

JCSC HIGHLIGHTS

2023

Another year has passed, and this time around our trips led us to Abyei, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Libya, Somalia and Sudan.

Our deployments helped to advance United Nations transition planning in the rule of law area in the DRC; further operationalize the now fully functioning Special Criminal Court (SCC) in CAR; and develop an ambitious joint United Nations Rule of Law programme in Sudan. We contributed to a rule of law strategy for UNISFA; supported detention management by Community Protection Committees in Abyei; and engaged in critical prison security and reform initiatives in CAR, Libya and Somalia.

Furthermore, in the framework of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (again: Happy 10th Anniversary GFP!), of which the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) is a co-lead entity, we were pleased to support UNDP in their reform efforts for the prison service of Djibouti.

We say a warm ‘Thank You!’ to all our clients – past, present and future. We say ‘Thank You!’ to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany for its continuous and generous support to the rapidly deployable standing capacities of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) of DPO.

JCSC is part of the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS), Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO). JCSC is based at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy. It is a rapid response team that deploys to support United Nations peace operations and other United Nations partners including those of the GFP.

We also say ‘Thank You!’ to the management of the United Nations Global Service Centre/United Nations Logistics Base (UNGSC/UNLB), Brindisi, Italy for hosting and supporting us. We really do look forward to continuing our cooperation in the coming year and beyond, and wish everybody a healthy and more peaceful 2023!

From Carsten, Alice, Moussa, Gisèle, Oscar and Raffaella

A Snapshot of Operations and Achievements in 2022:

SUPPORTING UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONS

MONUSCO (DRC)

This deployment (February – April) strengthened the relationship between the United Nations and the World Bank in the DRC and provided strategic and planning support to materialize this cooperation, *inter alia* through a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The deployment, which was co-sponsored by MONUSCO and the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility, specifically aimed to support the transition of MONUSCO by advancing sustainable stabilization support from the World Bank in geographic hotspots in the DRC, including in the rule of law area.



JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber in Kinshasa with World Bank (WB) Head of Office Goma Matthias Cinyabuguma (middle) and WB Senior Advisor Christopher Gabelle (right) during deployment to MONUSCO facilitating United Nations/World Bank cooperation within the context of the Mission's transition. Credit: World Bank DRC

MONUSCO (DRC)

In line with the Transition Plan of MONUSCO and in the context of shifting conflict dynamics and an increase of serious crimes committed in the DRC, this JCSC deployment (October – December) helped the Justice Support Section of MONUSCO advance transition initiatives. Outputs included a note identifying priority areas for the rule of law team's strategic and operational engagement, especially vis-à-vis the implementation of the United Nations Joint Justice Reform Support Programme and efforts to address destabilizing crime. This assignment also served as follow-up to a previous JCSC deployment that provided MONUSCO with the report *10 years after: Options for the future of the Prosecution Support Cells (PSCs) Programme in the context of MONUSCO's transition*.



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura (back row, fifth from right) attending a United Nations planning workshop held by UNDP to review the implementation of the 2020 - 2024 United Nations Justice Programme. Credit: UNDP DRC



Kinshasa, Auditeur Général des FARDC. JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura (1st from left in first photo) participating in a training closing ceremony chaired by Auditeur Général, Général-Major Likulia (3rd from right in second photo). The training on Digital Investigations was provided by MONUSCO to increase the capability of the DRC to investigate and prosecute serious crime. Credit: MONUSCO

STRATEGIC RULE OF LAW PLANNING/PROGRAMMING

UNITAMS (SUDAN)

In the aftermath of the October 2021 military takeover, JCSC, during two deployments to UNITAMS in co-location with UNDP (January - March and April - June), helped re-define common rule of law priorities in the context of the multifaceted crisis in line with the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. More specifically, following extensive consultations including with field-based United Nations personnel, JCSC led the development and finalization of a joint programmatic framework and related joint programme document with a United Nations Country Team (UNCT) gender equality marker 2, based on refocused priorities for the United Nations system in Sudan. JCSC also helped deepen integration and advised on collaboration and coordination modalities. The joint programme is now being coordinated by UNDP and implemented jointly with UNITAMS, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and UNOCT, in cooperation with the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict.



Khartoum: JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Alice Mauske facilitating a working group with UNITAMS, UNDP and other UNCT partners to discuss and agree on the joint rule of law programming approach in response to the multifaceted crisis in Sudan. Credit: UNDP

UNISFA (ABYEI)

A first JCSC deployment in Abyei (February – May) led to the development of sustainable tools (guidance manual, internal rules, training curriculum) for the management of the detention facilities and capacity building of Community Protection Committee (CPC) members running these facilities in the absence of formal structures in Abyei. Furthermore, the JCSC deployment also contributed to the development of a comprehensive United Nations rule of law strategy for Abyei. This strategy, amongst others, enables UNISFA and the UNCT – in an integrated fashion – to advance the mandate of UNISFA with respect to the protection of civilians in this hotspot area.



JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé addressing CPC trainees during a training session on the Mandela Rules. Credit: UNISFA

In a second deployment (commenced in November), JCSC is supporting UNISFA in the implementation of recommendations from previous assessments with respect to improving detention conditions, including for women inmates, and security at local detention facilities. JCSC is also, in line with the Mission's protection of civilians-related mandate, strengthening the capacity of the newly established CPC in the northern part of Abyei in the areas of human rights and detention management.



Standing, 3rd from right, JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé, with UNISFA Police Commissioner Violet Lusala (4th from right), at closing ceremony of training workshop for CPC members deployed at Abyei Detention Centre. Credit: UNISFA

MINUSCA (CAR)

This JCSC deployment (May – September) supported the Mission to strengthen the Special Criminal Court (SCC) – a court consisting of national and international magistrates mandated to prosecute and try the most serious crimes committed in the country since 2003. Technical, operational, and strategic support provided to the Justice and Corrections Section of MINUSCA and UNDP included the drafting of a *Practical Guide on the Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of Programmatic Funds*, the finalization of four MoUs between MINUSCA and its implementing partners, and the identification of priorities for support to the SCC in the coming year. Lastly, to prepare the annual Steering Committee of the SCC, chaired by the Minister of Justice, JCSC contributed to evidence-based recommendations for the Committee’s approval, including in relation to the extension of the mandate of the SCC for another five years (which was endorsed by the Government).



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura meeting the President of the SCC Magistrate Landry Michel Louanga during her deployment to MINUSCA to provide support for the further operationalization of the SCC. Credit: SCC



JCSC Rule of Law Officer Gisèle Samvura (2nd from right) with CAR Minister of Justice Dr Arnaud Djoubaye Abazene after Steering Committee meeting on the joint United Nations project in support to the SCC. Credit: MINUSCA

PRISON SECURITY AND REFORM

UNDP DJIBOUTI



JCSC Corrections Officer Oscar Ouedraogo (1st from left) facilitating a two-day workshop for the technical validation of tools elaborated to enhance prison management, chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice of Djibouti Mr. Maki-Abdoulkader Omar. Credit: UNDP Djibouti

This deployment to Djibouti (February – April) was in support of the Djibouti Justice Project of UNDP. In close cooperation with national counterparts, JCSC developed strategic and operational tools and policies to enhance prison management and the capacity of Djibouti’s penitentiary system to implement them. This included a monitoring tool for penitentiary services, standard operating procedures and guidelines for the implementation of prisoner reintegration programmes. The tools and policies, once implemented, will facilitate ongoing prison reform efforts that meet international human rights standards.

MINUSCA (CAR)


From left to right: Sergeant Didier Sombo (Chief Security and Operations Officer/Bimbo prison); Gnagnam Yifal (Bimbo prison Security Support Team Coordinator/MINUSCA); Barbara Bende Bercy (Deputy Chief Security and Operations Officer/Bimbo prison); Oscar Ouedraogo (JCSC); Eloge Bushano (Corrections Officer/EUAM/CAR). Credit: MINUSCA

Carried out from May to July, this JCSC deployment provided support to the Corrections Unit of MINUSCA, especially through the development of a training plan for the continuous education of CAR prison staff at all levels as well as human resources and security management tools for the national penitentiary service. This included a prison security procedures manual to guide the penitentiary service in day-to-day security routines and practices in compliance with the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). The deployment was undertaken in the framework of the national Prison Demilitarization Strategy, which MINUSCA – also through previous JCSC involvement – continues to support with the aim of professionalizing a sustainable prison service in CAR.

UNSMIL (LIBYA)

This deployment to Libya (July - September) provided critical strategic surge capacity to support UNSMIL in assisting the Libyan prison authorities to improve prison conditions and reduce arbitrary detention. The deployment resulted, *inter alia*, in the development of a thorough assessment report on prison security with concrete recommendations, including implementation mechanisms. Moreover, on behalf of UNSMIL, JCSC engaged with the UNCT and other international partners in the preparation of the Second High-Level Symposium on Arbitrary Detention, a major policy forum to tackle one of the greatest political rule of law challenges facing the country.



From left, JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé, Mr. Hassan Rezaei, Judicial Affairs Officer (UNSMIL), Mr. Ali Shitawi, Deputy Minister of Justice (Libya) during a meeting at the Ministry of Justice Libya in Tripoli. Credit: UNSMIL.



From left, JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé, Mr. Shawky Seif El Nasr, Human Rights Officer (UNSMIL) and Major General Ben Yousef Abdelnasser, Deputy Chief Judicial Police, in a briefing session on the prison administration's vision and priorities at Judicial Police Headquarters in Tripoli. Credit: UNSMIL

UNSOM (SOMALIA)

This deployment (September – November) produced an in depth assessment of the corrections training framework in Somalia as part of a Federal Corrections Model and the Prison Training Academy in Garowe/Puntland. The assessment recommended a unified and comprehensive training strategy to be undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Justice of Somalia, with the Federal Member States and the Custodial Corps. The assessment identified the need for a political agreement between Federal authorities and the Federal Member States on the designation of a Federal Academy. Lastly, the deployment suggested a process for engaging civil society on prisoners' rights issues that could be applied in all Federal Member States.



Tour of Garowe training academy for Custodial Corps members related to the training framework assessment, led by General Abdullahi Mohammed Mire, Commander of Training and Planning/Puntland Custodial Corps with JCSC Corrections Officer Oscar Ouedraogo (1st from left). Credit: Puntland Custodial Corps



JCSC Corrections Officer Oscar Ouedraogo (top of the table, left) facilitating a working session with PUNSAA (Umbrella Organization for CSOs in Puntland) to promote the engagement of CSOs on prisoners' rights. Credit: PUNSAA

INFORMING POLITICAL/RULE OF LAW ENGAGEMENT ON JUDICIAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

UNOWAS

Following up on a deployment carried out in 2021, JCSC remotely finalized a research paper on judicial governance in West Africa and the Sahel, highlighting trends related to the instrumentalization of the judiciary and formulating a number of recommendations to further strengthen the political and rule of law engagement of UNOWAS on this issue. The research and its recommendations were made available to the UNCT in the region to inform the design of new rule of law programmes.

UNSON (SOMALIA)

From October to December, JCSC deployed to UNSOM to carry out research and consultations on judicial independence and accountability for conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) to inform the Mission's political and rule of law engagement on these issues. The research was based on a desk review and analysis, interviews, focus group discussions with justice actors, displaced women, youth and community representatives, as well as a two-day roundtable discussion on CRSV with civil society representatives from across the country. In addition, field trips were undertaken to Hargeisa, Somaliland, and to Garowe, Puntland. In carrying out this deployment, JCSC worked with the Women Protection Unit of UNSOM as well as the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict.



Mogadishu: CSOs discuss accountability for CRSV with JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Alice Mauske (2nd from right) at a roundtable discussion co-organised by UNSOM, UNDP and UN Women. Credit: UNSOM



Hargeisa: Community representatives share their views with JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Alice Mauske (at head table) on promoting judicial independence and accountability in a focus group discussion organised by UNSOM. Credit: UNSOM



Mogadishu: Students from Mogadishu State University discuss progress in the justice sector and stress the importance of youth participation in shaping the country's judicial institutions with JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer (standing on the right). Credit: UNSOM

MANAGEMENT

UNITAMS (SUDAN)

Two deployments to UNITAMS between June and August provided the Mission with managerial rule of law capacity during the temporary absence of the Chief of the Mission's rule of law portfolio. The joint United Nations rule of law programme was finalized during the deployment period. Furthermore, clear entry points and structural requirements were worked out to position the rule of law work for the gradually reassuming political talks leading to a constitutional process. Lastly, a partnership agreement with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)/International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) was advanced to conduct a thorough assessment of Sudan's rural courts, given their high relevance for the delivery of justice for marginalized communities.

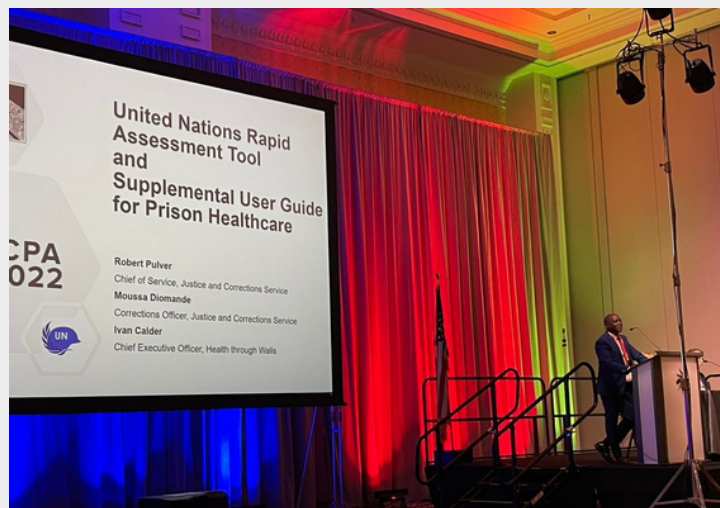


TRAINING AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

JCSC continued to strengthen its skills to better support its clients. In that regard, JCSC – along with other OROLSI standing capacities – participated in the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) workshop *Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism* held in Brindisi from 11 to 13 April 2022.

In December 2022, JCSC contributed to the thematic discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) on the implementation of the *Kyoto Declaration*, specifically on Pillar 2 on *Advancing the Criminal Justice System*. JCSC highlighted the role of United Nations peace operations in improving prison conditions and reducing reoffending in post-conflict settings and called on Member States to implement the United Nations Common Position on Incarceration. The thematic discussions will inform the work of the CCPCJ at its 32nd session in May 2023. JCSC stands ready to support United Nations clients in the implementation of the United Nations Common Position.

JCSC also engaged in rule of law policy discussion forums. For instance, JCSC attended the *International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) Annual Conference* in Orlando, USA, from 23 to 28 October 2022, and engaged with corrections policy makers and practitioners on global trends, including on sustainable and environmentally friendly prison management. It co-presented, along with JCS and Health Through Walls, the draft United Nations Rapid Assessment Tool and Supplemental User Guide for Prison Healthcare. JCSC is ready to assist United Nations clients in the usage of this unique and forward-looking tool and guide.



JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé during the presentation of the draft United Nations Rapid Assessment tool and Supplemental User Guide for Prison Healthcare at the ICPA annual conference in Orlando, USA. Credit: BINUH

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