psychoactive substances),
UNODC’s eLearning platform
To ensure that law enforcement agencies have access to training, UNODC harnesses information communication technology to deliver over 100 distance learning courses through an eLearning platform. The eLearning platform enables the delivery of capacity building programmes in a cost-effective manner and reaching a larger audience. Since 2017, 15 eLearning modules, including on drug investigation, crime scene investigation and clandestine laboratories, were translated into French and launched on the UNODC’s centralised eLearning platform. The translation of these programmes into French greatly increased the accessibility of UNODC’s courses to countries in West Africa. For countries with limited internet connectivity, courses were delivered using mobile training units with an offline eLearning platform.

SDG STORY 2:
Operation COCAIR VI, supported by AIRCOP, seized a ton of cocaine

As part of the AIRCOP project, airport law enforcement agencies in 30 countries across Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, as well as the Middle East, intercepted 900 kg of cocaine during WCO-led Operation COCAIR VI in December 2017. The main objective of the operation was to intercept illicit consignments of cocaine and other illicit substances or contraband transported by air from Latin America bound for Europe, directly or via transit zones in Africa. Cocaine topped the list in terms of numbers of seizures while drugs such as heroin, tobacco, methamphetamine, cannabis, khat, medicines, and lysergic acid diethylamide, were among other items seized by law enforcement officers. Other results include three interceptions of undeclared cash totaling over US$700,000. The operation has led to the arrest of 32 people and conviction of two companies. Operation COCAIR VI helped consolidate cooperation between operational services in participating countries. In addition, the rapprochement with the CRIMJUST project generated new opportunities for further investigations by national investigation services on currency seizures, as CRIMJUST is also a UNODC project focusing on the cocaine route between Latin America and West Africa.

Through JAITFs seizures made in the region, AIRCOP contributes to supporting Member States in achieving SDG 16 and its targets to “significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime” (target 16.4) and “strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime” (target 16.a). Through seizures of drugs, AIRCOP also indirectly contributes to the achievement of SDG 3 on good health and well-being by strengthening “the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol” (target 3.5).
1.2. West Africa Coast Initiative

The WACI is designed to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Political Declaration (2008) and its Regional Action Plan. The Initiative focuses on West African fragile or post-conflict countries (Côte D’Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to reduce their vulnerability to drug trafficking and organised crime, assist these countries to enhance law enforcement and justice institutions and build their capacities for increased national, regional and international cooperation. The core of the initiative is the establishment and operationalisation of inter-agency specialised investigation unit called Transnational Crime Units (TCUs).

A WACI Joint Assessment was conducted in April and May 2017. Findings and recommendations of this Assessment were presented and discussed at the WACI Programme Advisory Committee meeting and at the WACI High Level Policy Committee in December 2017 confirming the initiative’s relevance and the countries’ wish to deepen regional cooperation between TCUs. Finally, the TCU mandate was expanded to address all types of illicit trafficking, as well as financial crimes.

Since their establishment, the WACI TCU have recorded the following results:

**TCU of Sierra Leone**
- **Creation date:** 2010
- **Composition:** 55 officials
- **Agencies involved:** Anti-Corruption Commission; Central Intelligence and Security Unit; Financial Intelligence Unit; Bank of Sierra Leone; Immigration Department; Drug Law Enforcement Agency; National Minerals Agency; National Revenue Authority; Office of National Security; Pharmacy Board; Armed Forces; Airports Authority; Police; Maritime Department; INTERPOL.

**TCU of Guinea Bissau**
- **Creation date:** 2011
- **Composition:** 20 officials
- **Agencies involved:** Judicial Police; Public Order Police; Customs; National Guard; Fiscal Guard; Immigration and Border Service; UNPOL.

**TCU of Liberia**
- **Creation date:** 2011
- **Composition:** 37 officials
- **Agencies involved:** National Police; National Security Agency; Drugs Enforcement Agency; Immigration service and Revenue Authority.

**TCU of Côte d’Ivoire**
- **Creation date:** 2017
- **Composition:** 50 officials
- **Agencies involved:** Police; Gendarmerie; Customs; Maritime Affairs; Water and Forestry Services.

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7 In May 2016, a joint assessment mission was conducted in Guinea-Conakry to initiate implementation of WACI in the country. The status of WACI in Guinea is being re-assessed to determine whether national authorities re-confirm their commitment in establishing a nationally owned and sustainable TCU and whether funding prospects can be identified to support the establishment of a TCU.
As part of the Global CCP, UNODC supports West African governments in establishing an institutional framework for integrated Port Control Units (PCUs). 48 operational PCUs are operational around the world including four in West Africa, in Senegal (Dakar), Ghana (Tema), Benin (Cotonou) and Togo (Lomé), with concrete results in terms of drug seizures (cf. below). The key success of the programme is UNODC and WCO’s on-going support to the units through mentoring and advanced training on specialised law enforcement issues. The CCP also promotes communication and cooperation between different national, regional and international law enforcement agencies working on border control. PCUs are equipped with hardware and trained law enforcement officers from different relevant law enforcement agencies allowing the efficient identification and search of risk cargo in the illicit trafficking of drugs and other transnational organised crime activities.

West African PCU have recorded the following seizures since 2016:

- 223.2 kg cocaine
- 97 kg meth
- 700 boxes of fake cigarettes
- 350 kg ketamine
- 30 tons of illicit and counterfeit medicines

To better understand challenges facing women in law enforcement positions in West Africa, UNODC interviewed Inspector Agnéce Ndiogoye, Director of Dakar’s Reubeuss Prison, on the occasion of 2018 International Women’s Day. Inspector Ndiogoye is the first woman to become Officer in her country, the first Inspector and the first woman Director of Reubeuss prison, the biggest prison in the capital. Whilst a rare case, she is not alone in paving the way for law enforcement women in the region. Another example is Lieutenant Mariam Konaté, Customs Controller at the Research and Intervention Division of the Direction of Intelligence and Customs Investigations in Bamako expressing that “peace and security are everyone’s responsibility. Each of us have a role to play”.

Both Mrs. Konaté and Mrs. Ndiogoye were recruited through competitive recruitment processes. Both strongly believe that ensuring an open and fair competitive recruitment process is one way of reducing gender inequality and increasing women representation in the public sector since it provides equal chances of success to all. Both have been leading successful law enforcement careers in their respective administrations. Indeed, Mrs. Konaté has improved her skills by undertaking several training courses with UNODC on the use of drug and precursor identification kits and, in January 2016, she received a Certificate of Merit from the WCO. Likewise, Mrs. Ndiogoye was promoted to the Reubeuss prison in July 2016 when she was only 36 years old and received several distinctions from the Senegalese government.

Both are women of conviction and see themselves as examples for the generation to come: “Senegalese women would benefit from taking their rightful place in the workforce, not remaining in secondary positions and believing more in themselves” said Agnéce Ndiogoye, in February 2018. She noted that women are less likely to occupy managerial positions. She also insisted on the existing examples of women succeeding in the penitentiary sector: “I know women who hold key positions in prisons as chief clerks or accountants and do a great job.” She concluded: “As the first women to be given a chance, we have a moral responsibility to succeed in our jobs”.

Stories like those of Mariam Konaté and Agnéce Ndiogoye illustrate how women can succeed in a leadership position in law enforcement when given a chance and, give hope to achieve both SDG 5 on gender equality and women empowerment and SDG 16 on fair and transparent institutions by 2030. More generally, as women traditionally play a key role in ensuring social cohesion in their communities, their participation and leadership in the justice and law enforcement sectors should be encouraged.
2. Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

Most West African countries have ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its additional Protocols on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) but few have fully transposed these provisions into their national legal frameworks. Without appropriate legal frameworks, criminal justice practitioners encounter challenges in qualifying the crimes and enforcing the sentences. Niger, who adopted a specific law against smuggling of migrants in 2015, can be seen as a pioneer in West Africa in responding to this crime.

UNODC is currently supporting the Governments of Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal to develop specific laws against TIP and SOM and to adopt national plans of action against them:

- In Mali, the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices is assessing the progress achieved during the previous National Plan of Action and developing the new National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2018-2022). In parallel, UNODC is supporting the Malian Government in the establishment of a dedicated and autonomous agency which will be created by the law.

- In Côte d’Ivoire, UNODC is operationalising the newly established National Committee to become more operational. This includes capacity building for the members of the Committee and responding to the need of the Government to evaluate progress made on the ongoing National Plan of Action (2016-2020) to decide on yearly priorities.

- In Senegal, the National Coordination mechanism is expanding its mandate to have a clear coordination role on smuggling of migrants.

- Nigeria developed and validated the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the coordination of Law Enforcement Response in 2018. This SOP was a result of series of capacity building programmes on Identification of Victims and Traffickers in crime clusters and Referral process for Law Enforcement Officers as part of first line responders.

In Niger, following the initiative of the government, UNODC facilitated a high-level international conference on the implementation of the Niamey Joint Declaration on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of 16 March 2018. This conference was attended by Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Germany, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, France, Italy, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Spain, Senegal, and the United Kingdom. Recommendations adopted aimed at intensifying efforts to prevent and combat TIP and SOM A permanent monitoring mechanism was placed under the auspices of UNODC who will monitor commitments and periodically measure the progress made by each country.

Police officers, gendarmes and magistrates are key players in repression of TIP and SOM, however they often have limited, inaccurate or partial knowledge of both issues. To respond to these needs, UNODC provides capacity building support through a series of specialised training workshops, practical exercises, mock trials and mentoring. For example, since 2015, UNODC has been supporting the training institutes of police and gendarmerie in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to develop training modules on TIP and SOM as part of the training institutes’ curricula. The training modules for police and gendarmerie were developed and adopted in November 2017 in the three countries and a pool of trainers were trained and mentored in each of them. A similar dynamic was also put in place for Magistrates’ schools, promoting a sustainable approach to enhancing capacities in detection, investigation and prosecution. The training modules were adopted in June 2018.

Similarly, CSOs have a key role to play in combatting TIP and SOM. UNODC supports CSOs in providing assistance to victims of trafficking and raise awareness to inform populations about the dangers of irregular migration, as well as exploitation and recruitment techniques used by traffickers and smugglers.
Several sensitisation campaigns took place in the last two years, including:

- In 2017, an awareness campaign “caravan” on the sexual exploitation of women and young girls in Kedougou, Senegal, was led by UNODC Goodwill Ambassador Coumba Gawlo, a Senegalese singer-songwriter and composer.

- As part of the “Blue Heart” Campaign and of the 2018 International Day against Trafficking in Person, ROSEN launched a social media campaign reaching more than 100,000 followers to mobilise public opinion and engage the West African population in the fight against human trafficking.

- As part of the Nigerian “I am Priceless” Campaign and for the 2016 and 2017 International Day against Trafficking in Person, CONIG launched a national school essay competition for government secondary schools in Abuja, Nigeria. A total of 62 government schools with over 100,000 pupils were reached.

Forced child begging is one of the main forms of trafficking in Senegal. Thousands of children, commonly known as “talibés”, are forced to beg across the country as part of their studies in koranic schools (“daaras”). Many children are trafficked to Senegal from neighbouring countries. A 2018 study conducted by the NGO Global Solidarity Initiative revealed that there are currently about 183,835 talibé children in the Dakar region, including 27,943 children involved in forced begging.

In 2014, UNODC, USAID and the municipalities of Medina and Gueule Tapee Fass Colobane near Dakar launched a project against child begging called “Zéro mendicité”. The project promotes local initiatives to reduce and eradicate child begging in municipalities around Dakar. Initiatives include strengthening local regulatory frameworks, improving data collection, developing community care mechanisms and implementing sensitisation campaigns for local communities and authorities. In February 2018, the project was extended to the municipalities of Diameguene-Sicap Mboa and Pikine Nord.

The extension of the project is linked to the success of its first phase. Based on the project’s independent evaluation, child begging was reduced by 50% in the municipalities of Medina and Gueule Tapee Fass Colobane since 2016. Broadening the geographical scope of the project allows authorities to tackle child begging both in municipalities of origin (Diameguene-Sicap Mboa and Pikine Nord) and destination (Medina and Gueule Tapee Fass Colobane). The project’s integrated approach includes all actors concerned – the community, civil society, local authorities and Quranic teachers – and is necessary to strengthen the fight against child begging and child exploitation in a way that advocates for the respect of fundamental rights, as well as the children’s access to care services, protection, education and reintegration.

The project contributes to achieving target 16.2 to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”.

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8 The “Blue Heart” Campaign is a UNODC global awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society: www.unodc.org/blueheart

9 “I am Priceless” is a Nigeria nationwide campaign against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants that aims to reach out to law and policy makers and other leaders for the adoption of policies and legal frameworks supportive of the fight against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
3. Maritime Crime

While piracy off the Horn of Africa has been steadily declining since 2012, the Gulf of Guinea, home to some of the biggest offshore oil fields in the world, has experienced a recent rise in piracy, armed robbery against vessels and other maritime crime. Indeed, in 2010, the estimated amount of annual piracy attacks in West Africa were of 35; in 2017 that number had risen to 97. Countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea often lack a combination of jurisdictional provisions, legislation and judicial capacity to undertake prosecutions against piracy.

Many countries still need to develop legislation addressing maritime crime and piracy. The RP facilitates support to countries in West Africa to strengthen their judicial systems to tackle such crimes through training and assistance in law reforms. For example, in 2016, in Togo, the legal framework on maritime crime was revised with a new law on maritime law enforcement operations and a new penal code. The new law includes a new definition of piracy and introduces universal jurisdiction. The Togolese legal reform process also led to updates to the Criminal Code.

In the same year, in Nigeria, UNODC supported the drafting of a bill on the suppression of piracy and other maritime offences. In 2017, a legal expert was embedded in the Federal Ministry of Justice, Department for Public Prosecution to advise federal prosecutors on piracy and maritime crime matters. The expert trained and mentored a team of 10 specialised maritime crime prosecutors and advised in the revision of the Bill on the suppression of piracy and other maritime offences. The Bill was approved by the President’s Office and shared with the National Assembly. UNODC also provided advise on the revision of legislative frameworks in Benin, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana.

The RP has been focussing on delivering proactive and dynamic approaches to training, with a hands-on approach whereby participants are trained on the law of the sea and maritime crime and then work on scenarios and mock trials. The diversity of subjects covered in the training mirrors the complexity of issues surrounding the sea such as piracy and maritime crime, fishery crimes, pollution crimes, drug smuggling by sea and safety at sea. In total, in 2016, more than 170 prosecutors and judges in the Gulf of Guinea were trained on these subjects and, in 2017, six training workshops were also delivered to almost 100 prosecutors and judges.

In December 2017, in Liberia, a maritime law enforcement exercise was held with UNODC providing fuel, a satellite imaging and advice. For the first time, a joint patrol was conducted by two units of the Coast Guard with the support of the Fishery Bureau. During the exercise, an undocumented fishing vessel was escorted to port for inspection. Crew members were not detained, and the vessel was released after investigation. Boarding and inspection procedure complied with human rights. In addition to that, in 2018, two trainings of trainer’s workshops were organised while UNODC delivered spare-parts, maintenance material and radio equipment to the Liberian Coast Guard.

In Sierra-Leone, the embedded maritime engineer has mentored officers on outboard engine maintenance, dissecting engines and addressing dysfunctions that arise due to lack of proper maintenance. In 2018, equipment was also delivered to the Sierra Leone Coastguard. The supplies and mentoring seek to facilitate the Coastguard’s daily activity and expand their capacity to patrol their waters.

With a view to enhance regional cooperation, 10 international coordination meetings were held between Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Sao Tome’ and Principe and Togo between 2016 and 2018. During these meetings, legal frameworks and maritime crime cases were discussed, and mock trials were held to highlight potential joint-operational and hand-over agreements between countries.

Finally, UNODC supported joint maritime interdiction exercises in cooperation with the French Navy during the Navy’s Exercise for Maritime Operations (NEMO). Through mentors and the provision of satellite imagery provided by EMSA\(^{(10)}\)/EU Copernicus\(^{(11)}\), UNODC supported the work of Cabo Verde in exploiting a satellite images and Sierra Leone in boarding the French Navy vessel involved in the NEMO 18.2. Additional maritime boarding exercises were organised between the Navies of Ghana, Italy, Togo, France, Spain, Canada.

\(^{(10)}\) The European Maritime Safety Agency is one of the EU’s decentralised agencies that provides technical assistance and support in topics related to maritime safety, security and environmental issues, by conducting vessel monitoring, long range identification and tracking of vessels.

\(^{(11)}\) Copernicus is the European system for monitoring the Earth and is coordinated and managed by the European Commission.
4. Firearms

Between 2016 and 2018, support and technical assistance were provided to the National Commissions against Small Arms and Light Weapons of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo to improve national frameworks and operationalise the Commissions. In 2017, nine laws on firearms were drafted, waiting for adoption by national Governments and Parliaments in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. In Mali, the drafting process is ongoing and is in its last step waiting for a technical and political validation by the end of the year.

Furthermore, as part of the RP, support was provided to countries in West Africa in implementing preventive and security measures envisaged by the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition and other relevant instruments.

This support aims to enhance the process of data managing, physical stockpiling and securing of weapons, in particular those seized or confiscated. In 2017, following training sessions in Mali, Niger and Senegal to enhance the capacities of national operators in marking and record keeping, national processes for developing and establishing monitoring mechanisms were launched. The process is successfully completed in Burkina Faso and Niger and is still ongoing in Mali.

Furthermore, in 2018, in Niger, UNODC supported a campaign to collect and destroy confiscated arms. During this campaign, several weapons were seized (138 in Abalak and more than 500 in Tahoua). In Agadez, 30 weapons were handed over by the population following a sensitisation mission. A similar sensitisation campaign was launched in Casamance, Senegal, in February 2018 and in Burkina Faso in March 2018.

Since 2016, UNODC has equipped and trained officers in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo with marking machines and software for recording and managing data on firearms. In total, 13 marking machine and record-keeping kits were delivered to national authorities and more than 200 national experts were trained.

As a result, 60,244 weapons are now marked and recorded in Burkina Faso (5,500), Mali (33,000), Niger (277), Togo (10,500) and Senegal (10,967).

UNODC organised the first Community of Practitioners (CoP) meeting in Algeria in December 2017. This African CoP’s meeting was attended by Maghreb and Sahel countries to officially launch the CoP in Africa and draft its strategy and Action Plan.

Finally, in July 2018, a sub-regional meeting on international cooperation between Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria was organised to share views on investigations and prosecution on small arms trafficking, enhance CoP ownership foster greater cooperation and identify further specific technical assistance needed.

Trigger III Operation

Trigger III is a joint operation that aimed at enhancing the capacities of law enforcement and judicial officers to domesticate best practices in the detections, checks, seizures and arrests related to illicit firearms and other goods, as well as improve practical knowledge in tracing and investigating firearms trafficking as well as prosecution.

In 2017, two joint preparatory workshops for Trigger III Operation were organised for 11 countries from West and Central Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroun, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria) and the Maghreb (Algeria). Representatives from the Police, Gendarmerie, Customs and Justice participated. The participation of judicial officers in Trigger Operation was a first and allowed to foster a collaborative approach between national law enforcement stakeholders from various agencies to ensure that criminal seizures of firearms are systematically traced, and cases submitted to justice.

Results of the TRIGGER III Operation related to firearms seizures and trace requests include:
Seizures: 130 small arms (Guinea (50), Mali (25), Chad (23), Benin (21), Mauritania (10) and Niger (1)) and 49 war rifles, rest pistols, hunting guns and self-made weapons.
Tracing: Guinea submitted 50 trace requests.
5. Money Laundering

Successful national anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism systems give a central role to National Financial Intelligence units (FIUs). However, to play an effective role, these units rely on the cooperation of national reporting entities to transmit reports of suspicious transactions.

It is against this backdrop that UNODC, in partnership with several FIUs in the region, organised anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism awareness-raising workshops for reporting entities in Mali and Niger in 2016, and Burkina Faso in 2017. A total of 82 participants from reporting entities such as banks, insurance providers, micro-finance institutions, lawyers, notaries, dealers of precious stones, real estates, Forex bureau, etc. benefitted from the training. As results, the quality of suspicious transaction reports sent by reporting entities in these countries have substantially improved.

In addition to that, in 2015, UNODC developed a specialised training of trainers programme that entails a series of four workshops by country and aims at developing a pool of national trainers able to deliver training on financial investigations, anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism to peers and law enforcement authorities in their respective countries. The roll out of this sustainable and specialised training programme has also lead to convictions for money laundering in some countries (Ghana, Mali and Senegal) and a first conviction for terrorism financing in Niger.

Since its start in 2015, 10 countries in the region benefitted from the programme: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. A total of 427 trainers were trained on financial investigations. Out of this number 111 officers, including 13 women, received the full training programme and are certified trainers. In turn, national trainers successfully delivered training on financial investigation, anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism to 3,003 law enforcement and judicial officers. In addition, several training institutions in beneficiary countries such as Police schools have begun integrating financial investigation, anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism in their training curricula. Indeed, the training of trainers programme has achieved results in terms of sustainability in Niger, where financial investigations modules have been included in training curricula of the School of Gendarmerie and in Burkina Faso at the National School of Customs.

The roll out of this sustainable and specialised training programme lead to convictions for money laundering in Ghana, Mali and Senegal and a first conviction for terrorism financing in Niger.

Finally, in June 2018, UNODC delivered the first session of a regional cryptocurrency investigation training in West Africa to analysts and investigators (FIU and specialised law enforcement agencies) from the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The aim of this training session was to raise awareness on this new topic linking it to money laundering and cybercrime.

The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa

UNODC launched of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa (ARINWA) in November 2014. ARINWA is a Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network-style regional body. It is an informal regional network of practitioners that cooperate in the identification, seizure, confiscation and management of proceeds of crime. The Judicial Agency of the Treasury of Côte d’Ivoire serves as the Permanent Secretariat of ARINWA.

ARINWA strengthens operational cooperation, promotes training in asset recovery and raises awareness on asset recovery in the region. Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, magistrates, judges or officials from asset recovery or asset management offices can request ARINWA assistance. UNODC facilitates ARINWA’s annual focal point meetings and the participation of the leadership of the Network (Presidency and the Permanent Secretary) to the meetings of other ARIN-type networks. UNODC organised the 2016 ARINWA annual meeting in Côte d’Ivoire and the 2017 joint annual meeting with the WACAP network in Senegal (cf. page 25).

Besides, a practical manual on recovery and management criminal assets was developed in 2016 for the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal). The manual seeks to strengthen domestic and regional capacity in recovering and managing criminal assets.

In 2017, five assistance requests were sent through ARINWA. With the support of ARINWA, many West African countries have seen progress by adopting legal tools on asset forfeiture and management, and establishing Asset Recovery or Asset Management Offices (such as is the case in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinee, Mali and Niger).
PILLAR III - Preventing and Countering Terrorism

Pillar III contributes towards achieving SDG 16 and particularly the Target 16.a: to “strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime”. Furthermore, the RP contributes to achieving target 16.4: “significantly reduce illicit financial flows” via the delivery of UNODC’s financial disruption training.

From July 2016 to July 2018, 152 activities were implemented reaching 1,361 beneficiaries.

**Graphic 9: Number of activities per Country**

- Benin: 13
- Burkina Faso: 20
- Cabo Verde: 3
- Côte d’Ivoire: 3
- Gambia: 3
- Ghana: 0
- Guinea: 0
- Guinea Bissau: 4
- Liberia: 0
- Mali: 0
- Mauritania: 17
- Niger: 30
- Nigeria**: 38
- Senegal: 11
- Sierra Leone: 0
- Togo: 1

**Graphic 10: Type of activities implemented**

- Training and mentorship activities: 48%
- Coordination meetings between stakeholders: 6%
- Legislative assistance: 4%
- Advocacy activities: 4%
- Assessment and fact-finding missions: 5%
- Assistance to victims and/or drug users: 5%
- National and regional consultations: 14%
- Legal assistance: 4%
- Provision of equipment: 3%
- Others: 3%

SECTION 2: RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME BY PILLAR
1. Criminal Justice and Terrorism

As an integral part of the RP’s 3rd pillar, UNODC supported Burkina Faso towards the development of a new law to institutionalise a Counter-Terrorism Specialised Judicial Unit. The new law was passed in January 2017 and is reinforcing the country’s fight against terrorism. All Sahelian countries now have Specialised Counter-Terrorism Units. Indeed, in Niger, there is a Nigerien Specialised Judicial Unit and a Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Central Service, whereas Mauritania and Mali have their own Specialised Judicial and Investigation Units, while Chad has a Judicial Counter-Terrorism Unit. Finally, Senegal has a Specialised Judicial Unit with prosecutors and investigating judges, as well as two Specialised Law Enforcement Units, in the police and in the gendarmerie.

In Nigeria, support was also provided towards the development of a new Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Law, which is currently under consideration by the National Assembly. UNODC provided input on the legislation to work to bring it in line with the international legal framework and international good practices. The new legislation aims to address challenges identified in the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2011, amended in 2013. Similarly, in 2017, support was also provided for the final legislative review of the Nigeria Civil Aviation related bills to bring Nigeria in line with international obligations and standards in relation to terrorism-related international treaties and protocols.

Several countries in West Africa also benefited from practical training workshops on the investigation, prosecution, judicial cooperation and adjudication of terrorism-related cases. UNODC developed intensive training programmes for magistrates, police and gendarmes of Specialised Counter-Terrorism Judicial Units and investigative Units, which includes hands-on exercises on crime scene management, search, and the use of special investigative techniques in terrorism cases. These training programmes resulted in enhancing national criminal justice capacities and participants’ understanding on the importance of having a coordinated approach and the need to establish close and collaborative relationships between investigators and prosecutors when dealing with terrorism related cases. Indeed, as communicated by a training participant from Niger, in October 2017: “I have improved my drafting of police reports and will classify them well to allow investigating judges and prosecutors to have a good picture of the cases, investigation techniques conducted and results/relevant information.”

In Nigeria, UNODC supported the development of a Manual on counter-terrorism Investigations for Nigerian Investigators which aims to boost law enforcement officials’ understanding of terrorism-related policing areas and strengthen their operational capacity to conduct counter-terrorism investigations in an evidence-based and human-rights-compliant manner. The manual will be launched at the end of 2018 and incorporated into the curricula of the National Police Force.
In early 2018, UNODC delivered a training of trainers’ workshop on the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases for instructors at police and gendarmerie national training institutes in Mali and Niger. Whilst compliant with international standards, the training materials are adjusted to Mali and Niger priorities and incorporated into their respective national curricula. In Niger, the training institutes rolled out courses on terrorism prevention based on training provided. In Mali, instructors organised a joint teaching programme with trainers from the gendarmerie and the police.

SDG STORY 5:
UNODC-G5 Sahel Partnership to Fight Terrorism and Organised Crime

UNODC has been partnering with the G5 Sahel since its establishment in 2014 and contributed to the development of the G5 Sahel Security Cooperation Platform (in French “Plateforme de Coopération en Matière de Sécurité” or PCMS). The PCMS aims to promote national and regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies on issues related to illicit trafficking, crime and terrorism. It is composed of five national antennas linked through a secure database to a regional information-sharing centre in Nouakchott. By networking focal points of various law enforcement institutions (Police, Gendarmerie, Customs, etc.) in each country, national and regional units ensure concerted action between law enforcement and judicial authorities within and across countries.

The technical assistance provided to the Security Cooperation Platform through the RP is wide ranging and includes support towards the drafting of legal documents to organising trainings workshops for staff of national Platforms. These workshops focus on intelligence gathering and analysis, cybercrime, financial and economic crime, combatting drug trafficking and understanding the jihadist doctrine. Furthermore, in October 2017, UNODC supported the G5 in finalising the institutional mechanism for information exchange and defining the PCMS’ legal framework.

Because of the G5 Sahel-UNODC partnership to establish and operationalise the PCMS, G5 Sahel countries are now better equipped to exchange information on the fight against transnational organised crime and terrorism in a systematic and institutionalised way. This system of information sharing already bore fruit: thanks to information relayed by the regional PCMS, the National Office for the Fight Against Narcotics in Mauritania arrested a Malian national in March 2018, after the seizure of 100kg of Indian hemp bound for Mauritania, in Bamako, in January 2018.

The longstanding partnership between the two organisations translated in UNODC extending its support to the G5 Sahel to its new Joint Force’s Police Component. Indeed, mandate to support the Force’s Police Component was explicitly given to UNODC by the Permanent Secretariat in November 2017, during the fifth meeting of the G5 Sahel Defense and Security Committee, in N’Djamena, Chad.

Since then, UNODC facilitated the organisation of two high-level meetings in Bamako (December 2017) and Niamey (April 2018) to validate the structure and operation of the Police Component and accelerate its operationalisation. Following this and under the leadership of Niger as President of the G5 Sahel Defense and Security Committee, joint missions were organised in each of the G5 Sahel countries to support the implementation of the Police Component at the national levels. The mission in Chad yielded a decree establishing the Police Component Specialised Investigation Unit.

By strengthening the capacity of judicial authorities of G5 Sahel States in terrorism prevention, terrorism-related investigations and prosecutions, as well as in the fight against transnational organised crime, the RP contributes to the achievement of SDGs 16.1, 16.3.2, 16.4 and 16.a. SDG 5 on gender equality is also streamlined throughout all UNODC activities implemented in support to the G5 Sahel (cf. picture behind).
To strengthen international cooperation on terrorism cases, the RP also provides a framework that encourages South-South cooperation through the organisation of several study visits between Counter-Terrorism Specialised Judicial and Law Enforcement Units in the region. The aim is twofold: to exchange good practices and to strengthen international cooperation. Burkinabe and Malian officials visited Niamey, Niger, in 2017 and 2018 respectively. Hosted by the Counter-Terrorism Specialised Judicial and Law Enforcement Units of Niger, the study visit benefited toa total of 15 criminal justice and law enforcement officials of Burkina Faso and Mali.

Participants were extensively briefed on the composition and internal organisation of the Nigerien Specialised Judicial Unit and the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Central Service, the cooperation between both entities and their way of processing terrorism cases. In addition, sessions also allowed the representatives of both Burkina Faso and Mali institutions to better understand how to effectively organise their national counter-terrorism cell on the judicial and police sides in a way which ensures proper coordination as well as increase their knowledge in effectively investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases, especially through special investigative techniques.

2. Financing of Terrorism

To further enhance the capacity of criminal justice, law enforcement and intelligence officers, two interregional workshops and several training workshops on financial disruption were organised in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal from basic in 2014 to advance techniques in 2018. In early 2017, the Government of Niger secured its first conviction for terrorist financing involving eight suspects and a second conviction for participation in terrorist acts involving one suspect. Furthermore, during this session, a conviction for “recruitment of persons for the commission or participation in terrorist acts” involving one suspect was also secured.

So far, 91 law enforcement officers, intelligence officers, customs and financial intelligence unit officers benefitted from the programme. Participants stated that the training strengthened their skills in a way that can be used to conduct operations to disrupt the financial sources of terrorist organisations.
From July 2016 to July 2018, 112 activities were implemented reaching 2,097 beneficiaries.

UNODC’s mandate is to strengthen States’ capacity to prevent and fight corruption, supporting the implementation of the UNCAC, with a view to achieving SDG 16, in particular “strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets” (target 16.4), “reducing corruption and bribery throughout the criminal justice chain” (target 16.5), “developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” (target 16.6), and “ensuring public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms” (target 16.10). The Convention provides a comprehensive toolbox to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption, as well as strengthen international cooperation and recover stolen assets.
Corruption is widespread throughout West Africa, undermining peace, security, development, and attainment of human rights in the region. In addition to impacting negatively on the effectiveness of national authorities, as well as on their capacity to deliver basic social services such as healthcare, education and justice, corruption erodes people’s confidence in public and private institutions. Moreover, terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, wildlife and forest crime, and other forms of organised crime thrive in environments affected by corruption, benefiting from the lack of national capacity to stop such activities.

1. Culture of Integrity

With a view to enabling national authorities to reinforce the culture of integrity through preventive measures, the RP provides a framework to support countries in West Africa to participate in the second cycle of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, that focuses on Chapters II and V of the Convention, respectively focusing on preventive measures and asset recovery. Through the UNCAC country reviews, legislative gaps and priority areas for intervention in every country are identified, and technical assistance is provided to respond accordingly. So far, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, and Senegal have already finalised their reviews under the second cycle.

1.1. Investigative Journalism

The RP provides the necessary framework to support the strengthening of West African media capacity for investigative journalism that can contribute to fighting against corruption by exposing corrupt practices.

Following up on the 2014 Saly Declaration, calling for the creation of a Centre for Investigative Journalism for West Africa, UNODC helped establishing the Norbert Zongo Cell for Investigative Journalism in West Africa (CENOZO). Headquartered in Ouagadougou, CENOZO promotes investigative journalism in West Africa on topics such as corruption, organised crime, bad governance, and violations of human rights.

Support was provided towards the development and adoption of CENOZO Strategic Plan 2017-2019, and the organisation of three CENOZO Board meetings, as well as the General Assembly of the Association, held in Johannesburg in November 2017, within the framework of the 10th Global Investigative Journalism Conference.

UNODC also supports CENOZO in the delivery of training sessions for the journalists of its regional network. Since its establishment, CENOZO held six training workshops in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, and Senegal, each gathering up to 60 journalists, focusing on subjects such as tracing illicit financial flows, security and communications, and reporting on violent extremism. So far, the collaborative work of this dynamic regional network of journalists has resulted in the publishing of about 20 investigative reports exposing corruption cases, notably under the hashtag #WestAfricaLeaks. These articles are available on the website launched in 2018 with support from UNODC.
Mrs Filomena Silva, a Cabo Verdean journalist, is the first woman President of CENOZO. She has been an active member of CENOZO Board since 2014 and was elected Chairperson during the 2017 General Assembly in South Africa. In her management of the network she is assisted by Mrs Daniela Quiros Lépiz, Coordinator of CENOZO. This all-female leadership is rare in such networks and, as stated by UNODC’s Anti-Corruption Advisor in Dakar “If CENOZO works successfully, it is largely thanks to the work of remarkable women who are making the project move forward”.

Indeed, CENOZO’s female leadership is particularly remarkable when we consider that, among journalists in the region, women are a minority. Mrs Silva, a long-time activist who has been very active since her beginning as an investigative journalist, has also been a member of the West African Journalists Union for many years. She has always been dedicated to making change, starting with equality between men and women. Indeed “a gender strategy has been initiated by the Cell, and groups devoted to this thematic are emerging. All trainings should have 30% of women participating. Gender equality is a strong point of our training and recruitment programme within CENOZO” said Mrs Silva, before concluding: “Women must also show that they want to work hand in hand with men, to acquire the same skills and access the same positions.”

The support and expertise provided by UNODC has been essential. This support has also been instrumental in pursuing the achievement of SDG 5 across CENOZO. As Daniela Quiros Lépiz says, if attitudes change, women will not only be presenters on television, but will also have key roles in investigations.

CENOZO has been contributing to the achievement of target 16.5 to “substantially reduce corruption in all its forms”. In addition, the gender policy established within the Unit also contributes to SDG 5 that promotes gender equality.

1.2. Education Programmes

The implementation of the RP’s 4th Pillar highlights the importance of education as a tool to prevent crime and corruption. In addition to promoting a culture that supports the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, introducing anti-corruption curricula in higher education also helps to build the capacities of future professionals responsible for the fight against corruption.

Within the framework of its Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative, in June 2015, UNODC partnered with the Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l’Enseignement Supérieur and held a regional training for West African university professors in Doha, Qatar, to promote anti-corruption education in universities. This experience was replicated at the national level in Burkina Faso in 2016, in partnership with UNESCO. Following up on the outcomes of this workshop, the University Ouaga II in Burkina Faso has developed the region’s first professional master’s programme on anti-corruption. It will be launched in in the last quarter of 2018. The master’s programme will be opened to students from across West Africa, and it will cover various perspectives on corruption, including economic, legal and sociological aspects.

1.3. Civil Society Participation and Awareness Raising

In August 2017, UNODC convened national stakeholders to discuss a Freedom of Information Bill for The Gambia. Government representatives met with civil society and the media to discuss and adopt a set of recommendations to guide the drafting of the Bill (cf. picture behind).
2. Criminal Justice and Corruption

The implementation of both these chapters has been reviewed within the framework of the first cycle of UNCAC review mechanism. All West African countries have completed their reviews under this cycle, which resulted in the adoption of recommendations to bring national legal frameworks in line with the UNCAC. Following up on these recommendations, technical assistance is provided to countries in the region to improve States’ legal and institutional frameworks, as well as strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice systems’ capacity to effectively combat corruption. To this end, the RP’s interventions focuses on building integrity across law enforcement authorities and justice systems.

2.1. National Anti-Corruption Legal Frameworks and Institutions

Indeed, in partnership with UNCAC Coalition of CSOs, UNODC develops West African CSOs’ capacity to contribute to the implementation of UNCAC and the work of its Implementation Review Mechanism. In November 2017, UNODC supported CSOs’ participation in the seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC and a multi-stakeholder workshop took place in Senegal, in May 2018, gathering representatives of CSOs from across West Africa to build knowledge on UNCAC reviews and addressing the observations emanating from such reviews.

In Nigeria, UNODC supported government institutions, the media and CSOs to increase citizens awareness on anti-corruption issues at the national level and existing policies against corruption. This awareness raising campaign improved community participation and engagement in reporting corrupt practices. Extensive support went to radio programmes, providing airtime to government institutions and CSOs on a weekly basis reaching up to 80 million listeners.

A grant was awarded to 10 CSOs12 to raise awareness among school children, Ministries, Departments and Agencies on corruption’s detrimental impact. Capacity building was also provided to media and CSOs on UNCAC, Open Government Partnership, as well as citizen engagement programmes. These initiatives increased dialogue between civil society and government entities on several targets such as asset recovery, public procurement monitoring or advocacy for the passage of anti-corruption bills. This assistance comes with political engagement, such as via the active involvement of the President and Vice-President of Nigeria during some of the events organised. Indeed, in support of policy and legislative reforms, two high-profile-workshops were organised by the Nigerian Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption on the role of judges in the fight against corruption. The July 2018 event was opened by President Muhammad Buhari (cf. picture below). A similar event in October 2016 on the role of the legislature in the fight against corruption was already opened by the Vice President Prof Yemi Osinbajo.

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In August 2017, UNODC assisted the Gambian government in revising a draft Anti-Corruption Bill in line with international standards and best practices, recommending a set of amendments and additions with a view to securing the independence and effectiveness of the future Gambian anti-corruption authority. The revised version of this Bill is scheduled for discussion by the National Assembly.

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In Burkina Faso, the Autorité Supérieure de Contrôle d’Etat pour la Lutte contre la Corruption (ASCE-LC), the main anti-corruption body, has started using its investigative powers, as per the new organic law adopted in 2015. In 2017, the ASCE-LC intake of corruption cases quadrupled, compared to earlier years, signaling renewed citizen confidence in the institution. The ASCE-LC has sent on average more than 35 cases to court annually in the past three years, a seven-fold increase compared to the preceding years.

In December 2016, an anti-corruption bill on the Haute Autorité de Lutte contre la Corruption et les Infractions Assimilées (HALCIA) was adopted in Niger, as the result of a two-year partnership between UNODC, national stakeholders and civil society. This Bill stems from a consultative, multi-stakeholder process led by UNODC with ANLC, the national chapter of Transparency International in Niger, aimed at ensuring compliance with the provisions of UNCAC. In 2017, HALCIA started using its new powers provided by the law, to make its first arrest and to transfer a corruption case directly to the justice system. The government of Niger recovered some CFA 3 billion [more than USD 5 million] in bank accounts, real estate and property.

2.2. Integrity in Law Enforcement and Justice Systems

The RP frames UNODC efforts to supports States in strengthening integrity and accountability as part of holistic reform of security and justice sector institutions.

In Burkina Faso, the RP supported the development and adoption of tailor-made anti-corruption strategies for the national Police, Gendarmerie, and Customs. In line with the strategies endorsed by the Minister of Security, support is also provided to the National Coordination of Police Force Control to enhance local capacity to detect and sanction internal misconduct, in particular regarding road corruption. In 2018, a study visit to Rwanda was organised providing members of the anti-corruption body the opportunity to learn from the experience of a country that has recently succeeded in considerably reducing road corruption.

Finally, in October 2017, in Ouagadougou, and in preparation for the 2018 launch of its Global Judicial Integrity Network initiative, the UNODC Doha Declaration Global Programme (cf. page 10) organised a regional expert-level meeting for senior members of the judiciary and judicial administration to identify global priorities in judicial integrity and the prevention of corruption. Participants from francophone African countries adopted a set of recommendations on how to enhance the judicial systems’ integrity, as well as the individual integrity of magistrates. The Global Judicial Network was officially launched in April 2018, in Vienna, in the presence of the Honourable Kashim Zannah, Chief Judge of the High Court of Justice of Borno State in Nigeria as one of the ten members of the Network’s Advisory Board.


UNODC supports efforts to detect and recover stolen assets and illicit financial flows via its Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative - implemented in partnership with the World Bank.

Following a request for support by the Attorney General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria received in August 2016, StAR has been providing support to Nigeria in the framework of the first Global Forum on Asset Recovery. Specific technical assistance included, case-related support, facilitation of international cooperation, training of judges and prosecutors on the effective use of non-conviction-based forfeiture legislation, as well as open source investigation. The support contributed to:

- The return of US$323 million of assets diverted by former Head of State Sani Abacha by Switzerland, including an agreement on the transparent disbursement of these funds through micro cash transfers to households affected by extreme poverty;
- Reaching significant progress on an agreement with the US concerning the return of more than US$400 million of the Abacha loot;
- The successful cooperation with Switzerland for the tracing and seizure of assets allegedly diverted by the former Nigerian Oil Minister and here associates; and
- The establishment of open channels of communication to engage on the exchange of information on assets and beneficial ownership information with various jurisdictions.

Extending the support in the region, a StAR mission took place in The Gambia, in 2017, to assess technical needs in the asset recovery efforts of the new Government.
PILLAR V - Improving Drug and HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care

Pillar V particularly contributes to SDG 3 and supports the work of Member States to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” by strengthening “the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol” (target 3.5). The activities under this pillar also contribute to SDG 5 on gender equality by taking into account the specific needs of female drug users.

From July 2016 to July 2018, 92 activities were implemented reaching 7,993 beneficiaries.

Graphic 13: Number of activities per Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graphic 14: Type of activities implemented

- Training and mentorship activities: 13%
- Coordination meetings between stakeholders: 16%
- Legislative assistance: 27%
- Advocacy activities: 6%
- Assessment and fact-finding missions: 13%
- Assistance to victims and/or drug users: 12%
- National and regional consultations: 18%
- Legal assistance: 7%
- Provision of equipment: 6%
- Others: 5%
Over the past few years, drug use and DUD have become a growing concern in West Africa. According to the World Drug Report 2018, West Africa is not only a transiting hub for drugs but has grown to become a consumption hub for cannabis and cocaine. Addressing this challenge requires an integrated approach to the drug problem, which involves tackling supply and demand together.

The RP promotes a multifaceted approach in line with the UNODC-World Health Organisation (WHO) International Standards for the Treatment and Care of DUD, to build capacities in prevention, treatment, and care techniques and strategies.

The RP encourages comprehensive, integrated health-based interventions for targeted countries and the technical assistance provided is helping to reduce the demand for illicit substances, relieving suffering and decreasing drug-related harm to individuals, families, communities and society as a whole.

1. Drug Prevention

Developing the ability of the State to respond effectively to the prevention of the use of drugs is an important part of the RP’s implementation in the region. Through regional and national programmes, UNODC develops the capacities of CSOs to report, respond and treat drug users. Prevention activities centre around grant awards to CSOs and the development of UNPLUGGED a school-based prevention programme.

In 2016 and 2017, UNODC and ECOWAS launched a call for proposals targeting CSOs in support of innovative and pilot prevention initiatives. The grants targeted CSOs that focus on youth and risk populations through education and communication programmes on drug use prevention, awareness creation and community-based prevention strategies. Four CSOs were selected to receive the grants in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone. Each of the CSOs have fully launched their project activities. As a result, CSOs delivered outreach and mentoring activities through peer counselling, anti-drug clubs in schools, community based anti-drug coalitions and community engagement forums involving National Inter-Ministerial Committees Against Drugs and other national stakeholders.

At the regional level, in February 2018, UNODC and ECOWAS organised a workshop to build CSOs capacity on substance use and prevention and care. The workshop included the four CSOs recipient of grants, as well as 32 representatives from other CSOs, thus setting up the West African Network of Civil Society on Substance Abuse (WANCSA) to better coordinate their efforts towards drug prevention and treatment in the region and exchanged good practices.

The UNPLUGGED programme is a UNODC-ECOWAS drug use prevention initiative in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso and Mali targeting young people aged 12-14 years and their parents for a total of 400 schools and 120,000 students. It is based on a life skills education and social influences approach.

Following the adaptation in 2016 of UNPLUGGED in the Nigerian context, UNODC undertook a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) of UNPLUGGED that involved 16 control schools and 16 intervention schools (cf. picture behind). This RCT required the training of 90 school teachers and counsellors as well as the development of seven master trainers. The results of the RCT were positive, showing improvements in classroom environment, of cannabis use, as well as alcohol and tobacco consumption. Using the master trainers, a further 229 teachers from 88 schools were trained in Nigeria in 2017 and 2018.

Finally, the RP supported the development of institutional rearrangement, programming and operation of the new Coordinating Commission of Alcohol and other Drugs (CCAD) in Cabo Verde, in charge of coordinating and implementing DDR policy and implement at national level. The new organisational structure of CCAD was approved by the government in February 2017. A monitoring and evaluation matrix for the CCAD work plan was drafted, four specialised technical Committees were put in place; and indicators for drug use prevention and treatment were developed to streamline the SDGs into national development planning.
2. Drug Treatment and Care

The RP contributes to the development of evidence-based policy in treatment, care and rehabilitation services, including through the establishment of regional and national epidemiological networks. As such, the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENDU) was established in response to the need to strengthen surveillance with respect to illicit drug supply and drug use in the region. WENDU is a platform used to foster greater exchange of best practices and common standards on data collection and drug use patterns amongst ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania. The countries nominated 31 National focal points from health and law enforcement. UNODC facilitated a Technical Experts’ Meeting of WENDU, and subsequent regional and national workshops for national focal points lay valuable groundwork on influencing policies related to data collection systems. Together, UNODC and ECOWAS initiated the development of the national epidemiological networks in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Guinea, Cabo Verde, Togo, Niger, Nigeria and Benin.

In 2017, UNODC released a literature review on drug use in West Africa which documented the extent of information available on drug use and supply in the countries within the region. UNODC also supported the implementation of the first school surveys in Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia. These surveys demonstrated that substance use is a major public health problem amongst secondary school students. The results of these national surveys were welcomed by their respective governments and have already begun to influence policy and programme development at the national level.

In 2017, UNODC also supported a national drug use survey in Nigeria, which involved a household survey (39,000 respondents) on problematic drug use. The analysis of this survey was finalised in 2018, with the survey results expected to be launched by the end of 2018. Ongoing work is also being conducted to conduct a national school survey in Senegal and support the revision of the National Treatment Demand Indicator.

In Nigeria, in 2016 and 2017, over 4,000 clients accessed services in the five community-based drop-in-centers. In 2018, an additional 4 drop-in-centres providing drug treatment services were established, with three of these centres focused on female drug users.

Furthermore, together with the WHO, UNODC supported the development of the National Minimum Standards for drug dependence treatment, Standard Policy and Practice Guidelines for Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency Counsellors, Guidelines for Treatment of Substance Use Disorders, Guidelines for Referral Services for drug users in Nigeria and After-Care Guidelines for drug users. In 2018, UNODC also supported the development of National Drug Dependence Treatment Guidelines. What is more, 11 Model Drug Treatment Centres received training and equipment and over 2,000 health practitioners were trained by Nigerian Master Trainers on drug treatment, community-based treatment, HIV prevention and care.

Similarly, on the issue of availability and control of narcotics and psychotropic substances, UNODC supported the Government of Nigeria to develop the Health National Policy for Controlled Medicines, National Guidelines for Quantification of Narcotics and Estimation of Psychotropic Substances and Precursors for Medical and Scientific Purposes. UNODC is providing support to the process of decentralising warehousing of controlled medicines in Nigeria through development of National Regulations for the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors. Other measures include the revision of curriculum of medical schools to incorporate rational use of controlled medicines and the revision of record keeping instruments used for controlled medicines, psychotropic substances and precursors in preparation for future national survey.
SDG STORY 7:
The Integrated Drug Treatment Centre of Dakar

Senegal has taken the necessary steps to transform the way in which it responds to drug use through the creation of the Integrated Drug Treatment Centre of Dakar (CEPIAD) and the integration of a course on addiction medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the University Cheikh Anta Diop.

Prevention and care of people who inject drugs in Africa represents a challenge for public health. In 2014, Senegal became the first country in West Africa to open a specialised drug treatment service centre. Under the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, together with the efforts and contributions of partners (Global Fund, ESTHER, Paris Municipality), Senegal established the CEPIAD. The CEPIAD is a service unit of the Psychiatric Department, located in the University Hospital of Dakar (CHNU Fann). It offers ambulatory services of treatment and care to persons addicted to psychoactive substances in line with human rights standards.

After almost three years of operations, 1,031 patients were received and 339 people who inject drugs were enrolled in the opioid maintenance programme with methadone intake as substitution therapy. The Centre has a multidisciplinary medical team linked with a network of social workers, mediators and community volunteers developing outreach activities and referral interventions.

Despite the success achieved in Senegal, the social environment and legal framework in the whole region need to be improved to be conducive to risk prevention and treatment policies. Indeed, favoring public health approaches instead of the stigmatisation of drug users is key in the West African context. Furthermore, Senegal developed a university curriculum to sustainably train addiction specialists and promote public health and human rights-sensitive approach. The first University Degree in Addiction Medicine in West Africa was launched in February 2018 in Dakar at the University Cheikh Anta Diop. The main objective of the University course is to increase the quality of service provide to drug users particularly with respect to human rights and therapeutic methods.

Thanks to its constant efforts to establish and launch innovative structures and initiatives, Senegal is now considered as a regional leader in the prevention and treatment of drug use disorders, contributing to achieving SDG 3.5 on health and well-being by strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

Apart from the success story of the Senegal, where more than 1,000 patients received access to evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care services, intense efforts have also gone into capacity building in the region. Côte d’Ivoire successfully trained more than 120 professionals since July 2016, including on the Universal Training Curriculum.
SECTION 3

10 PRIORITIES FOR 2018 AND BEYOND
As a response to the interconnected nature of the security threats in the region, the RP for West Africa takes an integrated approach tackling the threats of transnational organised crime, justice, corruption, terrorism and drug demand. In a region where terrorism is already omnipresent, criminal networks’ modus operandi steadily adapt, bypassing established regulations and laws and using new technologies to serve their interests. Building on its expertise and neutrality, UNODC’s will is to continue delivering the priorities of the RP in an innovative, flexible and integrated fashion, working hand in hand with countries and partners in West Africa, encouraging regional cooperation and exchange of information through existing regional networks.

For 2018 and beyond, ten priorities come to the fore as particularly relevant and crucial in the implementation of the RP, these are:

1. **Invest in operational research to improve evidence-based policies and operational responses at national and regional levels; support countries in SDG reporting**

   Routes, challenges and modus operandi of criminal groups and networks are in constant evolution. In this context, it is of utmost importance for countries and partners to continue investing in research to allow an informed approach to tackling crimes and tailoring national policies and responses to actual threats. Of particular relevance to the current context, UNODC further pursues its research on smuggling of migrants networks in the region and boost capacities of countries in the development of tools to enhance data collection. Research on nexus areas of crime – such as the links between corruption and terrorism, or methods of terrorism financing – will be further pursued.

   What is more, upon request from the Member States, UNODC will support West African countries to monitor and report on progress made towards achieving SDGs related to its mandate areas. Support entails assisting countries in review processes, in developing statistics, monitoring and reporting methodologies, as well as communication tools.

2. **Consolidate the G5 Sahel’s increased capacity of its infrastructure for police and judicial cooperation**

   Following four years of continuous and coordinated support to the law enforcement and justice authorities of G5 Sahel Member States and the G5 Permanent Secretariat, increased capacity has resulted in a consistent improvement of these agencies’ operational results. It follows that the RP’s programmatic priority in the Sahel for the upcoming years will be to consolidate these gains and for UNODC to support the G5 Sahel's police and justice infrastructure with a view to ensure autonomy.

   Given UNODC’s track record and unique positioning with the G5 Sahel, focus will primarily be on achieving this through: (1) The Police Component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, ensuring a proper judicial follow-up of cases of terrorism and organised crime generated by the Joint Force; and (2) the G5 Sahel's regional mechanisms for cooperation in law enforcement (Security Cooperation Platform) and cooperation in judicial matters (Sahel Judicial Platform) ensuring effective exchange of information, intelligence and evidence in relation to crimes with a transnational character.

3. **Expand activities to better address the various and ever-changing border management and control challenges**

   The diversity of countries’ physical settings in the region, from landlocked Mali to islands States such as Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau, combined with different levels of socio-economic developments, use of biometrics, border infrastructure or even Internet connection and a wide variety of threats such as irregular migration, terrorism, illicit trafficking, calls for a mix of regional and national approaches in enhancing border control. With this in mind, governments in the region need to strengthen and harmonise border control procedures through interlinked initiatives at air, land and sea borders, support institutional set-up from operational to strategic levels and promote a culture of integrity. In this regard, AIRCOP has been successful in mixing national capacity-building with regional best practices exchanges, complemented by an international network to facilitate real time transmission and sharing of information between law enforcement services at air border posts.

   In the years to come, it will be necessary to explore regional model legislations or guidelines in specific areas of border management and control, such as targeted SOP, the use and sharing of air passenger data or biometrics. What is more, with a view of encouraging intra-African cooperation, consideration could be given to supporting the development of a pool of African experts in various fields of border management and control. This pool of experts could advise the African Union Commission, ECOWAS or regional platforms such as the Sahel PCMS and the WACAP, and be readily available to West Africa countries for specialised training and mentoring schemes.
Strengthen judicial cooperation in the framework of the WACP, including through new initiatives such as the posting of liaison magistrates and the development of a prosecution mechanism in the region

Building on the success of the WACP as a judicial cooperation network for the region and with an eye on boosting regional judicial cooperation, it will be crucial to further support law enforcement officers, magistrates and prosecutors to make more effective MLA for the prosecution of different forms of transnational organised and serious crime in West Africa. Such support entails establishing or institutionalising central authorities for MLA, as well as strengthening the legislative frameworks in international cooperation in criminal matters and boosting national coordination efforts. What is more, the posting of liaison magistrates from West African to European countries to address priority crimes such as migrant smuggling is one of the recent novel initiatives successfully piloted between Nigeria and Italy that could be readily expanded to other countries, with a view, in the long term, of establishing a West African network of liaison magistrates. This approach aligns with the next phase of the WACP, which is to create a regional prosecution mechanism to improve coordination and cooperation between competent authorities in West Africa for the prosecution of organised crime and terrorism, with due regard for human rights.

Promote and implement deradicalisation policies in prisons and protect children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups

Considering the deep rooting of terrorist groups in the region, penitentiary administrations in West Africa are confronted with a growing number of people arrested in terrorist investigations, including children recruited and exploited by terrorist groups. As a result, prisons in the region increasingly face the risk to having non-identified terrorist fighters or ideologues as part of the mixed prison population causing a risk of increased radicalisation and an immediate security threat. In that respect, there is an urgent need in West Africa for evidence-based policies and procedures in prison management, as well as tailor-made training of prison staff to better manage a potential rise of violent extremist in prison setting and strengthen the detection of radicalisation signals. Furthermore, a regional approach that promotes the sharing of experiences on the management of violent extremist detainees and de-radicalisation or disengagement programmes, including with respect to children, would go a long way in developing and reinforcing a West African community of experts on prison management.

Establish a permanent monitoring mechanism of commitments made on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants under the framework of the Niamey Declaration

Smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons are threatening the most fundamental human rights and are quickly becoming more complex, notably because of their link to organised criminal networks. Concerned by the risks posed by these challenges and their impact on the regional security, West African and European governments – via the March 2018 Niamey Joint Declaration – have committed to work together to safeguard lives and ensure that the criminal networks behind trafficking and smuggling will be brought to justice. The Niamey Joint Declaration, in addition of being a strong expression of the will of the countries involved, is also a practical tool to aim at the achievement of these goals. During a follow-up conference in June 2018, 23 specific recommendations and concrete areas of action were formulated related to legal framework, judicial cooperation, mandates of various forces involved, border management and operational tools at the national level that aim to support the implementation of the Niamey Declaration. In this context, a permanent mechanism for monitoring commitments will be established where UNODC has been requested to function as the Secretariat. This should allow to monitor and periodically measure the progress made by States which expressed their commitment to fight migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, with an eye on coherence, sustainability and the respect for human rights.

Strengthen the collection and use of scientific and forensic evidence in the criminal justice chain

Focusing on improving the quality of forensic science services – from the crime scene to the courtroom – and the use of forensic data and information by enhancing the capacity of competent authorities and strategically strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms is essential to building trust in the national criminal justice chain. With this in mind, priority will be given to implement the new regional strategy on forensics created together with ECOWAS in the framework of the RP. Focus will be on strengthening of national capacities and promoting sub-regional cooperation. The objective is to foster the gradual emergence of a regional forensics network and build greater sustainability of forensic capacity regionally through the creation of expert hubs. Partnerships with international bodies, forensic science institutions, networks and associations of forensic science Institutes will be central to the development of human resources in a sustainable manner.
Promote a balance approach between drug supply control and drug demand reduction in the region and enhance the prevention and treatment of Substance/Drug Use Disorders

Substance and Drug Use Disorders (S/DUDs) constitute a growing public health, development and security concern in the region. Strengthening prevention and treatment for people with S/DUDs is an essential demand reduction strategy of significant public health importance and a cornerstone of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem outcome document. In this regard, it will be important to keep promoting and supporting science- and human rights-based prevention and treatment policies, strategies, and interventions to reduce negative health and social consequences caused by S/DUDs in all regions. UNODC specifically supports the government of Senegal in the development of a National Drug Information System that might serve the function of a sub-regional observatory on drugs in other French-speaking West African countries in the future. Data collection and assessment related activities are key to the improvement of evidence-based policies and drug dependence treatment and care services in the region.

Accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption implementation (UNCAC) in West Africa

The fight against corruption is paramount to ensure the success of national policy, international assistance and the achievement of the SDGs. In line with the Agenda 2030, the capacity of West African countries to prevent and fight corruption as well as recover stolen assets is strengthened in no small part through the implementation of the UNCAC. As a result, and a priority, national legislative and institutional anti-corruption frameworks need to be strengthened throughout the region, following up on recommendations formulated through UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanisms.

Address new threats such as cybercrime and the use of internet for terrorism purposes

Transnational organised crimes increasingly involve the use of the Internet, and terrorists and organised criminal groups frequently operate online. Organised cybercrime has emerged as a significant form of transnational crime, including in West Africa, challenging livelihoods and economies and harming society’s most vulnerable. In the region, countries have limited capacities to prevent, protect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cybercrime activities and face the risk of becoming safe havens or targets of choice for cyber criminals. As such, with the support of UNODC’s Global Programme on Cybercrime, it is imperative that countries in the region quickly tackle cybercrime issues by strengthening their national capacities and legal frameworks, as well as encouraging regional and international cooperation in the matter.