



Milestones

July-December 2013

Regional Office for Central Asia



COUNTERING THE TRAFFICKING OF AFGHAN OPIATES

The Japanese Government allocated \$1,500,000 for the establishment of four Border Liaison Offices on the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan

The official signing ceremony of the Grant Agreement was held in Bishkek on 22 October 2013 between the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA), the Embassy of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The purpose is the extension of UNODC's regional project "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)". The Grant Agreement was signed by Mr. Takayuki OYAMA, Chief Representative of JICA in the Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Takayuki Koike, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Alexander Fedulov, Head of

UNODC Programme Office in the Kyrgyz Republic. Deputy Foreign Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and as well as Senior Officials of Kyrgyz law enforcement agencies took part in the signing ceremony.

The Grant Amount is JPY 141,000,000, and will be used to establish four additional BLOs at the Kyrgyz-Uzbek, Tajik-Afghan and Uzbek Afghan BCPs in the Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The ongoing UNODC regional project "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of

key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)" is designed to enhance border crossing facilities with established lines of communication and intelligence-sharing across borders, in order to detect and intercept contraband, including narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.



In the field. Kyrgyzstan



BEHIND PRISON WALLS - REVIEW SHEDS LIGHT ON SECURITY IN KYRGYZSTAN'S PRISONS



composed of UNODC experts and senior staff from Kyrgyzstan's Prison Service visited seven prisons, including pre-trial detention facilities and colonies for first time and repeat offenders, to identify common security challenges and to produce recommendations for improving prison security systems, procedures, and

11 escapes and 1 attempted escape from prison have been recorded in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2009. This includes little known escapes of prisoners digging tunnels or simply climbing over prison walls, as well as high profile cases, which have caused major outrage in Kyrgyz society.

Prison walls and fences are in a state of near collapse following years of decay since the break up of the Soviet Union. The mostly dormitory type penal colonies are ill-equipped to accommodate the wide variety of prisoners, including a large group of repeat offenders (60% of the total), an increasing number of people convicted for extremism or terrorism related offences, and more and more people serving life sentences. Organized crime groups have a strong presence in Kyrgyzstan's prisons and seek to control and manipulate prison staff. Together with the above mentioned escapes, as well as incidents of mass disturbances, such as the riots and protests, including hunger strikes, which spread across the prison system in January 2012, this points to significant challenges in managing prison security in the country.

In order to assess the current state of prison security arrangements, UNODC recently facilitated a nationwide prison security review. From 22 to 29 October 2013, a team

practices.

The security review focused on three key elements of prison security: physical, procedural, and dynamic. Physical security includes the architecture of prison buildings; the quality of the perimeter wall, fences and watchtowers; the strength of walls, window bars and doors of accommodation units; and the provision of physical aids to security, such as locks, cameras, alarm systems, X-ray machines, metal detectors and radios.

Procedural security focuses on the design and implementation of procedures to prevent escape and protect dignity of prisoners and their visitors, for example in relation to accounting for prisoners; movement control; searching; testing alarms and communications systems; key control; and monitoring of mail and phone calls. Dynamic security places an emphasis on the need for prison staff to establish positive relationships with prisoners. This concept rests on the notion that engaging with prisoners and getting to know them can enable staff to anticipate and better prepare themselves to respond effectively to any incident that may threaten the security of the prison and the safety of staff and prisoners.

Based on these three

components of prison security, the review identified gaps and challenges in each prison visited, as well as more general areas for improvement in the prison system as a whole. As a next step, the development of a national prison security framework is foreseen with clear security standards and baselines. Based on this security framework, a security audit checklist can then be developed, which would enable the Prison Service to ensure compliance with the national regulatory framework for prison security.

In order to facilitate skills development in the area of prison security, UNODC recently also published a new training manual on managing prison security. This manual is expected to be integrated in the training curricula of the Prison Service Training Centre and the Training Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which train prison staff and prepare new recruits for service in the penitentiary system.

The prison security review and related activities are conducted within the framework of UNODC's KGZ/T90 project "Support to Criminal Justice and Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic". This project is funded by the Government of the United States of America through the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.





In the field. Kyrgyzstan

CODE NAME “PEREBROS” - EVALUATING JOINT DRUG CONTROL OPERATIONS

Under the code name “Perebros” (which refers to the practice of throwing illicit drugs over prison walls), the State Drug Control Service (SSDC), the State Service for the Execution of Punishments (SSEP) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic have this year conducted a series of joint operations aimed at identifying and eliminating channels of drugs and other illicit materials flowing into the prison system.

The results of operation “Perebros” and other joint work were discussed at a coordination meeting organized by UNODC on 24 October 2013. The aim of this meeting was to evaluate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by the SSDC and SSEP on 25 December 2012.

The SSDC reported that 1768 law enforcement officers, 33 search dogs and 127 vehicles were employed during the joint operations held across

the country from 18 to 21 June and from 7 to 9 October 2013. This resulted in the detection of 35 drug related crimes and total drugs seizures of over 374kg, mostly marijuana and cannabis, and smaller quantities of heroin.

Specifically in relation to the penitentiary system, the SSEP reported an increase in seizures of various types of drugs in or destined for prisons from 115kg during the first 9 months of 2012 to 171kg during the first 9 months of 2013. Of 171kg, 165kg were intercepted as a result of inter-agency cooperation, an increase compared with 2012 when 60kg of drugs were intercepted based on shared intelligence.

Commenting on these statistics, the SSDC Chairperson, Mr. Alimbay Sultanov, noted that “there is a solid basis to further strengthen operational and investigative activities to combat the threat of drugs and pre-

vent drug abuse”. Both parties, therefore, agreed to develop a new inter-agency plan of action for 2014 and to invite other law enforcement agencies to join the MOU.

The MOU between the SSDC and the SSEP foresees joint research, analysis and exchange of information on illicit drug trafficking; joint seminars and other training activities to strengthen staff skills in relation to the fight against illicit drug trafficking; intelligence sharing, joint measures to prevent drug abuse and cooperation on drugs detection, including use of modern technical equipment. The MOU was made possible thanks to funding provided by the US Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs within the framework of the UNODC KGZ/T90 project ‘Support to Criminal Justice and Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic’.

INVESTIGATION OF DRUG RELATED CRIMES

The training course “Investigation of drug related crimes” was organized in Osh (Kyrgyzstan) in the framework of the UNODC project “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic”. It was aimed at strengthening the capacity of investigation units’ officers from the Kyrgyz State Service on Drug Control SSDC (SSDC), as well as enhancing interagency cooperation between other Kyrgyz law enforcement agencies with anti-drug mandates. The workshop was conducted by experts from the Federal Service on Drug Control of the Russian Federation (FSKN), Mr. Petr Ishchenko, Deputy Head of FSKN Investigation Department and Mr.

Dmitry Postnov, Head of the FSKN Forensic Unit.

The investigation of crimes committed by organized groups and criminal organizations, detection tactics and techniques of crime scene investigations, cooperation between investigative and operational units, using results from operational activities in the investigation process were on the agenda. 25 officers from the State Customs Service,

State Service on Execution of Punishment, Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Service on National Security took part in the event. The participants highly appreciated its practical value, that allowed them to improve their knowledge and to establish useful personal contacts for future professional cooperation.





BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP IN HIV PREVENTION AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS

Law enforcement staff and representatives of civil society from several regions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan met during a series of workshops organized by UNODC in Central Asia in October-November 2013.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are eight high priority countries for UNODC in the region. There is an opportunity to continue building partnerships between law-enforcement, the health sector and CSOs. More than 80 participants attended the workshops, including representatives from law enforcement agencies, Ministries of Health,

specialists working in the penitentiary system and civil society representatives. The aim of these workshops was to sensitize law enforcement officials about harm reduction services in the context of HIV, and how law enforcement practices can influence, positively or negatively, drug users' access to harm reduction services. There is also a chance to support CSOs to advocate with law enforcement agencies to ensure greater access for people who inject drugs to harm reduction services. Best international, regional and national practices were presented on the issues of police work and the

penitentiary system in HIV prevention.

Participants from the regions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan learned about the concept of harm reduction, as well as gained skills for preventive work on HIV among vulnerable groups. UNODC is planning to continue its support to law enforcement agencies and CSOs in reaching the global target of reducing new HIV cases and improving access for healthcare and social services for drug dependent people and persons in detention.

TACKLING LAUNDERING OF PROCEEDS OF CORRUPTION REQUIRES A CONCERTED RESPONSE



To disguise corruptly acquired proceeds and hide the trail of evidence, criminals often launder their gains through as many jurisdictions and transactions as possible. A concerted response is therefore necessary to fight money laundering, both domestically and internationally. UNODC ROCA conducted a workshop in Tashkent on 12-14 November 2013 entitled "*Sharing practices in international cooperation for the prevention of legalization*

(laundering) of the proceeds of corruption, their detection, seizure, confiscation and return/sharing". This workshop was held with the General Prosecutor's Office in Uzbekistan, in an effort to facilitate cooperation between financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges and the banking sector in Central Asia, as well as transit and destination countries for money laundering. During the two and half days, the

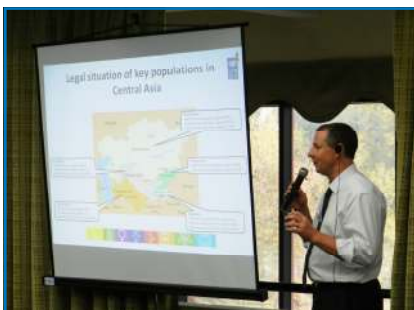
practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, China, the Czech Republic, Israel, Latvia, the Russian Federation, the UK and UNODC, the World Bank, INTERPOL and Europol/CARIN exchanged best practices and national experiences in prevention and investigation of money laundering. They also discussed the detection, seizure, confiscation and return of such proceeds. They identified obstacles to direct international exchange of information and mutual legal assistance, shared success stories and discussed unresolved cases and unsatisfied requests.

While the participants agreed that there is no single solution to address money laundering, and the legislation and practices of one country cannot be blindly transposed and incorporated into the legislation of another, they acknowledged that the workshop served as a platform to learn from mistakes and get ideas on how to adapt best practices to suit respective national requirements.

Project activity



RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR SUPPORTING AND ENABLING KEY POPULATIONS



On 29-30 October UNFPA and UNODC organized an In Reach training for UN staff in Central Asia. The training took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Central Asian Joint Country Teams on HIV/AIDS and their UN co-workers, to work with and support key populations groups. Representatives of country offices from UNAIDS, UNFPA,

UNODC, UNDP, UNHCR and WFP took part in the training. UNODC, as co-organizer of the training, was well represented with HIV focal points from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The UNODC regional HIV advisor was the co-facilitator of the training. The workshop targeted UN staff to learn about key issues, challenges and needs of key population groups and to better guide the UN system's responses and interventions with a view to assist community empowerment, build more supportive environments, and to increase access to quality services.

Issues of stigma and discrimination, violence and police pressure, respect for human rights among vulnerable groups, migration and mobility as well as legal and policy environment

for HIV prevention activities in the public sector and in prison settings were the focus of the training. Participants had a chance to listen to firsthand information about the needs of selected representatives from vulnerable population groups who were invited to the training. These local resources included CSWs, IDUs, MSM as well as PLWHA. The training was an opportunity to gain understanding of the support provided to target groups. At the end of the workshop, participants had enhanced their knowledge of rights-based approaches for supporting key populations, and for planning programme and policy responses to HIV, particularly to support MSM, IDUs, CSWs and transgender people.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF KAZAKHSTAN AND TURKMENISTAN COOPERATE UNDER THE CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME

Launched in 2003, the Container Control Programme, a joint UNODC and World Customs Organization (WCO) initiative, aims at assisting governments to create sustainable enforcement structures in selected sea and dry ports in order to minimize the risk of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. Within the programme, in October, UNODC conducted a training in Aktau (Kazakhstan) for Kazakh law enforcement officers responsible for countering drug trafficking. A similar training was organized earlier in September for Turkmen law enforcement officers at the WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building in Baku. The Programme envisages the establishment of an inter-agency groups to control con-

tainer traffic in the seaports and dry ports of these countries.

The members of the inter-agency group will be introduced to a wide range of international legal instruments and principals regarding risk analysis, cargo inspection, information exchange mechanisms, post seizure investigations and trade facilitation. The group will also be provided with access to ContainerCOMM, a secure internet tool hosted by WCO. Above-mentioned training is the first step in building the capacity of the inter-agency group. The second step will be a two week practical exercise to apply profiling and searching techniques. After that, UNODC plans to conduct advanced training on the use of dual-use goods, envi-

ronmental crime, trafficking in endangered species, counterfeit goods, trafficking of nuclear material, trafficking of firearms and mass destruction weapons, etc. The programme also plans to organize study visits to the ports of other countries, as well as provide further mentorship support to the inter-agency group.





Regional workshop

QUALITY SUPPORT TO SOCIAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLED MIGRANTS IN CENTRAL ASIA



In October, a regional workshop was convened in Almaty, Kazakhstan to present and discuss the feasibility of applying international best practices from Europe and the United States on the protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants to Central Asia. Improving the expertise of professional shelter staff and social workers and increasing the quality of social services for victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants was the goal of the two day workshop.



This landmark regional event built on four national workshops held in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in May-September 2013 for more than 130 representatives from key government structures, shelter staff and grassroots NGOs providing identification, assistance and protection services to these vulnerable groups. The national and regional workshops were a follow-up to the assessment of existing systems of assis-

tance conducted by UNFPA experts in 2012, which revealed that the low quality and inadequate assistance to victims of human trafficking lie in the absence of a well-functioning system of identification, safe referral pathways, and harmonized cooperation mechanisms in the region. Central Asia has a high migration flow, including irregular migration, both within and from outside the region, and faces many barriers and challenges in the area of assistance programmes and services to victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants.

“Trafficked women and girls face high sexual and reproductive health risks, hence it is essential to provide service providers with information for ensuring quality counseling and services.

The regional workshop provided a unique opportunity to civil society and shelter staff to understand how to better apply relevant international standards in their work with victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants in the region”. (Nikolai Botev, the Director of UNFPA’s Sub-regional Office for Central Asia)

Echoing UNFPA’s contribution, a participant at the regional workshop highlighted, “The workshop helped to understand better the history and paths of development of referral mechanisms for victims of human trafficking in different countries. Sessions on sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and discrimination during provision of

assistance were most valuable.”

Key actors from five countries were also equipped with targeted advocacy and IEC materials to further strengthen country response and victim support, and sub-regional, regional and interregional collaboration and dialogue between government agencies, professional shelters



and NGOs.

These efforts form part of a bigger regional project "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" implemented by UNFPA Sub-regional office for Central Asia in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Central Asia, with financial support of the European Union and the United States of America.



Training



IMPROVE RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFF

The staff of the Coordination and Analysis Unit of ROCA delivered a ten day specialized training on the “Integration of Research Activities and Data Analysis” to the staff of analytical units of law enforcement agencies and research think tanks from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, with the aim to enhance their basic research skills and knowledge of using modern software tools necessary to create analytical reports, including an understanding of study design, implementation, analysis, and publication. The training, which was held during 11-22 November 2013, was organized and supported by three UNODC projects, namely “Afghan Opiate Trade Project (AOTP)”, “Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries” and “Standardization and sustainability in the handling and presentation of data in Central Asia”. The host for the event was the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The training was attended by 31 specialists representing national customs service, counter-narcotics

agencies and think tanks from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (14 participants), Islamic Republic of Pakistan (7 participants), Kyrgyz Republic (3 participants) and the Republic of Tajikistan (7 participants).

The training commenced with the introduction of advanced features in MS Excel to analyse drug and crime data. It included sessions on advanced formatting and filtering as well as sophisticated data analysis tools. The next part of the training was a three day GIS course, focusing on spatial analysis, automation of spatial data, editing, and advanced options for cartographic display. Participants conducted queries, performed spatial analysis, and presented their results in a hard-copy map and image file for easy inclusion into research papers. The Proficiency in MS Word topic provided trainees with adequate



knowledge to enhance their skills in quality report writing and increase their productivity.

The next three days introduced Basic Statistics and IBM SPSS programme, which guided the staff through the fundamentals of using IBM SPSS Statistics for drugs-monitoring data analysis process. Trainees learned the basics of reading data, data definition, data modification, and data analysis and presentation of analytical results.

The last two days of the program were reserved for the discussion of research topics/studies currently being implemented or planned by national agencies, and report preparation methods within the framework of the AOTP project.

“This knowledge can help us better process and organize our data, including maps, reports and analytical research documents,” said Heleena Kakar, course participant and the Director of the Research and Studies Department at the Ministry of Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan. Upon completion of the training, all participants were presented with certificates in a special closing ceremony attended by the Director of the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan, as well as representatives of INL and the Japanese embassy in Tajikistan.



Drug use prevention



EVIDENCE-BASED FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME SUCCESSFULLY PILOTED IN UZBEKISTAN

90 families including 114 children and 98 parents benefited from the programme.



The second implementation cycle of the programme “Families and Schools Together” (FAST) was conducted in two pilot schools in Uzbekistan in September-November 2013, within the framework of UNODC’s global project “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries”.

20 facilitators (teachers, psychologists and parents) were selected from the pilot schools to implement FAST for 50 families. The cycle started with a 2 day training aimed at training facilitators by five interns - trainers under the supervision of two international FAST trainers invited from Great Britain. The training was followed by 8 sessions. The final session was conducted in both pilot schools. Families prepared a concert with children singing, dancing and doing small performances. Confident and happy kids together with their classmates, brothers and sisters partici-

pated in the concert with enthusiasm. The graduation ceremony was attended by Mr. Abdugani Kholbekov, Deputy Minister of Public Education who awarded the families with certificates of completion of the FAST programme. He noted that the project outputs were achieved and expressed readiness from the Ministry to continue working with UNODC on scaling up the FAST programme and developing possible mechanisms for ensuring programme sustainability.

The evaluation of the implementation of the programme in Uzbekistan demonstrated significant positive changes for the children and their families. In general, parents reported stronger bonds with their child, and a ability to cope better with stress. Child well-being reported on by parents and teachers in questionnaires improved at home and school, and academic skills increased.

*“I thought that my mom didn’t care about my problems and I was afraid to ask her to help but now we are close friends and I show her my poems” .
(boy in the 2nd grade)*

*“I liked this programme very much. I met new friends here. I don’t want FAST to end” .
(1st grader)*

*“We want the programme to continue! Our family became more united and we found ways to have fun in school!” .
(Parent)*

*“This boy was so shy that we had never heard his voice before but he sang loudly during the graduation ceremony! His mother and all the school staff were happy and proud” .
(Deputy Principal of the school)*



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