More than two years have passed since Daesh’s final defeat at Baghuz. The complete roll-back of Daesh territory in Iraq and Syria was a landmark moment, which permanently degraded its brand and reputation. The Coalition supported local forces to liberate nearly 8 million people and 110,000 sq km across Iraq and Syria from Daesh.

However, as Global Coalition foreign ministers stressed in March, a “comprehensive and collective effort remains necessary to achieve a full and enduring defeat of Daesh/ISIS worldwide”.

The Global Coalition now stands at 83 members (78 nations and five international organisations). Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) is the military component of the Coalition operating in Iraq at the request of the Government of Iraq, and in Syria in support of the lasting political settlement based on UNSCR 2254.

There remain a significant number of active Daesh operatives in Iraq and Syria, estimated to be in the region of 10,000 fighters. They are capable of harassing liberated communities – and so maintaining pressure on them remains an urgent task for the Global Coalition and its local partners.

STABILISATION

Restoring communities destroyed by Daesh is vital to preventing its ability to reconstitute. The Coalition’s 2021 stabilisation pledge drive for Iraq and Syria seeks to ensure the funds to meet stabilisation, reconciliation, security, and justice needs in both countries, and to sustain detention operations in northeast Syria.

Stabilisation of liberated areas is crucial to ensuring the long-term defeat of Daesh. It is vital to setting the groundwork for communities – including those targeted by Daesh – to recover. Ultimately, successful stabilisation will deny terrorists the ability to reclaim lost ground.

Since 2014, Global Coalition partners have provided over $20 billion in stabilisation assistance, demining capabilities, economic support and humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Syria.

In Iraq, more than 4.3 million displaced people have been able to return to their homes, thanks to Coalition support rebuilding housing, clearing mines and restoring basic services. Stabilisation projects completed across Iraq include: 904 education projects, 37 road and bridge projects, 321 health projects, 58 housing projects.
Furthermore, 27 partners have committed over $1 billion to the UNDP’s Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS). From this fund, the UNDP is planning, has begun, or has already completed over 3,100 stabilization projects in 31 liberated areas.

- 2.7 million women and girls have benefited from stabilisation efforts which are empowering and providing education and employment opportunities for women across the country.

- Global Coalition partners also have provided significant humanitarian and stabilisation support to liberated areas of Syria, to help communities recover from the brutality of life under Daesh.

- The Global Coalition’s focus has been on projects resulting in the resumption of essential services and refurbishment of critical infrastructure. This includes the clearance of explosive hazards deliberately placed by Daesh from sites such as schools, hospitals, electrical grid facilities, and water pumping stations to facilitate restoration of critical services.

- The security situation in Syria endangers humanitarian efforts in the area, and we are concerned about conditions for the thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps across northern Syria. Humanitarian aid continues to be delivered in the IDP camps with the largest populations, including al-Hol.

**MILITARY EFFORTS**

- Coalition partners have trained and equipped more than 225,000 security and police personnel to ensure local governance and bring stability to liberated areas. Our partners in Iraq and Syria have greater numbers and are better trained and equipped than Daesh. In order to maintain this, the Coalition has divested more than $4.13 billion of equipment and conditions-based stipends.

- As a result of the success of its mission, and the increased confidence and capability of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), the Coalition’s military footprint is evolving. Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR)’s role has matured to a more specialist support role, providing advice and assistance to the ISF, alongside an enhanced NATO Mission in Iraq (NMI) that will focus on security sector reform.

- The Coalition operates in Iraq at the request of the Government of Iraq, in full respect of Iraq’s sovereignty. The Coalition’s commitment to supporting the ISF and the people of Iraq remains resolute. The exact form of its military commitment will adapt to changing conditions and be led by Iraqi need. The Coalition also continues to support the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in its mission to prevent Daesh resurgence in Syria.

- Internally, Daesh has struggled with divisions and betrayals. 53 newly declassified interrogation reports from custody interviews with its leader al-Mawla were released.
in April, showing that he volunteered a large amount of information on terrorist operatives.

FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS (FTFs)

- At its peak, Daesh attracted more than 40,000 FTFs. The Foreign Terrorist Fighter Working Group exists to prevent Daesh’s ability to recruit or move foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and focuses on detecting and apprehending FTFs, building capacity and information sharing within the Global Coalition, and developing mechanisms to detain, prosecute and where appropriate re-integrate FTFs.

- Coalition partners are committed to addressing the security and legal issues posed by detained Daesh FTFs and ensuring that they never again return to the battlefield or conduct attacks, recruit, train, or otherwise perpetuate Daesh’s ideology.

- Ensuring that Daesh’s victims see those who have perpetrated its crimes brought to justice is key. All those involved in perpetrating crimes in Daesh’s name should know that they can, and will, be held accountable for their actions.

DEFEATING DAESH GLOBALLY

- Beyond Daesh’s ‘core’, the Coalition remains concerned at violence perpetrated by affiliated groups across the continent of Africa, including in the Lake Chad Basin and Mozambique.

- In March 2021, Coalition ministers affirmed their commitment to develop tangible initiatives toward countering the serious and growing threats that Daesh affiliates pose across the African continent, in coordination with national, regional, and other international efforts. These could include battlefield evidence collection and use, and comprehensive border security.

- The Global Coalition continues to build networks to defeat Daesh’s networks. Its partners are putting greater pressure on Daesh branches by increasing information sharing, enhancing border security, strengthening legal regimes, adopting strategies to counter violent extremism, and stopping known Daesh facilitators to break up plots and protect our homelands.

- Combined intelligence and military operations also have led to a dramatic decrease in Daesh’s ability to generate revenue and fund its operations.

- The Global Coalition is working with governments and non-governmental partners around the world to counter Daesh’s efforts to radicalise, recruit, and inspire people to violence. While the challenges remain substantial, cooperation among countries facing this threat has been significant.
FINANCE

- Active disruption of Daesh’s finance is ongoing globally, including measures coordinated by the Global Coalition’s Counter-Daesh Finance Group, co-led by Italy, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

- Thanks to Global Coalition counter-finance measures, Daesh is currently losing funds at a significant rate and is reliant upon revenue from criminal activity. Nevertheless, despite major losses Daesh continues to have access to residual funds.

- As Daesh adapts in response to its territorial losses in Iraq and Syria, the Global Coalition is also adapting, leveraging collaboration with like-minded multilateral organisations and encouraging Coalition members to take more concrete actions against Daesh financing.

➔ A success example: In December 2020 Italy’s Guardia di Finanza undertook a successful operation to prevent the exploitation of welfare for terrorist financing purposes. The Italian authorities identified two individuals who had transferred 12,000 Euros of fraudulently obtained income to a foreign terrorist fighter overseas, subsequently charging them with a series of offences. The pair were caught through cooperation between Europol and the Economic-Financial Police Unit of Bologna (who led the investigation) by tracing bank account transfers using the Terrorism Finance Tracking Program (TFTP).

COUNTERING DAESH PROPAGANDA

- Whilst Daesh’s ability to produce the scale of propaganda it once did is much diminished, it remains reliant on propaganda to connect with its support base and continues to push violent content.

- The Global Coalition Communications Working Group (CWG) coordinates counter-Daesh communications amongst Coalition members, builds partnerships in support of the international community’s efforts to degrade Daesh propaganda, and supports resilience in vulnerable audiences.

- The Global Coalition also regularly convenes meetings between member representatives and academics, civil society, media, and tech companies to share information and strategies to counter terrorist messages online and offline, and present positive alternative narratives.

- It is incumbent upon the tech industry to collaborate with governments and civil society to prevent terrorist exploitation of their platforms. The Global Coalition welcomes the efforts being made by Facebook, Google, Twitter Telegram and others in the private sector to counter terrorist content online that violates their respective terms of service and to exercise vigilance in removing violent extremist content from their platforms.