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AFRICA JOINT OPERATIONS AGAINST CYBERCRIME (AFJOC)

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Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

# PROJECT AFJOC

## AFRICA JOINT OPERATIONS AGAINST CYBERCRIME

Reinforcing cybersecurity in Africa

### The situation

The rapid development of new technologies is opening up new opportunities in the African Region. Currently, Africa has the fastest growing Internet and telephone networks in the world, and makes wide use of mobile banking services.

However, this rapid digitalization has made the region a target for cyberattacks. Criminals exploit the increased use of smartphones to steal personal data and carry out fraudulent schemes. The biggest cyber threats in Africa include digital extortion, ransomware, online scams (such as phishing) and business email compromise.

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The lack of cybersecurity standards exposes online services to major risks. Cyberattacks on critical infrastructure including banks and government institutions have serious implications, resulting in security risks, huge financial loss and disruptions in trade.

## Project aims

The AFJOC project strengthens the capability of national law enforcement agencies to prevent, detect, investigate and disrupt cybercrime. This is achieved by:

- gathering and analysing information on cybercriminal activity;
- carrying out intelligence-led, coordinated action;
- promoting cooperation and best practice amongst African member countries.

## Project activities

**Analytical support and intelligence –** timely and accurate intelligence is vital in any effective law enforcement response to cybercrime. Our Cyber Activity Reports are important resources, providing insight on cyber threats targeting specific countries or regions;

**Developing regional capacity and capabilities to combat cybercrime –** collaborative platforms such as the Cybercrime Collaborative Platform and Cyber Fusion Platform allow for secure communications and exchange of data on operations;

**Joint Operational Framework –** this addresses cybercrime threats through collaboration between law-enforcement agencies, private sector and other international/intergovernmental organizations;

**Operational support and coordination –** our operations help dismantle the criminal networks behind cybercrime;

**Awareness-raising campaigns –** promoting good cyber practices for individuals and businesses in Africa.

Our African Cybercrime Operations Desk is responsible for implementing AFJOC. It works in close partnership with key regional stakeholders, in particular the African Union and AFRIPOL, law enforcement communities and the private sector.

**Timeframe:** 2021 to 2023
**Budget:** GBP 2.9 million

**Donor:** United Kingdom - Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UK FCDO)

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