

EVALUATION BRIEFS

IN-DEPTH EVALUATION

STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL REGIME AGAINST TERRORISM

Region: Global

Duration: January 2003–
December 2021

Donors: Multiple donors

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Full report:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2021.html

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT¹

In 2003, the Global Project (GP) 'Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism' (GLO/R35) was launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) to support Member States (MS) with the implementation of UN Security Council (SC) and General Assembly (GA) resolutions in the field of counter terrorism (CT), including the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288). The overall objective of the GP is to increase the number of Member States with 'a functional criminal justice regime against terrorism that is effective and is implemented by States in accordance with the rule of law'. The total approved budget is USD 185,039,803². This in-depth evaluation was undertaken for accountability and learning with the aim to inform the design of a second phase, or new, Global Project.

MAIN FINDINGS

The GP is highly relevant to UNODC mandates and stakeholders' needs. It is aligned with relevant UNSC and UNGA resolutions and responds to the UN Counter Terrorism Strategy. Evidence shows that GLO/R35 has been relevant across all outcome areas, and has addressed the needs of Member States, but is, however, not fully aligned with the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025 and the UNODC Vision for Africa 2030. The GP has been complementary to and aligned with other UNODC interventions in the field of CT, such as relating to money laundering, prison reform, prisoner rehabilitation, and violence against children. The GP has been viewed as efficient to some extent, with sufficient accumulated balance and a good delivery rate, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and enhanced due to team presence in the field. Yet resource-mobilization strategies and fund availability has occasionally led to internal competition within headquarters and between headquarters and the field. The geography-based structure of TPB no longer fully fits the thematic orientation of some of the current grants. In terms of effectiveness, the GP has seen results in all outcome areas, with Member States ratifying conventions, integrating them into their national legislation and criminal justice stakeholders utilizing their –by means of GP-supported training - acquired knowledge and skills in practice. Intended impacts have also been achieved to some extent, though have been difficult to measure due to the nature of technical assistance and inconsistent monitoring and evaluation. A shift towards more sustainable capacity-building approaches has been observed in the past two years, and these could be further expanded. There have been increasing efforts



Geographic scope of GLO/R35

¹ Source Map: evaluation team; Source Picture: (https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/latest-news/2017-iss-2_ws-nigeria-may-2017.html, consulted January 2021).

² GLO/R35 evaluation ToR, 2020: 2



UNODC/UNOHCHR workshop on gender dimensions of the criminal justice response to terrorism in Abuja, Nigeria

to integrate human rights and gender equality considerations into planning, implementation, monitoring, and partnership decisions, though progress in this regard has neither been systematic nor integrated into all segments to offer more effective technical assistance to prevent and counter terrorism, especially to those countries with the highest needs.

LESSONS LEARNED

The main lessons learned from this In-Depth Evaluation are on internal cooperation and the application of human rights due diligence policies. UNODC should work to improve internal coherence to further benefit from the value addition of its various mandates. While the areas of intervention are decided on

with Member States, the GP should continue to exercise caution in choosing the approach to, and focus of, technical assistance, ensuring adequate consideration of human rights.

GOOD PRACTICES

Good practices of GLO/R35 included the development of cutting-edge tools, effective collaboration with a variety of partners across thematic areas, including UN agencies, and the long-term nature of some partnerships. This had a positive effect on relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability, which was visible in Nigeria where long-term funding had supported sustained engagement for a robust and responsive multi-dimensional CT intervention with a strong human rights and gender equality approach.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation utilized a mixed-method approach that was both gender-sensitive and inclusive, including a desk review (176 internal and 49 external documents), semi-structured interviews with 81 (35 Female, 46 Male) key stakeholders, focus group discussions (9F, 7M), event observations, and online surveys with staff (44F, 34M; 47% response rate), donors (4F, 10M; 63% response rate), participants of expert group meetings (7F, 14M ; 11% response rate), and training participants (36F ; 79M ; 11% response rate). As field missions were not feasible due to global travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the methods selected were applied on the basis of modern communication means, including use of Microsoft Teams for stakeholder consultations and the observation of online events, and internet-based surveys through SurveyMonkey .

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Prepare a phasing out strategy for GLOR35 while designing a new GP in an inclusive, consultative manner
2. Adapt the function, structure and expertise of TPB headquarters to align it with current strategic priorities
3. Strengthen donor relations and engagement
4. Strengthen the identification and prioritization of assistance needs
5. Strengthen internal coherence by further improving cooperation between TPB and other headquarters branches/sections and between headquarters and the field
6. Continue to enforce UNOCT –UNODC partnership agreement and implement, monitor and report on results of joint Plan of Action
7. Continue keeping partnerships as a central component of the GP, and expand whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches
8. Strengthen sustainability by advocating for, designing, and implementing a long-term approach
9. Develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring system and impact measurement strategy with a focus on measuring human rights, gender equality and leaving no one behind results
10. Advocate for the complementary use of online tools



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