

## Strengthened Regional Cooperation was having a positive impact in the West and Central Asia



**The Steering Committee Meetings of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 and Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries were hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan in Astana on 6 April 2017.**

Mr. Rashid Zhakupov, Deputy Minister of the Interior of Kazakhstan and Mr. Alexandre Schmidt, Chief of UNODC Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia, HQ Vienna opened the meetings.

At the meetings senior representatives from the drug control agencies, Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Health, Customs, Border Guards, Justice from the Central Asian

countries, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, as well as donor, international partners and organizations reviewed the achievements made under the programmes in 2016 and identified the priorities for 2017.

On this occasion, Mr. Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC in his video message to the participants informed that UNODC has delivered over 29 million USD technical assistance across the West and Central Asia in 2016, which includes over 12 million USD to Central Asia alone to bolster law enforcement cooperation, ensure fair, effective and humane criminal justice systems, prevent drug use and HIV and treatment as well as support research and advocacy to ensure responses based on evidence and scientific data. He urged

that more than ever before it is important for the countries to work together on drugs, crime and terrorism issues given the increase in poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and emerging concerns on security and violent extremism.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia reaffirmed commitment of the UNODC Programme in Central Asia 2015-2019 to ensure that quality technical support in UNODC's niche areas of expertise through capacity development in areas of law enforcement, criminal justice, forensics and health in the Central Asia and the wider region. She thanked the countries, donors and partners for their continuing support and urged them to match their commitment of resources to the complex challenges of drugs, transnational organised crime and terrorism in the region.

Mr. Andrey Avetisyan, Regional Representative for Afghanistan and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, noted that strengthened regional cooperation and joint responses to countering illicit drugs and transnational organized crime was having a positive impact in the West and Central Asia region. He thanked the Member States, donor countries and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to work together to address the shared challenges.

The Kyrgyz Republic will be chairing the next, third UNODC Programme for Central Asia Steering Committee meeting which will be held in 2018.



## UNODC presented the progress made by the Programme for Central Asia in 2016 to the partners in Uzbekistan



**Annual Review Meeting of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 and Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring countries held on 24 March at the National Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCDC).**

Mr. Mansurov, the Director of the NCDC and Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, chaired the meeting. Main Uzbek partners including Ministry of Interior, Customs, Ministry of Health, Public Education, Ministry of Justice took part in it. UNODC team led by Ms. Mittal briefed participants on progress made by the Programme for Central Asia in 2016, including financial situation and perspectives for the forthcoming years as well as discussed the Programme work plan for 2017. After the discussion, the national partners have endorsed the Programme work plan for 2017 and highly evaluated the UNODC technical assistance in the areas of its mandate.

## The CARICC National Coordination Council reviewed the Annual Progress Report

**On 31 March 2017, the meeting of the National Coordination Council (CARICC Council) of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center for Combatting Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their precursors (CARICC) was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.**

CARICC Council reviewed the CARICC Annual Progress Report for 2016 and the revision of the Centre's regulatory framework.

The Council assessed results of CARICC activities in 2016 as satisfactory. Members of the Council congratulated the Director for the Centre's results, including the implementation of the Directorship rotation process. The next Director of the Centre will be from the Russian Federation. Council instructed the Director to continue efforts in revising existing and adopting new regulatory documents.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, Representative of the Regional Office for Central Asia assured the Council of UNODC's commitment to future assistance and continued cooperation, to the Centre.



Members of Council thanked UNODC for supporting CARICC in implementing its mandate and assisting the member

States in combatting transnational organized crime. The Council will convene again in June 2017.



## Promoting Inter-Regional Cooperation on Container Control

**The delegation of the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and the Drug Control Agency of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) visited Azerbaijan to learn container control best practices in Azerbaijan as well as promote inter-regional cooperation between Azeri-Lao Customs.**

Recently joining the Container Control Programme (CCP) Customs Department and the Drug Control Agency expressed an interest in a study visit to a country where CCP is successfully operating. In this regard the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia jointly with the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCC) hosted a study visit.

The delegation headed by the Deputy Director General of the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr. Somphet Sivongxay met the Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Aydin Aliyev and visited the SCC's Operations Center, the Training Academy and the Canine Center in Baku. The delega-

tion visited the CCP Port Control Unit (PCU) in Astara and WCO Regional Office for Capacity Building of Customs officers and its Training Facility on container inspection. Mr. Aliyev mentioned that the visit will facilitate exchanging of experience and strengthening cooperation between the customs services of two countries.

Within the frame of events related to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Customs Committee of Azerbaijan, the delegation attended a conference: "Economic security: Aspects of trade facilitation and security" organized by the SCC at the State University of Economics of Azerbaijan. During the visit, UNODC ROCA handed-over office equipment and various technical means for containers inspection to the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be used by the CCP Port Control Units in Azerbaijan.

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program, as well as the Government of Japan are the donors for the CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

## Kyrgyzstan debates UNODC-supported new Government Programme against human trafficking

**The Programme office on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Kyrgyzstan (UNODC POKYR) and the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic gathered some 50 Government officials, experts from crisis centres, victim support groups, other civil society and international organisations in Bishkek last week to discuss a draft new Government Programme and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for Kyrgyzstan for 2017-2020 years.**

"No country is immune from trafficking in persons", said Koen Marquering, UNODC International Coordinator at the roundtable discussion. "This is also true for Kyrgyzstan where migration flows are traditionally intense and vulnerability of migrants to various forms of exploitation high", Marquering added.

As part of the process for the development of the new action plan, an interdepartmen-

tal working group assessed the level of implementation of the previous national action plan against trafficking in persons, which expired in 2016. The evaluation showed an overall implementation of the programme for 2013-2016 rate of over 70%, but also emphasized several gaps and challenges.

According to Almazbek Asambayev, Deputy Chairman of the Kyrgyz State Migration

Service, the previous Action Plan for 2013-2016 carried out a great work in changing legislation. "The Criminal Code has an article, which is aimed at preventing and punishing organization of human trafficking."

Participants of the roundtable stressed the need for better coordination, monitoring and evaluation of such action plans, as well as proper funding, in particular for shelters. The analysis also gathered data on the prosecution of human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan. Between 2013 and 2016, 50 criminal cases were brought to court, which resulted in the conviction of 62 for labor or sexual exploitation.

"The new action plan foresees work on the further improvement of legislation, the establishment of a national referral mechanism, concerted action to prevent trafficking in persons and raise awareness on the risks of exploitation, as well as efforts to promote interagency and international cooperation, more effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, and victim support", said Aidakeeva Baktygul, leading specialist of the labor migration abroad at the Kyrgyz State Migration Service when presented the new Government Programme to roundtable participants.

Thanks to funding provided by the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supports efforts to prevent and prosecute trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants within the framework of its Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019.



## Prison Forum Highlights Social Reintegration of Offenders



**What steps should be taken to facilitate social reintegration of offenders? This issue was discussed at the international prison forum held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.**

The regional event was organized by the State Penitentiary Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Penal Reform International (PRI).

“The Kyrgyz Republic is taking steps to bring its penitentiary system in line with international standards including the rights of offenders during detention and

after release,” said Taalaybek Zhaparov, Chairperson of the State Penitentiary Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Forum participants reviewed prison’s management system in different countries and discussed the role of non-governmental organizations in assisting the prison management of the Kyrgyz Republic in social reintegration of offenders.

“Successful reintegration of prisoners into society is the ultimate goal of corrections and it is important to build strong partnerships with different actors to provide required support to prisoners whilst they serve their sentences and upon release”, said Rustam Baibalazoda, Deputy Chairperson of Prison Service of Tajikistan.

The forum participants discussed the draft action plan on social reintegration of offenders and developed recommendations aimed at bringing the penal system of the Kyrgyz Republic in line with international standards.

## Build the capacity of women in police

**Strengthening policing skills and leadership capacity of women in police were the main goals of a four days training organized by the UNODC in Osh city (Kyrgyzstan).**

The training, organized in partnership with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Interior, brings together 80 female officers from southern police departments of Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh.

Kursan Asanov, Deputy Minister of Interior, said: “these training sessions provide police women with an opportunity to gain and develop management and leadership skills, which will contribute to their professional growth within the police service”.

Building the capacity of women in police, in particular in the field of community policing, is essential to ensuring the protection of women’s rights and effectively addressing security challenges across the country,

Training was organized in the frame of



sub-programme “Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity” of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia for 2015-2019

which is funded by the US State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).



# Prevention of drug use and crime through strengthening relations between parents and teenagers

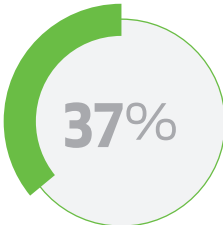
**Families can be one of the most powerful protective factors for children and youth.**

UNODC has implemented evidence-based family skills training programme Strengthening Families Programme for parents and youth of age 10-14 (SFP 10-14) in Uzbekistan. The programme involves elementary school children, 10 to 14 years of age, and their families in 7 family training sessions using family systems and cognitive behavioral approaches to increase resilience and reduce risk factors. It seeks to improve family relationships, parenting skills, and youth's social and life skills.

In 2016, SFP 10-14 was successfully piloted in 5 schools of Tashkent city (№118, №158, №109, №7 and №213) during two implementation cycles. In total 80 families benefited from the programme. Each family was presented by one or two parents and one teenager aged 10-14. To assess results of the programme implementation the evaluation was conducted. Method of evaluation was "retrospective pre test" where participants were asked series of questions, both, "then" (pre-test) and "now" (post-test) during last session. Validity of the results was guaranteed by using data of controlled groups with enough sampling range and stable instrumentation. Questionnaires included 20 questions for parents and 15 questions for teenagers. In total 148 pre- and post- questionnaires from parents and their children were analysed. Also video-

**Family protective factors improved by:**

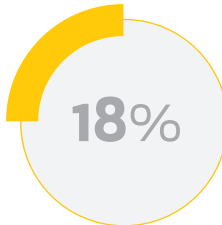
Communication



**37%**

*Parents/caregivers openly discuss situations and feelings with their youth.*

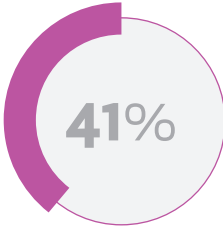
Rules about substance abuse



**18%**

*Parents/caregivers have clear and specific rules, and they apply consequences when rules are not followed*

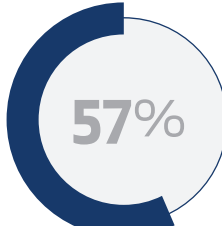
Positive Involvement



**41%**

*Parents/caregivers enjoy spending time with their youth and keep youth involved in family decisions and activities*

Family Harmony



**57%**

*Parents/caregivers control their tempers and avoid harsh criticism when disciplining*

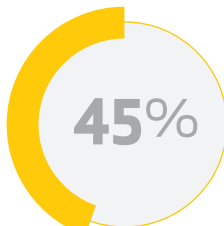
tapes of families' interviews and their feedback were used during qualitative assessment.

**Evaluation results demonstrated that SFP 10-14 reached its main goals:**

- Parents/caregivers obtained special knowledge, which help them to build positive relations with their children and set appropriate limits, as well as set rules and follow through with consequences each time he or she breaks a rules
- Parents/caregivers learned to control children's behaviour and teach to discipline through positive methods
- Youth obtained a healthy future orientation and an increased appreciation of their parents/caregivers
- Youth learned skills for dealing with stress and peer pressure.

## Youth protective factors improved by:

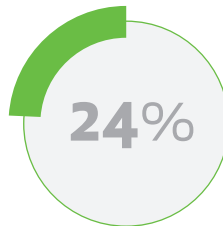
Involvement



**45%**

*Parents/caregivers include youth in decision making and fun activities*

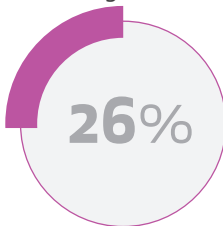
Attachment



**24%**

*Youth feel close to parents/caregivers*

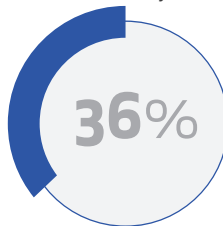
Family Management



**26%**

*Parents/caregivers are supervise and enforce rules*

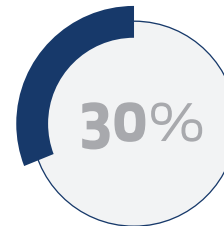
Family Harmony



**36%**

*Parents/caregivers control their tempers and avoid harsh criticism when disciplining*

Peer Resistance Skills



**30%**

*Youth are also able to resist peer pressure*

**The UNODC is planning to disseminate positive experience of piloting evidence-based prevention programme SFP 10-14 to other countries of the region.**