



**Secretariat General of The Cooperation  
Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**

**GCCPOL**



# CRIMINAL RISK AND THREAT ASSESSMENT

**Criminal Phenomena and Methods During the  
Corona-19 Pandemic and Future Prospects**

**June 2020**

# Content

INTRODUCTION:	3
MEETING WITH HEADS OF THE NCB IN THE STATE MEMBERS:	4
MEETING WITH GCC CYBERCRIME UNITES IN THE STATE MEMBERS:	4
MEETING WITH GCC COMBATING ORGANIZED AND FINANCIAL CRIMES IN THE STATE MEMBERS:	4
RESULTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE CRIMINAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT:	5
THE GENERAL CRIMES LANDSCAPE DURING THE PANDEMIC IN THE STATE MEMBERS:	6
CRIME METHODS:	7
CAMPAIGNS AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS:	8
FUTURE PROSPECTS:	9
CONCLUSION:	10

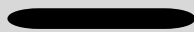
## Introduction:

Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid -19) the GCCPOL has carried out several initiatives and contributions serving the police and security work in order to overcome the security and police challenges, where GCCPOL made great efforts through meetings via virtual communication with strategic partners, to exchange information , experiences and security and police challenges during the period of the pandemic and review the precautionary measures taken.

The police and security work in this exceptional circumstance requires more cooperation and coordination between the relevant authorities and reflect the positive impact confront crimes and criminals, so the work of this report focused on the assessment of security risks in order to enhance cooperation between the police and security agencies and exchange information, methods and criminal phenomena during the period of the pandemic.

This report provides a detailed monitoring of the criminal methods and phenomena associated with the Coronavirus pandemic in the GCC regions since the pandemic started and its rapid development in most countries of the world, and also includes awareness programs aimed to educate the public about the dangers of falling as victims of these crimes, as these criminal phenomena and awareness programs for security police agencies and agencies in the GCC countries help to build strategic foundations and objectives to deal with these criminal methods and phenomena.

The report also focuses on the future expectations of crimes based on current data on criminal phenomena and global reports.



## Meeting with heads of the NCB in the state members:

GCCPOL held several meetings through visual communication with specialists from member states, where the meeting was initially held with the directors of Interpol (Heads of NCB) and reviewed the most important security and police challenges during the pandemic and started sharing the most important methods and criminal phenomena that have been monitored in the GCC countries in addition to the awareness programs that have been prepared for the public to raise awareness and guidance.

**As a result of this meeting, member countries have provided the GCCPOL with criminal phenomena and methods and some awareness programs in the light of the Corona pandemic through official channels.**

## Meeting with GCC cybercrime unites in the state members:

The GCCPOL organized a meeting via visual communication with specialized units in cybercrime in the GCC countries, where during the meeting discussed the most important methods and criminal phenomena, awareness programs and future prospects after Corona, which requires continuous coordination between the GCCPOL and specialized units to monitor what is new and disseminate it to the member states.

**As a result of the meeting, all criminal phenomena and methods and awareness programs for the GCC countries were recorded.**

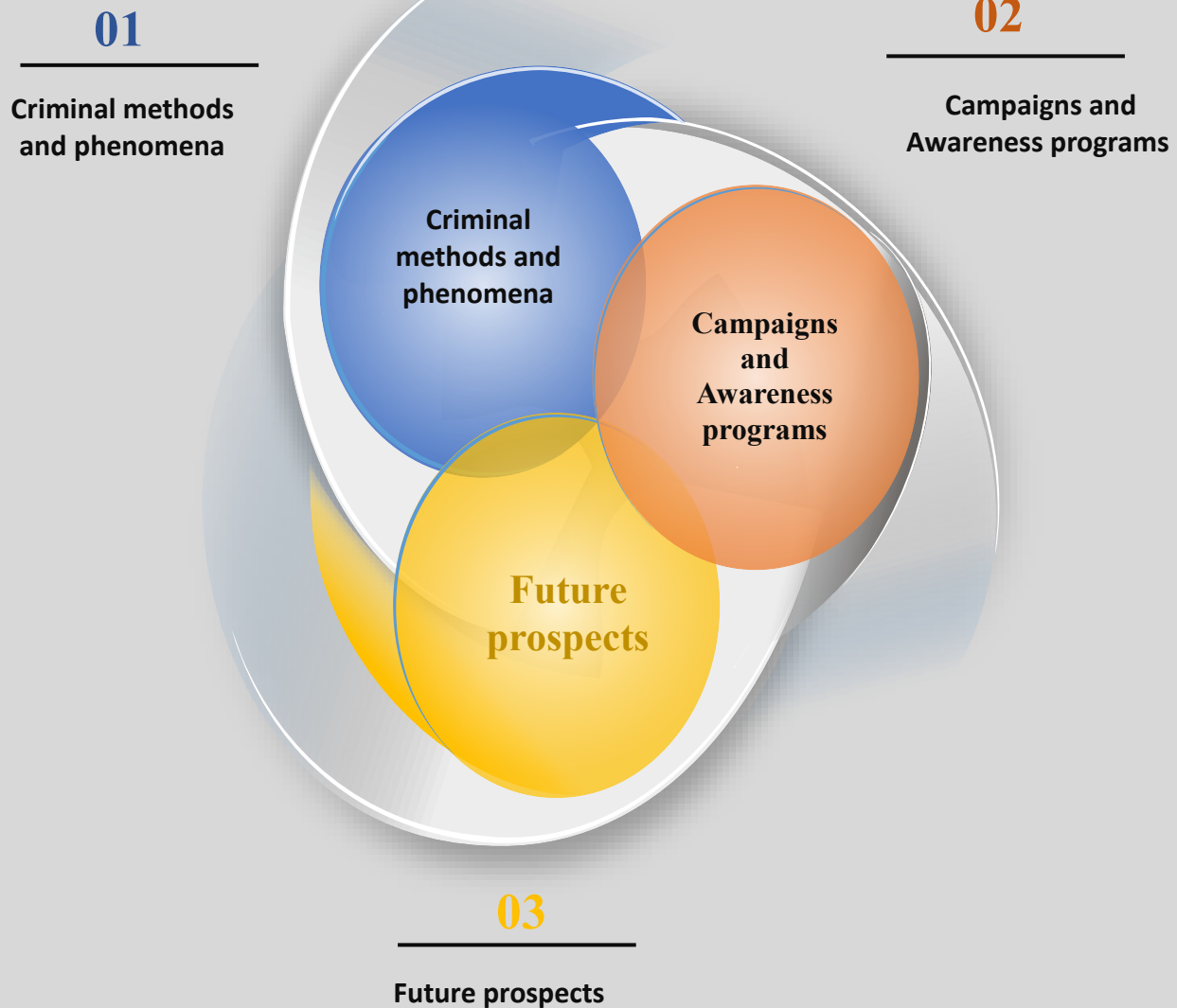
## Meeting with GCC combating organized and financial crimes in the state members:

The GCCPOL organized a meeting through visual communication with specialized units in combating organized and financial crimes in the GCC countries, where during the meeting discussed the most important methods and criminal phenomena and awareness programs and future prospects after Corona, which requires continuous coordination between the GCCPOL and specialized units to monitor what is the latest criminal method to disseminate it to the member states.

**As a result of the meeting, all criminal phenomena (methods) and awareness programs for the GCC countries were recorded.**

## Results and outcomes of the criminal risk assessment report:

Based on the accumulated information related to Covid-19, the results were presented in three main axes (**criminal methods, campaigns and awareness programs, future prospects**) as described below:



## The general crimes landscape during the pandemic in the state members:

### Traditional crimes

- Theft cases
- Murder cases
- Smuggling cases
- Arms issues

Decrease

Although the proportions of conventional crime decreased significantly during the crisis, there is an increase in some forms of cybercrime and the emergence of new criminal methods.

There is a dramatic decrease and noticeable in the proportions of traditional crimes in general during the crisis due to the lockdown and movement restrictions

Increase

### Crimes initiated during the pandemic

- Online fraud
- Abuse and incitement over the Internet
- Promoting substandard medical products
- Counterfeit medical products dissemination (face masks, hand sanitizer)

## Crime methods:

- ❖ Spread of pandemic-related rumors through social media sites and users accounts.
- ❖ The proliferation of fraudulent e-mail addresses and promotional ones for the sale of medical supplies
- ❖ Phishing (e-mails and texts that reach the public with links and files containing malicious software).
- ❖ The widespread phenomenon of sending a text message to bank customers and companies stating that their bank cards have stopped, asking them to update their data via a specific link or number.
- ❖ Promoting online forex trading as well as deceiving some in a way of earning more money



- Individuals spread rumors and disinformation related to the coronavirus and are not issued by official authorities
- Rumors spread regarding medical and other treatments related to the coronavirus.
- Some individuals target the applications of distance learning for the Ministry of Education in addition to targeting the application of contacts to the Ministry of Health.
- Financial remittances fraud targets workers who are wishing to transfer their funds abroad in the area of exploitation to close exchange shops and remittances.
- Some of the owners of pharmacies or employees of pharmacies deal with unreliable dealers and import fake hand sanitizers containing deodorant or body sprays.
- A number of vulnerable traders have been detained hiding medical supplies and selling them at high prices.
- A group of merchants' store food at the beginning of the crisis in order to raise prices.

## Campaigns and awareness programs:

In an effort to reduce the risks and impacts on individuals and institutions, the GCCPOL have initiated awareness and educational programs for citizens and residents of their territories.

The figure below shows several awareness programs carried out by countries in order to educate citizens, residents, individuals and institutions, through their official websites and users accounts:



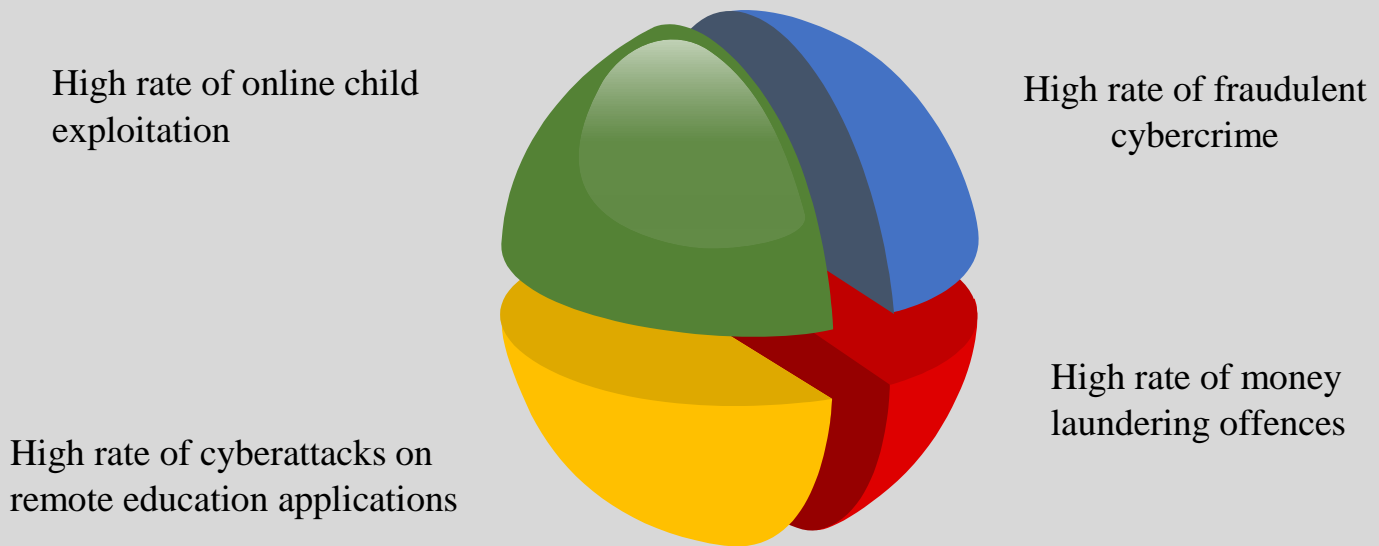


## Future prospects:

According to what has been discussed with the specialized departments in the GCC about the spread of online health supplies fraud and exploit the crisis by spreading rumors, which instills fear and panic in the hearts of citizens and residents.

There are several incentives for crimes and criminals, such as the presence of most people inside their homes and residences, which makes it easier for criminals to deploy new criminal methods such as the exploitation of children online, dissemination of malicious programs, fraudulent links etc.

The figure below summarizes some of the future expectations of crimes:



## Conclusion:

In view of the security and criminal repercussions in the world under the Corona pandemic, The GCCPOL has conducted several extraordinary meetings through visual communication in the GCC countries, in order to gather information on security and criminal phenomena around in the region.

These meetings contributed through visual communication in many discussions that were discussed among the specialists in crimes of various kinds and resulted in the collection of many criminal phenomena during the period of the Corona pandemic.

The GCCPOL has come up with a comprehensive report that contains the criminal methods and phenomena initiated during the pandemic, and its rapid development, and also includes awareness programs aimed to educate the public about the dangers of falling as victims of these crimes, as these criminal phenomena and awareness programs for security police agencies help to build strategic foundations and objectives to deal with these criminal methods and phenomena.

The police and security work in this exceptional circumstance requires more cooperation and coordination between the relevant authorities and reflect the positive impact to confront crimes and criminals, the GCCPOL focused on the assessment of security risks in order to enhance cooperation between the police and security agencies to exchange information, methods and criminal phenomena during the pandemic.

