



IMPROVING PRISON CONDITIONS – PRISONS IN CONTEXTS OF CRISIS

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PRISONS TARGETED FOR ATTACK IN ACTIVE CONFLICT



680,500

PEOPLE IN PRISON IN FRAGILE & CONFLICT-AFFECTED SITUATIONS



2022

#GlobalPrisonTrends

EFFORTS TO CONTROL COVID-19 IN PRISONS CAME AT A COST



Medical isolation



Visitation bans



Effective solitary confinement



= IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS & MENTAL HEALTH

2021

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PEOPLE IN PRISON ARE EXPOSED TO IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Almost

30% of the

**GLOBAL PRISON
POPULATION**



lives in the

12

**COUNTRIES MOST EXPOSED
TO NATURAL HAZARDS**



2022

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PRISONS ARE NEGLECTED IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



DESPITE **INCREASING** EXTREME TEMPERATURES & NATURAL HAZARDS



LEADS TO:



Fatalities & illness
Prison unrest
Water contamination
Spread of infection

2022

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GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT PRISONS IN CONTEXTS OF CRISIS



**PENAL
REFORM
INTERNATIONAL**



Natural hazards and prisons

Protecting human rights of people in prison in disaster prevention,
response and recovery



A guide to disaster risk reduction for prisons



Fragile and conflict affected settings:

Prisons and criminal justice systems



A policy briefing for the international community and national authorities
with case studies on Yemen and the Central African Republic



10
point plan

Crisis-ready non- custodial sanctions and measures

Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic

Introduction

Two of the solutions many countries have turned to in managing the spread of COVID-19 in prisons have been to increase the use of non-custodial sanctions and measures, and adopt early or emergency release schemes to reduce prison populations. Such actions have been a response to the widely documented impact of the pandemic on prisons across the world, particularly the heightened risk of outbreaks among people detained and working in prisons. The consequent rapid expansion in the use of community supervision significantly increased the workload of probation agencies, both in case numbers and added complexity.

At the same time, probation agencies were also responding to restrictions in the community that required changes to working methods and made supervision and fulfilment of conditions challenging, including restrictions on travel, face-to-face contact, group work, operations of community service partners and public services. Despite this, the impact of COVID-19 and adopted response measures on the use, implementation and management of non-custodial sanctions and measures – including the experiences of persons supervised and supported by probation agencies during the pandemic – have received limited attention, especially on a global scale.

This ten-point plan seeks to give probation agencies, practitioners and other service providers involved in the delivery of non-custodial sanctions and measures an evidence-based roadmap with guidance and tools for preparing for and responding to the current crisis and any that may follow. Based on research that identified gaps in the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 and 2021), this plan presents responsive and adaptive probation systems that meet the needs of communities and those under probation agency supervision – whether awaiting trial, serving community-based sentences or following release from prison. It aims to ensure that any adaptations to community supervision and release support in times of crisis are human rights-based, proportionate and do not discriminate.

“Valuable lessons can be drawn from the experience of probation agencies and other criminal justice stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

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A photograph of a prison hallway with a purple overlay on the left side containing text. The hallway is long and narrow, with a polished floor reflecting the overhead lights. The walls are light-colored and feature a series of doors on the right side. The ceiling has recessed lighting fixtures and air vents. The purple overlay is semi-transparent and covers the left half of the image.

THANK YOU

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