



PAKISTAN AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMBATING TERRORISM

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(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



Pakistan has been facing the challenge of terrorism in various manifestations for more than three decades. The core issue in fighting the menace of terrorism lies in terms of the challenges posed by issues of border management, particularly at its western border with Afghanistan, which is used for illegal activities like drug smuggling and human trafficking.

The changing geo-political environment in the region has forced Pakistan to draw up an effective mechanism to deal with this complex situation. The criminal elements who facilitate transnational organized crime, illicit narcotics smuggling, as well as human trafficking and migrant smuggling, also mostly facilitate the terrorist activities on both sides of the border.

In an effort to strengthen Pakistan's endeavors for effective border management, enhancing air cargo security, combating transnational organized crime, strengthening border security against illicit trafficking and response to counter terrorism, the government of Japan has made a generous contribution amounting to about US \$ 3,730,935 for a duration of one year.¹

Under this contribution, four one-year projects will receive funding from April 2018 to March 2019.² These will include:

1. Combating transnational organized crime and strengthening borders in Pakistan - US\$ 2,545,335

¹ "Japan contributes \$3,730,935 to UNODC in Pakistan". The News, May 11, 2018
<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/315249-japan-contributes-3-730-935-to-unodc-in-pakistan>

² Telephonic Conversation with UNODC office Pakistan.
<https://www.unodc.org>

2. Strengthening the response of Pakistan's action to Counter Terrorism Financing (CTF) - US\$ 500,000
3. Improving forensic capacity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to investigate terrorism cases¹ - US\$ 300,000
4. Enhancing air cargo security through establishment of Air Cargo Control Unit at Lahore Allama Iqbal International Airport in Pakistan - US\$ 385,600.

The international cooperation with Pakistan in fighting against the menace of terrorism shows that Pakistan stands committed to combating international criminal syndicates, which through their illicit activities hinder the economic development and prosperity of the Pakistani people.

It is pertinent to note here that this aid to fight terrorism in Pakistan will be given through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and will be distributed among core institutions like National Counter Terrorism Authority and provincial Counter Terrorism departments.

In addition to this, UNODC office is also running another project under the title Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) with the cooperation of European Union.³ This project specifically targets the most effected province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The main objective of the project is to enhance investigation processes and the use of the forensic evidence by the Counter Terrorism Department for the preparation of terrorism cases. And moreover, strengthen the capacity of the prosecution directorate and the judiciary to effectively prosecute and adjudicate the terrorist cases.

Another main aim of this project is to improve intra-provincial and inter-provincial coordination on counter terrorism, to strengthen overall capacity on counter terrorism related strategic analysis and to further promote greater judicial integrity and human rights based judicial processes in terrorism cases.

Despite critiques on slow implementation in various areas of National Action Plan, project PACT shows that Pakistan is willing to work on each and every area discussed under its National Action Plan. One can observe from project PACT that Pakistan is also working on judicial reforms which is considered to be the most ignored area under the National Action Plan.

International cooperation with Pakistan in the area of counter terrorism will eventually lead the State to deal with the problem not superficially, but rather it will be able to deal with its root causes.

³ "Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT)", <https://www.unodc.org/brussels/en/pakistan-pact.html>

United Nations initiative to raise awareness and build capacity in states that need it is an important measure in helping states to better understand and respond to the challenges of terrorism.

In that regard, the technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, particularly in the development of improving bilateral terms among states and the establishment of regional cooperation networks, is particularly valuable. United Nations has the unique capacity to bring together Member States, international organizations and civil society in one place to discuss the evils of terrorism, which is a real asset for maintaining global peace.