



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Tenth Coordination Committee meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

“Strategic Coordination of Counter-Terrorism Initiatives in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities”

Session Two: “Strengthening counter-terrorism coordination through identifying key challenges and gaps; and sharing of best practices and lessons learned”

Thursday, 25 January 2024
10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m., virtual

**Statement of Ms. Oguljeren (Jerena) Niyazberdiyeva, Chair, Resource Mobilization,
Monitoring and Evaluation (RMME) Working Group and Chief, Office of the Under-Secretary-
General, UNOCT**

Introduction

In the course of our discussions yesterday and this morning, we have heard a compelling case for the need to work more closely and in a well-coordinated manner both globally and regionally.

As the United Nations, we have an important role in facilitating this cooperation across borders and bringing together diverse and broad groups of stakeholders and partners.

But what does it take for the system to deliver on this imperative? How can we ensure that we are putting forward the best thinking and expertise that we collectively have to offer? How can we incentivize strategic multi-partner initiatives that transcend the perspectives and approaches of each of our individual entities?

These are some of the questions that we asked ourselves when we designed and launched the UN Joint Appeal for Counter-Terrorism in Africa as a new UN system-wide initiative last year.

Gaps and Challenges

A major challenge to adopting a strategic and programmatic approach to counter-terrorism is a project-based funding model.

Most, if not all of the 46 members of the Counter-Terrorism Compact are funded separately, predominantly with tightly earmarked contributions, often on a project-by-project basis.

Separate accountability lines along institutional boundaries and projectized reporting poses a risk of us losing sight of the bigger picture and impedes the achievement of the strategic collective outcomes we are aiming for.

In a highly competitive funding environment, we are all vying for a limited pool of resources. This competition can act as a powerful disincentive for trusted collaboration, well-coordinated - and ideally integrated approaches, and transparency – all of which are prerequisites for truly strategic programme delivery.

What is needed, therefore, and what has been a critical strategic gap thus far, are integrated funding mechanisms that mirror the kind of integrated programmatic solutions that we all recognize are necessary for our collective success.

At the end of the day, our programmes and solutions will only be as coherent as the funding that supports them.

This is where the Joint Appeal comes in.

Objectives

The Joint Appeal brings together 16 Counter-Terrorism Compact entities supporting ten multi-partner initiatives. Its goal is to steer a new generation of UN system action for a more visible, transparent, and effective multilateral contribution to the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in Africa.

Key Features

The initiatives have been competitively selected from across the UN CT Compact on the basis of:

- ✓ their track record and potential for achieving results,
- ✓ a strategic value proposition of multiple entities working together,
- ✓ responsiveness to CTC/CTED identified priorities,
- ✓ value-for money,
- ✓ high innovation potential, and
- ✓ a strong focus on the meaningful integration of human-rights and gender considerations.

Initial lessons learned

Allow me to share with you just a few of the lessons that we have already been able to learn in the process:

1. The call for proposals with its requirement of all projects to be multi-partner initiatives has brought together project teams from across entities and across borders designing well-coordinated and integrated approaches.
2. Leveraging the expertise from across entities has already made a difference. For example, all of the ten initiatives in the Appeal went through the rigorous review by our inter-agency group of evaluation experts, UNOCT's Human Rights and Gender Section, CTED, and the Joint Appeal Secretariat. Such multidisciplinary expertise from Compact entities has resulted in more strategic, results-oriented, and overall higher quality project design.
3. The Joint Appeal's special focus on human-rights and gender-responsive approaches has helped advance a conversation across entities on how this can be effectively achieved in project design.
4. The creation of an integrated Task Force on the Joint Appeal comprising both - representatives from the 16 participating entities as well as the project managers of the ten initiatives on the ground - has fostered a field-focused outlook and approach to our work.
5. By jointly putting forward a set of strategic multi-partner initiatives, the UN system collectively comes across as a coherent, strategic partner, which has already been recognized by prospective funding partners during the initial round of briefings we held last year. We greatly appreciate that the Republic of Korea has already formally pledged its support of \$200,000 for the Joint Appeal initiative 'Countering Terrorism in Travel and Transport in Africa' and hope that other partners will follow suit based on the many positive engagements we have had to date.

Conclusion

Dear Colleagues,

Over the coming weeks and months, we will engage in a series of outreach activities to ensure the Joint Appeal initiatives get funded as soon as possible.

Our Task Force is coordinating our strategic outreach, ensuring that efforts by individual entities are synchronized with joint outreach led by the Joint Appeal Secretariat.

In addition to a series of dedicated briefings for Member States in hybrid format planned for this year, we will promote the Joint Appeal on the margins of the GCTF Coordination Meeting in Nairobi next month and feature it prominently at the UNOCT's Beneficiary's Forum to be held in May in Rabat, Morocco.

We have also created a dedicated platform for the Joint Appeal at the easy-to-remember address www.jointappeal.org.

Our ambition is to develop this website into a dynamic partnership platform with progress updates, reporting on results, impact stories and more, so as to keep sharing our insights and learning journey with all of you as we go along.

We would be keen to hear your views and suggestions on how the Joint Appeal can be leveraged to maximum effect in the months ahead.

Dear colleagues,

As I wrap up, I would also like to bring your attention to another key challenge and an opportunity for the Compact system in our drive to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy with tangible results.

Our Joint Workplan, adopted yesterday, and the eighth review resolution of the General Assembly underscore the importance of establishing a common results framework across all of UN entities. It's a crucial step forward.

The RMME Working Group has started to tackle monitoring and evaluation gaps through initiatives such as the Compendium of Good Practices, a collaborative effort with the European Union, and the establishment of an M&E Community of Practice.

For the next two years, our mission is clear: to execute the mandate of the General Assembly. A unified results framework will help us measure the success of our common efforts in this complex landscape. Sure, it will take time, resources, and commitment, but the dividends are substantial. In the months ahead, we will be reaching out to each of your entities to collectively chart the way forward. This mandate is not just a task; it is a chance to shape how we measure and assess the impact of our collective work. Thank you.