

21 April 2021

Communications Updates on COVID-19

March 2020-April 2021

This report provides information on activities undertaken by the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia between March 2020– April 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report includes specific interventions within the COVID-19 context and concludes with suggestions for the way forward.

1. COVID-19 RELATED INTERVENTIONS

A. Provision of medical supplies

Since the onset of COVID-19, UNODC has provided support through the provision of various items to national institutions including the **Addis Ababa Police Commission, the Federal and Regional Prison Commissions, and the Children’s Remand and Rehabilitation Centre** that handles children deprived of their liberties. Necessary items including food and care supplies to prevent the COVID-19 Pandemic were also provided to the Good Samaritans Association which supports victims of trafficking. The UNODC team also participated in a blood donation. The UNODC team also participated in a blood donation to address potential shortages in blood supply for use throughout the medical system. See more details below:



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Provision of Medical Supplies - Federal Prison Commission

6 May 2020: A handover ceremony was organized at the Federal Prison Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa to deliver medical supplies which included sanitizers, alcohols, facemasks, and gloves targeted to inmates, prison officials and health service providers. The items for the Federal Prison Commission were further distributed to nine-regional prison administrations (see table below).

Figure 1 Distribution Table of Medical Supplies to Federal Prisons Commission

	Agency \ Items	IR thermometer	Surgical Face Masks (50 per box)	Disinfectant	Hand Sanitizers
1.	Federal Prison Commission	25 pieces	100 Boxes	550 Litres	500 Litres
2.	Oromia Prison Commission	7 pieces	25 Boxes	120 Litres	120 Litres
3.	Amhara Prison Commission	6 pieces	25 Boxes	100 Litres	100 Litres
4.	South Prison Commission	4 pieces	15 Boxes	50 Litres	50 Litres
5.	Tigray Prison Commission	3 pieces	15 Boxes	50 Litres	50 Litres
6.	Somali Prison Commission	3 pieces	10 Boxes	50 Litres	50 Litres
7.	Benshanguil Prison Commission	2 pieces	10 Boxes	40 Litres	30 Litres
8.	Afar Prison Commission	2 pieces	10 Boxes	40 Litres	30 Litres
9.	Harari Prison Commission	2 pieces	10 Boxes	40 Litres	30 Litres
10.	Gambella Prison Commission	2 pieces	10 Boxes	40 Litres	30 Litres
	Total	56 pieces	230 Boxes	1080 Litres	990 Litres

Medical and Hygiene Materials- Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre

6 May 2020: As part of its response, UNODC delivered medical and hygiene items to the Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre (AACRRC). They included:

Figure 2 Distribution Table of Medical Supplies to Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre

Agency \ Items	IR thermometer	Surgical Face Masks (50 per box)	Disinfectant	Hand Sanitizers
Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre	2 pieces	10 Boxes	40 Litres	40 Litres

UNODC Ethiopia team donate blood



12 May 2020: The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need for blood donations to address potential shortages in blood supply for use throughout the medical system. The Ethiopian National Blood Bank collects nearly 200,000 units of blood from donors annually. While the country requires 18,000 units of blood daily, the average daily amount collected is approximately 1,100 units – a significant shortfall. It was against this background that staff from the UNODC Programme

Office in Ethiopia answered the call for help at the *National Blood Bank Service, Ministry of Health*. Four Ethiopia Programme Office team members donated four units of blood at the Ethiopia National Blood Bank Service headquarters in Addis Ababa. Each unit of blood donated can be divided into three primary components (red blood cells, plasma, and platelets), potentially saving up to three lives, meaning the four pint (1.88 litre) donated by staff has the potential to support the treatment of up to 12 patients in need of blood.

COVID-19 medical supplies - Federal Prisons Hospital



13 August 2020: Staff from the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia delivered a second batch of medical supplies to the Federal Prison Commission at their General Hospital. The hospital, located in Kaliti Federal Prison compound, on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, caters for inmates who are seeking treatment for other ailments. The items 245 bedsheets, 245 pillows and 500 metres of rubber sheets are crucial in helping

to protect prisoners and their care givers from COVID-19 transmission at the facility. This support was funded under the UNAIDS Ethiopia Country Envelope.

Provision of COVID-19 essential supplies to the Good Samaritans Association in Addis Ababa



Hand-over event, UNODC provision of COVID-19 Response materials to the Good Samaritans Association. UNODC Photo/ 2020.

28 August 2020- Through the provision of various essential supplies including food and personal care items, UNODC has provided support to the Good Samaritans Association to support victims of trafficking and mitigation of COVID-19. The Association provides psycho-social support and reunification for returning migrants and trafficked women and children.

Provision of Heavy-Duty Laundry Machine to Federal Prison Commission's General hospital



8 December 2020- As part of the ongoing response to COVID-19, the UNODC Programme Office in UNODC handed over a heavy-duty washing machine to the Federal Prison Commission's General hospital in Addis Ababa that would be used to ensure the bulk cleaning and sanitization of garments at the General Prison Hospital. High-ranking officials including the Federal Prisons Commissioner General, Jemal Abasso & Dr. Teferra, Director of hospital were present to receive the donation.

More details:

- Webstory [“International partners support authorities in Ethiopia to prevent transmission of COVID-19 in places of detention”](#), May 2020
- Webstory [“To address fears of prisoners from COVID-19 and minimize risk of transmission, UNODC donates medical supplies to Ethiopia’s prisons”](#), May 2020
- [UNODC Ethiopia Annual Progress Report 2020](#), December 2020
- [UNODC Ethiopia newsletter](#), January 2021

B. Translation into Amharic & dissemination of COVID-19 related guidance and policy documents

Disseminated over
12,000
 **Information**
 **Communication**
 **Education**
materials translated
into Amharic

UNODC collaborated with organizations such as the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNICEF, UN Women and the International Committee to the Red Cross (ICRC) in production and dissemination of these materials. The documents target government officials and duty bearers in their work to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and mitigating the impact on vulnerable populations. The following is the dissemination list of these Information, Communication and Education materials.

Figure 3 Dissemination List of IEC Materials

No.	Materials	Languages	Agency	Number of Copies disseminated
1.	UNODC Guidance Notes on ' <i>Gender-based violence against women and girls-COVID-19 Guidelines for Law Enforcement</i> '	Amharic	INTERPOL UNODC UN	A soft copy was prepared and disseminated electronically.
2.	UNODC Guidance Note, a leaflet and poster on ' <i>COVID-19 Prevention Measures in Prisons and Places of Detention</i> '	Amharic	UNODC OHCHR UNICEF	3,800 copies were printed and disseminated to the Federal Prison Commission for further dissemination to the Federal Prisons.
3.	UNODC Prison Infographics on ' <i>COVID-19 and people working in prisons</i> ' developed for staff and health care providers	Amharic	UNODC HQ	3,800 copies were printed and disseminated to the Federal Prison Commission for further dissemination to the Federal Prisons.
4.	UNODC Prison Infographic posters on ' <i>COVID 19 and people living in prisons</i> ' developed for staff and prisoners	Amharic	UNODC OHCHR	3,800 copies were printed and disseminated to the Federal Prison Commission for further dissemination to the Federal Prisons.
5.	Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and UNICEF Guidance Note on ' <i>COVID-19 Prevention and Response Measures for Children Deprived of Liberty</i> '	Amharic	UNODC UNICEF OHCHR	2,000 copies printed and disseminated to Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre and the Federal Supreme Court Child Justice Project
6.	A leaflet, brochure and flier listing recommendations on the ' <i>Guidance for the Treatment of Children deprived of their liberty in the context of COVID-19</i> '	Amharic	UNODC UNICEF OHCHR	2,000 copies printed and disseminated to the Addis Ababa Children's Remand and Rehabilitation Centre and the Federal Supreme Court Child Justice Project

C. Providing advice and technical support

COVID-19 and Violence Against Women and Children



Since the onset of COVID-19, UNODC has engaged in 6 events specifically relating to countering VAWC (Violence Against Women and Children). These include:

- Support to the 16 days of Activism against gender Based Violence under the global 2020 theme “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”
- Ethiopia webinar on Criminal Justice Responses to Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 pandemic (25 November 2020) which was undertaken in collaboration with OHCHR, UN Women and UNFPA.
- Interview with Ms. Hirut Yebabe, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Association, a shelter for women victims of trafficking (23 November 2020)
- UNODC participation in a workshop organized by UN Women as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender -Based violence
- UNODC participation in ICMEC training: Online Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation, a Comprehensive Perspective (12-week training – April – August 2020)
- UNODC participant in ICMEC Training: Online Child Sexual Exploitation: Investigation Training Course (18 March 2021)

More details:

- [UNODC Ethiopia Annual Progress Report 2020](#)

COVID-19 and falsified medical products: Video in Amharic



Globally, UNODC uses YouTube to reach the wider community with the intention of raising awareness on both the work of UNODC and the crime and drug related issues within its mandate. Accordingly, the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia has developed an Amharic Translation of ‘UNODC explains about falsified medical products’ and ‘Violence Against Women’ videos. The translation of these awareness raising materials is being used to enhance the accessibility of the information in Amharic, a language widely spoken in Ethiopia.

E-Learning



The UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia has benefitted from increased outreach by the UNODC HQ global programmes in their provision of eLearning materials for wider dissemination in-country. The office is in discussion with the UNODC Global eLearning Programme team to define an eLearning plan that will meet the needs of partner institutions.

COVID-19 in Ethiopian prisons: Video interview with UNODC expert in Ethiopia

The programme office in Ethiopia has continuously provided technical advice to the Federal Prison Commission on alternatives to imprisonment as a measure to decongest prisons. In the context of the pandemic, this advice was reiterated and as a result, 39,642 inmates were released by the Government of Ethiopia to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and increased sanitation measures in prison. Additionally, the government has forged strong links between health administrations and civil health authorities for continuation of post-release services for prisons. To raise awareness on the measures taken to prevent COVID-19 in prisons, UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia interviewed Ermiyas Kostre, UNODC Programme Advisor and Trainer, to share insights on UNODC support to national authorities to address COVID-19 in the prison system. This interview includes insights on the main challenges faced in Ethiopian prisons with the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC support to national authorities and a call for action. See the video:

- [Video interview with Ermiyas Kostre, UNODC Programme Advisor in Ethiopia, on “Addressing COVID-19 in Ethiopian prisons”](#), March 2021

COVID-19 in Prisons and Closed Settings

16 April 2020: A global webinar on the COVID-19 response in Prisons and Closed Settings was jointly organized with UNODC, UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and OHCHR. The organisers shared latest policy positions, resources and examples of responding to COVID-19. The UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia played a key role in identifying the relevant government representative and providing relevant information to the different actors and stakeholders. The Government of Ethiopia was used as the only country example and was represented by the Head of the Federal Office of the Attorney General Human Rights Action Plan Office whose focus was on government’s approach to the release of prisoners.

Amharic translation of the Nelson Mandela Rules



25 August 2020: The Federal Prison Commissioner General met with the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia to discuss ongoing and planned prison reform activities and COVID-19 related support to prisons. The discussion included an update on ongoing COVID-19 response activities, disseminating the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, also widely known as the Nelson Mandela Rules, and future capacity building initiatives. In addition to the recent *Amharic* translation, the Nelson

Mandela Rules will be translated in other local languages such as *Oromiffa*, *Somali* and *Tigrigna*. As part of its effort to promote awareness, understanding and implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules, the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia completed the translation of the document into Amharic. The Nelson Mandela rules also covers the minimum standards for medical, health and hygiene services, which provide the basis for combating the COVID-19 virus and mitigating the impact in prisons. The document will be printed for wider dissemination by the end of 2021.

2. Conclusions

Based on the experience of the UNODC Programme Office in Ethiopia, the following are key priority areas identified for future focused interventions:

- Prioritise ICT capabilities and functionality of key stakeholders.
- Increase resources for translation of materials into local languages.
- Increase accessibility to eLearning opportunities to key stakeholders.
- Draft IEC materials to address specific challenges faced by institutions in Ethiopia.
- Continue to develop and translate guidance notes, tools and videos for stakeholders.
- Draft (individual papers or analytical briefs of the impact of COVID on crime, the rule of law and security (SDG 16) in order to be able to contribute to the overall analysis of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 (as part of the UN Country Team).
- Prioritise risk mitigation and emergency response planning with partners.

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