



Photo by Alessandro Scotti

A COORDINATED APPROACH TO TACKLING THE DRUG SITUATION IN KYRGYZ PRISONS

With a total of 3 kilograms and 254 grams, drug seizures in prisons formed only a fraction of the total amount of illicit drugs intercepted in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2012. Likewise, the number of drug related crimes detected in prisons, 38 in total, stood at 2% of the overall figure.

Notably, registered drug related crimes inside the prison walls are increasing, as the tally stood at 12 in 2010 and 26 in 2011 respectively. While comparatively low on a nationwide scale, the presence of illicit drugs within the prison perimeter is substantial, given that on a population of over 5 million, these drugs cater to a micro-level market of around 10,000 offenders locked up in the country's 33 prisons. Drug abuse increases vulnerability to infectious and diseases, including tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, among the prison population. While infection rates are generally decreasing, in 2012, 130 new cases of tuberculosis and 123 new cases of HIV infection were registered within the prison system. This comes at a cost to pub-

lic health, as released offenders often struggle to access social support services, including healthcare, and many tuberculosis patients do not continue treatment following their release from prison, thus increasing the risk of infectious diseases spreading among the general population.

The figures also show that organised crime groups continue to yield significant power in Kyrgyzstan's prisons. In a context of ongoing socio-economic hardship in the aftermath of the political upheaval, violent demonstrations and ethnic strife in 2010, understaffed and ill-managed prisons provide a fertile breeding ground for these groups, which use prisoners both as recruits for criminal activity and customers for illicit

drugs. Beyond the adverse impact of these practices on the security situation inside prisons, the capacity of organised criminal groups to stage massive prisoner riots, most recently in 2011 and early 2012, and mobilise supporters also poses a potential threat to political stability and public order in the country.

In order to develop a coordinated approach to tackling the drug situation in Kyrgyzstan's prisons, the State Service on the Execution of Punishments (SSEP, Prison Service) and the State Service on Drug Control (SSDC) have recently signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**. The preparation of this MOU was facilitated by UNODC with seed funding provided by the Government of the United States of America within the framework of the European Union/UNODC project 'Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic'. The MOU foresees joint research,



In the field. Kyrgyzstan

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, and joint measures to prevent drug abuse and cooperation on drugs detection, including use of modern technical equipment.

“The Memorandum of Understanding is a basis for further improvement of inter-agency cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and precursors control in the penitentiary system”. (Mr. Zarylbek Rysaliev, Chairperson of the State Service on the Execution of Punishments under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic)

A working group made up of experts from both agencies has been established to coordinate the implementa-

tion of the MOU. Within the framework of the consultations facilitated by UNODC, an agreement was reached on the provision of direct technical assistance by the SSDC to the SSEP. As a result, the SSDC has recently provided the SSEP with 5 computers, 2 color printers, 1 video camera, 1 photo camera and 2 forensic examination kits, which will increase the SSEP’s capacity to engage in criminal intelligence gathering work.

In March 2013, the SSEP and SSDC approved a joint staff training plan with a schedule for the organisation of at least 7 training courses for a total of 150 prison and drug control staff. On 28 and 29 March 2013, the two first training sessions were held for prison staff on controlled drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. 20 prison officers with responsibility for intelligence gathering and 20 officers with responsibility for maintaining order in prisons were trained at the SSEP Training Centre by experts from the SSDC. These joint activities are scheduled to continue in the months to come.

A visit of drug control staff to a prison in Bishkek is foreseen for a practical session on drug substitution treatment. Training work will be further facilitated by the development of new training modules, for example on managing prison security and intelligence gathering. The use of the computer-based training class, established at the SSDC within the framework of the UNODC project “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic”, is also foreseen for joint capacity development.

“Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, the State Drug Control Service will organize activities aimed at strengthening the professional capacity of prison staff”. (Mr. Alimbay Sultanov, Chairperson of the State Service on Drug Control under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic)





Regional workshop

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING WORKSHOP FOR THE GUAM LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTITIONERS



On 5-7 March, a regional workshop entitled “Improving Practices in Direct International Law Enforcement Cooperation to Detect and Investigate Money-Laundering” was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. It is the second of a series of workshops organized under the UNODC Project “Strengthening capacities of the GUAM Member States to cooperate at the national and regional levels in combating money-laundering as well as in seizing and confiscating crime proceeds”.

The workshop was attended by 24 prosecutors, law enforcement and FIU officers from the GUAM countries (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), as well as AML practitioners from Latvia, Estonia, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, UK (Guernsey) and USA – 38 participants in total. The main goal was to reinforce direct “informal” regional law enforcement cooperation to detect and investigate money-laundering, while focusing on corruption and other financial crime. The aim was to share anti-money-laundering good practices and lessons learned among the GUAM Member States and other countries with the advanced AML regimes, and fostering networking.

Three days of productive discussions and interactive exchange of practices allowed the GUAM participants to identify the main challenges they face in the context of direct international cooperation, and to propose ways for addressing these challenges, considering good practices shared by the AML practitioners from the above mentioned countries. The participants found the workshop very useful, having stressed its urgency and practical applicability that allowed them to improve their knowledge and skills, as well as its contribution in developing a network for future professional communication and collaboration.



GEOINFORMATION SYSTEMS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS



As part of the capacity developing component of the regional project “Standardisation and Sustainability in the Handling and Presentation of Data in Central Asia”, UNODC’s Regional Office for Central Asia convened two sets of trainings, namely “ArcGIS 10.0: Basics in Working with Geoinformation Systems” and “ArcGIS 10.1: Advanced Training of Trainers”. These targeted the representatives of law enforcement academies and agencies (Police, Customs and Border Guards) as well as the State Statistical Committee for the Republic of Azerbaijan, between 12-16 March and 1-8 April 2013.

The basic training course sought to transfer to the participants the knowledge and skills required to create simple drugs control thematic maps. During the training, ROCA’s Coordination and Analysis Unit (CAU) staff shared their experience with the participants on quick ways to process and analyse drug-related data

and the use of GIS application in law enforcement. By the end of the training, as the post-training assessment revealed, all eight representatives from the State Customs Committee, Ministry of Interior, State Border Service, and the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan had (i) improved their skills on quick proc-

essing of drug-related data in MS Excel; (ii) learnt the basics of ArcGIS 10.0; and (iii) were able to create simple thematic maps of drug seizures/prices.

Furthermore, as a follow-up to the basic training course, CAU staff conducted advanced training for the same group, between 1 and 8 April 2013, in Baku. This time the emphasis was on training the trainers, so as to ensure sustainability and further roll-out of ArcGIS trainings by the national counterparts to new staff in their respective agencies. As a result of the training, participants have strengthened their skills and knowledge in drug and crime mapping via ArcGIS 10.1 program, as well as become able to give a two-day training course to the newcomers. Upon completion of both trainings, the participants received relevant certificates.

As a part of technical support and follow-up to the trainings, national counterparts in Central Asia and Azerbaijan will receive three copies of ArcGIS 10.1 program respectively.



HIV PREVENTION AND CARE AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS

UNODC project “Effective HIV prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe” funded by US government through CDC/PEPFAR, USAID and OFID/OPEC conducted national seminar on WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS comprehensive service package for intravenous drug users and standards development in January 2013 in Bostanlyk district, Tashkent oblast. Twenty five managers and specialists of medical and social protection services took part in the workshop including representatives of Republican AIDS Center, DOTS Center and National Centers of Dermatology, Obstetrics, medical institutes as well as representatives of ministries of health, education, Special Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Interior and local NGOs.

The workshop aims at discussing international and national standards of health service delivery for PWUD and reviewing compliance of the national standards (guidelines and protocols) with international norms as well as modernization of national protocols in Uzbekistan.

“The seminar promoted even better coordination between services working on HIV prevention, treatment and care among drug users and permitted to define priorities in national standards development” . (Dr. Alisher Abidov, Director of Republican Dermatology and Venereology Center)

The seminar was a follow-up of regional workshop “Standardization of



HIV-related service delivery for people who use drugs (PWUD)” conducted in Almaty in December as well as national seminar on comprehensive service package for IDUs and integrated service model development held in August 2012. A Working Group which was set up during the seminar is going to continue discussion on coordination and integration of HIV prevention and care for the most-at-risk groups of population including drug users in Uzbekistan.

“The seminar atmosphere was special to share and learn” . (Dr. Shalpan Primbetova, a guest-speaker and Director of Operations in Global Health Research Center of Central Asia (Kazakhstan))





COMBATING TERRORISM: KYRGYZ AUTHORITIES AND UNODC FORM PARTNERSHIP

The National Security Service of Kyrgyzstan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Central Asia agreed to support a regional approach in combating terrorism through the initiation of a new UNODC project aimed at strengthening criminal justice capacities of Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan. There is also focus on upholding the Rule of Law Principles.

The signing ceremony of the new UNODC project "**Strengthening**

Criminal Justice Capacities of Central Asian Countries to Counter Terrorism in Compliance with Principles of Rule of Law" took place in Bishkek on 4 February 2013. The document was signed by Alyaksandr Sychov, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia and General-major Rustam Mamasadykov, the Director of the Antiterrorism Centre of the Kyrgyz National Security Service.



EFFECTIVE TRAINING TOOL ON INTERVIEWING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



On 28 February 2013 ROCA, alongside project GLO900, hosted a viewing ceremony of the training film "Victims Not Villains" for the governmental agencies of Uzbekistan involved in combating human trafficking and their training centres. ROCA also organized the film's distribution on this occasion. The ceremony was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Academy of the Ministry of Interior, National Security Service, Institute of the National Security Service, Training Centre of the General Prosecutor Office and State Customs Committee and Military Customs Institute.

The participants provided excellent feedback and stressed the film's high quality, practical value and usefulness. As suggested by the participants, the DVD has also been handed over to the NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod", which stood ready to use it as a training tool during its courses for law enforcement agencies. Moreover, the representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported UNODC's proposal to distribute the film among the Uzbek consulate offices located in the main TIP/SOM destination countries. To date, ROCA has delivered

the training DVDs to the MFAs and relevant law enforcement agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan. The film was dubbed into the Tajik language for dissemination among the law enforcement agencies and NGOs of Tajikistan.



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