

- Promote rule of law, good governance, adherence to international standards & obligations;
- Strengthen national policies, institutions and practices in response to drugs, crime and terrorism;
- Strengthen capacity to combat transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, persons, and goods;
- Promote regional and international cooperation and partnerships to respond more effectively to shared problems in crime, drugs and terrorism;
- Promote best practices and evidenced-based policies and practices in drug prevention and reduction, through education and treatment, particularly among the youth;
- Provide research, data analysis and expertise on global, regional and national trends on crime, drugs and terrorism.



Quarterly Newsletter from the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

October— December 2015

Word of the Regional Representative



Masood Karimipour

As we turn the corner into 2016 we mark two important events with long-lasting impact on UNODC engagement in the region. First, the Steering Committee of UNODC Regional Programme for the Arab States met to mark the successful conclusion of and the achievements under the 2011-2015 phase and agreed on the priorities and the framework of the new phase for 2016-2021. The 3-day consultations with the Member States, the League of Arab States Secretariat and the Arab Ministers of Interior Council were highly substantive and produced the final endorsed draft. We look forward to our continued partnership to implement projects under the new Regional Programme. Some recent achievements are featured in this newsletter. Second, we look forward to the UN General Assembly's Special Session (UNGASS) in New York in April 2016 to review global drug control policy and practices. UNODC has supported regional consultations in MENA in preparation for the UNGASS through multiple fora in which governments, civil society, and other stakeholders have provided input. UNODC has advocated for policies to reduce drug demand through inclusive evidence-based and human rights and health-centered approaches and to reduce supply through modern enforcement methods and regional cooperation. Stay tuned.

Region: 2015 Steering Committee Meeting Regional Programme (2016-2021) Consultations



New Regional Programme

On the occasion of the 2015 Steering and Follow-Up Committee Meeting, representatives from Member States, the League of Arab States, and the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior met in Cairo for three days to mark the successful conclusion of UNODC Regional Programme (RP) on Combating Drugs, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform for the Arab Countries (2011-2015), discuss and endorse the new UNODC RP for the Arab States to Prevent and Combat Criminal, Terrorist and Health Threats and to Strengthen Criminal Justice Systems in Line with International Human Rights Standards (2016-2021).

During this annual event, national counterparts from the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Health from participating Member States agreed on key priorities for 2016 and discussed mechanisms to build consensus toward the implementation of the new RP. In the course of these discussions, participants reaffirmed the importance of coordinating efforts to advance the objectives of the five priority subprogrammes under the RP: Combating Organized Crime, Countering Terrorism, Combating Corruption and Financial Crimes, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and Prevention of Drug Use, Treatment and Care of Drug Use Disorders and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care. Participants agreed on a set of recommendations, including setting thematic priorities for UNODC partnership for the 2016.

Region: Preventing Illicit Trafficking Container Control and Air Cargo Launched

CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)



Containers in a port

On 1 December 2015, 12 Arab countries attended the UNODC-World Customs Organization's first MENA Regional Meeting on their joint Container Control Programme. The meeting was held in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council and under the auspices of Jordan.

The objective was to raise awareness about the importance of strengthening border control and facilitating legitimate trade, and to further endorse cooperation and coordination within and between the countries. Recently the Programme, which aims to reduce the exploitation of maritime containers for the illicit trafficking of drugs, and other transnational organized crime activities has expanded its activities to cover air cargo. Following the meeting, several countries have requested to join the Programme and its air cargo segment in effort to obstruct illicit trafficking of narcotics and other goods which have increased due to the insecurity in the region and the exploitation of its ports by criminal networks for illicit trafficking.

Lebanon: Prison Reform

Improving Prison Conditions



Signing Ceremony

"Improvement of Detention Conditions in Lebanese Prisons" Project was re-launched in November 2015. It particularly focuses on Roumieh prison, and aims at improving prison conditions in the three main areas of (a) food management, hygiene and safety; (b) facilities and services for mentally ill prisoners of the "blue house"; and (c) targeted services for Syrian children in detention. A signing ceremony with the Italian Embassy took place earlier in September at the Ministry of Justice to fund the project, which would be implemented in line with Lebanon's prison reform strategy, for the benefit of the Ministries of Justice and Interior. *The project is funded by Italy.*

Jordan: Criminal Justice Reform

Strengthening Investigations Capacities



Training on case file integrity

Under the project “*Strengthening the Working Methodologies of the Public Security Directorate in Jordan*”, UNODC organized in October 2015 three rounds of training on integrity of case files. The training involved participants from the Criminal Investigation Department and Public Security Directorate, and aimed to identify obstacles and gaps in investigative procedures and align them with international human rights standards and the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. UNODC also organized a three-day event in November on “*Legal adaptation of human trafficking crime*” for investigation officers from the Counter Trafficking Unit and prosecutors from the Judiciary Council. The workshop aimed at introducing the participants to the complementary roles of the Unit and the Judiciary in combating human trafficking through the preparation of an integrated case file management system. *Project is funded by the European Union.*

Tunisia: Anti-Human Trafficking

Building Law Enforcement Capacities



Interactive sessions on case identification

In coordination with the Ministry of Interior and the Tunisian National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, UNODC organized a training for 24 mid-ranking law enforcement officers from across the country in Tunis in November. With a view to promote Tunisia’s efforts

to effectively identify and investigate human trafficking and migrant smuggling, while ensuring adequate assistance and protection for human trafficking victims and smuggled migrants. This training focused on international standards, general principles and best practices in international cooperation. It also covered investigation techniques, the detection of human trafficking cases and cooperation between detection and law enforcement services, as well as methods for the identification, protection and assistance of human trafficking victims and vulnerable smuggled migrants. *Project funded by Norway.*



Practical group work

Morocco: Drug Prevention

Regional Dialogue on Drug Policies and HIV



Regional Dialogue

To support the upcoming discussions at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) to be held in April 2016 in New York, UNODC organized regional dialogues on drug policies and their impact on HIV in October in Rabat, Morocco. More than 25 senior government policy-makers from Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the

United Arab Emirates as well as representatives from international and regional civil society organizations and UNDP, UNAIDS, and WHO participated in the two-day discussions. Participants (i) highlighted best practices in ensuring an enabling environment for an evidence-informed and human rights-based HIV response among people who use drugs (PWUD); (ii) discussed the impact of national, regional and international drug control policies on HIV among PWUDs; (iii) identified and prioritized how drug policy frameworks could/should be strengthened to ensure that PWUDs are protected from any cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment; and (iv) agreed that PWUDs’ right to health is to be respected.

Palestine: Forensic Services

Forensic Medical Training on Sexual Violence



Nurse receiving training

In partnership with the Palestinian Ministries of Justice and Health, UNODC presented mock cases to 16 female and 7 male nurses at a forensic medicine clinic established under project “*Forensic Human Resource and Governance Development Assistance for the Palestinian Authority*”.

The training which took place in November in Ramallah, aimed at developing the skills and knowledge required to manage, examine and treat victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Furthermore, a one-day training workshop was conducted in December together with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The training on clinical forensic medicine services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence was delivered to 18 medical practitioners (9 male and 9 female) at Al Am’ari Refugee Camp, Ramallah, operating in various refugee camps in the West Bank. *The project is funded by Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development*

Upcoming Events

- * **Training for Social Workers** - Palestine, February
- * **Training on Asset Declaration Systems to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering** - Cairo, February
- * **UNODC/UNFPA Joint Discussion Meeting on the Forms of Forensic Clinics** - Palestine, February
- * **Training for Decision-makers on the “International Standards for Forensic Medicine Clinics and Applicable Protocols”** - Palestine, February
- * **Training on financial investigation with the Magistrate Training Institute** - Tunisia, 12 February
- * **Training to Strengthen Law Enforcement Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Khartoum** - Sudan, 22-24 February
- * **Training to Enhance Capacities of Law Enforcement Agencies to Detect Illicit Trafficking** - Cairo, February
- * **Donors’ Brief on “Implementing the National Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform (2014-2017)”** - Palestine, March
- * **Specialized Training for Forensic Document Examiners** - Palestine, March
- * **Training for Law Enforcement Officials on Smuggling of Migrants** - Morocco, 1-3 March
- * **Regional Workshop on Financial Investigations, Money Laundering and Recovery of Stolen Assets** - Cairo, March
- * **Workshop to Support the Development of a National Strategy against Human Trafficking in Tunisia and to Promote Interagency Cooperation** - Tunisia, 8-11 March
- * **Inter-Ministerial Workshop to Enhance Cooperation and Judicial Oversight During investigations** - Tunisia, 9 March
- * **Workshop on the new criminal legislation pertaining to pre-trial detention** - Tunisia, 11 March