

## Uganda develops new tools for assessing the risks and needs of prisoners



In December 2020, the Uganda Prison Service (UPS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), finalized the development of a Prisoner Classification Framework to support the Uganda Prison Service to better assess and manage violent extremist prisoners entering its prison system.

These efforts were s conducted in the framework of a joint global initiative on preventing violent extremism in prisons implemented by the 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).

During the final review meeting of the Prisoner Classification Framework, Commissioner Magomu noted that “The main objective for the development of the Prisoner Classification Framework was to strengthen security and safety mechanisms and improve capacities of prison officers to prevent radicalization to violence in prisons”. He continued that “classification entails a structured and individualized assessment of the risks and needs of each prisoner to assist in decision-making regarding the most appropriate placement and interventions”.

The Prisoner Classification Framework was developed through a rigorous process which included a needs assessment conducted in Luzira male and female prisons followed by the number of expert consultations. To ensure effective oversight of the process, UPS established a Technical Working Group (TWG) to oversee the development process. In August 2020, a virtual workshop was held for the TWG to conduct an initial review of the Prisoner Classification Framework and related tools.

Following the above-mentioned interventions, UPS organized a three-day workshop for the Technical Working Group to undertake a final Review and Finalization of the Prisoner Classification Framework and related tools on Preventing and Countering Violent extremism. Following the review process, the TWG provided final feedback on the tools and agreed on a Roadmap for Piloting of the framework and related tools, including a Training of Trainers session for the TWG to support their role in onward training of Prison officials in the use of



the tools; as well as embarking on a process of digitalizing the tools for their effective implementations.

The workshop was facilitated by UNODC consultant Dr. Andrea Moser who led the development of prisoner classification tools in close consultation with the UPS technical working group. The Uganda Prisons Service expressed gratitude to the global joint EU-UN initiative on preventing the spread of violent extremism in the prison context for the constructive co-operation and expert advice provided in the development of the prisoner classification framework in Uganda.