





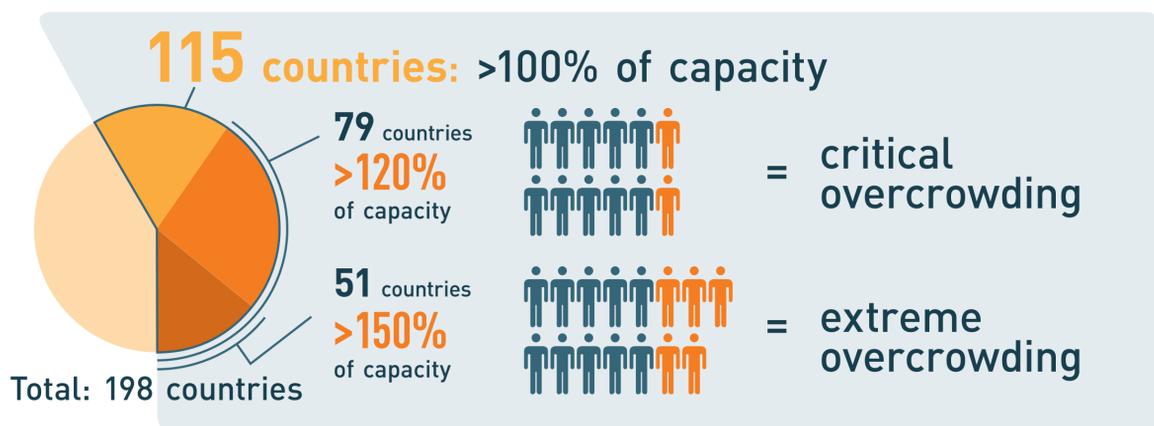
# A crisis in prisons

A large number of prison systems around the world are at a stage of crisis, with serious effects on prisoners, their families and societies as a whole.

The ultimate purpose of imprisonment—the protection of society from crime—is undermined in prisons, which are overstretched and poorly managed.



## Prison overcrowding



Source: United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2016/10, 2016).

## Core challenges

Continuous growth of prison populations and prison overcrowding

Severe (financial and socio-economic) costs of imprisonment

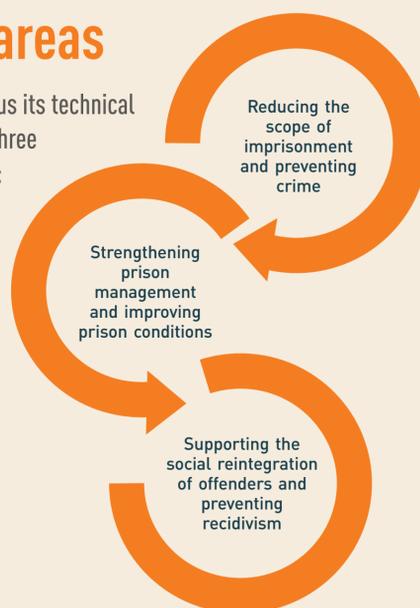
Failure to ensure safe, secure and humane custody of prisoners

## Global Prison Challenges Programme

As custodian of the Nelson Mandela Rules, UNODC is mandated to provide technical assistance to Member States in the field of penal reform. In order to further enhance its technical assistance following the adoption of the Nelson Mandela Rules, a new **Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges** has been launched.

### Focus areas

UNODC will focus its technical assistance on three strategic areas:



*“In our efforts to make societies more resilient to crime and to promote social cohesion..., we cannot disregard those in prison. We must remember that prisoners continue to be part of society, and must be treated with respect due to their inherent dignity as human beings.”*

Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, UNODC