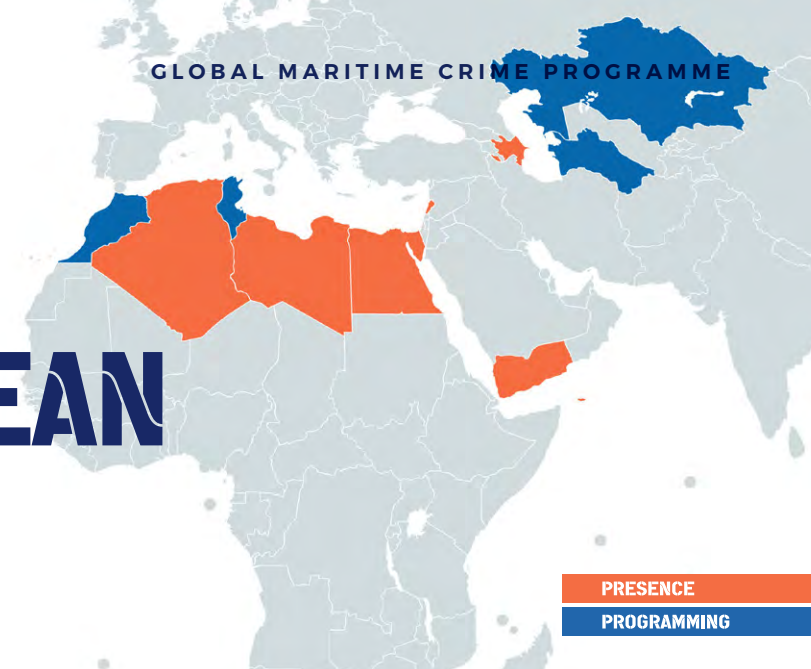




MEDITERRANEAN TEAM



TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER



ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS



FIREARMS TRAFFICKING



DRUG TRAFFICKING



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS



BREACHES TO UNSC SANCTIONS



CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT



“LAF-Navy is facing strategic challenges that require a substantial increase in the level of preparedness in all fields. These challenges include countering illicit trafficking and crime, countering terrorism, dealing with illegal immigration and assuming the mission of the Maritime Task Force of the UNIFIL. UNODC GMCP support comes at a critical time where LAF-Navy strives to maintain maritime safety and security and to create a favourable environment for oil and gas exploration as an economic leverage for Lebanon.”

REAR ADMIRAL HAISSAM DANNAOUI, COMMANDER OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES (LAF) NAVY

OUR PRIORITIES

01. MARITIME BORDER MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Support national maritime law enforcement actors in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and operational responsiveness through analytical training, provision of equipment and mentoring. Use satellite imagery to practise analytical skills, operational planning and on-water exercises in line with international law and human rights. Promote the inclusion of women in decision-making and operational roles.

02. LEGAL FINISH TO MARITIME CRIMES

Support the legal finish to crimes committed at sea through training to judges and prosecutors. Furthermore, support practice through simulated trials with national authorities and complementary regional maritime exercises. Support international cooperation between prosecutors through the establishment of networks. Train national authorities on use of electronic evidence, as well as MDA evidence in a court of law.

03. MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY-BUILDING

Build sustainable in-country and in-region MLE capacity-building programmes. Establish Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) training centres where residential training can be held. Support the development of regionally-relevant curricula that can be delivered by trainers and academies from the region.

04. IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SANCTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

In line with UNSC Resolution 2591 (2021), support the capability building of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy in view of the transfer of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Maritime Task Force mandate to their authority. In collaboration with the UN Panels of Experts and Mediterranean coastal states, support the implementation of UNSC sanctions related to the arms embargo on Libya and the illicit exportation of petroleum from Libya.

05. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTERPART ENGAGEMENT

GMCP's Mediterranean team continued to work with counterparts with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean in 2023. Additionally, the Mediterranean team engaged counterparts in the Central and Western Mediterranean to identify priority areas for cooperation, and has developed activities to strengthen maritime law enforcement and border management in 2024. In the Black and Caspian Sea, GMCP is consulting with key partners to identify priority areas for engagement that will complement ongoing efforts to strengthen MLE and border management. Activities in the Caspian Sea in 2024 will focus on countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) trafficking.

KEY RESULTS IN 2023

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

- ✓ In Lebanon, UNODC GMCP developed an engineering mentorship programme with the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy that significantly boosted maintenance capabilities and operational efficiency in maritime security.
- ✓ GMCP facilitated an interagency tabletop exercise at Jounieh Naval Base in Lebanon for enhanced coordination among maritime law enforcement agencies to better combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking.
- ✓ To sustain training activities, GMCP in Cyprus supported regional instructors from navies and marine police of Egypt, Cyprus and Lebanon to develop their own curriculum and instructional content in Arabic, focusing on search and rescue techniques to promote regional cooperation and standardise VBSS procedures.
- ✓ In Cyprus, trainings were held for MLE officers from Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon, including with the use of K-9 dogs and the use of a Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle (ROV).
- ✓ Specific trainings focused on specialised pierside vessel search techniques and gender-responsive and human rights-based approach for countering the smuggling of migrants at sea.
- ✓ In Algeria, GMCP organised three training courses at the Higher National Maritime School that significantly enhanced the skills and strategies of MLE agencies, bolstering their ability to secure maritime borders, with a focus on CBRN trafficking risks, inter-agency cooperation and prosecution of complex maritime trafficking cases.
- ✓ In Tunisia, GMCP supported national authorities to identify legal and operational recommendations to combat maritime pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. A tabletop exercise was followed by an operational inter-agency exercise on board a vessel, bringing together magistrates and all other concerned agencies to practise the detection, investigation and prosecution of a maritime pollution case with a simulated trial.



GMCP IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO PROMOTE REGIONAL COOPERATION INCLUDING ON THE SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS AT SEA

UNODC GMCP in the Eastern Mediterranean has taken significant steps to promote regional cooperation including on the smuggling of migrants at sea. In February 2023, a tabletop exercise involving Egypt, Lebanon and Cyprus aimed at exchanging best practices on countering smuggling of migrants at sea while focusing on cooperation in search and rescue operations. Building on this exercise, GMCP facilitated a series of follow-up activities, including study visits and maritime boarding trainings, which further promoted the exchange of best practices among the countries involved. This concerted effort not only strengthened regional cooperation but also enhanced the capabilities of these nations to effectively address maritime safety and human rights at sea.

BRINGING JUDGES, MAGISTRATES AND MARITIME AUTHORITIES TOGETHER ON A VESSEL IN A SIMULATION OF A MARITIME POLLUTION CASE

In November 2023, a 3-day simulation of a maritime pollution case covering all stages from the detection of pollution through to the investigation and trial was held in Tunis. Conducted on board the vessel Tanit, made available by Tunisian authorities, this inter-agency exercise allowed judges, prosecutors, investigators, Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) authorities and other Tunisian agencies involved in the fight against pollution at sea to identify legal and operational recommendations to improve the coordination of all concerned agencies. This simulated exercise was the second phase of a cooperation between GMCP and the General Secretariat of Maritime Affairs (SGAM) in Tunisia and was funded by France.



RED SEA AND YEMEN

- ✓ In Yemen, GMCP has trained more than 470 maritime law enforcement personnel, including the Yemen Coast Guard, Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation personnel and Yemen Customs Authority. Training courses delivered focused on port security, MDA, interagency cooperation, MLE, communications, marine engineering and English language.
- ✓ GMCP support in Yemen included strategic infrastructure work and the provision of equipment. This includes the rehabilitation of the hull of Yemen Coast Guard's largest patrol vessel the Aden Ship at the Djibouti dry-dock; the delivery of 2 Generators for the YCG HQ which will sustain a consistent power supply; the completion, renovation and operationalization of operations rooms; and the provision of communication equipment which enhances the efficiency and connectivity of the YCG.
- ✓ GMCP completed the renovation of the training classrooms at the Yemen Coast Guard Headquarters in Aden, which are currently being used to deliver all GMCP-led trainings.
- ✓ Criminal justice actors from the Ministry of Justice were added to the Regional Prosecution Network under the Red Sea project, supporting the legal finish of the maritime security approach.