



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Central Asia

MILESTONES

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A Partnership Framework for Impact Related Action in Central Asia

New UNODC Programme for Central Asia (2015-2019) was officially launched during the Ministerial segment of the Ninth review meeting of the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on sub-regional drug control cooperation held in Turkmenistan on 4-5 May.

Concerned about the harmful impact on the region of the trade in illicit drugs, the Central Asian states and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime convened a Conference on Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation in Tashkent 1996.

Resolved to meet the threat from the drug trade with a strong political answer on the international level, the parties agreed on the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation (MoU). The Memorandum of Understanding drew the outline of a Cooperation Programme, established a support mandate for UNODC, and thus paved the way for many essential drug control initiatives. In the course of the following years, it developed into a core document in the fight against drugs.

In 2009 the 8th Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) meeting on sub-regional drug control cooperation hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan approved a Declaration on

strengthening cooperation in countering the illicit drug trafficking and welcomed the establishment of Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC). Since 2009 annual meetings arranged under this MoU process have been in abeyance, and in light of the changing political landscape and the evolving threats, UNODC has sought to re-invigorate the MoU process and develop a new Programme for Central Asia (2015-2019) in close cooperation with the countries of the region.

This Programme for Central Asia outlines the proposed strategic framework for all UNODC's work in Central Asia from 2015 to 2019. This Programme describes UNODC assistance to the region as it moves from implementing a series of stand-alone projects to a more substantial and coherent programme, focused on contributing towards defined strategic outcomes. A strong emphasis will be placed on pursuing cooperation with relevant regional

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partnership mechanisms and frameworks as envisaged under the 1996 MoU on Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation in Central Asia. MoU States Parties adopted the meeting Declaration on strengthening of cooperation in countering the illicit trafficking of drugs and precursors, and abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances.

Regional Cooperation is Vital Precondition to Address Illicit Drugs and Transnational Organized Crime

A high level international conference initiated by the President of Tajikistan was held in Dushanbe on 27 May and attended by senior drug control officials from over 20 countries and intergovernmental organizations.

During the conference speakers discussed how best to comprehensively address the global and interconnected challenges posed by transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, terrorism and drug abuse. In his welcoming statement, H.E President of Tajikistan, Mr. Immomali Rakhmon, emphasized that regional and international cooperation are vital preconditions to address illicit drugs and transnational organized crime. He also stressed the importance of promoting scientific evidence and health-based approaches for drug use prevention and treat-



ment and proposed that the years 2016-2020 should be devoted to "global measures towards prevention of addictions and promotion of healthy lifestyles." The Dushanbe Conference allowed participants to review and analyse current and prospective challenges,

as well as experiences and lessons learned, and develop a Joint Statement to be shared with the international community as it prepares for UNGASS 2016 to be held on 19-21 April 2016. The Joint Statement is available on the UNGASS website at (www.ungass2016.org).

UNODC Assisted the SSDC on Improving the Quality of Forensic Expertise

A training course on the "Examination of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and new synthetic drugs" for forensic specialists of the State Service on Drug Control under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SSDC), was conducted on 18-22 May in Bishkek.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Dmitry Volchek, senior forensic expert of the Federal Drug Control Service of Russian Federation.

The knowledge that SSDC forensic specialists received during this practical training course will help increase the quality of forensic expertise, said Mr. Marat Omuridinov, Chief of the SSDC forensic unit.

Sometimes, other law enforcement agencies request the SSDC to help



with forensic expertise of seized illicit drugs and precursors. The enhancement of skills of the SSDC forensic specialists will contribute to an improvement of the quality of forensic expertise in the country", added Mr. Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Senior Programme Coordinator.

The training course was organized in the framework of the UNODC project "Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control in the Kyrgyz Republic" aimed at improving knowledge on advanced methods of examination of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors.

26 June Celebration in Central Asia



Kyrgyz Republic

On 26 June, 2015, during the press conference organized jointly with the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic (SSDC), Mr. Alexander Fedulov, Head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Programme Office in Kyrgyz Republic, presented the main findings of the World Drug Report for the 2015 to media, donor community and civil society.

According to the SSDC, during the first six months, drugs seizures have increased and reached 3 tons 205 kilograms of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, compare to 660 kilogram of drugs seized for the same period in 2014. Furthermore, UNODC supported the Open Door Day at the SSDC dedicated to the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The event was attended by government representatives, law enforcement agencies, the donor community, civil society and mass media. Participants visited the forensic unit, temporary detention center and other facilities of the SSDC. Moreover, the SSDC demonstrated vehicles and equipment received in the framework of UNODC project “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic” and presented the report on drug situation in the Kyrgyz Republic.

“Illegal narcotic drugs are serious problem. We can solve this problem jointly to enable the people of Kyrgyzstan to live without the threat of drugs and its related social consequences”, said Mr. Alymbai Sultanov, Chairperson of the Kyrgyz SSDC.

Republic of Tajikistan

A bike ride through Dushanbe city was organized by the Drug Control Agency (DCA) under the President of Tajikistan, with the participants distributing brochures promoting a healthy lifestyle among youth during the ride.

A drawing competition was conducted in the education center for children, with the best drawings awarded

with small prizes.

On 26 June, 2015, a press conference organized at the DCA premises in Dushanbe, Tajikistan was conducted. The UNODC Coordinator presented the World Drug Report for 2015 to the main local and international media representatives as well as representatives of law enforcement agencies who took part in the event.

26 June is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987, this day serves as a reminder of the goals agreed to by the Member States of creating an international society free of drug abuse. UNODC launched the World Drug Report for 2015 which provides an annual overview of the major developments in drug markets for the various drug categories, ranging from production to trafficking, including development of new routes and modalities, as well as consumption. 26 June was widely celebrated in Central Asian countries



Republic of Uzbekistan

A press conference was held at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for Central Asia (UNODC ROCA), organized jointly with the National Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Ms. Ashita Mittal presented journalists with the main findings of the World Drug Report for 2015 and gave an overview regarding the types of drug markets. She particularly focused on the new trends in the drug situation in the Central Asian region including new possible drug routes, as well as the decrease in drug seizures. She stressed the importance of the role of communities in drug use prevention and announced a slogan of this year's campaign "Let's develop our lives, our communities, our identities without drugs".

During his presentation to the representatives of media, Mr. Ahmed Mansurov, Director of the National Centre on Drug Control, stressed the measures taken by the government of Uzbekistan in combatting drug trafficking. Additionally, Mr. Mansurov shared details of the govern-



ment's response to the threat of drug use and crime, mentioning that work has started on the development of a new national anti-drug programme. During the same day, a round table aimed at discussing the results of a national mapping exercise and impacts of the UNODC project "Treating drug dependence and its health consequences: Treatnet II" was conducted in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting gathered experts actively working in the field of drug dependency treatment. Representatives of the INL, the main project donor, also

attended the event. The First Deputy Minister of Health, Member of the State Commission on Drug Control Mr. Asylbek Khudoyarov noted that the fruitful and constructive collaboration with UNODC and other international organizations in the field of drug use prevention and drug dependency treatment will significantly contribute to the mutual efforts on national as well as on regional levels. Likewise, he also highlighted that all measures in the field of drug demand reduction should have a systematic and comprehensive approach.

To Help Communities to Make Informed Choices without Drugs

On June 25, 2015, on the occasion of observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 1 ton 400 kilograms of drugs seized over the prior year and used as evidence in criminal prosecutions were destroyed by the Uzbek law enforcement agencies.

The drug burning ceremony was observed by journalists, embassy representatives as well as international organizations.

The UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, Ms. Ashita Mittal said in her speech: "We must address the nexus between the illicit drugs, violence, corruption, and terrorism. The balanced approach calls for the unity



and collective shared responsibility with full engagement and commitment of all of us. This year's theme for 26 June is "Let's develop our lives, our communities, our identities without drugs". No matter where we are, what we do, we can contribute to protect and help our children, our families and our communities to make informed

choices without drugs."

The Director of the National Information-Analytical Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, Mr. Akhmed Mansurov, mentioned that today's drug burning ceremony is the result of our common efforts and success in countering drug trafficking.

New Border Liaison Offices opened at the Kyrgyz-Tajik Border Crossing Points "Bor-Dobo" and "Kizyl-Art"

New Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) were opened at the strategic border crossing point "Bor-Dobo" and "Kizyl-Art", at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, which are both located in a mountainous area at an altitude of 3,600 and 4,200 meters respectively.



The new BLOs have a well-developed infrastructure, modern equipment, access to green energy and drinking water.

The BLOs were established in the framework of the UNODC "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)" project, funded, amongst others, by the Government of Japan, which provided USD 1,270,000 to specifically support the BLOs at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border.

Mr. Takayuki Koike, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Takayuki Oyama, JICA Resident Representative in Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Gulamzhan Anarbaev, First Deputy Chairman of the State Service on Drug Control under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Norzoda Abdulkhamid, Chief of staff of the

Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as members of the Project Steering Committee from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan along with other officials took part in the event.

The First Deputy Chairman of the State Service on Drug Control under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Gulamzhan Anarbaev said: "I believe that BLOs will further improve interagency and cross border cooperation between Kyrgyz and Tajik law enforcement agencies and will contribute to their efforts in countering drug trafficking". Mr. Anarbaev thanked the Government of Japan and UNODC for the assistance provided to the Kyrgyz Republic in countering drug trafficking and noted that the UNODC project is considered to be the most successful project implemented by the State Service on Drug Control in cooperation with international organizations.

'Within the last three months, three BLOs were opened with the project's assistance, which serves as evidence of the Governments' commitment to establish BLOs", - said Mr. Norzoda Abdulkhamid, Tajik DCA Chief of Staff, in his opening remarks at the BLO "Kizyl Art".



Living Conditions of Border Guards Sufficiently Improved



On 30 June 2015, the “Takhti Sangin” border post located on the Tajik-Afghan border was opened after reconstruction. The reconstruction was completed within the framework of the UNODC project “Strengthening Control along the Tajik-Afghan Border”, with the financial support of the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the United States Embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In line with the new National Border Control Strategy for 2010-2025, adopted by the Government of Tajikistan, the “Takhti Sangin” border post was considered as the most sensitive location at the Tajik-Afghan border in terms of drug trafficking and other border crossings violations, which required special attention.

Since the construction of the border post, the living conditions for officers and soldiers were sufficiently improved. Moreover, the construction of soldier’s camps and officers’ quarters are of high quality, and are comfortable and waterproof. The border post is now equipped with the summer kitchen, a supply of cold and hot water, electricity, heating, sewerage, a ventilation system and a lavatory. Within the framework of project, the border post staff were trained in border control and management.

The opening ceremony was attended

by the US Ambassador in Tajikistan, the Deputy Border Commander, and the UNODC Programme Office representatives. The Deputy Border Commander, Mr. Jafarzoda, briefed participants on the current situation along the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, mentioning that security threats are a concern not only for Tajikistan, but for the region at large, while also stressing the importance of the continuous support provided by the international community through the reconstruction of border posts as well as strengthening the capacity of the border guards. The US Ambassador, Ms. Susan Elliot, thanked the Tajik Border Forces for the partnership in addressing the security challenges posed by drug trafficking as well as terrorism and emphasized that these challenges require a joint response from the states of the region while stressing that the US government is ready to assist.

Afghanistan, mentioning that security threats are a concern not only for Tajikistan, but for the region at large, while also stressing the importance of the continuous support provided by the international community through the reconstruction of border posts as well as strengthening the capacity of the border guards

Facilitating Legal Trade in Central Asia and Azerbaijan

Central Asian states and Azerbaijan are participants of the Global Container Control Programme (CCP), jointly initiated by the UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) and the WCO (World Customs Organizations).



Central Asian states and Azerbaijan are participants of the Global Container Control Programme (CCP), jointly initiated by the UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) and the WCO (World Customs Organizations). The programme, funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), aims at fortifying the structures and processes which allow minimizing the use of containers for the illicit trafficking of drugs and other transnational organized crime activities.

In order to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement officers to effectively respond to criminal activities, as well as to strengthen the regional cooperation between Central Asia and Azerbaijan, several events were implemented by the Global Container Control Programme.

In May, 2015, a regional meeting gathered representatives from customs and other law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan as well as donors and external partners at the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), in

Almaty, Kazakhstan. The participants discussed possibilities for better cooperation among customs and other law enforcement agencies aimed at identifying high-risk consignments, and the exchange of drug data via the secure communication system "ContainerComm", as well as the drafted Regional Operational Plan, based on findings of the threats survey to the region.

Mr. Alexander Nurpeisov, Deputy Head

of the Customs Control Unit of the Republic of Kazakhstan noted: "Customs and law enforcement agencies in each of our countries undertake all necessary measures on interdicting criminal activities", however, strong regional cooperation is crucial in countering transitional organized crime.

In June, 2015, a training session for Uzbek Customs officers on "profiling" container movements using modern methods of customs control including the secured communication system "ContainerComm" was held at the "Tekhkontora Chukursai" customs post in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Customs officers were trained in selecting high-risk containers in the pre-arrival (imports) and/or pre-departure (exports) phases, and to undertake their physical examinations.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, stated that the CCP is uniquely placed to assist Governments in the creation of a sustainable enforcement system 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.

The programme, funded by the U.S.



Monitoring of Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution



In cooperation with the Turkmen State Customs Service, the UNODC organized a conference aimed at monitoring the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540).

Participants from Central Asian countries as well as representatives of international organizations gathered in Ashgabat to discuss the progress in implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and share experience related to Strategic and Trade Customs / Control Enforcement

(STCE). (UNSC Resolution 1540 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2004, and established legally binding obligations of the UN Member States to enforce effective measures against the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons (WMD), their deliv-

ery systems, including establishment of the control system).

Representatives of the Central Asian countries reported about the progress made in regard to implementation of UNSCR 1540 and STCE. International organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the UK National Crime Agency (NCA), UK Border Force (UKBF), UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB), the European Commission (EC), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventative Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) shared expertise and experience in this field.

Participants visited new international Customs terminal of Ashgabat dry port to see activities being implemented by the UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme (CCP). The second conference on monitoring of implementation of the UNSCR 1540 is scheduled for December 2015.

Workshop on Strategic Trade Control Risk on Controlled Trade

How to interdict strategic goods, how to profile strategic trade control risk on controlled trade - these and other issues were in the focus of regional training on strategic goods interdiction under the "UNODC-World Customs Organization Global Container Control Programme - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan" held on 4-8 May 2015 in Baku.

Representatives of Customs and other law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Pakistan took part in the event. UNODC representatives and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration facilitated the training. The State Customs Committee



of the Azerbaijan hosted training at the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Baku.

In his opening remarks Lieutenant-General Asgar Abdullayev, Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Azerbaijan highlighted the importance of the Container Control Programme.

Container Control Programme - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azer-

baijan is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.

The Global Container Control Programme is a joint UNODC/ WCO aims at establishing so called Joint Port Control Units (JPCU) comprising Police, Customs and relevant law enforcement authorities in key regional container ports.

Crime Prevention – Our Shared Responsibility

The Kyrgyz Republic has one of the youngest populations in the world. Out of a total population of more than 5.5 million people, over 30% per cent is between the ages of 0 and 14 years. Nearly 20% is between the ages of 15 and 24.

Keeping young people away from crime is a core objective of UNODC's work in the country. To this end, UNODC works with local communities to develop crime prevention action plans and to promote a culture of lawfulness.

In April 2015, in the Ak-Sai municipality in the southern Batken province on the border with Tajikistan, a public awareness raising campaign was held to promote implementation of the municipality's crime prevention action plan, which was developed in 2014 with UNODC support. The campaign included sports and cultural activities and competitions amongst local youth and school children to promote knowledge of traffic rules and tackle themes such as school racketeering. 5 small-scale public safety projects were also completed based on a cost-sharing



arrangement with the local authorities. This involved the installation of street lights, securing the perimeter of a kindergarten with a new fence, and the establishment of a medical post to support the local population. In May 2015, UNODC brought together representatives of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Interior, State Agency for Local Self-Governance and Inter-ethnic Relations, international organisations and civil society to discuss lessons learned

and launch the next phase of its crime prevention work at a national level round table entitled «Crime Prevention – our Shared Responsibility». UNODC shared a methodological tool for the development of local crime prevention plans and presented envisaged work to bring together local self-government, police and communities in 12 population centres of Kyrgyzstan to collaboratively address issues related to public safety and crime prevention.

Promoting Gender Sensitive Policing

Promoting gender sensitive policing is one of the main aims of the National Action Plan on Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in the Kyrgyz Republic.



UNODC actively supports implementation of this action plan by promoting increased representation of women in the police service and conducting gender sensitivity training for police officers.

In June 2015, UNODC completed a nation-

wide police gender sensitivity training programme, which targeted 215 police officers from 14 district and urban police divisions.

As of January 2015, the number of certified female officers in the police service stands at 6.1%. Various new human resources policies,

such as the introduction of competitive recruitment and a new police performance evaluation system, have been adopted with UNODC input. These policies can over time help to create a more diverse workforce and promote gender sensitivity. UNODC has facilitated discussion on additional measures, such as the creation of a roster of female police officers who can be considered for management positions and the implementation of a mentoring programme to strengthen the skills of female officers and to work with young girls and women to encourage them to consider a career in the police.

For more information, an online resource platform dedicated to gender equality and the role of the police has been launched in partnership with the Ministry of Interior: <http://gender.mvd.kg/>. A video, in which UNODC's key partners and beneficiaries share their views on the role of women in the police is available on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bnNBcZSgnI>.

Online HIV Prevention and Treatment Training

In cooperation with the Tashkent Medical Institute for Advanced Training, UNODC conducted a nationwide series of video-seminars aimed at training general practitioners and infection diseases doctors on HIV prevention, treatment and care for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) in Uzbekistan.



Using modern communication technologies, a team of national trainers trained by UNODC (Epidemiologist/HIV specialist, Drug Abuse Treatment specialist and Reproductive health/Obstetrics specialist)

conducted a series of video-seminars for a total of 135 general practitioners and infection diseases doctors from different regions including Bukhara, Navoi, Khoresm, Kashkadarya, Tashkent and Kara-

kalpakstan. During the seminars, participants learned about the international standards in HIV prevention and treatment among PWIDs and discussed issues related to stigma and discrimination.

The trainings were organized within the framework of the UNODC project XCE/A01, funded by USAID in Uzbekistan, with the objective of training specialists aimed at providing effective HIV prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Drug abuse treatment specialist Dr. Furkat Bakhramov leads the seminar on HIV prevention in Tashkent. Participants from Khoresm join the seminar via online.

Reproductive health/Obstetrics specialist Dr. Uktam Jalalov and Epidemiologist/HIV specialist Dr. Guzal Giyasova conducted video-seminars in the Recourse Center of the Tashkent Medical Institute for Advance Training.

Strengthening Analytical Skill of the Afghan Law Enforcement Officers

In May - June 2015, the Coordination and Analysis Unit of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA), jointly with the Paris Pact Initiative, conducted two five-day specialised training courses on 'Introduction to ArcGIS Server' for the staff of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the UNODC Country office for Afghanistan.

The training took place in UNODC ROCA premises in Tashkent, and was focused on enhancing the research capacities of the analytical units by using contemporary technologies in building maps and geo-analysis. Primarily, the training course was

aimed at building the capacity of analysts and researchers on how to deliver the geographic information far more efficiently and make it transparent for non-professional ArcGIS users. During the training, the participants acquired skills required for sharing the GIS con-

tent on the web and intranet, so as to allow other people to access the online map and participate in the map building process. Likewise, attendees learned how to configure a geoprocessing model, publish it as a geoprocessing service and enable the feature service in the ArcGIS web application which supports visualization, analysis, and editing of GIS resources.

In total, 11 specialists from Afghanistan completed the training successfully.



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