



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



ANNUAL REPORT

Regional Office for Southern Africa

2022



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

© United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Southern Africa 2023
All rights reserved.

P.O. Box 12673, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, South Africa

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to provide information that is current and accurate. Nevertheless, the data contained in this report is subject to change at any time upon receipt of updated data derived from UNODC's monitoring processes.

Comments on the report are welcome and can be sent to:

www.unodc.org/southernafrica/
unodcza.info@un.org

Photos © UNODC (unless otherwise indicated)
Map © MapChart



Public awareness campaign on Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in Malawi (July 2022)



UN Resident Coordinator in Lesotho, Ms. Amanda Mukwashi, delivers opening remarks during a workshop on Money Laundering in Lesotho (February 2022)



Mozambican law enforcement officials receive training on drug trafficking cases at the UNODC Laboratory in Austria (October 2022)



Dialogue on Gender-Based Violence and drug use in rural communities with traditional leaders from the South African province of Limpopo (August 2022)



Trainees during a two-week course on maritime security in Namibia (October 2022)



South African Minister of Justice, Mr. Ronald Lamola, speaking at the University of Venda (South Africa) about prison reform, crime prevention and criminal justice (August 2022)

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Foreword | 3 |
| Where We Work..... | 4 |
| Impact at a Glance..... | 5 |
| Our Focus | 6 |
| How We Work | 7 |
| 1 Illicit Trafficking and Organized Crime at a Glance | 9 |
| 2 Criminal Justice and Integrity at a Glance | 13 |
| 3 Drug Use and HIV at a Glance..... | 17 |
| Looking ahead in 2023 | 20 |
| Our partners..... | 21 |

Foreword



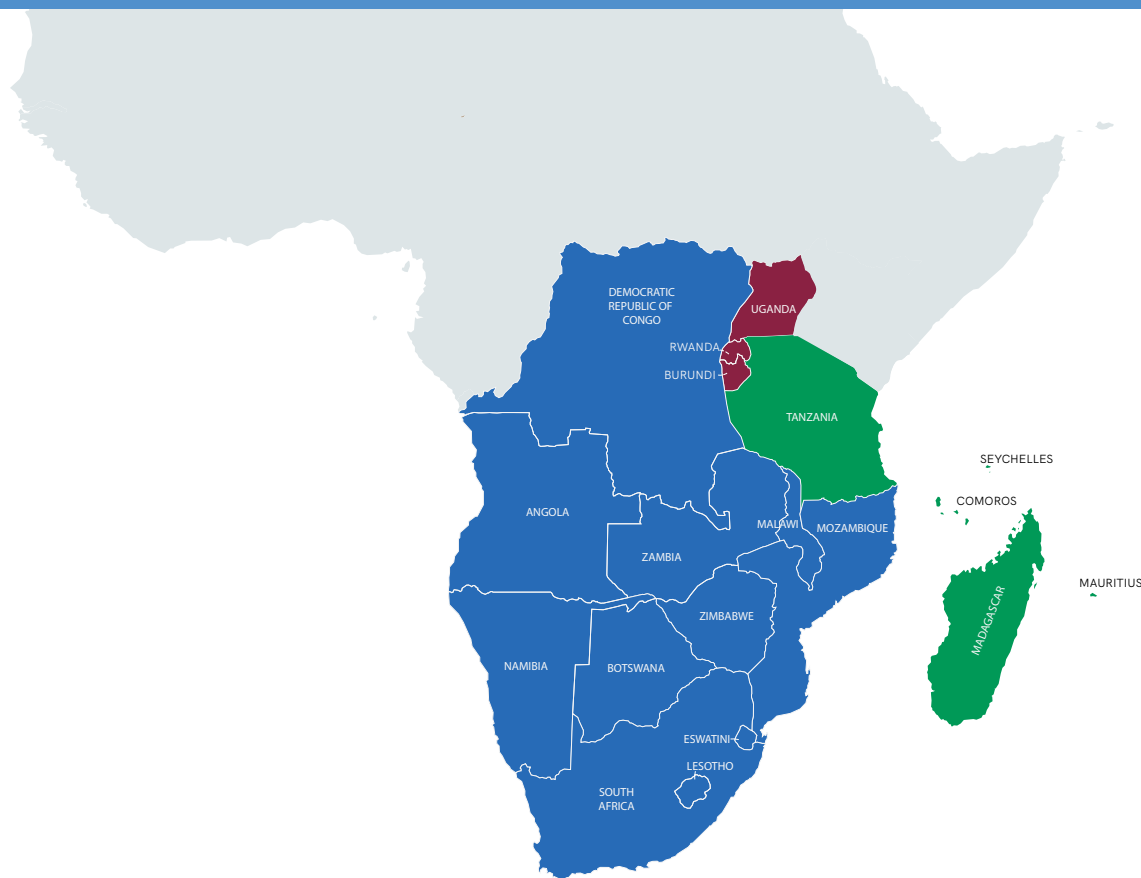
Transnational criminal threats continue to deeply affect the Southern African region. Trafficking in drugs, arms, persons, wildlife and natural resources, along with money laundering and deep-rooted corruption pose far-reaching and destabilizing consequences to the region as a whole, requiring a coordinated approach between States. Institutional fragilities may further expose States of the region to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism that has been looming over Southern Africa. Such fragilities, if left unaddressed, may allow terrorist groups to firmly establish themselves in the region. UNODC is very much aware of these risks and of the deep inter-linkages between multiple forms of criminality.

Against this background, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Southern Africa (UNODC-ROSAF) stepped up its efforts to support Member States in the region in strengthening capacities of their criminal justice systems to deal with such threats, in line with Investments Areas set out in the [UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030](#) and thematic priorities of the [UNODC Strategy 2021-2025](#). For instance, in line with Investment Area 2 of the UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa, in particular with a view to make women and youth safer from gender-based violence, sexual violence and exploitation, we reinvigorated efforts to combat violence against women and girls by launching UNODC's latest Gender-Based Violence Programme for Southern Africa, which will equip criminal justice practitioners across the region with tools to deal with gender-based violence cases and protect and assist victims. Furthermore, we continued to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS, setting norms and standards in prevention and treatment, and building institutional capacity at the national level, while also seeking to increase access to evidence and human rights-based services for drug users, including in prisons, advancing efforts in the framework of the [UNODC Strategy 2021-2025](#) under Thematic Area 1 focused on addressing and countering the World Drug Problem. More broadly, our work further focused on enhancing international cooperation mechanisms and connecting practitioners across the region, in close collaboration with key partners, such as the Southern African Development Community and the African Union.

The forthcoming Annual Report showcases some of the results we have achieved and are most proud of in 2022, conducted in the framework of our different global and regional programmes, in cooperation with other UNODC Offices in the region, namely the Regional Office in Eastern Africa (ROEA), and in line with UNODC's mandate. Despite these achievements, much work continues to be needed to address multi-layered and interconnected challenges linked to transnational crime in the region. UNODC-ROSAF is committed to continue assisting the Southern African countries in their efforts to prevent and combat crime, along with promoting comprehensive criminal justice responses, making the Southern African region safer from crime and drugs, and striving to fulfill UNODC's overarching goal: improving health, well-being and security of societies.

Jane Marie Ongolo
UNODC Regional Representative for Southern Africa

Where We Work



11
Covered by
ROSAF

5
Regional level
with SADC
(but under ROEA)

3
Additional Countries
Reached through
ARINSA (Under ROEA)

- Angola
- Botswana
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- eSwatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

- Comoros
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Seychelles
- Tanzania

- Burundi
- Rwanda
- Uganda

Impact at a Glance

19 Countries reached

10262 Criminal justice actors, policymakers, law enforcement agents, civil society representatives and members of academia engaged

274 Activities implemented

12 Fields of intervention

20 Projects

Sustainable Development Goals our activities contributed to:



374 Institutions engaged

13 Publications, policy frameworks and manuals

90% of our activities contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 16

Our Focus

ROSAF's action is guided by the Regional Programme 2013-2023 "[Making the Southern African Development Community \(SADC\) Region Safer from Crime and Drugs](#)", jointly developed with SADC States and built upon three interdependent substantive pillars.



Pillar I: Countering Illicit Trafficking and Organized Crime

Strengthening regional border control and management capacities, supporting counter-narcotics efforts, with a specific focus on precursor chemicals, supporting countries in addressing urban and emerging crimes, as well as strengthening Anti-Money Laundering and forensic capacities in the region



Pillar II: Criminal Justice and Integrity

Supporting countries' efforts to combat corruption and in strengthening their criminal justice institutions by improving the effectiveness of investigations, increasing prosecution rates, enhancing access to justice and fair trial, and securing the protection of vulnerable groups



Pillar III: Drug Use and HIV

Supporting countries to improve drug use prevention, treatment and care, along with HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs, including injecting drug users, and in prison settings

How We Work





1

Illicit Trafficking and Organized Crime at a Glance

159

activities
implemented

2635

beneficiaries
reached

99

institutions
engaged

As transnational organized crime (TOC) becomes ever more complex and inter-linkages between forms of criminality deepen, accelerated by technology and exacerbated by other crises, so too grows the threat it poses to peace across Southern Africa. Porous borders and vast coasts are taken advantage of by transnational criminal networks operating in the region. TOC severely undermines security and governance, and hinders development efforts in the region.

In 2022, we continued to support all 19 countries in their efforts to dismantle criminal networks. UNODC-ROSAF's strategic action focused on responding to/preventing/countering trafficking of drugs, persons, wildlife and natural resources and was achieved through the provision of tailored technical assistance, including learning visits with regional and global partners, region-wide conferences, legislative support and technical trainings.

Drug trafficking

In March, UNODC co-hosted a two-day Ministerial Troika Strategy in Johannesburg, South Africa, which led to the endorsement of a trilateral agreement between **Mozambique**, **South Africa** and **Tanzania** on the fight against drug trafficking along the "Southern Route".

In **Mozambique**, UNODC organized multiple trainings to enhance the skills of practitioners to detect and interdict drug trafficking, including on dactyloscopy analysis and fingerprinting, while providing essential technical equipment, such as drug testing kits and RAMAN devices, further enhancing the country's capacity to combat drug trafficking.



Money Laundering

In coordination with the UN Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC continued to encourage States to develop Anti-Money Laundering (AML) policies, strengthen their efforts in countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) and raise public awareness on these phenomena.

2022 Annual Report

In **Lesotho**, UNODC held a workshop on illicit financial flows, focused on anti-money laundering, for investigators, prosecutors, financial intelligence units and private sector actors.

In **Angola**, UNODC provided technical expertise while authorities conducted the FAFT mutual evaluation on Money-Laundering. We also organized a workshop on cryptocurrencies and a train-the-trainer exchange visit to Portugal for 16 Angolan justice officials.



Elsewhere, in **Zambia**, UNODC collaborated with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security in convening a series of Anti-TIP and SOM workshops for law enforcement and immigration officials.

South Africa also scaled up its interventions in these fields by holding training initiatives facilitated by UNODC that reached over 600 police officers, prosecutors and magistrates.

Awareness-raising on TIP and SOM continued to be a cornerstone of our action in the region, having hosted numerous events, including in schools, focused on the abuse of technology by perpetrators.

Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling

We continued to implement advocacy and capacity-building activities in the field of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM), strengthening the skills and capacity of criminal justice officers to detect, investigate and prosecute TIP/SOM cases, while also providing normative and policy support with a view to operationalizing legislative frameworks and promoting partnership development between regional counterparts and national agencies.

In 2022, we reached over 600 beneficiaries in these fields alone.

In June, UNODC convened a judicial colloquium on combating TIP and SOM in **eSwatini**, strengthening the capacity of judicial officers on the adjudication of these crimes and enhancing their understanding of victim-centred approaches in this field.



In **Botswana**, the training workshop featuring the participation of counselors from 17 districts led to further awareness-raising initiatives conducted in their respective localities.

UNODC's Regional Case Digest on TIP cases, launched in 2022, and available in [English](#), [Portuguese](#) and [French](#), is a compilation and in-depth analysis of over 80 ground-breaking cases across the SADC Region that serves as a tool for prosecutors and judicial officers, providing references to challenges specific to Southern Africa, including child trafficking, sexual exploitation and the significance of customary practices.

Wildlife crime

In a region as biodiverse as Southern Africa and with abundant natural resources, wildlife crime has become an increasing concern. As such, UNODC continued to support the region in combatting illegal wildlife trade, advocating for the implementation of adequate measures and raising institutional awareness on this crime.

In 2022, UNODC supported the Supreme Court of [Mozambique](#) in the development of the "Benchbook for Judges on Wildlife Crimes", which seeks to enhance criminal justice actors' capacity to effectively and proportionally punish criminals committing offences in the field of wildlife crime.



UNODC also facilitated a regional workshop on Transparency and Good Governance in the Forestry Sector in the [East African Community](#) and [neighboring countries](#), including countries covered by UNODC-ROSAF.

Maritime Security

Through UNODC's Global Maritime Control Program, we continued to work to increase maritime security and thus reduce crime in the maritime domain, particularly drug trafficking, engaging over 600 law enforcement agents.



In November, UNODC conducted a 4-week training programme on port security and safety of navigation with officials in [Namibia](#) (Lüderitz, Walvis Bay and Windhoek), reaching a total of 91 beneficiaries.

UNODC also conducted a regional two-week maritime security course in South Africa, capacitating maritime law enforcement agents from the [Seychelles](#), [Mozambique](#), [South Africa](#), [Mauritius](#), [Madagascar](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Comoros](#) on search and survival techniques, and boarding procedures. The course included simulated planning and execution exercises. A follow-up course was held in the [Seychelles](#) in August, focused on TIP/SOM prevention and prosecution through a maritime lens.





2

Criminal Justice and Integrity at a Glance

101

activities
implemented

1687

beneficiaries
reached

220

institutions
engaged

“As we consider transforming societies through anti-corruption innovation in public procurement and whistle-blower protection, more work lies ahead. We must remain steadfast and ramp up our efforts against corruption.”

Zambian Justice Minister, H.E. Mulambo Haimbe

Criminal justice and integrity remained a key area of UNODC’s intervention in the region in 2022, providing expertise to countries to strengthen their criminal justice systems. In particular, UNODC-ROSAF assisted States in their efforts to combat corruption, a phenomenon that erodes communities’ trust in the State apparatuses and weakens public institutions. As part of this pillar, we also provided much-needed support to counter the growing terrorist threat in the region, as well as tailored assistance to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Anti-Corruption

In 2022, UNODC worked to enhance transparency and accountability in criminal justice institutions and corrupt practices in the public sectors. With a view to fast-track the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in the region, we organized **regional workshops**, providing debate platforms to develop innovative corruption measures and to enhance existing norms, such as whistle-blower protection frameworks.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, UNODC facilitated three workshops on judicial integrity, with a focus on Article 11 of the UNCAC and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, featuring high-level judges and prosecutors

and military judicial officials. We also conducted capacity-building activities focused on financial investigations for governmental anti-corruption investigators and analysts in the DRC.

In **Botswana**, we conducted a training for officials from twenty African countries focused on beneficial ownership transparency in public procurement, in particular on the use of accessible, high quality and well-structured beneficial ownership data in public procurement.

In **Mozambique**, digitalization levels within the country’s court system were assessed, and support was given to the Mozambican National Agency for Environmental Quality Control and the National Administration of Conservation Areas in order to develop corruption risk assessments and related risk mitigation plans.

Asset Recovery and Management

We lent our technical expertise in the field of asset recovery to **Malawi** in the drafting of the Handbook on Asset Forfeiture for the Malawian Judiciary, launched this year, and facilitated a train-the-trainer workshop on the tool.

We conducted an assessment of Mozambique's asset management legislation, later presenting a gap analysis with actionable recommendations to the government. UNODC drafted a new regulation to support the operationalization of Mozambique's Asset Management Office.



In **Angola**, UNODC capacitated magistrates in asset confiscation, leading to stronger, more consistent and evidence-based confiscation orders, while holding meetings with officials and partners to coordinate further capacity-enhancing initiatives in this field.



Gender-Based Violence

In 2022, we organized a series of training activities, such as workshops on the application of DNA evidence to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases held in **Tanzania** and **Namibia**, raised awareness on GBV and promoted increased cooperation among different agencies and authorities.



Our efforts also focused on combatting cyber violence against women and girls (CVAWG), organizing regional events that, among others, allowed for closer coordination between **Southern African States** in the process of contributing to a publication on CVAWG.

In **South Africa**, UNODC reached youth and traditional leadership by hosting a series of events to raise awareness and engage these sectors of society in the fight against GBV. We aimed to broaden the scope of South Africa's inter-sectoral intervention model, seeking to enhance the provision of health services and ensure survivor empowerment in the fight against GBV, in particular during natural disasters. In the wake of the devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal, we enhanced referral pathways and inter-agency cooperation.

In cooperation with **Namibian** multi-sectoral GBV service providers, we launched a Monitoring and Evaluation Guide to measure the efficacy of One-Stop Centres.



Innovative pilot projects on non-custodial measures for women were launched in two **South African** provinces, providing new perspectives on the circumstances that predispose women to be in conflict with the law. These initiatives led to the drafting of a discussion paper on potential amendments to existing legislation.

Counter-Terrorism

In 2022, UNODC launched its second phase of assistance to SADC countries in the field of counter-terrorism (CT), a joint initiative with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and its Regional Counter Terrorism Centre (RCTC) and the African Centre for the Study and Research of Terrorism (African Union), in cooperation with UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) and in the framework of the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML).

UNODC continued to provide legislative assistance to the governments of **Malawi**, **Mozambique** and the **DRC**, providing inputs to draft national strategies and revising existing legal frameworks in the field of CT.

A national roundtable on CT featuring the participation of key stakeholders from **Zambia** was supported and organized by UNODC, with a view to enhancing interagency cooperation in this field in the country.

UNODC also shared its expertise with **Mozambican** investigation and prosecution officers and with the Judiciary, through mentoring initiatives on rule of law and human rights-compliant

investigation and prosecution of terrorism and terrorist-financing related cases, increasing national institutions' efficiency in investigating and prosecuting terrorism-related cases.

Specialized practical, on-site training exercises for law enforcement and other relevant institutions were also held in **Mozambique**, focusing on evidence collection, preservation and analysis, along with mentoring sessions on investigation techniques for law enforcement and first responders tasked with countering terrorism and its financing.



We further co-organized several regional workshops and conferences to enhance cooperation and dialogue, such as the workshop for officials from Eastern and Southern Africa on cross-border joint investigations, conducted in **Malawi**, and the Annual General Meeting of the Southern African Chief Justices' Forum, centred around CT efforts in 2022, held in **Mozambique**.

In that context, we strived to facilitate the participation of national key institutions, including the RCTC/SADC and the **DRC's** National Committee for Coordination and Fight against Terrorism.





3

Drug Use and HIV at a Glance

19

activities
implemented

48

institutions
engaged

5940

beneficiaries
reached

The latest UNAIDS estimates show that 36% of adults and children living with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) globally live in Southern Africa. People who use drugs are especially prone to being affected by HIV, due to specific risk behaviors associated with drug use. Against this background, raising awareness on HIV and increasing HIV testing, while simultaneously mitigating drug demand and advocating for harm reduction programmes to scale and stigma reduction, remained key priorities for UNODC-ROSAF. UNODC's approach strives to engage multiple sectors of society, involving a broad range of actors, from governmental representatives and civil society to youth.

Drug use and HIV

Capacity-building and the promotion of multi-stakeholder initiatives continued to be cornerstones to UNODC's action in Southern Africa in 2022 in its efforts to prevent and reduce drug use.

Learning visits such as the one held in Kenya for senior [South African](#) officials and in Portugal for representatives of key [Mozambican](#) institutions allowed for discussions on the importance of awareness-raising initiatives and harm reduction interventions and ensuring the prevention, treatment, care, and support services for people who use drugs, including in prisons.



UNODC engaged several government and multi-sectoral structures, with a view to harmonizing public health policies between the health, social security and justice sectors, in particular harm reduction efforts for people who use drugs.

In meetings co-organized by UNODC in [South Africa](#), policymakers from various agencies developed strategies to mitigate drug use trends, in line with existing policy frameworks. Participants agreed on the need to include methadone on the list of essential medicines in the country and further reduce its price, and highlighted the need to increase capacity-building activities for health service providers and to scale up access of Opioid Agonist Therapy in communities and prisons.

2022 Annual Report

In November, UNODC partnered with the South African Network of People Who Use Drugs to host a workshop on the principles of harm reduction, along with training on community engagement techniques. Leadership members and representatives of over 40 civil society organizations featured as participants in the activity.

The 2022 World Drug Day's theme "#Care in Crises" offered an opportunity to reflect on the importance of health in humanitarian crises. In [Mozambique](#), UNODC cooperated with one of the largest schools in the capital, Maputo, in organizing a series of sports competitions and other cultural and social activities throughout the month of June, promoting healthy lifestyles and awareness on the topic.

In November, the African Union and UNODC discussed Drug Demand Reduction and HIV with traditional leadership representatives of [South Africa](#), particularly in relation to the need to increase solidarity in addressing drug addiction and related mental health disorders. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was a pledge signed by the traditional leaders to work for drug use prevention and HIV.



We also continued to advocate for prison reform, with a view to increasing access to essential health services in prison settings, with the Nelson Mandela Rules and related international standards on prison management underpinning UNODC's initiatives.

In particular, we pushed for increased provision of adequate health care services in prison settings, in particular for prisoners living with HIV, as data shows that HIV prevalence rates in prisons are estimated to be as high as 31.4% in certain parts of the Southern African region.

In [Botswana](#), World Drug Day featured the launch of the UNODC 2022 World Drug Report, attended by representatives of national authorities, NGOs, religious leaders, representatives of academia, researchers and media agencies. During the event, UNODC called for efforts to reduce stigma relating to drug use and for more awareness on the effect of this phenomenon on communities.

In 2022, UNODC cooperated with its partners in the region, engaging 19 institutions at the national, regional and multilateral levels, and worked alongside 50 civil society organizations, leveraging their unique capacity to raise community awareness on HIV/AIDS.

UNODC supported the 2022 World AIDS Day commemorations across the region, including in [Angola](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Zambia](#), by conducting and supporting educational awareness and sensitization events on HIV prevention, as well as testing campaigns targeting inmates, staff and communities, and by promoting drug user registration.



Also on the occasion of World AIDS day, HIV testing campaigns in penitentiary facilities, targeting inmates and staff alike, were held at the Kamfinsa Correctional Facility, located in [Zambia](#), reaching 1000+ beneficiaries.

Prison reform

We continued to advocate for prison reform in the region, in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules, in an effort to prompt States' action towards increased provision of health services, in particular sexual and reproductive health services, and the development of rehabilitation and prevention of violent extremism programmes. UNODC also conducted training for health and prison staff and delivered essential healthcare equipment to several prisons.



In May, we joined forces with [Angola's](#) penitentiary services and UNFPA and hosted a workshop on health standards in prisons, in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules, focusing on HIV programming in prison settings. Building on this activity, UNODC also hosted a conference focused on health care provision and human rights in prison settings to mark the 2022 World AIDS Day, reaching 100 prison staff officials in [Angola](#).

UNODC continued to support efforts in the region aimed at promoting fair treatment of women in penitentiary settings through the provision of gender-sensitive, trauma-informed and comprehensive healthcare services, and increasing availability of educational programmes in prisons.



For instance, in October, UNODC co-funded a training room at a women's prison in [Mozambique](#), the first of its kind in the country. The facility will be used to build capacities and improve the skills of prison staff and inmates.

In [South Africa](#), in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services, we co-launched the first Gender Responsive Prison in the country, in partnership with the South African National Department of Justice and Correctional Services. The model prison follows the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).



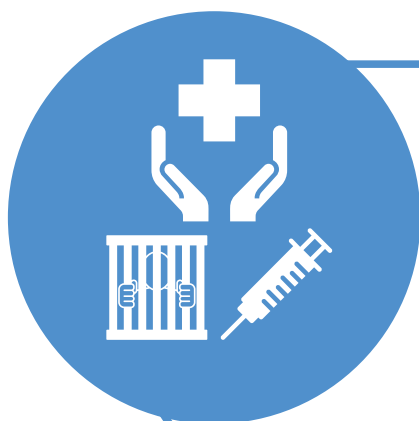
Looking Ahead in 2023

In 2023, our work will continue building upon the progress we have achieved in 2022 together with national, regional and international partners. Below, some of our key priorities:



- Strengthen countries' AML/CFT. Support the development of national TIP/SOM policy frameworks
- Enhance bilateral and regional engagements to better counter TOC
- Increase national agencies' capacity to interdict and investigate illicit flows, including in the maritime domain

- Support Counter-Terrorism efforts and enhance criminal justice responses to terrorism, in line with international human rights standards
- Further support and promote good governance and transparency reforms undertaken by States
- Fast-track action on GBV, including through the new GBV Programme for Southern Africa and disseminate the SADC Model Law on GBV



- Enhance support to prison management authorities in order to increase the provision of adequate health services and increase assistance to harm reduction interventions
- Continue providing more support for harm reduction interventions implemented both in communities and in prisons, and further promote whole-of-society approaches to HIV/AIDS

Our partners

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors, who share our goals and continued to invest in us throughout 2022.



Austria



Belgium



Canada



People's Republic of China



Denmark



Finland



Germany



Italy



Norway



Portugal



Switzerland



United Kingdom



United States of America



European Union



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

*Making the Southern African Development Community Region
Safer from Crime and Drugs*

 unodc.org/southernafrica/

 @UNODC_ROSAF

For further information, please contact:

1059 Francis Baard Street, 1st Floor
Hatfield, Pretoria
South Africa

unodcza.info@un.org