

Validating Training Modules on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons of Uganda



In December 2020, the Uganda Prison Service (UPS) validated new Training Modules on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (PCVE), with over 35 staff of the Uganda Prison Academy and Teaching School (PATS) now trained as trainers on the subject. The five-day validation and training event was conducted in the framework of a joint global initiative on preventing violent extremism in prisons implemented by the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Centre of Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) in close coordination with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (UNCTED) and co-funded by the European Union, the Netherlands and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

The training modules were developed to strengthen security and safety mechanisms and capacities in prison and amongst prison staff in Uganda. Before conducting the Training of Trainers, UPS undertook a rigorous process in the development of the modules which included (i) consultations with international partners, (ii) assessment of PATS training capacity, (iii) revision of PCVE related course content and teaching approaches for PCVE specific topics in the PATS curriculum. The draft modules were revised by PATS in August 2020 before undergoing a final review process.

The five-day Training of Trainers for PATS personnel aimed to validate six training modules and evaluate their readiness for further inclusion in the training process. The main objective of the training was to build the confidence of the staff in delivering classes for positive learning outcomes for trainees.

The training was facilitated by UNODC consultant Mr. Paul English via video conferencing due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The ToT focused on hands-on mentoring of PATS staff to deliver training on six topics including Introduction to Uganda Prisons Service; Treatment of Prisoners; Social Rehabilitation & Reintegration Programs; Human Rights and PCVE; Introduction to Law and Prisons Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism.



The training was opened by the Commissioner General of Prisons Dr. John Byabashaija, who emphasized the importance of specialized training for Prison Staff to better manage violent extremist prisoners and prevent radicalization to violence in prisons, which present potential

breeding grounds for radicalization to violence and recruitment to terrorism in Uganda. Mr. Nicolas Gonze, Head of Governance and Human Rights at the European Union in Uganda, welcomed the training as timely in light of the ongoing recruitment of new staff by the Uganda Prison Service. He reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to providing strategic support to the Uganda Prisons Service and stated that the joint global initiative builds on and strengthens the EU's long-term partnership with Uganda in promoting the rule of law and delivering justice. In turn, the UNODC Head of Office in Uganda, Ms. Sharon Lesa Nyambe expressed appreciation to the UPS for the constructive co-operation and thanked the European Union, the Netherlands and UNOCT for the political and financial support.

Upon completion of the ToT, participants emphasized that after the endorsement of six modules on preventing and countering violent extremism in prisons it would be essential to develop a toolkit to support cascading the training to teaching staff and recruits and prepare a bespoke specialized course for in-serving staff in UPS.