GLOBAL MARITIME CRIME PROGRAMME

MEDITERRANEAN TEAM

“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 thrives to maintain maritime safety and security and to create a favorable environment for oil and gas exploration as an economic leverage for Lebanon.”

CAPTAIN COMMODORE HAISAM DANNAOUI, COMMANDER OF THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES (LAF)

01. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTERPART ENGAGEMENT
UNODC GMCP is consulting with key partners to identify priority areas for engagement that will complement ongoing efforts to strengthen MLE and border management in the Black Sea.

02. MARITIME BORDER MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
Support national MLE actors to monitor and manage their maritime spaces against a variety of maritime crimes.

03. MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME
Support national and regional awareness and response to maritime crimes that affect the environment.

BLACK SEA TEAM

KEY RESULTS IN 2022
- Launched VBSS training capabilities at the Cyprus Center for Land, Open-Sea, and Port Security (CYCLOPS), with an MLE training in collaboration with the Egyptian Navy and Cyprus Marine Police
- Supported the MDA (MDA) capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy by arranging a two week drone pilot training to integrate MDA with MLE
- Enhanced MLE operational capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy through provision of IT and diving equipment
- Developed awareness, technical knowledge and interagency cooperation to respond to the smuggling of migrants through maritime routes by arranging a Workshop of Lebanese and Cypriot MLE agencies
- Supported the US-led Phoenix exercise in 2022, through a dedicated Table Top Exercise conducted with military and law enforcement agencies from several Mediterranean coastal countries

OUR PRIORITIES
01. MARITIME BORDER MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
Support national MLE actors in MDA and operational responsiveness through analytical training, provision of equipment and mentoring. Use satellite imagery to practice 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. Further, support practice through simulated trials with national authorities and complimentary regional maritime exercises. Support international cooperation between prosecutors through the establishment of networks. Additionally, train national authorities on use of electronic evidence include 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 VBSS training centers where residential training can be held. Support the development of regionally-relevant curriculum 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 capacity building of the Lebanese Armed Forces Navy in view of the transfer of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force mandate to their authority. In collaboration with EUNAVFOR MED Operation IRINI, 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
The UNODC GMCP sub-programme for the Mediterranean continued to work with counterparts with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean. Additionally, the Mediterranean team engaged counterparts in the Central and Western Mediterranean to identify priority areas for cooperation, and has activities lined up for 2023 to strengthen MLE and border management.

TYPES OF MARITIME CRIME WE COUNTER

IMPACT STORY: TACKLING MARITIME CRIME IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
In May 2022, GMCP conducted its first maritime law enforcement training for the Cyprus Police at the newly opened facilities of the Cyprus Centre for Land, Open-seas, and Port Security (CYCLOPS). Reflecting on the recent training, Inspector Loucas Petrou from the Cyprus Marine Police said, “given the increasing volume of incidents at sea occurring in the region, the inter-agency nature of the courses has added special value by strengthening cooperation between different maritime law enforcement agencies, through information exchange and coordinated operations.”