



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Programme Office in Ethiopia Newsletter January-June 2021

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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# Representative's Corner

Dear reader,

The UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia is pleased to share its latest Newsletter which covers the period January-June 2021 and includes insights on UNODC activities and achievements in the country.

On programme implementation, we delivered 23 activities in partnership with key criminal justice and law enforcement institutions and civil society actors in the country. I was also delighted to handover ICT equipment to various institutions to support the establishment of resource centers in dedicated spaces for online trainings and professional development of criminal justice personnel.

In the first six months of 2021, we commemorated 4 International days to raise awareness and action- [International Women's Day on 8 March 2021](#), [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March 2021](#) and [Africa Day](#), 25 May 2021. On 16 June 2021 which is the Day of the African Child, I also shared 3 interesting poems from [youth in the UK diaspora](#) on the theme 'An Africa fit for Children' which we hope can feed into UNODC work on capitalizing on the youth dividend in Africa and in support of delivering UNODC's Strategi Vision for Africa.

On a final note, my temporary assignment as UNODC Representative *a.i.* in Ethiopia concludes on 30 June 2021 and I return to UNODC Headquarters in Vienna-Austria. With support of our diverse team in Ethiopia, I was able to support the office's growth including reprogramming activities to incorporate a COVID-19 response. Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, my experience has been invaluable, having engaged with national authorities in Ethiopia to scale up programme implementation and policy support in parallel to strengthening relations with resident UN agencies, United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), the African Union (AU), Embassies, Civil society and academia.

My vision was not only on the [empowerment of staff](#) but also placing a strong emphasis on driving **local ownership and locally driven solutions** within the framework of UNODC's mandate and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ([UNSDCF](#)), a harmonized assistance framework to support Ethiopia deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its national development priorities.

There have been many achievements and I encourage you all to please visit the [UNODC Ethiopia](#) webpage for more information. As I depart, my sincere gratitude goes to the Government of Ethiopia, Donors, the UN Country Team in Ethiopia and UNODC colleagues for the friendship and collegiality that was built. I hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter as UNODC continues to support efforts to strengthen the Criminal Justice System in Ethiopia and beyond.

Margaret Akullo,  
Representative *a.i.*  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Programme Office in Ethiopia



Over the period January-June 2021, UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia celebrated these international days:



## International Women’s Day, 8 March 2021

In commemoration of the International Women’s month, we issued our special [Gender Newsletter](#) to learn about women and men gender champions in Ethiopia and our support for gender equality. As stated by the [UNODC Executive Director](#) - *To achieve justice for women, we need more women in justice. Increases in women’s participation and leadership in law enforcement and the judiciary have been linked to more investigations into crimes against women, better policing outcomes, and successful victim-centered approaches*”.



## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 2021

“Start getting comfortable with the uncomfortable conversations on diversity”: We spoke to Margaret Akullo, Representative *a.i.* of the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia about how she commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We hope you enjoy reading Margaret’s [interview](#) on promoting diversity and inclusion in her work. To celebrate the day, UNODC Ethiopia also stood up against racism and said so in [6 languages](#) - Amharic, Thai, French, Spanish, Swahili, English.



## The Africa We Want”: A celebration of Africa Day, 25 May 2021

The UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia engaged youth from various countries in the continent and diaspora to hear their aspirations regarding Africa. Please watch the video [here](#). Through its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, UNODC continues to be engaged in various sectors in the continent to ensure the realization of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, particularly on #Peace and #Security issues.



## The Day of the African Child, 16 June 2021

Three poems, three perspectives from [African youth in the British diaspora](#). The youth are forces of progress in Africa and need to be empowered as agents of change to build a sustainable future for Africa.



### ***In our next issue we will commemorate:***

- Nelson Mandela Day, 18 July
- World Day against Trafficking, 30 July
- International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November
- Human Rights Day, 10 December
- International Volunteer Day, 5 December

# Overview of UNODC Activities in Ethiopia

In the context of UNODC’s mandate and within the framework of the Regional Programme for Eastern Africa (2016-2021) and UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, **23 activities** were implemented in Ethiopia over the period January-June 2021, in partnership with key criminal justice and law enforcement institutions and civil society actors in the country. For more details, please read our Semi-Annual Progress Report for the period January-June 2021 (*to be published soon*).

## OVERVIEW OF UNODC SUPPORT PER TYPE OF ACTIVITIES



Needs assessment - 1



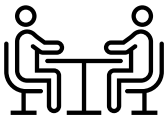
Support for the participation of Ethiopia in International forums – 2



Specialized training – 7  
Training of trainers - 3



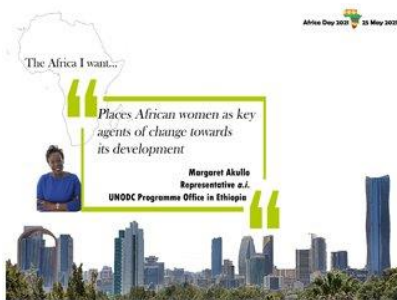
Provision of equipment - 2



Technical/Legal expertise - 8



**Total number of activities implemented (Jan – June 2021) - 23**



**Africa Day 2021 25 May 2021**

The Africa We Want.

A Production by **UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Programme Office in Ethiopia

Overview of activities undertaken in Ethiopia, May 2021

# Summary of Achievements

Over the period January-June 2021, UNODC continued to support partner institutions by providing expert technical assistance across the UNODC mandate. Key achievements include:



## NORMATIVE AND POLICY SUPPORT

- Legal advice on Witness and Whistle-blowers Protection for the revision of Proclamation No. 699/2010
- Standard Operating Procedures with CIVIPOL on investigating and prosecuting the crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
- Technical expertise to develop national Prison Training Curriculum in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules
- Technical expertise to develop the Training Curriculum for Investigating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants



## ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, EVIDENCE

- Gaps and needs identified for criminal justice case management systems in Ethiopia
- Training Needs Assessment for prison, police and prosecutors validated by all stakeholders
- Participation in the nation-wide assessment on the import, storage, transportation, prescription and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to understand their use and overall management



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Provision of equipment

- Handover of IT equipment to the Ethiopian Federal Police Special TIP/SOM Unit
- Provision of IT equipment to support data collection on the use of drugs to the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration

### Training of trainers

- Training workshop for Ethiopian police personnel on investigation of crimes of Trafficking in Persons/Smuggling of Migrants
- Training workshops for law enforcement and prosecution personnel on international best practices and gender norms

### Specialized trainings

- Training workshop for criminal justice practitioners on the protection and promotion of human rights in responding to the acts of terrorism
- Training workshop on effective criminal justice responses to counter serious and transnational organized crimes
- Training on International Cooperation in criminal matters

### Participation in international forums

- Participation in the AIRCOP and CRIMJUST Accra Interregional Investigative Case Forum in Ghana
- Participation in the online event on “Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters to counter Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants within the horn of Africa”

### Initiating new technical assistance programmes

- Identifying gaps and needs to establish an AIRCOP unit
- Identifying gaps and needs to develop adequate anti-corruption reporting systems

# Establishing Resource Centers in Criminal Justice Institutions



In June 2021, a promising new step to the establishment of technology-based training centers for key criminal justice institutions in Ethiopia was initiated.

As part of its support to police, prisons and prosecution institutions in Ethiopia, UNODC procured and handed over ICT equipment including laptops and desktops to various institutions in an event held at the Federal Prison Commission headquarters in Addis Ababa on 25 June 2021. Based on the findings of an equipment needs assessment conducted in December 2019, the equipment will be used to support institutions establish resource centers in dedicated spaces for online trainings and professional development of their respective personnel. Beneficiaries include the Federal Police Commission, the Federal Police University, the Office of the Attorney General, the Federal Prison Commission, the Federal Prison Training Centre and the Justice and Legal System Research and Training Institute. These institutions were provided support through UNODC's [Training of Trainers and specialized trainings focusing on human rights and the promotion of gender-responsive approaches](#). Beneficiaries will also be able to participate in the [UNODC Global E-learning training courses](#) which have been introduced in recent national training workshops.

The procurement of the ICT equipment was possible with the generous support of the Government of Japan under the *Supporting Transformation, Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa* project.

# Prison Reform and Rehabilitation



In June 2021, the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia published a [Factsheet on Prison Reform and Rehabilitation](#), reflecting on the work and progress made over the period 2019-2021. Below is a brief chronology of UNODC support, an overview of the current situation, priorities and training needs identified:

## Brief chronology of support by UNODC

<p><b>2019</b> Technical expertise provided in the drafting of the New Prison Proclamation and associated regulations</p> <p><b>May 2020</b> Global Webinar on COVID-19 in prisons in partnership with UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and OHCHR</p> <p><b>August 2020</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of COVID-19 medical supplies delivered to the Federal Prison Hospital</p> <p><b>Dec 2020</b> 250 junior prison officials trained on Nelson Mandela Rules</p> <p><b>Feb 2021</b> UNODC-supported Prison Training Curriculum adopted and shared at the Annual Federal and Regional Prisons Joint Consultation Forum</p>	<p><b>2018</b> Government: Legal reforms initiated to strengthen the criminal justice system including the prison system</p> <p><b>Dec 2019</b> UNODC Prison Needs Assessment conducted to identify priority areas of improvement in training and equipment</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> batch of COVID-19 medical supplies delivered to the Federal Prison Commission</b></p> <p>Translation of the Nelson Mandela and Bangkok Rules into Amharic</p> <p>Dissemination of Amharic translated information, communication and education materials and infographics translated to help mitigate impact of COVID-19</p> <p>30 prison personnel from the Prison Training Centre trained to deliver trainings to prison staff on international standards in prison management, including on Nelson Mandela Rules and Bangkok Rules</p> <p>UNODC Training Needs Assessment in line with the New Proclamation finalized and validated by national stakeholders</p> <p><b>June-Dec 2021</b> ICT Procurement and specialized trainings to be continued</p>
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## Current situation in Ethiopian prisons



The prison system in Ethiopia is organized in one federal prison system and 10 regional prisons systems. The Aleltu Training Centre trains prison officers for both federal and regional prisons.



There are approximately between 100,000 and 120,000 inmates in Ethiopia, with approximately 4,800 (4%) female inmates.



The new Prison Proclamation No. 1174/2019 indicates a positive shift towards rehabilitation, reintegration, and protection of human rights.



Approximately 40,000 inmates were released as part of the government's large-scale pardons in 2020 to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in places of detention.



Gaps in data management systems were identified in the overall criminal justice system with no adequate sentence planning system in place in prisons.



Despite progress, further improvements are needed in the treatment of prisoners in prisons including in the provision of basic services (rehabilitation support, health, education, food).

**What is needed to strengthen rehabilitation and modern prison management? Below are the priorities identified by the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Federal Prison Commission:**

## 1. Harmonizing and implementing laws

Enacted in 2019, a new Prison Proclamation No. 1174 is expected to overhaul regulations, directives and help in the restructuring of the federal penitentiary system and for regional correctional administrations to replicate. New legislation includes measures to ensure the dignity of prisoners, their rehabilitation, reintegration, and security. Harmonization and implementation of laws, across regions and within all works and procedures, will help to address the current diversity in rules and practices.

## 2. Developing data management systems

UNODC identified that the Prison Commission needs to consider a data management system that can be linked to other databases developed by other criminal justice organs. Data management and sharing are an important component of prison management to ensure efficient sentence planning, rehabilitation and reform, security management or policy making.

## 3. Delivering prison curricula with a focus on joint trainings

A comprehensive training curriculum was developed and endorsed in January 2021 through the technical support of UNODC. This will ensure that prison officials can access standardized, human rights-based training material. The curriculum consists of 50 training courses for both beginners and in-service officers, with 10 modules already developed. The new Prison Curriculum includes modules on prison management in security, rehabilitation, and protection of the rights of prisoners and is aligned with the new Proclamation. It has incorporated the Nelson Mandela Rules as a key component of the training curricula.

## 4. Strengthening rehabilitation efforts

UNODC in previous assessments identified that the rate of recidivism, evidenced by former prisoners who came back to prison facilities, is indicative of the low levels of success in rehabilitating offenders. UNODC capacity-building activities include guidance on programmes to prevent recidivism and to reintegrated offenders into society.

## 5. Facilitating online learning

Greater access to more eLearning modules could empower officers in their own professional development. A total of 250 junior prison officials were trained on Nelson Mandela Rules in 2020 and 29 senior officials have already completed the related UNODC eLearning courses. UNODC is working to provide the necessary ICT equipment to help enhance online capabilities and access to online trainings.

## 6. Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in prisons

Several gaps were identified in addressing the unique needs of special categories of prisoners, including women with children and inmates with physical and mental disability. The special condition of children between 15-18 should be given a strong focus starting with separation of these detained children from adult inmates. More efforts should be made to address special needs, ensuring equal access to education, training and health services provided in the facilities.

## 7. Strengthening coordination and cooperation with partners

Coordination and cooperation with partners, including other criminal justice organs and civil society organizations will be key to strengthening modern prison management that strives to achieve community-based reintegration.

**Training needs identified include:**



### Special Categories of Prisoners

- Children deprived of liberties
- Women in prisons with children
- Managing mental health in prisons
- Elderly, people living with HIV/AIDS in prisons

### Security and Safety

- Security and safety related activities
- Promoting rehabilitation
- Managing stress and depression
- Management of violent and extreme prisoners, best practices

### Rehabilitation and Reform

- Criminal Justice System and recent legislations
- Rehabilitation and reform standards
- Prison file management and sentence planning
- Role of community-based arrangements
- Legal aid, appeal, parole

### Human Rights

- International Human Rights Law and Practice and Code of Conduct

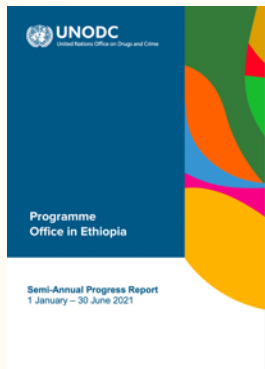
### Modern Prison Management

- Role of prison managers
- Change management and leadership
- Nelson Mandela and Bangkok Rules



# Our Latest Publications and Videos

## Progress reports, Factsheets and Newsletters



### UNODC Ethiopia Semi-Annual Progress Report January-June 2021

View the report [here](#)



### UNODC Ethiopia Gender Newsletter- March 2021

Read this special edition [here](#).



### COVID-19 Crisis & Response Update

View this [Short Update on COVID-19](#) support detailing activities undertaken in response to the pandemic.



### Prison reform and rehabilitation

See our [Factsheet on Prison Reform and Rehabilitation in Ethiopia](#), reflecting on the work and progress made over the period 2018-2021.

## Webstories

- **12 February 2021** – [UNODC supports quality and effective investigation, prosecution and custodial services in Ethiopia](#)
- **4 March 2021** – [Ethiopian Federal Prison Commission launches new national prison training](#)
- **8 March 2021** – [Women leading the way towards gender equality within UNODC](#): an interview with Lelise Terfasa, Associate Programme Officer, UNODC Ethiopia.
- **21 March 2021** – [Promoting diversity and inclusion in my work](#): an interview with Margaret Akullo, Representative a.i. of UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia.
- **12 April 2021** - [Training of trainers: Enhancing expertise in the criminal justice system](#)

## Our latest video



July 2021

[Commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day 2021](#)



# Meet the Team



*The activities of the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia are funded by the Government of Sweden, the Government of Japan, the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the State of Qatar.*



From  
the People of Japan



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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