



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Office for South Asia



Security  
Health  
Justice  
Communities  
Networking  
Partnership





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**Sources:** Bhutan Narcotics Control Agency, Royal Government of Bhutan; Department of Narcotics Control, Government of Bangladesh; Global Terrorism Database; International Narcotics Control Board; Maldives Customs Service, Government of Maldives; Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal; Narcotics Control Bureau, Government of India; Narcotics Control Bureau, Government of Nepal; National Academy of Customs Excise and Narcotics, Government of India; National AIDS Control Organization, Government of India; National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Government of Sri Lanka; South Asia Terrorism Portal; Trafficking in Persons Report 2014, US Department of State; UNAIDS; UNODC World Drug Report 2014.

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# FOREWORD

The 6 South Asian countries<sup>1</sup> covered by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for South Asia have made considerable progress during the last years towards meeting development goals and overcoming conflict and crisis. However, the region is facing profound challenges to the rule of law and human security in the form of known and newly emerging forms of organized crime as well as in inadequate governance, criminal justice and the social response to it.

Drug and human trafficking have prevailed in the region for a long time. Drug production and trafficking have become more complex as drug markets in the region are evolving and now include an increasing number of drugs, ranging from both natural and synthetic opiates, Amphetamine-type stimulants and other synthetic drugs, pharmaceutical preparations and prescription drugs as well as a rising number of so-called 'new psychoactive substances'. The availability of and easy access to this variety of drugs entail serious health consequences, especially when injecting drug use occurs with the subsequent risk of infection with HIV and hepatitis, placing additional burden on health systems. Stigma and discrimination of those who require access to services remain a serious social problem.

Also, human trafficking has been present in the region for a long time. The region is a source, transit and destination for large numbers of vulnerable groups of people, including women and children moving within and beyond the region in search of better lives. Many of them - on their journey- become exposed to and victimized by criminal organizations, both for smuggling across borders as well as for various forms of exploitation.

A series of new emerging crimes have added to the already existing challenges, ranging from wildlife and forest crime, piracy as well as terrorism. Related economic crimes threaten the integrity of financial systems in the region, while corruption is seen as another major handicap to good governance, sustainable development and accountability. When addressing these threats, criminal justice and prison systems struggle with providing

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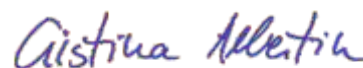
<sup>1</sup> The UNODC Regional Office South Asia covers Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

services to victims, witnesses and prisoners in line with international criminal justice standards and human rights – women and juvenile offenders are especially exposed.

UNODC is seeking to contribute to the achievement of security and justice for all by making the world safer from crime, drugs and terrorism. UNODC's work is grounded in a series of international instruments for which the Office acts as the worldwide guardian and advocate. They include the three international drug conventions, the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the universal instruments against terrorism and the UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

By 2011, almost all Governments in the region had ratified the UNTOC and the UNCAC. Based on a common understanding of the international framework on drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia initiated a substantive dialogue with the six Governments on the top priority areas which needed to be addressed with the support of UNODC. Based on a Regional Expert Group Meeting in 2012 and the subsequent drafting of the Regional Programme (2013-2015), UNODC has been focusing its attention on 5 main priority areas: (i) countering transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking, including drug trafficking; (ii) countering corruption; (iii) terrorism prevention; (iv) promoting efficient, fair and humane criminal justice systems; (v) drug use prevention and treatment and HIV/AIDS.

The present brochure attempts to describe the work that the UNODC Regional Office for South Asia has been doing to help countries in the region in addressing the above threats. We hope that with the trust and engagement of our partners in the Governments, civil society, bi- and multilateral organizations corporate sector, academia and media we will be able to create a difference to make South Asia safer from the challenges posed by drugs, crime and terrorism. I take this opportunity to thank whole-heartedly all our partners who have made our efforts possible, thanks to their contributions in the form of engagement, knowledge and resources.



**Cristina Albertin**  
Representative  
UNODC, South Asia





COUNTERING  
TRANSNATIONAL  
ORGANIZED CRIME



# Drug Trafficking

For many years, drug supply in South Asia has been seen almost exclusively in the light of heroin being trafficked from the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan) and the Golden Triangle (Thailand, Laos, Myanmar) and of home-grown or wild cannabis. However, drug markets have been evolving fast and the region is now witnessing both the manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs, prescription drugs including pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs, as well as the emergence of the so-called 'new psychoactive substances'. Combined, they present new challenges to drug law enforcement agencies, as well as to the social sector which needs to deal with the resulting consequences.

While Governments in South Asia have ratified the 3 UN Drug Control Conventions and established domestic legal and regulatory regimes to control drug supply, capacities to effectively apply them are uneven. The cross-border and inter-regional nature of trafficking of drugs requires not only constant capacity building, but also more effective coordination across the region and beyond to keep up with emerging trends. Dismantling effectively trafficking networks within the region requires strong and efficient drug law enforcement strategies, including enhanced inter-agency cooperation within a country as well as with agencies across borders and regions.

In the context of drug supply reduction, precursor control is another critical area. The term 'precursor chemicals' refers to chemicals that are essential to the manufacture of drugs and are incorporated at the molecular level into a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. Precursors are chemicals which are legally produced and legitimately used in industries and research. Drug traffickers divert them from legitimate trade and use them to produce illicit drugs. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 identifies 23 precursors which are mostly used for the illicit manufacture of drugs. Out of these, acetic anhydride, anthranilic acid, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are of special concern to the region.



## Trends and patterns of drug trafficking in South Asia

- Trafficking of heroin from Pakistan and Afghanistan into India. Further trafficking from India to neighbouring countries of South Asia, Europe and the American continent.
- Illicit cultivation as well as wild growth of cannabis in India. Trafficking of cannabis from Nepal to India.
- Increase in trafficking of cocaine from Americas and Europe into India.
- Diversion of pharmaceutical preparations and prescription drugs containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from India to neighbouring countries in South Asia.
- Diversion of controlled licit chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine for the manufacture of Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). Trafficking of precursors from North East India to Myanmar.
- Trafficking of ketamine from India to various destinations, mainly in South East Asia.



## Pharmaceutical preparations

South Asia, India in particular, has an extensive pharmaceutical industry, manufacturing a vast range of pharmaceutical products at highly competitive prices. Some of the narcotic and psychotropic pharmaceuticals are trafficked both within and outside the region. The most common of these are benzodiazepines, codeine based cough syrups, buprenorphine, pethidine and others.

## New Psychoactive Substances

New psychoactive substances have been known in the market by terms such as 'designer drugs', 'legal highs', 'herbal highs', 'bath salts', 'research chemicals', 'laboratory reagents'. They are defined as 'substances of abuse, either in a pure form or a preparation, that are not controlled by the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but which may pose a public health threat'. The term 'new' does not necessarily refer to new inventions - several NPS were first synthesized 40 years ago - but to substances that have recently emerged on the market and which have not been scheduled under the above Conventions. NPS have become a global phenomenon and all regions of the world have been affected by it. Over 90 countries and territories have reported the emergence of NPS.



## UNODC Response

UNODC has been assisting Governments in the region to assess the extent of drug trafficking, analyze emerging trends and build capacities of law enforcement officials both at the national and regional level. The capacity building measures included the development of national and regional training programmes for law enforcement officers, reaching over 500 personnel. Forensic training for lab technicians and law enforcement officers has reached more than 320 in the region. 3 knowledge

products were developed, including a course curriculum, a training manual and a guideline for trainers on drug law enforcement.

A key aspect of UNODC's work is promoting national and regional cooperation and coordination in drug control and related crimes, in particular relating to money laundering and the subsequent recovery of the illicit proceeds of crime.

## **Computer Based Training (CBT)**

As part of its work on building capacities of law enforcement officials to counter drug trafficking, UNODC has introduced a new training tool based on e-learning and computer based training, reaching out to a much larger number of trainees than under traditional classroom training.

To this end, UNODC has so far set up 36 computer based training (CBT) centres for a variety of law enforcement agencies in South Asia, including drug law enforcement agencies. These include 1 in Bangladesh, 1 in Bhutan, 30 in India, 1 in Maldives, 1 in Nepal and 2 in Sri Lanka. The CBT comprehensively covers all aspects of drug law enforcement such as drug



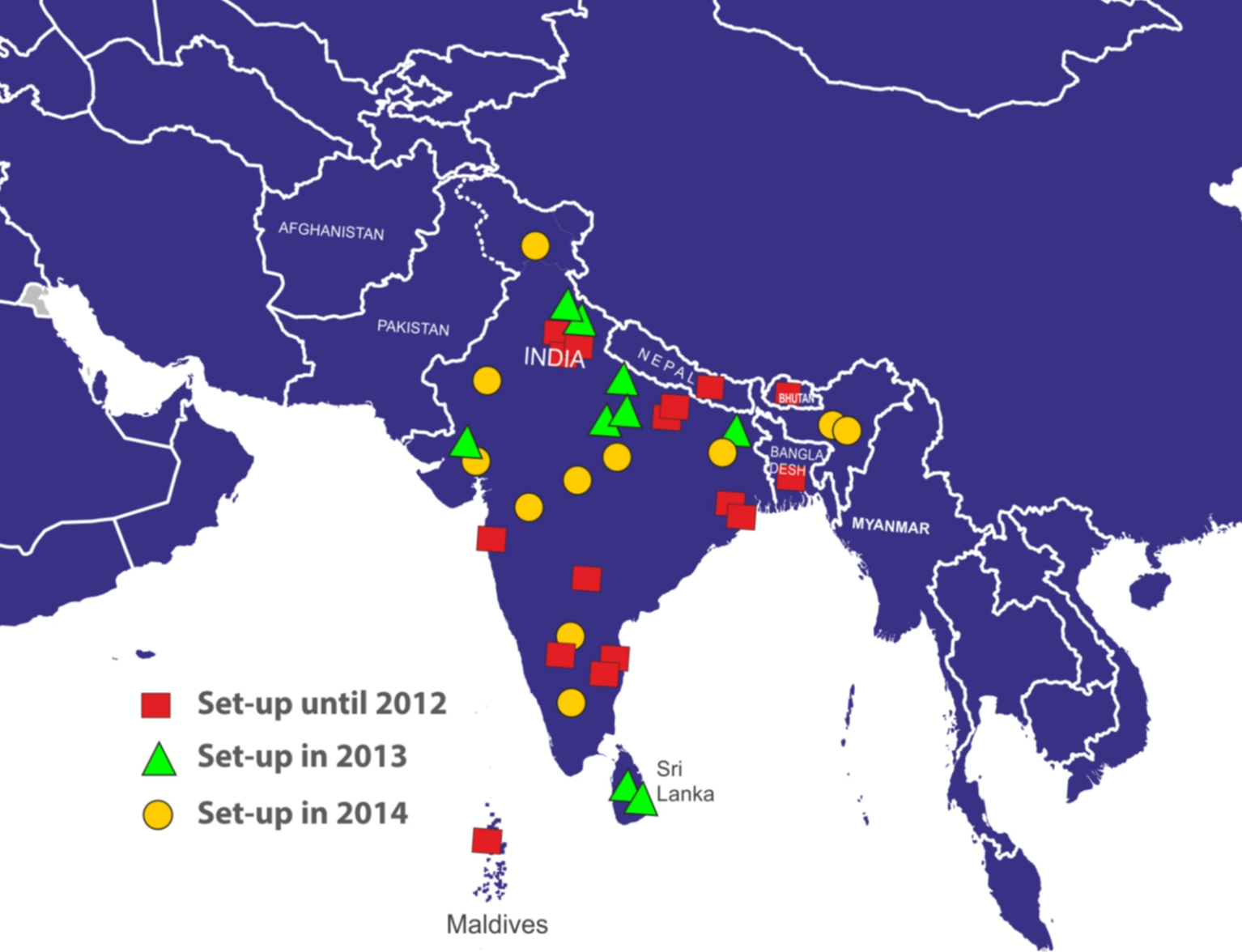
identification and testing, search techniques, interdiction techniques, intelligence gathering, precursor chemicals and money laundering. Many of the lessons serve law enforcement at large, and not only drug law enforcement in particular. The CBT module for drug law enforcement has over 100 hours of interactive multimedia training, which trainees can access and use at their own pace at an established CBT centre.

CBT has proven highly attractive to law enforcement officials in the region and UNODC is constantly looking at expanding its outreach and including new content into the programme.



India	Maldives	Sri Lanka	Bhutan	Nepal	Bangladesh
1500	1051	162	70	32	175

**2990 law enforcement officers trained on CBT**



## Expansion of CBT centres in South Asia



## Container Control Programme

The use of maritime transportation by traffickers has been identified as a key emerging threat – one which so far has been largely overlooked by international and national law enforcement. Addressing this area of concern, UNODC has been working closely with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop and implement the Container Control Programme. The Container Control Programme assists Governments to create sustainable enforcement structures at sea ports in order to minimize the risk of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and other forms of illicit activities.

In South Asia, the Container Control Programme works closely with all participating Governments of the region. It has already established Port Control Units (PCUs) at Male, Maldives and Colombo, Sri Lanka. These PCUs comprise customs and other relevant law enforcement officers, who undertake the systematic profiling and inspection of high risk containers. Staff at these PCUs is provided with sustained training and mentoring support from WCO and UNODC. In a short period of time, the 2 operational PCUs have made impressive fiscal and non-fiscal seizures. The Container Control Programme actively supports the formation of alliances, cooperation and information exchange between customs, trade and enforcement communities as a means to prevent the abuse of legitimate commercial trade for the purposes of organized crime.





# Human Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is a grave human rights violation and a serious crime affecting societies worldwide. It victimizes millions of women, men and children, including those most vulnerable amongst migrant communities, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, and is commonly associated with many other forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation, forced and bonded labour, forced marriages and practices similar to slavery. The brutality and injustice associated with trafficking in persons is immeasurable for each and every victim. Their lives, dreams and expectations are shattered.

Though research on patterns and trends of human trafficking in South Asia is limited, media, Government and other reports suggest that trafficking in persons takes place within, between and beyond countries of the region. Although traditionally a source country for human trafficking, Bangladesh in recent years has emerged as both a transit and destination country. Alongside intra-country and cross-border trafficking in women and children, trafficking of men for the purpose of labour exploitation has been on the rise. Though human trafficking is a more recent phenomenon in Bhutan, there have been recorded cases of young boys and girls being trafficked to India and sometimes further to Nepal. Indian women from border states have also been trafficked into border towns of Bhutan mostly for sexual exploitation. Nepal is a source country for men, women and children and trafficking occurs mainly in 3 areas: cross-border trafficking beyond India; trafficking to India and internal trafficking, mainly in entertainment enterprises, brick kilns and streets. India is a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons, wherein 90 percent of trafficking is internal and trafficking usually takes place for sexual exploitation, child and bonded labour, forced labour and illegal organ removal. Maldives is a destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and trafficking for sexual exploitation and a source country for women and children subjected to forced labour and trafficking for sexual exploitation. Sri Lanka is primarily a source and, to a lesser extent, a destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labour and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

All countries in South Asia have taken progressive steps to counter human trafficking. However, national approaches to combat this form of organized crime are not sufficient. Justice and the rule of law need to be applied in a way that transcend borders. UNODC in South Asia is working to strengthen cross-border and regional cooperation in countering human trafficking in the region.



## ***What is human trafficking?***

***Under the United Nations Protocol on Human Trafficking which is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime-human trafficking has been defined as:***

***“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.***

***This exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”***



# UNODC Response

UNODC draws its mandate from the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

## Country specific and regional initiatives

UNODC in South Asia has responded to human trafficking challenges through the implementation of various initiatives since 2006. The first anti-human trafficking project with the Government of India led to the setting up of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), a trained cadre of over 14,000 law enforcement officers and development of numerous technical tools and resources. More recently since 2013-14, UNODC has expanded its scope to include new country specific and regional initiatives. These include country specific projects in Bangladesh and Bhutan and two regional initiatives in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The regional initiatives aim at strengthening cross-border collaboration and cooperation to counter human trafficking; including, developing guidelines for facilitating repatriation of victims of cross-border trafficking, scaling-up referral mechanisms for protection and assistance to victims, facilitating service provisions and creating awareness among potential victims and communities at borders.

In Bangladesh, UNODC has developed a comprehensive training toolkit in Bangla (the official language of Bangladesh) for police and prosecutors and a cadre of 30 master trainers is further reaching out to train approximately 800 law enforcement officials and prosecutors. In partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNODC is conducting training programmes for law enforcement and labour officers in India and Bangladesh. These trainings focus on jointly sensitizing labour officers and law enforcement officers to coordinate better to counter trafficking for forced labour, especially for domestic work.

Human trafficking is an emerging concern in Bhutan and the Royal Government of Bhutan is taking pro-active measures to address this crime. UNODC is



working in collaboration with the Royal Government of Bhutan to strengthen policy and legislation in countering trafficking in persons, develop a comprehensive training module to train law enforcement officers and prosecutors, develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for investigating trafficking cases and create awareness about human trafficking among local communities in border towns.

## Commemorating Anti-Human Trafficking Day

On 30 July 2014, the United Nations General Assembly commemorated the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons. On this day, the world community came together to express their solidarity with the millions affected by this crime. UNODC initiated the #igivehope social media campaign to help raise awareness on this heinous crime. People from across the world participated in this global campaign and shared pictures on Facebook and Twitter of themselves with the symbolic heart – an internationally recognized gesture of love, care and friendship.



## Experience sharing through study visits

*To assist Governments in strengthening cooperation and promoting information exchange and experience sharing, UNODC in South Asia has facilitated study visits between countries. In December 2012, UNODC in India and Nigeria organized a 6 day study tour to India by Nigerian Government officials from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP), NGO representatives and local UNODC staff. The study visit increased the understanding of the visiting team of enhanced service delivery, especially in victim care and support. The team benefitted from visits to shelter homes in Kolkata and Mumbai and were favourably disposed to piloting a holistic victim-centred approach, through development of a care plan for every victim; peer-to-peer engagement with youth for sensitization and awareness and motivational lectures and diversification of skills acquisition for survivors in Nigerian shelters.*

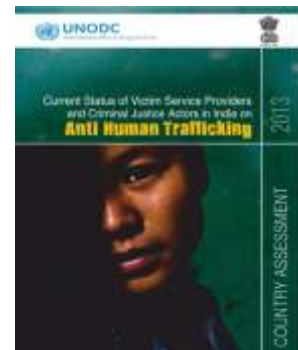
*In 2014, UNODC hosted a study visit for Government of Bangladesh officials to India. The study visit focused especially on the understanding of the structure and working of AHTUs, which the Government of India has established across the country. The AHTU is responsible for rescuing victims, investigating the alleged perpetrators and providing legal aid, counselling and rehabilitation services to the survivors with the help of local NGOs. The delegation also visited a shelter home in Kolkata, West Bengal where they interacted with survivors of human trafficking, 16 of whom had been trafficked from Bangladesh and were awaiting repatriation.*

*Similar study visits among other countries in the region are planned in the coming years.*

## **Country assessments: India and Bangladesh**

*With an aim to guide policy responses for improved victim assistance and protection for trafficked survivors, UNODC commissioned an assessment on the 'Status of victim service providers and criminal justice actors in India' in 2013. The report elaborates responses and initiatives taken by 21 State Governments in India to counter trafficking; it lays down constitutional and legal provisions, and Government sponsored protection schemes. In addition, the report also identifies key areas that require attention and concerted action to strengthen services for trafficking survivors.*

*In 2014 a similar country assessment was undertaken in Bangladesh, covering 20 districts. Both assessments are of practical use for officials, service providers and stakeholders to further design and develop a comprehensive response for victim assistance and protection for trafficked survivors.*



## **Border strengthening workshops**

*To address cross-border human trafficking and migrant smuggling, UNODC implements workshops near the land borders for officials from India-Bangladesh, India-Bhutan and India-Nepal. The aim is to encourage border control officers from all countries to engage jointly in discussions on necessary tools and skills (such as assessment of risk and passenger behavioural indicators) required to enhance border control officers' ability to effectively intercept persons attempting to enter illegally and/or for the purpose of people smuggling and human trafficking.*





# Smuggling of Migrants

Smuggling of migrants is deeply ingrained in the process of irregular migration. As a major driver of irregular migration, smuggling makes migrants vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and human trafficking. Also, smugglers expose migrants to severe, often life-threatening risks during the journey.

There is a critical need for data collection and information sharing so that policy development can be informed and built on evidence-based knowledge. Valid and reliable data is scarce due to the clandestine nature of migrant smuggling, and currently the information that exists is limited in accessibility.

As guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, UNODC's primary goal is to promote global adherence to these instruments and assist states in their efforts to effectively implement them. A crucial prerequisite to respond to these challenges is fostering evidence-based knowledge on migrant smuggling to raise awareness and inform effective policy development.

## UNODC Response

UNODC's response in South Asia has been to develop an evidence base on migrant smuggling and promote cooperation between stakeholders to enable targeted policy responses. UNODC in South Asia commissioned 2 studies on "Smuggling of migrants from India (Tamil Nadu and Punjab/Haryana states) to Europe, in particular the UK". These reports clearly exposed the source areas of migrant smuggling, dangers that smuggled migrants are exposed to, the

fraudulent methods adopted by agents and the profile of smuggled migrants. The studies conclude by recommending a number of concrete actions which will help to protect the interests of lawful unskilled labour going overseas for employment and minimize opportunities for the exploitation of vulnerable smuggled migrants.

To increase the evidence-based knowledge on migrant smuggling in Asia, UNODC is producing country profiles on migrant smuggling which form part of a larger report on 'Migrant Smuggling in Asia: Current Trends and Challenges' with the overall objectives of:

- 1) Raising awareness of the migrant smuggling challenge,
- 2) Informing counter-migrant smuggling policies at inter-regional, regional and national levels,
- 3) Fostering cooperation between concerned countries and regions.

This exercise has also been supported by the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process, Europol and Frontex.

## **What is migrant smuggling?**

***The Smuggling of Migrants Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines the smuggling of migrants as the "Procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident." (Article 3, Smuggling of Migrants Protocol).***





ROSE BIMP

Lynx trophy  
Lynx lynx  
Luzhistrophäe

CRIME SCENE

# Wildlife And Forest Crime

South Asia is home to an estimated 15 percent of the world's biodiversity, including around 10,000 endemic species of flora and fauna. Most iconic wildlife species in South Asia are the Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, snow leopard, red panda and the pangolin, as well as lesser known species such as turtles, tortoises, falcons, owls, wolves, black bears, swamp dears, wild buffalos, tokay geckos and many more, including endangered and protected species.

Most of the 8 South Asian countries are state parties to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) which entered into force in 1973 as well as to the 2003 United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. Despite this, many endangered species are driven closer to extinction by organized crime groups who make huge profits from the exploitation and trafficking of protected wildlife and forest products. As a consequence of poaching and illegal logging, not only is the environment and biodiversity seriously endangered, but political and economic security is also undermined by criminal groups involved in wildlife crimes and associated crimes, such as money laundering and corruption.

## UNODC Response

UNODC is part of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) together with CITES, Interpol, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization. ICWC has developed an analytical toolkit which allows interested countries to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its capacities to prevent wildlife and forest crimes, collect and analyze data, develop and enforce required laws and investigate



and prosecute wildlife and forest crimes. On behalf of ICCWC, UNODC conducts assessments in countries upon their request to identify existing gaps in the laws and policies, as well as suggests corrective action. This is done in a participatory way with all stakeholders involved. So far, UNODC has conducted two assessments in the region, i.e. in Bangladesh and Nepal.



*In July 2013, UNODC undertook a first mission to Bangladesh to discuss with the Department of Forest, Ministry of Environment the process of the implementation of the analytical toolkit. The first stakeholders' meeting gathered officials from the Forest Department, as well as from law enforcement agencies, such as Police, Customs, Coast Guard, Border Security and others who discussed their problems in implementing the wildlife crime control law. A few months later, an expert mission comprising 2 experienced wildlife and law enforcement officials conducted the assessment including visits to Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna and the Sunderbans. The report of the mission pointed to a series of problems that need urgent addressing. These include inter-alia:*

- (i) Review of the wildlife crime act to make it compliant with CITES,*
- (ii) Appointment of focal points in each relevant agency and establishment of an inter-agency working group to improve coordination,*
- (iii) Design of a national strategy against wildlife crime,*
- (iv) Awareness raising among officials and the public in general on the importance of preventing and controlling wildlife crime,*
- (v) Extensive capacity building and training in criminal investigations, evidence and intelligence gathering.*



*The recommendations were discussed again with all stakeholders, who understood and acknowledged the need for strengthening capacities. UNODC and the Forest Department are now working on the implementation of the recommendations of the assessment with a focus to strengthen enforcement and investigation capacities of the Forest Department officials and related law enforcement agencies.*





# Maritime Crime

Maritime Crime refers to criminal activity directed at vessels, as well as the use of the seas to perpetrate transnational organized crimes such as drug trafficking, smuggling of goods and maritime piracy. All of them pose a serious threat to the safety of seafarers, international trade and the political and economic stability in the region.

A critical challenge faced while addressing maritime crime is that these crimes are often committed outside the jurisdiction of any single state, but within the collective responsibility of all. This makes it important to have a coordinated and comprehensive approach to prevent and address such crimes as well as to establish regional prosecution mechanisms.

## UNODC Response

Several South Asian nations are vulnerable to maritime crime owing to their location in or close to the Indian Ocean and its trade routes. Port security is an issue of concern for all countries that have seaports. For a small-island nation like the Maldives which has over 1000 islands spread out over thousands of kilometres, maritime law enforcement poses serious challenges such as locating, identifying and intercepting suspect vessels.

Several countries in the region have large numbers of nationals working as seafarers across the world. Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka have all been seriously affected by piracy with considerable number of nationals being held as hostages for extended periods of time. The UNODC Maritime Crime Programme (MCP) has provided support to the hostages and their families in terms of medical and welfare support, facilitating communications and repatriation back home.

In the particular case of Maldives, UNODC MCP helped to repatriate a number of Somali nationals who were stranded in Maldives. In view of the lack of a possibility of an adequate criminal justice response, UNODC mobilized support to repatriate them. The Government of Maldives, in turn, committed to update its anti-piracy legislation.

In response to the extensive drug seizures conducted on the high seas in the Indian Ocean, the MCP launched an initiative in 2014. The most significant drawback to countering narcotics trafficking on the high seas is the lack of a legal finish through prosecution. UNODC is proposing that the piracy prosecution model, which was successful in delivering a legal finish to piracy detections at seas, be considered as a viable option for the prosecution of narcotics trafficking at sea. Accordingly, UNODC and the Government of Sri Lanka are working together on legislative changes to prosecute drug offences occurring on the high seas and focusing on capacity building for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and prison staff.






# COUNTERING CORRUPTION



**CORRUPTION**  
Your **NO** counts

 **UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

 Dai Style India

Volunteer  
for a  
Better India

**VOLUNTEER**

By 2011, almost all South Asian countries had become state parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the first-ever binding global anti-corruption instrument. The Convention obliges state parties to prevent and criminalize different corrupt practices, promote international cooperation, cooperate for the recovery of stolen assets and enhance technical assistance and information exchange across countries.

As soon as States have joined the UNCAC, they undergo the so-called “UNCAC peer review mechanism” under which one state party reviews another state and is reviewed by yet another. Phase 1 of the peer review process provides an analysis of possible gaps in implementation of two chapters of the UNCAC. These chapters address the penalization of corrupt acts, as well as international cooperation. It can also provide suggestions regarding measures to be taken.

As the secretariat of the Conference of Parties of the UNCAC and its guardian, UNODC works closely with Governments, private sector organizations and civil society to develop anti-corruption policies and legislation, as well as enhance the capacity of anti-corruption institutions.

## UNODC Response

### **Probity in procurement and corporate integrity**

In India, considering the size of the economy and businesses involved, UNODC has been focusing its anti-corruption work on promoting probity in procurement as well as in corporate integrity. To this end, UNODC brought together stakeholders from both the public and private sector, including the corporate sector, NGOs and media to discuss both topics in a participatory manner with a view to develop appropriate measures. As a first step, 2 studies were conducted analyzing existing (i) incentives for corporate integrity in accordance with the UNCAC and (ii) transparency, objectivity and competition in private

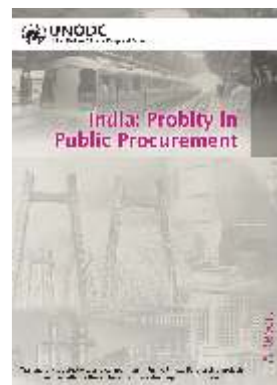
public partnership projects. Both studies assessed the compliance of existing and proposed legislations with the UNCAC and identified gaps at the grass-root level which need to be addressed.

The findings of these studies pointed –inter-alia- to the need for capacity building among stakeholders. Accordingly, UNODC developed 2 interactive sensitization modules on: 'Probity in Public Procurement' and 'Business Integrity' targeting both private sector employees, as well as public sector officials, especially from law enforcement. The 2 interactive knowledge tools provide an overview of Indian laws, the international legal regime, provisions under the UNCAC, as well as good practices to mitigate vulnerabilities to corruption in the private sector. They can be used individually at the pace of the trainee.

## **India: Probity in Public Procurement**

### **Key Recommendations of the Study**

1. Indian legal framework needs to be strengthened by the enactment of the Public Procurement Bill,
2. Need for oversight for Public – Private Partnerships (PPPs) through the entire process, from bidding to implementation and through establishing mechanisms of accountability for officials and consultants working under PPPs,
3. Citizens need to be more involved through a mechanism for public participation.



## **India: Corporate Integrity**

### **Key Recommendations of the Study**

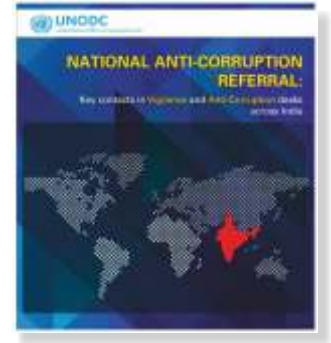
1. Need to promote a collaborative approach between law enforcement agencies and the private sector,
2. Whistle-blower programmes and external audits, especially in larger companies must be introduced/ strengthened,
3. Code of conduct for employees should be an integral part of the contract obligations.





## Anti-Corruption Referral

Bearing in mind the size and federal structure of India with 29 states and 7 union territories, stakeholders pointed to the difficulties in identifying the relevant contact person or Government department to lodge a complaint on corruption. In response to this, UNODC commissioned a 'National Anti-Corruption Referral of key contacts in vigilance and anti-corruption desks across India'. The referral provides contact information on vigilance desks in a variety of institutions, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, Central Vigilance Commission and the Enforcement Directorate. It also includes data on Government departments in 12 service areas which show a high level of interaction with the private sector, such as customs, health, highway authorities, land and property registration authorities, as well as credit institutions. The easy-to-use directory is structured by departments and states.



## Working with the youth

Youth in South Asia has expressed its interest in being part of the global and national anti-corruption efforts. During the last few years, UNODC hosted a series of training workshops for civil society organizations on the UNCAC, in which South Asian NGOs also participated.

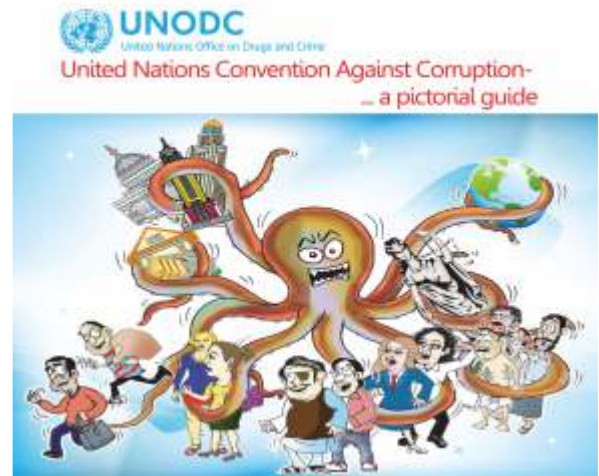


Under the umbrella of the Art of Living Foundation, UNODC participated in an initiative called 'Volunteer for a Better India'. In the nationwide campaign, UNODC conducted workshops on countering corruption under the title "Know it to fight it", in which young people were given a platform to discuss how corruption affects their day-to-day life and what measures they could take to contain it. More than 1000 youth participated in 4 workshops held in the states of Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

## Engagement with anti-corruption bureaus

Over the last few years, UNODC has worked with national anti-corruption agencies in South Asia. Many of them have a mandate to investigate offences of corruption. Both anti-corruption bureaus and law enforcement agencies have highlighted the need for capacity building in investigating complex crimes of corruption.

In the Maldives, UNODC has been working with the Anti-Corruption Commission to review and assess progress since 2008. In Sri Lanka, UNODC is working with the Anti-Corruption Commission to identify ways to build stronger relations within the region and to follow up on the UNCAC review. Similar efforts are underway in Bangladesh and Nepal.



### Commemorating Anti-Corruption Day

9 December is commemorated as the International Anti-Corruption Day. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNODC have joined hands in a campaign which aims at mobilizing people to speak up against corruption. Each year, UNODC Regional Office for South Asia commemorates the day by bringing together stakeholders who discuss and act against corruption. UNODC has organized events with Government officials, business houses, industry bodies, civil society and the media.





# TERRORISM PREVENTION



During the last decades, South Asia has been exposed to significant terrorism acts of different forms and patterns. According to sources, in 2013, South Asia alone accounted for over 38 percent of terrorist incidents worldwide. Many such incidents are found to have complex international linkages and possible connections with other organized crimes, such as the trafficking of arms and drugs, circulation of fake currency, money laundering as well as the cross-border movement of armed groups.

Governments in South Asia have taken a number of initiatives to overcome the challenges of terrorism affecting peace and stability. Several countries in the region have made good progress towards the ratification of the international instruments and adopting respective domestic legislation, however, additional effort is required to fully implement and comply with these. One key aspect to cope effectively with terrorism across borders is inter-agency and international cooperation, including the application of mutual legal assistance and extradition. More effective cooperation as well as the building of regional platforms can help to effectively counter and prevent terrorism within South Asia.

Preventing terrorism requires effective criminal justice systems which uphold the rule of law as well as human rights. In this regard, criminal justice systems in the region have limited and uneven capacities to investigate and prosecute perpetrators at large, as well as handle the complex and multidimensional nature of modern terrorism. Therefore, criminal justice agencies in the region require extensive capacity building in order to keep up with emerging challenges in areas such as the use of internet for terrorism purposes, financing of terrorism and other related aspects.



## **International legal framework on counter terrorism**

*The international legal framework against terrorism consists of 19 international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, several Security Council Resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006.*

*The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains the most comprehensive and universally accepted strategy for a multilateral response. The Strategy spans a spectrum of measures to prevent terrorism and protect the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. It is built on four pillars, i.e. (i) addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, (ii) preventing and combating terrorism, (iii) building capacities to prevent and combat terrorism and (iv) strengthening the UN system's role in this regard and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.*

*At the regional level, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has adopted a number of relevant regional instruments to counter terrorism.*

## UNODC Response

UNODC provides specialized assistance to Member States in ratifying and implementing the international legal regime, strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters and building criminal justice capacities to counter terrorism in accordance with the principles of the rule of law.

### **Assistance with ratification and legislative incorporation**

As an on going engagement, UNODC has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh in the development of comprehensive national legislation on protection of and assistance to witnesses and victims of serious crimes, including terrorism. In this regard, UNODC organized a national workshop aimed at providing legislative drafting advice. The workshop focused on international standards, trends and practices on witness protection and provided a platform to share good

practices from comparable regional models. Recommendations and learnings from this workshop will pave the way towards developing a national action plan for adoption of law on witness and victim protection and support.

In Bhutan, UNODC has been working closely with the Royal Government of Bhutan to raise awareness on the importance of ratifying the 19 international instruments against terrorism.





## Capacity building

UNODC has been organizing a number of national and regional workshops and trainings for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials on a wide range of criminal justice topics related to prevention and prosecution of terrorist acts, as well as related international cooperation. At these events, participants have the opportunity to listen to and learn from the experience of experts from within and beyond the region, discuss good practices and share lessons learned to help equip themselves with the specialized skills required to effectively design new laws, investigate and prosecute terrorism cases and to deepen inter-agency cooperation.

Workshops have focused on a number of issues relating to countering terrorism. A first regional workshop in India focused on the international instruments against terrorism and their application in the region. A second one dealt with the emerging threat of the use



of the internet for terrorist purposes. A more recent workshop held in Nepal addressed the need to strengthen national capacities to effectively prosecute perpetrators of terrorist attacks and strengthen protection and assistance of witnesses and victims of terrorism. Many of these workshops were organized by UNODC in close partnership with the Counter - Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

In India, considering the number of criminal justice officers to be trained, UNODC is working closely with the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy to advance the knowledge and expertise needed to strengthen the capacity of national criminal justice officers to implement the universal legal framework against terrorism. In an ongoing partnership, UNODC is organizing trainings on terrorism prevention based on the 'Train-the-Trainers' approach. Under this, initial trainings by UNODC aim at creating a set of trainers who then further train criminal justice practitioners in the Indian context, as well as participate as experts at regional and international platforms. Expanding this partnership, UNODC and the National Police Academy are also exploring other areas of interest within the UNODC mandate, in order to meet the growing needs of the country.



UNODC has also been promoting innovative learning through the implementation of an online training course for South Asia, in collaboration with INTERPOL. The course is aimed at strengthening police and judicial cooperation by developing the knowledge and skills of practitioners for the effective use of international cooperation mechanisms envisaged in the international and regional legal framework against terrorism.



## Technical assistance: Tools and publications

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### ***Victim support and countering the appeal of terrorism***

***Testimonies of victims and witnesses are cornerstones for successful investigation and prosecution of crimes related to terrorism. However, they are frequently overlooked and have long played a rather silent role in criminal trials. This is slowly changing with the increasing recognition of victims as a key component of a successful, rule of law based criminal justice response to acts of terrorism.***

***In addition to the important role that victims play in criminal proceedings, victims can also help counter the appeal of terrorism by showing that terrorism can affect anyone, anywhere, at any time, regardless of their status. By giving a human face to the painful consequences of terrorism, victims' voices and stories can help build a global culture against it. These efforts can help shape the attitudes and norms of society towards participation in terrorist acts, creating a strong deterrent effect on those contemplating involvement in terrorism.***

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DRUG USE PREVENTION,  
TREATMENT AND CARE AND  
PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS



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It is well known that drug use can inflict harm on an individual person, the family, the community and society at large. Worldwide, drug markets are evolving and new drugs and psychoactive substances add to the existing challenge of how to deal comprehensively with substance abuse and the related health consequences under an evidence-based and human rights approach.

In South Asia, opiates remain a highly problematic group of drugs, which when overdosed, leads often to death among people who inject drugs. Recent trends point to an increased use of amphetamine-type synthetic drugs, as well as of prescription drugs, including codeine-based cough syrups, painkillers and tranquilizers. The combined use of different substances has grave consequences for the users, which service providers and health systems are neither prepared nor equipped to deal with.

In addition to smoking, chasing and inhaling drugs, many users also inject drugs. In India alone, there are an estimated 170,000 injecting drug users and in Nepal 51,808. Injecting of drugs often leads to the transmission of blood-borne diseases such as HIV and hepatitis through sharing of needles among drug users, who in turn may infect their sexual partners, thus contributing to the spread of diseases. HIV infection rates among injecting drug users are high with currently 7.2 percent in India and 6.3 percent in Nepal.

## What is drug dependence?

Drug dependence, popularly also called addiction is a recognized chronic, relapsing medical disorder. Drug dependent persons are not in control of their drug use habit, which can lead to serious, long term consequences, including physical and psychosocial problems. A break in the drug use habit can lead to serious sufferings ranging from withdrawal, insomnia, depression, heart palpitations and others. Like other comparable chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, drug dependence can be treated, often requiring long-term medical treatment.

# UNODC Response

Over the last years, UNODC has been working with Governments and civil society organizations on a broad range of areas, including research, evidence generation, quality assurance, advocacy and policy advice, pioneering of opioid substitution treatment (OST), capacity building and training of service providers in the area of drug treatment and HIV prevention, placing emphasis on emerging issues, such as overdose management and targeting the hard-to-reach drug-using populations, such as women.

## Assessing the scope and patterns of drug use

*While there is solid information on the HIV epidemic available in the region, knowledge on the scope and nature of drug use is scarce and sometimes outdated. With new drugs rapidly emerging in the region, it is imperative that drug use surveys are conducted regularly and capture possible new trends both through comprehensive national studies and more focused studies on groups that are specially affected, such as street children. Only updated information on drug use patterns can provide the foundations for evidence-based policies in the area of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug users.*



UNODC supports Governments to undertake studies and assessments on the extent, patterns and trends of drug use. These help to identify gaps in services as well as to develop responses to strengthen services in line with international standards and best practices, allowing to meet current and emerging needs.

Together with the Government of Maldives, UNODC in 2012 conducted the first-ever National Drug Use Survey to comprehensively address the drug situation in Maldives.

# Maldives: National Drug Use Survey

UNODC helped the Government of Maldives to develop its national capacities in demand reduction services. The response included the drafting and adoption of a new drug law, which for the first time offers drug offenders the possibility of accessing drug treatment through the establishment of drug courts. It also included diverse capacity building measures in the area of drug use prevention as well as treatment, care and rehabilitation working with respective Government agencies as well as civil society organizations. Under the project, UNODC supported the first-ever National Drug Use Survey in Maldives.



## The key findings of the survey include:

- Estimated number of current drug users aged between 15 – 64 years is 7,500 (population of Maldives is 345,000)
- The injecting use of heroin is of particular concern
- Cannabinoids, opioids and alcohol are most commonly abused
- Poly-drug use was found to be a major problem
- A large number of drug users are imprisoned for drug offences without access to treatment
- Mental health issues of drug users need attention

The survey also recommended that based on the findings, the Government together with partners should urgently:

- Expand awareness on drug use through outreach in schools, colleges and within communities
- Increase availability and access to treatment services
- Develop information management systems to collect, analyze and communicate data on drug use

## Opioid Substitution Treatment in South Asia

### What is Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST)?

Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) is a universally accepted treatment option for opioid dependent persons. It involves the administration of an opioid medication (like methadone or buprenorphine) –orally or sublingually, under medical supervision, to an opioid dependent user. The comprehensive treatment coupled with psychosocial support helps the drug user reduce and stop injecting, overcome withdrawal, control craving and reduce or wean off the opioid. UNODC has developed toolkits for service providers working on OST.



### Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT)

In partnership with national Governments, UNODC piloted Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Nepal. MMT has helped hundreds of patients dependent on opioids, reduce their risk of contracting and transmitting HIV and other blood-borne viruses and improve their overall well-being by stabilizing them physically and emotionally. Many drug users have been able to reintegrate into their families and get back to normal life and work after enrolling in the MMT programme.

A total of 12 MMT centres have been set up in the region with the support of UNODC. The respective national Governments have incorporated them into their national plans and programmes.

### Managing drug overdose: UNODC trains medical practitioners

Globally, overdose is a leading cause of death among people who use drugs, especially those using opioids. However, deaths caused by overdose can be prevented. UNODC is training health care providers and community workers on overdose prevention and treatment. The trainings focus on the causes, risk factors, signs and symptoms of an overdose. In Bhutan, the training was conducted in collaboration with the Bhutan Narcotics Control Agency, Royal Government of Bhutan. A similar training was conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Government of Sri Lanka. UNODC in collaboration with national Governments is also conducting studies on 'Issues affecting overdose prevention and treatment' in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.





## **Engaging with communities**

### **Reaching out to women drug users**

Women are affected by drug use both as users and partners of men who use drugs. Women who use drugs are more exposed to stigma and discrimination than men. Therefore, they are more hidden and harder-to-reach. There are very few women-specific treatment centres available. When women seek treatment, they are often expected to fit into programmes designed for men. As partners of drug users, many women also bear the physical, emotional and financial burden. They are often not in a position to negotiate safe injecting or safe sex and are therefore vulnerable to unplanned pregnancies, as well as HIV infection for both themselves and their unborn baby. Women's needs are different from men's and thus they require gender-sensitive treatment, care and support, also taking into account their responsibilities for their children and their families.

Working with women drug users forms an important part of UNODC's work. In Nepal, UNODC has been pioneering interventions including advocacy, capacity building and services to address the risk of HIV amongst women who use drugs. Working closely with the Government, UNODC has conducted research studies, compiled a good practice guide, developed training materials and imparted training to service providers working with women and reached out to a number of women drug users with essential services like the needle-syringe programme and distribution of condoms.

Women prisoners in Nepal have been another important target group for UNODC. Women prisoners face high levels of stigma. They are often shunned by their family members and receive no visitors. In collaboration with prison authorities, UNODC is offering primary health care to prisoners in Kaski Prison. Outreach workers and



counselors have been trained to work with women in prisons. In Kaski prison, women prisoners learnt to grow mushrooms as an income generation activity. During the last two years, UNODC has been able to reach out to between 650 and 2536 women every year providing essential services to them.

As part of a joint UN initiative in the North East of India, UNODC supported interventions reaching out to female injecting drug users. 4 drop-in centres were established to attend specifically to women who inject drugs. The centres offered services like counseling, nutrition, abscess management, OST, testing for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), tuberculosis and basic health care. The drop-in centres serve as a space where women can interact with other women and health care professionals without fear and stigma. Many women who face discrimination in their homes seek refuge in the drop-in centre, staying the entire day and helping with the cleaning and running of the centre. The sites have now been incorporated into the national HIV programme and UNODC continues to provide mentoring support. UNODC has also developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to aid in quality assurance of the services for women who inject drugs. A total of 1618 women are being reached through the centres.



## Working with children

Services that provide for children and young adults affected by drug use and its social and health consequences need to be child-friendly and tailored to addressing emerging trends. Under a UNODC global programme, trainings were organized in Bangladesh and India for service providers. The trainings organized in partnership with NGOs included sessions on effective drug use prevention, psychosocial protocols, screening and assessment tools, human rights,

ethics and counselling techniques. The trainings were followed by a Training of Trainers (ToT). The trainers who were trained at the ToTs will in-turn train service providers, thereby increasing the reach of the trainings and continuity of the capacity building process. Approximately 103 service providers from Bangladesh and India were reached through these trainings.

UNODC also supports NGOs across the globe working on drug prevention activities with the youth, under the Drug Abuse Prevention Center (DAPC) grant. NGOs from South Asia have been involved in organizing sensitization workshops, school programmes and street theatre to spread awareness amongst children and their parents.

## Supporting drug user networks

Drug using communities have a central role to play in advancing community empowerment and strengthening services for drug users. Involving them in drug use prevention, treatment and care is key to understanding their needs properly, mobilizing the community and finally increasing the outreach of advocacy and programmes. Networks of drug using communities are important partners for UNODC. In the states of Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, UNODC together with the networks has organized a number of workshops and trainings to sensitize community groups, government authorities and faith-based organizations. UNODC has also given technical support to the Indian Drug Users' Forum (IDUF). The support aims at strengthening community based interventions for drug users.

The annual observation of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), is a platform across the region to commemorate and celebrate together with community members and their networks. Every year, UNODC engages with partners to observe this important day in a public event that brings the community of drug users together with the public and interested organizations.

### *Nepal: First- ever women drug users' network*

*UNODC supported the foundation of a network of women drug users in Nepal. The network known as the 'Nepal Drug Users Prevention Association (By and for Women who use drugs in Nepal)' is constituted by NGOs and individuals including women drug users. The network is dedicated to improve the health, human rights and well-being of women drug users.*



## Working in prisons

Drug use, violence and unsafe sexual practices are not uncommon in prisons. The rate of HIV infection in prisons is significantly higher than in the general population. Preventing HIV in prisons is important, as any medical condition during confinement becomes a public health issue for society, when people are released. UNODC has worked with prisoners and prison staff in 21 prison sites across South Asia, creating awareness on the need for and facilitating treatment for STIs, voluntary counselling and testing for HIV, antiretroviral therapy and OST. In India, UNODC in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Tihar prisons administration pioneered OST in Tihar prisons, making it the first prison in South Asia to have OST.

Throughout South Asia, a large number of peer educators among prisoners were trained in their local language to conduct one-on-one and group communication activities to create awareness on HIV amongst prisoners. Prison authorities and civil society organizations were sensitized on the importance of counselling prisoners and helping them reach out to essential services.

Part of UNODC's work has also been to facilitate experience sharing amongst prison authorities in the region through study tours. Such visits help officials better understand prison management systems which apply the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. UNODC has organized study tours for a number of delegations to Tihar prison as well as to other countries, such as to Thailand which was visited by a delegation from the Government of Nepal.

## Bringing together public health, law enforcement and civil society in the context of drug use and HIV prevention and treatment

In order to reach the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, there is increasing recognition of the importance of building multi-sector partnerships. In this context, the most critical partnership is between public health, law enforcement and civil society organizations (CSOs) working on the ground. Law enforcement personnel are often seen as insensitive towards people who use drugs and live with HIV. The lack of understanding often leads to interference or even arbitrary arrests and detention of clients while they are accessing health services. On the other hand, there has not been enough communication by both the public health sector and the civil society organizations to adequately communicate and advocate with the police for uninterrupted access to HIV services for drug users and people living with HIV. Therefore, under its global HIV programme, UNODC in South Asia, is now working with all relevant Government counterparts and the civil society towards enhancing partnerships through sensitization workshops which provide a platform for public health, law enforcement and civil society to discuss their daily problems in dealing with their regular mandated work and how they can practically build and strengthen a common understanding to ensure full access to services for drug users and other vulnerable groups. Continued advocacy for this key concern remains a priority for UNODC in the coming years.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNODC Regional Office for South Asia would like to acknowledge our continued partnerships with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka in our work across the region.

Our sincere gratitude to our partners in the civil society, academia and media for their engagement with UNODC and support to our work in advice, implementation and research.

We also thank our UN sister agencies for their collaboration in all our endeavours.

The activities mentioned here would not have been possible without the support extended to us by our funding partners who share our vision of safe, just and healthy societies worldwide.

- Australia
- European Union
- India
- Japanese Drug Abuse Prevention Centre (JDAPC)
- Norway
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Siemens Integrity Initiative
- Sweden
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
  
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- UN Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia
- UNAIDS
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Bank

# United Nations Conventions on Drugs and Crime

**UNODC's work is enshrined in the following UN Conventions:**

## **United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)**

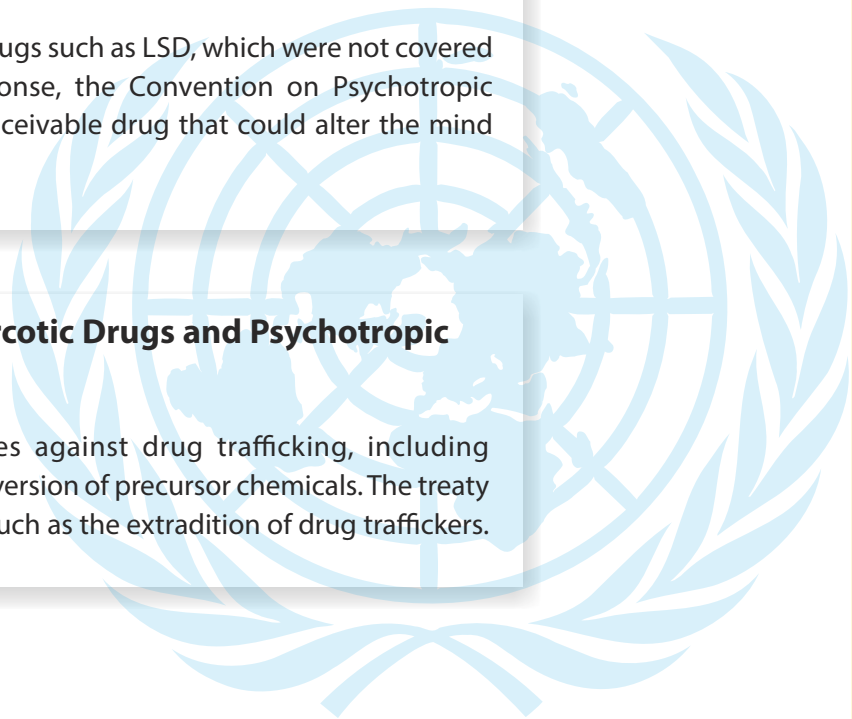
The United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs broadened the monitoring of drugs, which previously only covered opium and coca, to include cannabis and any substance with effects similar to those specified in the treaty. The Convention seeks to limit possession, use, distribution, importation, export, manufacture and production of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes.

## **Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)**

At the end of the 60s, abuse of hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, which were not covered by the Single Convention, increased. In response, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances was written so that almost any conceivable drug that could alter the mind would be included.

## **Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)**

This Convention provides exclusive measures against drug trafficking, including provisions against money laundering and the diversion of precursor chemicals. The treaty emphasizes international cooperation in areas such as the extradition of drug traffickers.





## **Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)**

The Convention represents the great progress made in the fight against transnational organized crime and shows that member states recognize the severity of the problems present. The States that ratify this Convention are committed to taking a series of measures against transnational organized crime, including classifying it as a criminal offence in their national legislation, adopting a framework for mutual legal assistance, law enforcement cooperation, extradition and technical advice, among others.

### ***The Convention is supplemented by the following protocols:***

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially women and Children.
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

## **United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)**

The Convention creates the opportunity to develop a global language about corruption and a coherent implementation strategy. There are various anti-corruption accords, but their application has been varied, or rather, moderately successful. The Convention against Corruption gives the international community the opportunity to face these limitations and to begin to establish points of reference for effective anti-corruption strategies. UNODC helps nations to effectively put the provisions of the UN Convention against Corruption into practice.







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