



- Promote rule of law and good governance as foundations of peace, security and sustainable development
- Strengthen national policies and practices consistent with international norms, standards, convention obligations and evidence-based best practices
- Strengthen institutional and individual capacities to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, violent extremism and terrorism
- Promote regional and international cooperation and partnerships against shared threats of crime and terrorism
- Provide research, data analysis and expertise on global, regional and national trends on crime and terrorism

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

October – December 2016

Word of the Regional Representative



Masood Karimipour

Security and human rights faced increasing threats in the region from organized crime and terrorism in the closing months of 2016. Both continue to exploit weaknesses in border control and cross-border cooperation among countries to move fighters, traffickers, weapons, drugs and stolen cultural property. With military action in Iraq and Syria, more fighters are on the move and taking their violent extremism ideologies and training with them. And the nexus between organized crime and terrorism continues to grow. More than ever, international cooperation is key to building national justice and security capacities as well as regional cooperation. UNODC has been delivering on both fronts, as highlighted here. Especially encouraging was the Steering Committee of UNODC Regional Programme for the Arab States committing Member States to continued partnership to overcome these shared threats in 2017. Stay tuned.

Regional: Steering Committee Meeting

Member States set Priorities for 2017

UNODC and the League of Arab States (LAS) jointly organized the annual Steering and Follow-Up Committee of the Regional Programme for the Arab States (2016-2021), in LAS Headquarters in Cairo in November. Representatives of Ministries of Interior, Health, Justice and Foreign Affairs from the 18 Arab countries covered by the Regional Programme, as well as representatives of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers and LAS Health and Humanitarian Assistance Department, met to review the achievements and challenges encountered during 2016. LAS Assistant-Secretary-General and Head of Legal Affairs Sector, Ambassador Fadel Mohamed Jawad, and UNODC Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa, Masood Karimipour opened the Meeting, which concluded with a set of recommendations for 2017.



Mr. Karimipour (left) & H.E. Jawad (Middle)

Morocco: Border Control

Training on “Fraudulent document”

UNODC, in close partnership with INTERPOL, conducted a training on the “Fight against Fraudulent Documents - Suspicious Travelers (Foreign Terrorist Fighters) Risk Profiling” in Morocco. The training benefited 38 frontline law enforcement officers from the air, land and sea border agencies. The training included technical/practical segments (security printing process, security features, facial recognition and risk profiling of suspicious travelers) and an operational exercise supported by the Immigration Police Unit at Casablanca International airport. The purpose of this training was to support law enforcement analyse risk profiling and to profile movements of people to better identify fraudulent documents and terrorism-related suspicious travelers. *Activity is funded by Norway.*



Explanation of Profiling Techniques

Lebanon: Juvenile Justice

No Limits for Music

During a musical concert performed by the “Kabila” band at the juvenile wing of the Roumieh prison, a choir made up of children sang along with the band, and a mentally-ill prisoner from the Casa Blue played the oud, touching the heart of attendees. This concert, held in November in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, the Prison Directorate and the Internal Security Forces, gathered 170 children in detention and numerous officials. Participation in music is used as part of juvenile detainees’ rehabilitation to improve communication, socialization, motivation, self-esteem and confidence. *Project is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.*



Children Dancing to the Music

Regional: Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Profiling Foreign Terrorist Fighters traveling by Air

Under AIRCOP, UNODC conducted a regional workshop on the profiling of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) originating, transiting or reaching the Middle East and North African region. The event took place in Tunisia in November. Thirty officials from the six countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey) participated, in addition to representatives from Belgium, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands. The event provided a platform to share experience on the FTF threats and movements. Discussions and group work on a tailored training curriculum to identify and interdict FTF at international airports took place. *Project is funded by Canada*



Presenting National Experiences

Egypt: HIV/AIDS Prevention

National Campaign towards Ending AIDS by 2030

As part of the United Nations Joint Team, UNODC participated in the high-level advocacy event organized on the World AIDS Day in December at Bibliotheca Alexandria.



UN Resident Coordinator's Opening Speech

Through this campaign launched under the auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Ahmed Emad El-Din, Government officials renewed their commitment to HIV prevention efforts in Egypt. On this occasion, UNODC, in close collaboration with Caritas Egypt, organized a one-day advocacy campaign at three hospitals in Alexandria on confronting stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. A conference for healthcare service providers to promote a stigma-free delivery of health services in healthcare settings in Egypt was also organized.

Regional: Combating Cybercrime

UNODC Participates in Cybersecurity Summit



Certificate Award

Promoting partnerships in cybersecurity, UNODC cybercrime expert participated in the Fifth Regional Cybersecurity Summit, held in November in Egypt, and presented its efforts on cybercrime and cybersecurity. UNODC raised awareness of cybersecurity as both a major threat and an opportunity for effective criminal investigations. UNODC promoted international cooperation as crucial to successful cybercrime investigations. Several governments expressed support for UNODC cybercrime-related initiatives to build national capacities in the Middle East & North Africa.

Tunisia: Forensics

Needs Identification Field Missions

To set a baseline for UNODC work in support of Tunisian crime scene actors reaching recognized international forensic standards, UNODC and Ministry of Interior experts conducted 8 field missions, driving over 2,000 km across



Expert Assessing Available Equipment

Tunisia in October and November to identify needs of the regional forensic units of the National Police and the National Guards. Thanks to the Ministry's support, this covered forensic equipment, operating procedures, protocols, and coordination and communication. Accurate needs assessment is paramount to forensic capacity development as it helps choose relevant equipment and develop tailored policies. *This activity is funded by the USA (INL).*

Upcoming Events

- *Training of prison health service providers in HIV and drug use, Egypt, 15-17 January
- *Launching of the Training Center of the Community Peace Center under the Special Branch/Public Security Directorate, Jordan, February
- *Opening of voluntary counselling and testing centers, Egypt, 1 February
- *Training of prison health service providers in HIV and drug use, Morocco, 5-7 February
- *Opening of voluntary counselling and testing centers, Morocco, 5 March
- *Training of prison health service providers in HIV and drug use, Tunisia, 6 March
- *Opening of voluntary counselling and testing centers, Tunisia, 25 March

Palestine: Forensics

Inauguration of the Forensics Lab in Ramallah



Canada Governor General Opens Lab

Established with UNODC assistance, the Palestinian Civil Police Forensic Science Laboratory was inaugurated in Ramallah in November to provide the much-needed forensic assistance to the Palestinian criminal justice system. Being the first of its kind in Palestine, the laboratory receives and examines forensic evidence and provides advice, reports and expert testimony to the judiciary and to other clients on forensic document examination, drug and chemical evidence, as well as firearm and tool mark evidence examination. Through a focus on impartiality, objectivity, technical competence, adherence to standards and protocols and quality assurance, the laboratory is designed to strengthen protections for fundamental human rights, including the right to a fair trial. *Project is funded by Canada.*

Tunisia: Border Control

Basic and Advanced Training Delivered

To support law enforcement risk analysis and people and goods movement profiling, and to effectively identify cross border illicit trafficking and terrorism, UNODC, in close partnership with Interpol, delivered a training on "Management of information and criminal intelligence analysis at borders" in Tunisia. This training was a joint accomplishment of the Tunisian Ministry of Interior and UNODC involving 20 law enforcement officers working on transnational organized crime, counterterrorism and cross border trafficking investigations. The training offered specialized investigation techniques using real terrorism cases, and best practices in inter-agency and international law enforcement cooperation. *Project is funded by Canada, UK & Japan.*



Participants Receive Certificates

Tunisia/Jordan: Container Control

Training on High Risk Sea Containers



Training Culminated with a Group Photo

Tunisia is in the process of establishing a Port Control Unit (PCU) at the Port of Rades to profile, target and examine containers used for the transport of illicit goods. UNODC provided the first risk analysis of high-risk sea containers training in

November and December for Customs, Border Police, the Rades Container Terminal and the Port Authority. Tunisia is the second country after Jordan to establish a PCU. The PCU at the Port of Aqaba in Jordan made significant seizures of illicit drugs, counterfeit products and weapons. In order to specialize the two units further, they were jointly trained on strategic trade and export control in Amman in December. *Project is funded by Japan (Tunisia) and USA (Jordan)*