The IIJ Investigations Initiative is supporting implementation of GCTF good practices in the Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector, Rabat Memorandum Explanatory Note Recommendation 6, The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon and its Addendum, and the Border Security Management Initiative. The IIJ Investigations Initiative also supports actions specified for in UNSCR 2396 (2017), which calls in part on members to strengthen international investigation cooperation in countering terrorism.

The IIJ Investigations Initiative is one of eight core initiatives that the IIJ is implementing:

- Addressing Homegrown Terrorism
- Global Central Authorities
- Returning FTFs
- Judicial Capacity-Building
- Juvenile Justice
- Parliamentarians
- Prison Management
- Investigations

The IIJ is a non-profit intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting terrorism through capacity-building training in justice and the rule of law. More than 4000 criminal justice practitioners have participated in IIJ workshops in Malta and abroad.

Intelligence-led investigations ensure focused and proportionate responses to terrorist threats and encourage the appropriate sharing of relevant information between agencies and countries. As terrorist strategies, capabilities and tactics evolve with time and circumstances, it is vital that strategies, capabilities and tactics in gathering and developing intelligence produce best evidence and present such evidence to deliver fair and successful prosecutions and convictions.

The IIJ Investigations Initiative focuses on Cross-border and Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters. Initially, the IIJ scoped, then designed and delivered two regional four-day immersive practical training exercises for Cameroon, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia. The IIJ is now continuing to support capacity-building through ongoing mentoring in those countries. Additionally, by request, the IIJ designed a discrete and tailored program to develop counterterrorism investigative and prosecution capacity in Trinidad & Tobago.

Next Steps

The IIJ Senior Investigations Adviser is continuing to liaise, visit, mentor and offer support to the North and West African, and Middle East countries involved in the IIJ Investigations Initiative. Further programs are being developed and delivered in Trinidad and Tobago to bolster its national CT strategy.
In October 2017, the IIJ held a four-day workshop in Malta for select leaders from Cameroon, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia. Facilitated by IIJ personnel and leading practitioners in investigation, analysis, prosecution and border security drawn from the UK, US, Netherlands and Interpol, individual country perspectives were explored and common training and development needs were assessed and training priorities were identified.

In February 2018, two regional, four-day interactive exercises, one in Jordan and one in Tunisia were delivered for intelligence, law enforcement, border security officers and prosecutors selected by the participant countries. Using a scenario-based, table-top exercise, participants applied GCTF good practices and created intelligence and border security strategies, exploited intelligence opportunities, gathered and prepared evidence relating to a series of realistic RFTF and terrorist attack planning activities.

In March 2018, a thematic table-top exercise was designed specifically to meet the counterterrorism challenges faced by Trinidad & Tobago. Multiple investigative and prosecutorial agencies engaged energetically, explored joint working opportunities for managing counterterrorism investigations from initial detection through managing public safety to successful prosecution. Recommendations were made for improved CT capacity-building in partnership with the IIJ.

For more information on the Investigations Initiative or to support the IIJ financially, please contact:
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