



UNODC'S WORK WITH KYRGYZSTAN'S ANTI-DRUG AGENCY TO CURB ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND ORGANIZED CRIME

THE UNODC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS KYRGYZSTAN

The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, met with Kyrgyz President Roza Otunbayeva and Prime Minister Almazbek Atambayev as part of a visit to Kyrgyzstan in late April, in order to discuss UNODC's expanding partnership with the nation and to establish a new project supporting Kyrgyzstan's State Service on Drug Control. The project's main goal is to support the re-established service, while building its capacity and effectiveness in countering illicit drug trafficking. The

governments of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan have provided contributions to this initiative's implementation.

The UN's anti-drug and crime chief said that by being situated in relative proximity to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan plays a key role in combating the movement of Afghan opiates to Europe, the Russian Federation and China. He also assured the country that UNODC will continue to assist in its efforts to prevent regional drug trafficking. Speaking on the sidelines

of his meeting with Vitaly Orozaliev, Chairperson of the State Service on Drug Control, Mr. Fedotov said that: "the formation of this agency is critical in combating the interconnected ills of drug trafficking and organized crime. UNODC is proud to be able to work with authorities in assisting the people of Kyrgyzstan and the wider region in reducing the threat of illicit drugs, and we look forward to expanding our existing partnership."

Mr. Fedotov also met with Akhmatbek Keldibekov, Speaker of Parlia-

High Level Visit



ment, and Ruslan Kazakbaev, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This meeting was made possible due to growing cooperation between UNODC and the Kyrgyz Government. In recent years, UNODC's portfolio has expanded to include efforts to provide mutual legal assistance, enhance cross-border coopera-

tion, combat transnational organized crime, effectively promote drug dependence treatment, respond to HIV and AIDS in relation to both drug users and prison inmates, and to counter human trafficking. Mr. Fedotov highlighted Kyrgyzstan's policies concerning the treatment of drug dependence and the nation's response to the HIV epidemic, particularly in regards to the implementation of evidence-based methods. He also emphasized Kyrgyzstan's participation in the UNODC Treatnet programme, which adopts an ethical, health-centred and science-based approach towards treating patients. During his visit to Bishkek, Mr. Fedotov also visited a pre-trial detention

centre in order to discuss issues of prison management and further cooperation in the region. As a key aspect of UNODC's criminal justice work, this visit forms part of a €3 million European Union-funded project to support a comprehensive prison reform programme in Kyrgyzstan. "UNODC is committed to working with the Kyrgyz Government to improve the quality of prisons in the country, and to help the Government implement rule of law and criminal justice reforms. UNODC brings significant expertise in the area of prison reform in low-income, developing countries, which takes into account the key requirements of ownership, sustainability and replicability", said Mr. Fedotov.

INTEGRATED COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR KYRGYZSTAN

The expert meeting on the draft UNODC Integrated Country Programme for the Kyrgyz Republic, which took place in Bishkek from the 10th to the 11th of March, served as a chance to discuss how UNODC could better support the dynamic nation in its development of effective Law enforcement practices and legislation, and in reducing drug demand. The meeting participants came from a variety of civil and governmental sectors, along with foreign embassies and international organizations, each contributing perspectives on how the Kyrgyz Republic might address the issues that it currently faces. The meeting began with an overview of the problems faced by the Kyrgyz Republic, which included organized crime, drug trafficking and widespread corruption, while outlining potential solutions to these problems. UNODC representatives then presented an overview of the organization's mandate and its global, regional and Kyrgyzstan projects, after

which the meeting's participants formed three working groups and discussed the topics of Rule of Law, Law Enforcement and Drug Demand Reduction. After considering the results of the working groups and the constructive comments offered during discussions, it was agreed that a draft Integrated Country Programme of the UNODC's assistance to Kyrgyzstan should be developed and submitted to the government and NGOs for final comments and endorsement.

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During his official visit to Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, presented the first draft of the Integrated Country Programme to high level government officials for comments, additions and endorsement. The meetings also led to the signing of the KGZK50 project, which will provide comprehensive support to the State Service on Drug Control in order for the agency to function as the lead and coordinating body for both the counter-narcotics activity in

Kyrgyzstan and the work of its regional counterparts. This support will include training and equipment, as well as any necessary development of legal, administrative or physical infrastructure. This project will be the most significant initiative within the Integrated Country Programme (See front page reportage).





PLANNING FOR SUCCESS



The training course 'Operational Planning for Law Enforcement Officers', run by UNODC ROCA from the 21st to the 25th of February, was a unique opportunity to bring together international law enforcement officers in a meeting of minds.

Run within the framework of the project 'Precursor Control in Central Asia', the workshop facilitated the exchange of ideas and best international practices in relation to operational planning and the conducting of controlled deliveries.

The workshop addressed a number of topics including the stages of operational planning, the importance of command protocols, the need to maintain human rights during policing operations, the role of individual levels of command in the Metropolitan Police, the briefing and debriefing process, the inner workings of the British court system, and last but not least a thorough

discussion of a hypothetical controlled delivery of Precursor Chemicals.

The workshop was attended by eighteen law enforcement officers, representing the National Security Services, Ministries of internal Affairs, Customs Control Committees and Drug Control Agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and was directed by three London Metropolitan Police trainers and UNODC Senior Law Enforcement advisor Steven Brown. In addition to informational presentations, the workshop combined a variety of education mediums which included informational presentations, analyses of hypothetical and previously-undertaken operations, and interactive discussion sessions. While the discussions were occasionally very animated, especially when methods of conducting a hypothetical controlled delivery were debated, the workshop feed-

back indicated that participants welcomed the chance to discuss universally-relevant topics with their international colleagues. They also stated their intentions to pass learned information onto their fellow officers.

Topics that received particular attention during the workshop included the process of balancing an operation's planning with its rapid and timely undertaking, the role of informants in investigations, the procedures through which evidence can be obtained and used, and the methods of conducting controlled deliveries both domestically and across national borders. The training activity was con-

ducted in the framework of Operation TARCET, a regional initiative designed to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies in intercepting smuggled consignments of precursors. The operation particularly focuses on Afghanistan-bound Acetic Anhydride, which is necessary in the heroin manufacturing process.

Since the beginning of Operation TARCET in 2008, more than forty tonnes of Acetic Anhydride have been seized in countries neighbouring Afghanistan. This has represented a significant improvement from the years between 2001 and 2007, during which there were no reported seizures of the chemical. Acetic Anhydride is a crucial compound required in the heroin manufacturing process, with forty tonnes of the chemical required to produce twenty tonnes of heroin.

The activity was funded by Canada with in-kind contributions from the United Kingdom.

In the Field. Turkmenistan



DONORS ESTABLISH A UNITED FRONT IN CENTRAL ASIA

UNODC recognizes that there are a multitude of law enforcement projects in Central Asia, implemented through international agencies, organizations and the initiatives of individual nations, and it appreciates the need to coordinate these efforts with the common goal of eliminating regional corruption and interstate crime. With this concept in mind, UNODC chaired its first Law Enforcement Donor Coordination Meeting of 2011 on the 25th of March at the UN house in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The meeting was attended by some of the most crucial players in Law Enforcement projects currently undertaken in Central Asia, including representatives of the French, German, Japanese, Polish, Russian, Turkish British and United States embassies, in addition to the EC Advice to National Coordination Unit, Europa House, GIZ, TIKA, UNDSS and UNODC.

The event served as a forum in which to discuss the activities that took place in the first quarter of 2011, along with those planned for the current quarter. It also allowed the discussion of challenges faced

and their solutions, meaning participants could inform their colleagues of cross-cutting or relevant issues while sharing their experiences in handling common difficulties.

The meeting begun with remarks from the UNODC chair and International Project Coordinator Mr. Ercan Saka, who stressed the event's purpose of coordinating activities and preventing the duplication of efforts. Representatives then gave individual presentations concerning their organization's participation in ongoing projects addressing drugs, crime, money laundering, human trafficking, corruption, HIV/AIDS, justice matters and human rights, along with any other topics they wished to highlight. These statements were followed by question and answer sessions, during which the project's developments and plans were discussed. The items covered by the workshop included the British embassy-facilitated Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) visit to Turkmenistan, the progress of the BOMCA and CADAP 5 programmes, developments in the EU/UNDP/OHCHR

project 'Strengthening the regional capacity of Turkmenistan to promote and protect human rights', programmes undertaken by individual nations, and the involvement of international parties in UNODC projects. Following a lively discussion and exchange of information over drug and organized crime-related projects and activities, the UNODC was asked to hold a special session in which to present embassies and other relevant international organizations with an overview of the drug and crime situation in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Turkmenistan. UNODC also presented the online Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism or ADAM, which provides Paris Pact partners with the information required to coordinate counter narcotics technical assistance in countries along the main opium trafficking routes from Afghanistan. There was also a demonstration of the ADAM system, outlining its benefits and explaining its registration process.

Law Enforcement Donor Coordination Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis throughout the remainder of 2011.

TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON THE TURKMEN-UZBEK BORDER

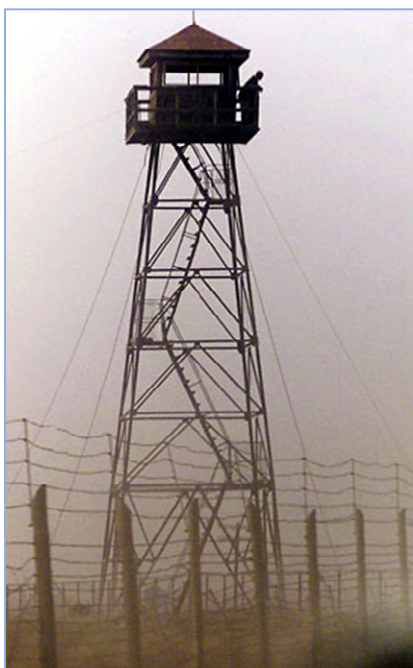
The beginning of 2011 has been a period of extensive activity for the UNODC project 'Strengthening border control along the Turkmen-Uzbek border, in particular at Farap Checkpoint', reflecting UNODC's ongoing commitment to strengthening the capabilities of law enforcement officers in the border

region. The activities undertaken have included two workshops addressing interviewing and investigation techniques respectively, along with the provision of two narcotic detection dogs and the training of their handlers. The first workshop, run from the 21st to the 25th of February in Turkmenabat, Turkmeni-

stan, provided national law enforcement officers with an overview of international best practices related to interview skills and techniques. The workshop was attended by 20 officers from the State Customs Service, State Border Service, State Migrations Service, the ministries of National Security and Internal



Project Activity



Affairs, and State Drug Control Services, who agreed to pass the mate-

rial they had learnt onto their colleagues. Trainers were provided by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC). The workshop served as a forum for the discussion of widely applied and accepted practices concerning interview techniques, including methods of planning and controlling an interview. These concepts were engrained through case and group studies, allowing participants to use their skills in practical situations. UNODC also hosted a second workshop in Turkmenabat from the 28th of March to the 1st of April, addressing the conduction of criminal investigations which relate to commercial goods and drug trafficking cases. Attended by 14 officers from the State Customs Service, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and State Drug Control Services, and directed by trainers from

the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and TADOC services, the workshop covered topics ranging from evidence collection to report writing techniques. Last but not least, UNODC has delivered two Narcotic Detector Dogs to the Turkmenistan Drug Control Service, an action made possible through in-kind contributions and close cooperation from the Turkish TIKA and the Turkish Police Dog Training center. Two agency officers have been selected to become dog handlers, and are currently undergoing an intensive training course running from the 6th of March to the 11th of June. The need for Narcotic Detector Dogs was determined during last year's assessment mission to Turkmenistan, conducted by two international experts from the 1st to the 3rd of November.

KAZAKHSTAN ADOPTS RECOMMENDED EXTRADITION PRACTICES

UNODC's Legal Advisory Programme's efforts to establish best extradition practices in Kazakhstan have this year come to fruition, evident in the acceptance of a series of key amendments to national legislation. The noteworthy amendments were introduced into the provisions on the extradition of the Criminal Procedure code by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan entitled 'On the amendments to certain legislative acts with regard to further humanization of criminal legislation and strengthening of the rule of law guarantees in the criminal proceedings.

Changes include the introduction of provisions allowing for the review and appeal of the General Prosecutor's or an authorized prosecutor's decision to extradite a

sought person, a ten-day time period during which the either person sought or his defence can make such an appeal. Another amendment has introduced the principle of non-refoulement, prohibiting the expulsion of a person to a state when there are grounds to believe they may be at risk of torture. Thus, a set of grounds for refusal of extradition was supplemented accordingly.

These legislative changes provide a person sought with an instrument enabling to ensure that extradition takes place only in strict accordance with the law excluding partial decisions and strengthen the right of a person sought to protection from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, which is in line with a number of international instruments and best practices.

Active in Central Asia since 2000, the Legal Advisory Programme's segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan has been delivering a legal assistance service intended to help states in the region with ratifying and effectively implementing the UN drugs, organized crime and corruption instruments. The Programme is run by Senior Legal Adviser based at the Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

Among other objectives, the Programme strives to promote international cooperation in combating organized crime, drug and human trafficking, migrants smuggling, corruption and money laundering while drawing the States' special attention to the rule of law guarantees in the criminal proceedings.



CENTRAL ASIAN PROSECUTORS DISCUSSED INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL STANDARDS



The training course entitled ‘International and National Standards of Professional Responsibility, Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors’, held by UNODC from the 24th to the 25th of March in Tashkent, has helped to realise the objectives of the national anti-corruption project UZBT65 “Strengthening anti-corruption measures in Uzbekistan”. This has been achieved by giving over forty one prosecutors from all parts of Uzbekistan the opportunity to dis-



cuss the complex roles, rights and responsibilities of prosecutors in both their professional and personal lives.

Adapted to the course’s restricted timeframe, the agenda began with an outline of the international and national standards of each participating country as related to prosecutorial activities and conduct. It then focused on an analysis of the six professional responsibilities, duties and rights of prosecutors: professional conduct, independence, impartiality, the role of prosecutors in criminal proceedings, international cooperation and the importance of empowering prosecutors to facilitate responsible decision-making.

In addition to topics concerning a prosecutor’s behaviour in professional situations, the training course also addressed how they should conduct themselves in their personal and social lives. Related topics included rules concerning how a prosecutor should approach social events and meetings, restrictions to secondary work, and the need to prevent nepotism and bias. Other topics included the ways that legislative

reforms in Russia, Uzbekistan, United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina have affected prosecutors, the need to empower prosecutors through sufficient pay and legal protection.

To complement the information provided during the course’s discussions, UNODC representatives and participating international experts also developed a “Manual on international and national standards of professional responsibility, rights and duties of prosecutors”. This document contained relevant national legislation, case studies and international documents and resolutions, and was distributed to participants in both a paper and electronic format. Both the insight provided by trainers and the information in the manual were highly valued by all



the participants. They noted that the information was of actual importance, and was presented in a highly professional manner. The Head of Training courses under Prosecutor General’s Office of Uzbekistan, Mr. Tolibjon Umarov, expressed his gratification for the organization of a very useful practical training course, while assuring that the attendees would share their learnt knowledge with their colleagues and students.



UNODC ADVOCATES FOR A FAVORABLE AIDS LEGISLATION

This year UNODC has made an important step towards helping governments improve access to HIV related health services for drugs users and prison inmates.

Held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on the 19th of January, the regional consultative meeting ‘Accessibility of HIV prevention and treatment for vulnerable populations in Central Asia and Azerbaijan: Results of the legislative and policy analysis’ allowed the discussion of a 2010 report analyzing national legislation of Central Asian nations.

The report resulted from the assessment of national legislation of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as they relate to HIV treatment and prevention, and was produced by national experts from each country with technical assistance from the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal network under the auspices of UNODC ROCA. Its purpose was to identify legal barriers that might hinder each country’s efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care, and ultimately contained dozens of recommendations for legislative and policy reform.

The consultative meeting’s goal was to discuss the legislative and policy report’s major findings and resulting recommendations. These recommendations were intended to encourage governments to reform their policies and legislation, in turn ensuring the provision of necessary health services to disenfranchised or disadvantaged populations (including drug users and prison inmates).

During the meeting, the team of international experts presented a

range of currently-employed legislative and policy approaches which influence the effectiveness of HIV prevention among these populations. Methods of overcoming structural and social barriers in order to achieve truly universal access to health care and social protection were also discussed. Two major priorities were highlighted as a result of the discussion.

The first priority related to mitigating the harshness and scope of punitive laws regarding drug possession for personal use, with the suggestion that countries should initiate reforms in order to decriminalize drug users. It was suggested that this should be achieved by revisiting the current restrictive approaches to defining the quantities of drugs for which possession does not attract criminal or administrative liability, while amending laws so that the possession of quantities without intent to sell cannot be penalized by law. There is also a need to reduce the application of custodial sentences for non-violent

drug-related crime. This will require the establishment or strengthening of a system of alternatives to incarceration, while developing and implementing a referral system designed to send drug-dependent offenders to treatment facilities in the community.

The second priority relates to the need to improve access to effective drug dependence treatment. It was decided that countries must scale up Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) as an effective, evidence-based treatment approach for opioid dependence in both the community and prisons. It was suggested that treatment delivery methods should also be widened and diversified.

It was agreed during the consultative meeting that the UNODC and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network should continue providing technical support to countries with concern to the amendment of legislative and policy frameworks of the above areas and others identified in the comprehensive project report.





HELPS PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN



UNODC recognizes that the power to stop young people from abusing drugs, becoming involved in crime and participating in risky behaviour that can lead to HIV/AIDS infection lies squarely in the hands of their parents. UNODC's regional 'training of trainers' (TOT) workshop, run in Almaty from the 23rd to the 27th of January within the framework of the global project "Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes", represented a practical application of this concept. The goal of the training was to prepare Intern-FAST (Family and Schools Together) trainers, who will help conduct the project's second phase under the direction of FAST certified supervisors. This second phase will train national teams of instructors at pilot schools in each participating country, who will in turn directing a series of spring training sessions for families. These final sessions are designed to strengthen and improve parents' capacities to take better care of their children.

The TOT workshop was led by the FAST educational program's developer Ms. Lynn McDonald, an international consultant and a professor

of social work research at Middlesex University, London, along with two FAST-certified international trainers. The methodology used in the course was developed over ten years ago, and has since evolved through both the incorporation of new information and feedback from TOT participants. Consequently a number of effective training methods were used in the workshops, including power-point lectures, exercises incorporating informative handouts and a screening of the video documentary "Working with parents". Role-play exercises were particularly important to the workshops, giving participants the opportunity to apply newly-acquired skills to hypothetical situations. Participants assumed the roles of particular members in training teams, in order to experience the impact they have on both their fellow team members and the families they work with. They then assumed the trainer role for each aspect of the 6 day FAST training of trainers workshop, in order to practice training techniques they had learnt. Small group discussions were used to review each role play situation, utilizing the learning model 'plan, do and review'. Multiple evaluation forms were completed by participants and the results were discussed. As a result of the TOT workshop, 19

school teachers, school psychologists, parent partners and six members of cultural-adaptation groups from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were all ready to be national teams of Intern-Fast Trainers.

The participants had also taken part in the Initial UNODC "Families and schools together (FAST)" training programme which took place in autumn 2010. Training programmes like the TOT workshop can be considered the first serious step in building the capacity to scale up the FAST program in participating Central Asian countries. One Kyrgyzstan participant noted that she considered the TOT workshop to be greatly beneficial. "I have gained an ocean of useful information from this training," she said. "I hope that through my work with families, the relationship between parents and their children will be strengthened, while parents will become more attentive to their children's needs. I have gained a lot from this training, and I will have to do an excellent job in imple-



menting the FAST programme in Kyrgyzstan." The implementation of evidence-based family skills training programmes such as FAST can help prevent children and adolescents from using drugs, getting involved in crime and becoming vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Families can act as a powerful form of risk-prevention and protective support, allowing for healthy child and youth development.