SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

While prison conditions constitute a key aspect of the overall quality of prison life and the human dignity of prisoners, prisons tend to be severely under-resourced. Budgets for the maintenance, refurbishment, or construction of sound prison infrastructure are scarce. In line with Target 9.1, UNODC invests in improving prison conditions through refurbishment and infrastructural modernization to ensure that the basic needs of prisoners are catered for and to provide access to education, vocational training and other constructive activities, all the while promoting strategies to reduce prison populations. For instance, in October 2022, UNODC co-funded a training room at a women’s prison in Mozambique, the first of its kind in the country, which will be used to build capacities and improve the skills of prison staff and inmates.

Through its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), UNODC supports the creation of sustainable and resilient infrastructure to improve responses to maritime crime and protect the global blue economy, thus contributing to advancing SDG 9. Efforts in this regard include, for instance, the construction of Visit Board Search and Seizure Simulators (VBS3) in Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka; building classroom and training facilities in Sri Lanka and Somalia; and the construction of a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Maldives in 2022.

The Office has also provided critical maritime surveillance infrastructure to Member States in the Pacific Ocean region to improve capability to detect, analyse and respond to maritime
crimes, such as the installation of the Terrestrial-based Passive Radio Frequency (RF) Sensor system on Bongao Island of Western Mindanao in the Philippines in 2023. Additionally, to ensure a robust rule of law framework and that perpetrators committing maritime crimes are brought to justice, in 2022, UNODC’s GMCP supported the construction of effective, human rights compliant and secure court facilities in Kenya for efficient dispensation of justice.

Fostering innovation to meet the challenges that drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism pose worldwide is a priority for UNODC. In line with the UNODC Strategy 2021-25 and the UNOV/UNODC Innovation Strategy, the Office will develop forward-looking and innovative responses to better deliver to those we serve in the areas of new technologies, new ways of working and organizational agility. This includes scaling up current initiatives and piloting new projects.