



Milestones

December 2011

Regional Office for Central Asia



TOWARDS INTEGRATION AND BALANCE

2011 has ended, and so it is the right time to sum up UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) interventions in the region. With a traditional emphasis on building capacity in counter-narcotics through technical assistance, UNODC activities in the region link national projects on border control with the regional projects developing intelligence analysis systems and joint operations. These include: the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) in Almaty; precursor chemical control; controlled deliveries; national drug control agencies. This work is carried out in close cooperation with the national and international partners and donors. One of the UNODC's main focuses has been on the training of all levels of border security, intelligence analy-

sis, drug treatment, drug use prevention and many others, in order to ensure that best international practices are used to address some of Central Asia's most pertinent regional issues.

Cooperation between CARICC member states resulted in the dismantlement of 23 transnational drug smuggling channels, and seizure of more than 600 kg of drugs and the arrest of 46 members of different criminal organizations.

ROCA has worked to provide equipment and material support to law enforcement operations throughout Central Asia. One of the developments in this area has been the creation of Computer Based Training, which condenses a classroom of 11 workstations into two portable suitcases. Meanwhile, extensive work has been undertaken at the pressured

Yakchi-Pun outpost on the Tajik-Afghan border, which has included the provision of new low-maintenance structures and the installation of an independent hydro-power turbine. These sustainable improvements have ensured that the outpost can operate effectively despite its isolated location. Another significant goal of UNODC's regional operations in 2011 has been the reform of prison systems in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. This work has included a training-of-trainers program, designed to strengthen the capacities of prison management, and programmes to encourage of the rehabilitation and vocational training of inmates. Meanwhile, technical and legal expertise has been provided in order to encourage the reform of legislative frameworks related to the

2011 Retrospect



implementation of prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment. While the UNODC has conducted training and equipment provisions at grassroots levels, it has also worked to encourage the establishment of favourable legislation, amendments and programmes on national levels. The most prominent of these efforts has been a meeting between the UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov with the Kyrgyz authorities in order to discuss UNODC's growing partnership with the nation, while establishing a new project to support Kyrgyzstan's State Service on Drug Control in the framework of Integrated Country Programme developed for Kyrgyzstan.

Developments in regards to legislation and national policy have occurred throughout Central Asia. A round-table meeting has taken place in Azerbaijan, organised by UNODC and the nation's parliament, in order to discuss the topic 'New policy, revised legislation, updated strategy towards effective prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug users'. Meanwhile, UNODC has

worked towards improving access to HIV-related health services for drug users and prison inmates, through the consultative meeting 'Accessibility of HIV prevention and treatment for vulnerable population in Central Asia and Azerbaijan: Results of the legislative and policy analysis'.

The solution to the Afghan drug problem lies in an integrated regional response and requires more dedicated contributions of the international community based on principles of shared responsibility. This can only be done in a meaningful way through tailored mechanisms for improved cooperation and coordination at different levels, including between agencies within each country, among countries, and between donors and partner organizations. All stakeholders in and involved with the region recognize the paramount need for a regional approach and integrated coordination.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been called upon to provide such coordination support due to its unique role with strong presence and a long history of partnership with governments in the re-

gion, performing the function of a neutral and honest broker. The Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran) is a strategic framework for UNODC's engagement in the region and it is designed to provide a platform for better coordination and facilitation of counter-narcotics efforts across the region, bringing coherence to activities conducted by UNODC. The aim of the Regional Programme is to enhance counter-narcotics capacities across the region through better coordination and facilitation of regional cooperation as well as better allocation of the required resources and provision of technical assistances for regional cooperation by the international community to the countries of the region. Judging by the above efforts, it is evident that UNODC has undertaken significant work in Central Asia and Azerbaijan throughout 2011. These operations have laid a good foundation sustainable improvement, and on-going UNODC work in the wider region.

CARICC: YEAR OF PERSPECTIVE

Information exchange and coordination between the competent bodies of the CARICC member states and other countries has resulted in the dismantlement of 23 transnational drug smuggling channels, and seizure of more than 600 kg of drugs and the arrest of 46 members of different criminal organizations.

CARICC 7 member states (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have signed the Agreement at presidential level and ratified it in their respective parliaments, thus providing a solid legal basis for the cooperation on the CARICC platform.

Host country agreement, specifying immunities and privileges for CARICC building, its staff, Liaison Officers from the member states and observer countries in the host country was ratified by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in early October 2011.

February. A working meeting of the

case officers of Operational Divisions of the competent authorities of Azerbaijan, Italy, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, USA, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan, as well as Interpol, aimed at coordination efforts to disrupt activities of transnational drug-trafficking groups (mainly West-African drug trafficking groups) involved in trafficking of Afghan opiates to Europe and China was initiated by the State Committee for National Security of Kyrgyz Republic and held at CARICC.

March. CARICC Council (Management Board) Meeting took

place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During the meeting it was agreed to submit the Agreement on "Exchange and Protection of Secret Information" to the member states for signing. A decision was taken to launch a multi-lateral international operation on West-African drug trafficking groups. The Kyrgyz SSDC conducted a successful operation on arrest of the well known "drug lord" with about 4.5 kg of heroin. Currently CARICC is working with a number of countries on links of the criminal and getting additional information that might help to the investigation in Kyrgyzstan.

July. CARICC jointly with the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan conducted a meeting in Baku on disrupting activities of transnational drug trafficking groups. The meeting was attended by the participants from



Outcome



CARICC member states and its partners from Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, USA and SECI Center. It was agreed to continue collection and exchange of information on the drug dealers originating from African countries within the framework of the operation “Black Tulip”, and also on big supplies of hashish from Afghanistan and Iran, methamphetamine from Iran and precursors to Afghanistan, using all capacities of the involved countries and organizations. *October.* JPC liaison officers (Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan) visited CARICC to get familiar with the activities of the Centre, establish and practice usage of secure communication channels with CARICC in order to exchange information and intelligence between the Centers.

November. Head of Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan Mr. Nazarov visited CARICC to discuss cooperation issues between the agencies and to sign an Agreement on Exchange and Protection of secret information on behalf of Tajikistan.

China, Romania and European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) requested observer status at CARICC. Liaison Officer from Afghanistan was identified to be seconded to CARICC.

KYRGYZ SERVICE OF DRUG CONTROL SHOWS RESULTS IN DRUG SEIZURE

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These latest results follow to signed in April 2011 UNODC project “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic” between UNODC and the Kyrgyz Government which supports the re-established State Service on Drug Control in a bid to assist in building the capacity and effectiveness of countering illicit drug trafficking. Project is providing comprehensive support to the new State Service in order to increase its capacities for interceptions of trafficking of Afghan opiates flows in the country.

In September 2011, UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan facilitated two week training on intelligence analysis for the SSDC intelli-

gence unit under the project “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic”, which is a part of the UNODC Integrated Country Programme for Kyrgyzstan. It is a very practical training based on ANACAPA techniques. This was one of the priority activities identified by the Chairman of the SSDC and the UNODC Executive Director during their meeting in April 2011 in Bishkek.

- I would like to thank all international partners and UNODC in particularly, - said the Chairman of the SSDC Vitaly Ororzaliev, - for their support and technical assistance aimed to increase capacities of State Service of Drug Control. I believe that this support allowed us to seizure 102 kg of heroin, 126 kg of Afghan originated hashish and more than 27 tons of precursors as a result of 16 controlled delivery operations conducted by the SSDC during 11 months in 2011.



Cooperation



OPERATION TARCET: PREVENT THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF HEROIN

This latest TARCET operation resulted in the seizure of 28 metric tonnes of precursor chemicals, which includes 15 tonnes of acetic anhydride. This quantity of acetic anhydride would allow to manufacture heroin, worth more than 3.5 million US\$ in the illicit markets of the Russian Federation and European states. Precursor chemicals are substances that are used to manufacture heroin from raw opium. While there are many such chemicals, the chemical acetic anhydride is crucial in the heroin manufacturing process.



The work undertaken to prevent the smuggling of precursor chemicals into Afghanistan, as well as plans to advance this effort in the future, were discussed during the Operation TARCET III debriefing meeting in Beijing, China, in November. This important event was convened by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Regional Office for Central Asia (UNODC ROCA), the UNODC Country Office for Afghanistan, the European Commission and the Office of the National Narcotics Control Commission of China (ONNCC). All 14 countries and 2 international organisations in attendance reviewed the results of Operation TARCET III (as conducted in 2010), while recommending further precursor control and interdiction activities to be

conducted in order to prevent the illicit manufacturing of heroin in Afghanistan.

Operation TARCET III was conducted in Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It was undertaken with the technical support of Paris Pact Partners, including France, Italy and the United Kingdom, along with donor support from Canada, the European Commission, France and the United States. This operation has involved three principle approaches, including the conducting of training courses, the development and production of relevant training materials, and the procurement of necessary equipment.

A number of training sessions have occurred within the operation's framework on national and regional levels, with the participation of global experts

from organisations including but limited to the Metropolitan Police, the Forensic Department of the Italian Police, the French Customs Service and the German Federal Police.

More than 100 Central Asian law enforcement officers have been trained within this program, in regards to the identification of suspicious consignments based on risk indicators, the identification of precursors, the planning of operations, command protocols, and the importance of human rights in regards to policing. Other matters addressed included controlled deliveries, the main provisions of the TIR Convention and the use of specialist equipment.

Operation TARCET III also involved the procurement of equipment for the mobile precursor team recently established within the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic. The entire TARCET initiative, including the operations TARCET I and TARCET II conducted in 2008 and 2010 respectively, has led to important developments in the region.

While no acetic anhydride seizures were reported in the countries surrounding Afghanistan from 2001 to 2008, seizures of the chemical have occurred regularly since. Individual examples include the seizure of 14 tonnes in March 2008, 5 tonnes in July 2009, and the 15,800 tonnes seized in Pakistan in March 2010. There have also been multiple seizures in Iran, including 5 tonnes in July 2008 and a total of 1 tonne throughout 2010. 400kg have been seized in Tajikistan. With this remarkable success, it is not surprising the TARCET operations represent the frontline against precursor chemical trafficking in Central Asia.



Partnership

SUPPORTING THE TERMEZ RIVER PORT CHECKPOINT



The project 'Strengthening the Termez River Port Checkpoint on the Uzbek-Afghan Border' has come to a close after four years of dedicated work, having successfully strengthened one of the most strategically-important border checkpoints in the fight against illegal drug trafficking in Central Asia. With Afghanistan producing a vast majority of the world's heroin supply, ensuring that this checkpoint is capable of preventing trafficking not only in the drug but also in precursor chemicals, the substances used to manufacture heroin, remains a UNODC priority. The project has improved the capacities of border guards, customs officials and law enforcement bodies posted at the checkpoint, a

goal which has been achieved through the provision of training and specialised equipment.

In order to finalise this project, representatives of the UNODC Regional Office of Central Asia travelled to the Termez Border Crossing Point in December, in order to deliver a range of specialised equipment to the Uzbek

State Customs and Border Protection Committee. These individuals included the UNODC Officer in Charge and Regional Representative Mr. Asif Majeed, the US Ambassador to Uzbekistan Mr. George Krol, and the head of the Sukhandarya region's Uzbek State Customs Committee Mr. Tolib Saidov.

The ceremony saw the transfer of a quantity of specialised and non-specialised equipment to the Uzbek State Customs and Border Protection Committee representatives which operate the Termez River Port Checkpoint. The specialised equipment included diesel-powered generators, trailer-mounted x-ray scanners, both stationary and mounted USB radio and local telephone stations and others. Likewise, the non-specialised equipment included computers, endoscopes, individual and crew toolkits, inspection probes, and both platform and electronic scales. This delivery represented a significant investment in the checkpoint, with a cost more than \$400,000.



New Initiative



PROTECT AND ASSIST VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLED MIGRANTS

With operational support of the Legal Advisory Programme, UNODC ROCA project portfolio has been enlarged with two new projects in 2011. Both projects has a regional remit and both apply a human rights-based approach while addressing such threats as human trafficking, migrant smuggling and terrorism respectively.



The one “Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and civil society actors”, supports the states of the region in tackling the problem of human trafficking and migrant smuggling with particular focus on the rights of victims. Human trafficking and migrant smuggling are serious and growing problems in Central Asia. IOM estimates that the total number of victims of human trafficking in Central Asia (including people in risk of being trafficked) reaches 806,702.

The two-year project has been launched in November 2011. It aims at strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian countries to identify, protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and other civil society actors. The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the relevant state agencies and in partnership with the UNFPA.

The other project “Strengthening criminal justice capacities of Cen-

tral Asian Countries to counter terrorism in compliance with principles of rule of law will seek to promote a regional approach to counter terrorism in Central Asia and, at the same time, strengthen capacities of the Central Asian states to address the terrorism-related issues at the national levels while respecting rule of law. The cases of dismantling regional terror groups are increasingly being reported in Central Asian countries. At the same time, the project is expected to contribute to enhancing national counter-terrorism laws/ regulations and procedural laws pertaining to defendants’ rights, as well as strengthen capacities of prosecutors and judges of Central Asian states to prosecute and adjudicate terrorism-related cases while re-

specting rule of law. The project will be launched in early 2012.

Apart from this, Legal Advisory Programme also developed project sub-component proposal on strengthening capacities of Uzbek judges and defense lawyers to uphold international human rights and criminal justice standards. The proposal has been awarded the funding from the UK. The sub-component is an operational response to the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation signed between UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2009. Among the activities planned to be conducted within seven months of the project sub-component are training courses for judges and lawyers on habeas corpus and torture and ill-treatment at pretrial stage, development of handbook on pretrial detention standards and implementing practices as well as awareness raising materials about the rights of detained suspects or accused and victims of torture.



EFFECTIVE PRISON LEADERSHIP IN BRINGING ABOUT NECESSARY CHANGE



Photo by Alessandro Scotti

Prisons play an essential role in society. They are crucial to human and public security. Developing countries often lack the necessary resources to bring their prison system and their prisons up to internationally accepted standards. They lack the funds, trained personnel, technology, infrastructure, or expertise to proceed with all of the necessary reforms at the same time. This is not to say however that dedicated leaders cannot accomplish significant progress, particularly when they can count on a group of well trained and committed prison officials.

On 24-28 October 2011 EU-UNODC Prison Reform Project conducted Workshop on Prison Leadership (Module 2) for senior prison staff of the Kyrgyz Republic. Training course covered the aspects of effective, fair and just prison management. Prison officials were challenged to identify the reforms that they must contemplate in Kyrgyzstan in order to bring their prison institutions into compliance with international standards.

In order to achieve sustainability in the longer term and to meet future

training needs, it is critical that Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic creates a cadre of staff who have the ability and competence to deliver training. When establishing a training programme, probably more difficult than determining what to teach is the issue of training instructors how to teach. Many experienced staff can do the various prison tasks in perfect harmony with the goal to be accomplished. Because of this, they are often selected to teach prison skills to new staff and even to experienced peers who wish to upgrade their skills. However, experience, proficiency and even personal performance skills have little to do with ability to teach others. Teaching is an art, a craft and a science. It requires specific skills and trainers need to be trained themselves.

EU-UNODC Prison Reform Project conducted ten day training programme for training instructors of the Prison Service Training Centre of the Kyrgyz Republic. Participants of this course were carefully selected – well educated, enthusiastic and able to present materials. This group of local trainers is the key to the sustain-

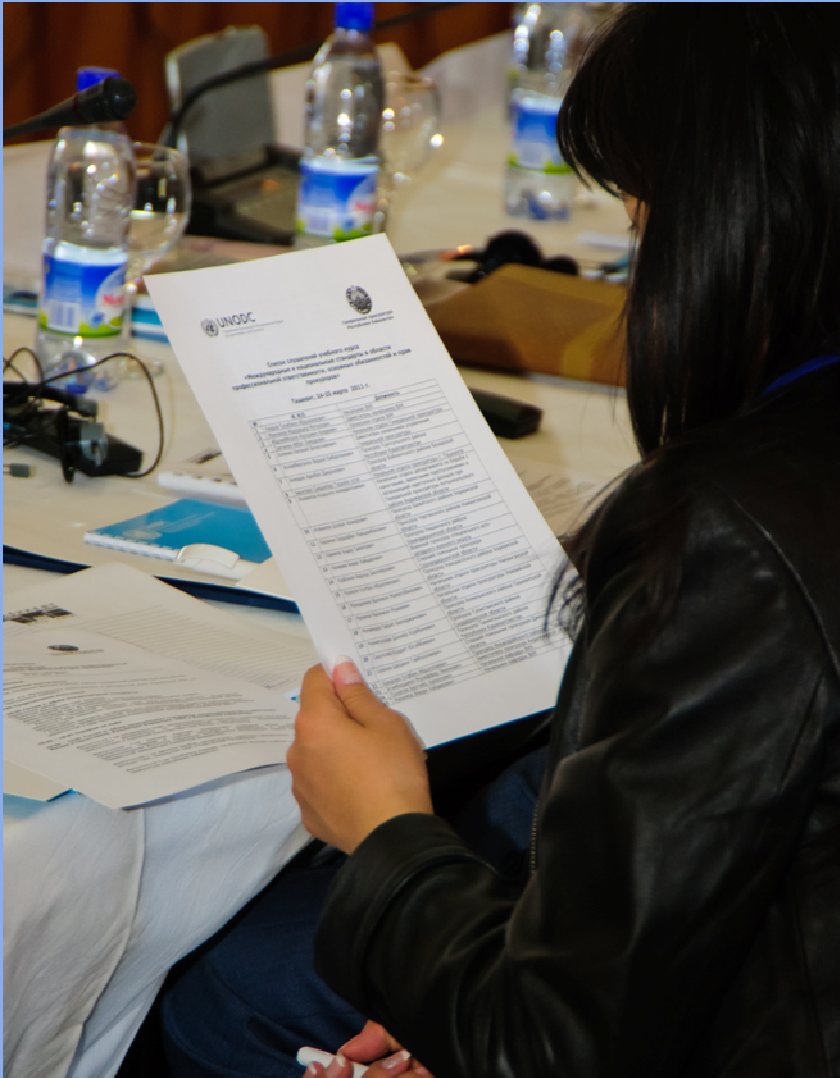
ability of the training programme. Larisa Sdelnikova, Director of Prison Service Training Centre noted: "Participants of the course learn advanced training techniques and I strongly believe that it will considerably improve quality of training courses that we provide for different categories of prison staff. Moreover, Training Manual that is being developed in the framework of the project will provide much needed training reference materials on prison management issues". In October 2011 the State Service of Execution of Punishment of the Kyrgyz Republic endorsed comprehensive Prison Service Training Curriculum for 2011-2015. Training Curriculum was developed in cooperation with national and international experts in the field of prison staff training. Training Curriculum covers training for new recruits, for in-service training and special topics of effective prison management. Development and implementation of the Training Curriculum is a big part of EU-UNODC prison reform project aimed at capacity building of prison personnel and prison senior management.

Additionally, The Internal Prison Rules of the Kyrgyz Republic were approved by the Government Decree on 23 September 2011. EU-UNODC Prison Reform Project facilitated the revision of the Internal Rules by the Working Group which consisted of representatives of the prison service, non-governmental organizations and independent consultants. Revised Internal Prison Rules were brought in line with the Minimum Standards Rules for Treatment of Prisoners and Criminal Executive Code of the Kyrgyz Republic. EU-UNODC Prison Reform Project pays particular attention to improvement of legislative framework related to prison reform in the Kyrgyz Republic because it will be key to the sustainability of the project's results.

In the Field. Azerbaijan



TAKING STANCE AGAINST HIV AND AIDS



A consultative meeting of national experts, regarding the improvement of professional standards and training programs, was held in Azerbaijan in November. This event, conducted by UNODC, has been devoted to the discussion of achievements and programme development undertaken in the area of improving professional standards and integrating socio-medical and legal aspects of the prevention and treatment of HIV infection among injected drug users into education programmes. In particular, it has been suggested that this education should be under-

taken in as part of both higher and secondary education in Azerbaijan. The meeting's purpose was to revise activities undertaken in this field, to identify key directions for intervention through education, and to prepare a regional seminar which will create a training manual for higher education teachers. The meeting was attended by a variety of key partners from various governmental, NGO and educational organisations in Azerbaijan, including relevant ministries, the Institute of Public Health, the Medical University and the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society.

This event effectively addressed a number of matters surrounding HIV, in particular the need to build capacities of care providers through education and the revision of professional standards.

A particular focus of the event was the need to address the prevalence of HIV in prisons. Kamil Salimov, a professor of the law faculty at the Baku State University, noted that of the 14 to 15 thousand people sentenced each year to imprisonment, 70% have been linked to illegal drugs. He also highlighted the importance of protecting the drug-user risk group in prison. Leyla Imanova, the Director of Health Programs at the Open Society Institution, presented information regarding the development of educational programs regarding harm reduction for penitentiary system specialists. Matanat Askervoa, a chief instructor at the Academy of Justice, has indicated that while standards have been developed for law enforcement specialists, an equivalent has not been provided to penitentiary system staff and this situation must be remedied. A series of recommendations were established during the sessions. These included the need to develop modules for penitentiary staff to be introduced at the Academy of Justice, specifically those addressing psychiatry, dermatology, TB and pulmonary diseases. It was also determined that a training-of-trainers should be organised for staff at the Medical University concerning these four health concerns, while training manuals should be developed and introduced at the Azerbaijan State University, specifically in the chair of sociology and the law faculty. The successful fulfilment of these recommendations will lead to significant developments in the prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug users, vulnerable populations and prison inmates in Azerbaijan.



EVALUATING THE FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Family Skills Training Programme (FAST), a UNODC initiative designed to encourage the use of improved parenting techniques in Central Asia, was evaluated in 2011 with resoundingly positive results. It was decided that the programme had led to improvements in multiple facets of child and parent well-being.

A thorough evaluation approach was used in regards to this process, which included monitoring by two third-party individuals including a parent and teacher. The evaluation process also involved site visits by certified FAST trainers during three out of the programme's eight sessions, with the intention of monitoring the effectiveness of the multi-family group approach. These multi-family groups are conducted after school, hosted by a trained and supervised team who represent the cultures of the schools being supported. It is important to note that while 40% of the course followed a set programme, the remaining 60% could be adapted to individual local situations.

The results of this year's evaluation have shown that the weekly FAST programme, as implemented in nine schools including two in Kazakhstan, two in Kyrgyzstan, three in Tajikistan and two in Turkmenistan, had been effectively adapted to each Central Asian Region. It was indicated that the results of the FAST programme in local communities was particularly impressive.

Overall, parents reported that they had developed

significantly improved bonds with their child, while having a greater ability to cope with the regular stresses and challenges involved in raising children. The parents also felt supported through the social networks established with other parents whose children attended the same schools. The data has indicated that friendships and reciprocal relationships have begun, which has helped to further strengthen social bonds. There have also been substantial improvements for children. The results of questionnaires filled out by parents and teachers have shown that children are performing better at school, an outcome which is consistent with the goals of weekly FAST and should be maintained in monthly booster sessions hosted by the service users. Social support is also important in ensuring that these positive benefits are sustainable.

A combination of the above benefits for parents and their children has led to a situation where children are more resilient and can withstand stress to a greater degree. The FAST

training has resulted in a number of statistically significant improvements in the 200 participating children in regards to social skills and academic achievement, while there have been recorded reductions in aggression, hyperactivity, depression, anxiety and peer problems at home and at school. These benefits were identified by FAST trainer interns, who were supervised to train the FAST teams during a second cycle of schools in the UNODC project.

The positive results of the FAST training program are particularly important, because the success of such a project direct supports a UNODC primary initiative. It is one of the organisation's most fundamental concepts that the best way to help children attain good physical, mental and emotional well-being, thereby helping them to avoid future risky activities which may lead to drug abuse or HIV/AIDS, is to ensure that parents receive the education and support that they require. FAST has successfully worked towards this inherent goal in 2011.



In the Field. Turkmenistan



REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS

2011 was a year of developments in Turkmenistan, in regards to UNODC initiatives. The year featured a number of national events, including a celebration and recognition of World AIDS day, a national briefing session on the Commission of Narcotic Drugs, and a presentation of UN operations at the nation's Foreign Relations Institute. Each of these prestigious and important occasions highlighted UNODC's work in the nation, in reducing the influence of narcotics and HIV/AIDS.



ADDRESSING A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC ON A LOCAL SCALE

In order to raise awareness of HIV / AIDS in Turkmenistan, UNODC conducted a World AIDS Day campaign in the nation on the 1st of December. Developed by national stakeholders throughout the five regions of Turkmenistan, this campaign worked to improve local knowledge of the often-misunderstood conditions, while ensuring that individuals living with HIV or AIDS are not socially excluded.

Due to the area's high prevalence of drug users, UNODC offered particular support to Turkmenistan's Ahal region. Based in the Ahal AIDS center, the regional campaign developed a series of activities targeting students, young adults, drug users and unformed staff. The campaign was

launched at the stadium in Abadan city, where almost every family is influenced



by drug abuse. This event was attended by 500 students, adolescents and representatives of vulnerable groups.

In addition to participating in music, dance, painting, chess and sports tournaments, the event's participants also learnt about HIV from groups of consultants and volunteers, stationed at the local drop-in centre and supported by UNODC and UNAIDS.

BRIEFING ON THE COMMISSION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

In addition to grassroots work like the World's AIDS Day campaign, UNODC has also made important steps with government partners. An example of this work was the UNODC briefing session regarding the Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND) from 2012 to 2015, of which Turkmenistan had just become a member.

Conducted on the 19th of October with the support on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the briefing session was also attended by representatives of the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, in addition to the State Drug Control Agency, the State Customs Service, the State Migration Service, the State Border Guards, the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor Office, the nation's parliament and UNODC.



Exhibition

PARALLEL



Photos by Alessandro Scotti

A photo exhibition entitled "Parallel" was organized in the framework of the European Union and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Project "Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic". Its main aim was to increase public awareness about the Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic. Three photographers: Alessandro Scotti (Italy); Alimjan Zhorobaev (Kyrgyzstan) and Maxim Shubovich (Kyrgyzstan) presented their photo collections on everyday life in prisons. The photographers took more than 600 images. A joint commission composed of representatives from the Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic and project staff selected 158 images which were presented at the exhibition.



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