

Development and implementation of a community-based crime prevention strategy and action plan in Bayelsa - Tarila Marclint Ebiede, UNODC CONIG

Talking Points for CCPCJ Thematic Discussions, 10 November 2021

Protocol:

- Bayelsa State, located in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region, for decades has been suffering from armed conflict, maritime and other forms of crime, undermining the security and safety of people and businesses, including the maritime sector in the Gulf of Guinea.
- UNODC's recent report on the "Pirates of the Niger Delta: Between Blue and Brown Waters" identified key drivers of maritime crime and general insecurity in the Niger Delta including the specific vulnerabilities of respective communities where pirate groups, cults, militants, and other armed gangs are based.
- To help communities to tackle these challenges, in 2021 UNODC with the financial support of the Government of Germany and under the leadership of the Governor of Bayelsa State, has initiated a project to support the development of a community-based crime prevention strategy and action plans aimed at addressing some of the key vulnerabilities of individuals, communities, and state institutions responsible for the delivery of public security.
- This process is informed by both the 1995 guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention and the 2002 Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime.
- Ultimately, the goal is to achieve a "whole-of-society" approach to tackle insecurity and crime in the target communities and build trusting relationships between local communities and security and justice actors.
- The first phase of the project aims to achieve a strategic community-based approach to prevent maritime crime and insecurity in the Niger Delta Region. This phase, which is ongoing, consists of a needs assessment, technical consultations, development of regional crime analysis and prevention strategy & local action plans and community validation. At the end of this process, it is expected that we should have developed a community-based crime analysis and strategy and action plans for crime prevention. Since September 2021, UNODC has engaged with consultations with communities and civil society organizations, traditional rulers, local government officials, state ministries, departments and agencies, law enforcement authorities and the Bayelsa State government. The engagement is to support local communities and state authorities to both identify and prioritize policies and programmes that are essential to institutionalizing crime prevention in different sectors (security and law enforcement, education, health, justice, youth and sports development, women-affairs and those responsible for child wellbeing) and to strengthen their capacity to implement evidence-informed initiatives to prevent crime.
- Upon adoption of the crime prevention strategy and a launch, the UNODC support could include the establishment of joint Crime Prevention and Security committees, provision of training on community-oriented policing, awareness raising, refurbishment and equipment support to police stations and posts, provision of basic infrastructure support to local security agencies, support of social inclusion and life

skills of youth at risk, Infrastructure support to youth centres as well as early childhood development support.

THANK YOU.