PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Enhance investigation processes and the use of forensic evidence by the Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) for the preparation of terrorism cases.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Sindh Prosecution Directorate and Judiciary to effectively prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases.
- Improve provincial and inter-provincial coordination on counter-terrorism, to strengthen capacity on counter-terrorism related strategic analysis and to promote greater judicial integrity and human rights compliant judicial processes in terrorism cases.

NEWSLETTER

October - December 2020 (Q4)

8th Project Steering Committee Meeting

On 16th November 2020, UNODC organized the 8th Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting in Karachi. It was held in collaboration with National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and attended by the committee members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs Division, Narcotics Control Division, Home Department Sindh, Office of the Inspector General Sindh Police, Office of the Prosecutor General Sindh, Sindh Judicial Academy, Ministry of Interior, the European Union (EU) Delegation to Pakistan.

The introductory remarks were delivered by Mr. Asif Paracha, Member Policy NACTA; Dr. Jeremy Milsom, UNODC Country Representative; and Mr. Francois Zablot, European Union Representative.

During the opening remarks Dr. Jeremy Milsom highlighted to the forum that “over 35 percent of the participants in the workshops hosted by UNODC under PACT project were women”, he acknowledged the DIG CTD Mr. Omar Shahid Hamid and Prosecutor General Dr. Faiz Shah for their strong commitment in prioritising gender equality and women’s empowerment within their organizations, and for developing gender-responsive solutions to preventing and countering terrorism in the Province of Sindh.

During the PSC meeting UNODC presented on the implementation of approved workplan for 2020, giving a chronological update on activities since the last PSC meeting. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide their feedback to the forum.
Mock Criminal Investigation & Trial Exercise on the Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorist Financing (TF) with INTERPOL and World Customs Organisation (WCO)

Capacity building workshops titled Mock Criminal Investigation & Trial Exercise on the Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorist Financing Cases were organized by UNODC and NACTA across the Province of Sindh between 12 and 20 October 2020. The two-day workshops were held in three cities; Karachi (12-13 October), Hyderabad (15-16 October), and Sukkur (19-20 October). Attended by 80 criminal justice officials across eight districts of Sindh, the workshops were conducted through a blend-approach and experts delivered sessions virtually and in-person.

Presentations were delivered by the Counter Terrorism Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pakistan’s legal and obligatory framework on CFT; UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) on current and emerging challenges of terrorist financing in the region; INTERPOL on tools available to Member States for enhancing international cooperation; and World Customs Organization (WCO) on terrorist financing through bulk cash smuggling and movement of gems and precious metals.

NACTA and UNODC led an interactive mock-trial which used a fictitious scenario to identify challenges faced in investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of terrorism financing cases. Group discussions held intermittently during the trial brought insight into various national and international standards on information sharing, investigation, legal processes, evidence requirements, recent legislative amendments in Pakistan, and admissibility of evidence for successful adjudication of terrorism financing cases.


Functionalising Sindh’s Witness Protection Act

Sindh’s Witness Protection Act (SWPA), legislated in 2013, is crucial for effective investigation and adjudication of terrorism cases. While this Act criminal justice agencies, as well as victims of terrorism; it has remained largely non-functional. Under the PACT project a key achievement has been to undertake a review and provide recommendations to policy makers in the Province to make the Act functional for which a policy guideline has been developed.

The policy document reviews the Act in light of existing national and international legislations, drawing a set of recommendations to support the Sindh authorities in strengthening witness protection in terrorism related cases. Key recommendations include:

- Improved efficiency of the SWPA through an integrated approach
- Improved governance structure clear delineation of functions and robust internal structures
- Additional safeguards with in-court protection and extension of protective measure to pre-trial stage
- Assistance to victims and witnesses including support; moderate financial assistance.
- SWPA implementation guidelines
The Case Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) is a unique information technology tool to provide prosecutors with the capacity to track each case file and its progress from a holistic perspective. The CMMS was first successfully launched in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2019 as a part of PACT KP and is now under implementation for PACT Sindh.

Consultative meetings were held from 27 to 29 December 2020 to present a demo version of the CMMS to the Prosecution Department of Sindh. The meetings were attended by representatives from KP to share their experience and best practices of using the tool.

Establishing a CMMS is one the PACT Sindh's key milestone during the implementation of the project. Once established, prosecutors would be enabled to access case information remotely, significantly reducing their dependency on physical case files. The scheduling option would enable prosecutors to mark their personal calendars for important dates and events. CMMS will also allow access to an internal knowledge network which consists of previous case laws, promoting self-learning through a peer support options.

Sharing best practices: A CMMS workshop between Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Threat Assessment Workshop organised for CT officials in Karachi

In October 2020, a three-day provincial threat assessment workshop was held for Sindh Police in Karachi.

The workshop informed participants of the national threat assessment template developed by NACTA to ensure common standards amongst federal and provincial authorities and to enhance information sharing amongst relevant stakeholders. Presentations were delivered on the national threat assessment model of France, COVID-19 specific threat assessment, use of modern technologies, methods and tools for threat assessments, and OSINT - Open-Source Intelligence.

UNODC together with experts from NACTA facilitated group exercises during which the participants developed profiles and threat assessments based on fictitious scenarios. During these exercises, the participants used the models, tools, and techniques learnt from earlier in the workshop, and presented their assessments to a panel of experts.

Deputy Inspector General, CTD Sindh Mr. Omar Shahid Hamid, appreciated the efforts of UNODC, EU and NACTA for organizing this important workshop and stressed on the need for more such training sessions to enhance the analytical skills and capacity of counter terrorism officials.

Skill Assessment of CT Analysts conducted

A comprehensive assessment of Sindh’s counter-terrorism department was completed in collaboration with experts from Punjab Forensic Science Agency. An integrated approach was adopted to assess the skills of CTD Technical wing which included numerous consultative meetings and discussions which led to an assessment report that covers an exhaustive list of skills and knowledge required by the Technical Wing of CTD Sindh. The report also includes recommendations to meet the skill and resource gaps identified.

The Wing was assessed on the following areas and tools which were bifurcated by position and rank:

- Open-Source Intelligence - OSINT
- Criminal Analysis
- Digital Forensics
- IBM i2

The assessment provides a review of the department along with an analysis knowledge areas of all four sections mentioned above.

The report provides recommendations on the interventions required to strengthen the capacity and productivity of CT analysts:

- Trainings and mentorship programmes
- Recommended software and tools
- Hardware requirements
- Institutional reforms
- International certifications available

Basic use of Criminal Analysis Tools and Techniques - IBM i2 Workshop organised for Police Officers

IBM i2 provides users with enhanced visual analysis capabilities that can help to quickly turn complex sets of disparate information into high-quality, actionable intelligence. This helps analysts to identify, predict, and avoid criminal, terrorist and fraudulent activities while performing social network analysis in cases which can establish linkages between individuals and groups.

A workshop on IBM i2 was conducted in December 2020 to enhance the awareness of CTD officials on criminal-intelligence principles, concepts, information gathering techniques and sharing of actionable criminal-intelligence. The analysts and technical teams shared knowledge through presenting their models, followed by question-and-answer sessions.

The participants used analytical tools within IBM i2 ANB for completing various scenario-based exercises pertaining to the mandate of the CTD and more importantly the flow of information among all operational and strategic units.

Advanced IBM i2 tools imparted during training included:

- Advanced analytical techniques to investigate terrorist networks,
- Identifying hidden patterns to forecast,
- Social Network Analysis (SNA) for disrupting terrorist and fraudulent networks,
- Link analysis techniques of IBM i2 ANB for Call Data Records (CDRs),
- Tracking financial flows in extortion and kidnapping cases which further fuel the terror financing.

The participants deliberated on the limitations and problems they faced previously in processing such information, which they considered will become easy for them to process using IBM i2 ANB.
Review committee meetings held on training manuals for the Prosecution Department

Earlier in the project, the Prosecutor General (PG) Sindh had notified a Training Module Review Committee to assist with the customisation of training modules for anti-terrorism prosecutors. The Committee was mandated to conduct consultative sessions with UNODC experts for customizing the eight training manuals for Sindh’s Prosecution Department. The committee’s 2nd and 3rd review committee meetings were held from 13 to 15 October 2020 and from 5 to 7 December 2020 in Islamabad.