UNODC Launches Case Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) for Sindh's Prosecution Department

UNODC, in partnership with the Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution Department of Sindh, handed over a software-based Case Management and Monitoring System along with the latest operational equipment to the Prosecution Department in Karachi. Previously launched with notable success in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh’s CMMS was customized to meet its local requirements and practices, aiming to create efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

The CMMS is designed to automate complex processes of the Prosecution Department, bringing them at par with international excellence. It manages tasks and keeps a track of complex cases to counsels also managing prosecutor schedules, digital filing and tracking of cases, developing performance reports, providing access to an online library and a learning platform. It offers a solution to remote working, streamlining the department’s workflow, and creating administrative efficiency in case management and adjudication.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of honourable Justice Maqbool Baqar from Supreme Court of Pakistan, honourable Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, Senior Puisne Judge from Sindh High Court and Prosecutor General of Sindh Dr. Faiz Shah. The ceremony was also attended by the European Union’s Counter-Terrorism Counsellor in Pakistan, Mr. François Zablot, Country Representative of UNODC, Dr. Jeremy Milsom, and key officials belonging to Sindh Police, Prosecution Department, and Judiciary.
Establishing Sindh’s Anti-Terrorism Financing Unit

UNODC supported in making operational the Sindh Anti-Terrorism Financing Unit (ATFU). The ATFU has long been a frontrunner in counter-terrorism financing (CTF) despite the lack of a proper facility. The UNODC equipped ATFU’s new premises with modern equipment and workspaces required for effective functioning. The contribution included computers, servers, conference systems, various electronic devices, and furniture items for proper functioning of this sub-unit.

Over the course of PACT’s implementation in Sindh, the UNODC has been conducting in-depth trainings with Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and prosecution officials on Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) and existing local and international legal instruments. Fifty-seven officials in Sindh and over 140 officials across Pakistan have been trained so far.

The establishment of an ATFU through training and technical support will enable the law enforcement agencies and prosecution to detect, investigate, and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) cases with enhanced efficiency. The officials are trained in international information tools and frameworks and knowledge of national legal instruments to build up strong cases against perpetrators of terrorist financing and bring them to justice. A foundation for closer coordination between criminal justice departments has been laid through the establishment of communication systems. The use of technological equipment will facilitate the ATFU in digitizing their processes, automating workflow, allowing them to implement a swifter response to CTF for effective deterrence.

While inaugurating the newly established Unit, UNODC Country Representative Dr. Jeremy Milsom emphasized UNODC’s commitment to providing specialized training followed by making operational equipment available to investigators to support their day-to-day work.

Attending the event on behalf of the European Union CTF Counsellor François Zablot, acknowledged the “efforts made by Sindh Police in addressing the challenges related to terrorism financing in the province. The need for a greater integrated approach amongst all stakeholder on information sharing has been resolved with the establishment of ATFU. It’s a step forward in the right direction.”

While making his remarks, the UNODC Country Representative, Dr. Jeremy Milsom, stated, “I am pleased to see this initiative come to fruition. The CMMS is a prime example of the use of technology to improve and enhance existing processes. CMMS enjoyed tremendous success in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and was a perfect use case for Sindh. We hope to see it become even more successful in Sindh.”

Successfully Concluding Train-the-Trainer Programme for Sindh Prosecution

UNODC has successfully developed training modules for prosecutors working in Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs) in Pakistan. To meet the need of having master trainers for these modules, UNODC organized a series of trainings under its Train the Trainers (TOT) program which concluded in September 2021. These trainings were conducted in collaboration with the Sindh Judicial Academy with the support of legal experts working with UNODC.

Four training sessions were conducted to identify and train Master Trainers based on Sindh’s Prosecution Department’s recommendations.

The first two trainings were lecture and activity-based to explain to the participants while judging the level of their understanding. The last two trainings were mainly activity-based where the participants were expected to play a proactive role by giving presentations and acting as trainers.

**Study Tour: Visit to the Punjab Forensic Science Agency**

Officials from the Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Criminal Prosecution Department were taken on a study visit to Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) on August 27, 2021, to Lahore. Attended by Prosecutor General Sindh, Dr. Fiaz Shah and five members of the Sindh Prosecution Department, the objective of the visit was to learn from the experiences of PFSA and how the availability of forensic capacity in the province has assisted the criminal justice stakeholders.

The study tour started with a presentation to the delegation by PFSA officials on the history, forensics disciplines, and achievements. Participants were briefed on the importance of identification, collection, preservation, and utilization of forensic evidence to secure convictions in terrorism trials. Various labs of PFSA were visited including Computer Forensics, DNA & Serology, Firearms, Fingerprints, and Narcotics where everyone was briefed on the procedure of collecting forensic evidence using the latest tools and techniques.

After the walkthrough of the facility, Additional Director General PFSA met the delegation and welcomed the officials from Sindh Prosecution and UNODC. In his remarks, he lauded the efforts of UNODC for its efforts in establishing contacts among national and provincial institutions of the criminal justice system with the aim to share experiences and knowledge.

At the conclusion of the study tour, Prosecutor General Sindh acknowledged the state of art facilities available at PFSA for obtaining forensic evidence reports and extended gratitude to UNODC for arranging the visit.

**Advanced Trainings on Investigation**

In continuation of the Basic Terrorism Investigation Trainings held for newly inducted inspectors of Sindh Police during the last quarter, the UNODC also successfully conducted advanced trainings during this quarter.
Coverage

At the CMMS Launch, the European Union’s Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, @EUPakistan’s, resources support in preventing and countering terrorism.

"CMMS is an extension of the anti-drug enforcement, investigatory and judicial units in dealing with and counteracting terrorism. It helps us to prevent acts of terror from being planned and executed. It is with the support of our partners that we are able to enhance the operational capacity of our national judicial and law enforcement agencies."

Mr. Francois Zobrist, UNODC CTC, Deputy Executive Director

While welcoming the guests the Prosecutor General Dr. Faisal Shah informed the audience...

"The CMMS will assist the Prosecution Department in exercising better case management, litigating, and managing crime prevention effectively in addition to having case management tools and policies to support research-based decisions and policies.

Dr. Iftikhar Muhammad, Prosecutor General Sindh"

At the inauguration, @Wilton UNODC stated...

"I am pleased to see the full momentum gain to position the CMMS as an effective mechanism in the fight against organized crime, in addition to endorsing and strengthening of national drug, organized crime, and transnational crime policies. We are proud to support these efforts in enhancing the operational capacity of the Pakistan’s judicial and law enforcement agencies through training and capacity building.

Mr. Wilton Nascimento, UNODC"