Supporting the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization and its Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence to prevent and counter terrorism and transnational organized crime in Eastern Africa

Context and Objective

Sustained terrorist activity destabilizes governments and undermines economic and social development. At the same time, no state can thwart these threats alone. This is why coordination and cooperation within national governments, and between states and organizations at regional and international levels is crucial to effectively respond to, prevent, and counter violent extremism, terrorism, and transnational organized crime.

UNODC is supporting countries in Eastern Africa under the UNODC Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism, and the UNODC Regional Programme for Eastern Africa (2016-2022) and its sub-programme on Terrorism Prevention. Within the framework of the latter, since 2020, with the funding from the Government of Germany, UNODC has been implementing a project on supporting the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and its Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence (CTCoE). The project is aimed at making the CTCoE fully operational and positioning the Centre as a leading thematic hub, while supporting states in Eastern Africa to address terrorism, violent extremism, and the nexus with transnational organized crime.

Supporting EAPCCO and its Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime in Eastern Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member States</th>
<th>Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
<td>$ 4.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>January 2020 – ongoing</td>
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<td>Donor</td>
<td>The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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Project Outputs

The project concentrates on providing technical assistance, capacity building, and operational guidance to enable the EAPCCO members, the EAPCCO Secretariat, and the EAPCCO CTCoE to effectively cooperate in criminal matters to prevent and counter terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational organized crime in Eastern Africa through:

- Strengthening the knowledge and capacity of the CTCoE staff, supporting the development and dissemination of high-quality research products, and providing material and digital resources to maintain the full operational status of the CTCoE.
- Enhancing the knowledge, skills, and capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice institutions and practitioners to prevent, and counter terrorism and transnational organized crime, through capacity building.
- Supporting regional cooperation and dissemination of good practices on detecting, preventing, and investigating terrorism and related activities, including links to transnational organized crime in Eastern Africa through the development of learning tools and materials, major regional conferences, and support to the regional joint law enforcement operations.

Partnership

The project is funded by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Achievements

Highlights of 2020-2021 include:

- Through specialized capacity-building, enhanced the knowledge and skills of over 370 (including 80 women) law enforcement and criminal justice officials and practitioners, as well as provided substantive expertise and logistical support to the EAPCCO Secretariat to organize meetings.
- Supported the EAPCCO CTCoE to publish thematic issue papers on engagement with victims of terrorism, terrorism financing, and cooperation between law enforcement and prison authorities; and to develop the Eastern African Guidelines for Standardized Human Rights-Based Terrorism Prevention Responses.
- Held a major regional symposium on the role of law enforcement in building a whole-of-society approach to preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism for over 80 representatives of law enforcement, criminal justice institutions, civil society, and academia from the fourteen EAPCCO member countries.
- Enhanced the CTCoE's material and digital infrastructure, including refurbished premises, vehicles, specialized equipment, and IT tools to enable the Centre's functioning as the principal knowledge and expertise thematic hub in the region.