TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABILITY OF REGIONAL CAPACITY

Success story

Around 2000 law enforcement officers of participating countries received training in the framework of NATO-Russia Council project. More than 90 of them promoted to executive positions and some of the largest drug seizures are report to have been made by officers trained under the project.

The NATO-Russia Council (NRC) Counter-Narcotics Training Project for Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistani law enforcement personnel is a flagship project of the NRC. It is a unique NRC initiative, which has been successfully implemented since 2006. The project is a joint endeavour of the NRC and the project’s beneficiary countries which contributes to building regional sustainable capacity. As NRC Ministers originally agreed, the project continues to aim at delivering high-quality, professional counter-narcotics training to mid-level officers from the seven beneficiary countries, and compliments existing regional and international counter-narcotics training initiatives, which are facilitated and coordinated by the UNODC. Thus, the NRC project also contributes to the development of a more integrated approach to counter-narcotics efforts throughout the region in addition to being a symbol of political solidarity among NRC members. During the last NRC Summit in Lisbon, Heads of State in their Joint Statement praised the successes of the project and welcomed the inclusion of Pakistan to the project (from November, 2010). On 8 December 2005, the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) decided to implement a mid-level drug control training pilot project in Central Asia and Afghanistan and approached UNODC’s Regional Office for Central Asia to implement the project. Following a 2-year pilot phase, the NATO-Russia Council Executive Steering Committee decided to extend the project which eventually became a continuing NRC initiative in April 2008. Initially the two-year project was budgeted at US$927,000. The project is currently extended until December 2012 with a budget of US$3,508,600. The funding is provided by member states of the NATO-Russia Council though its International Secretariat in Brussels. Significant in-kind support has been received from a number of NATO governments, Finland and Russia. In-kind support (in 2010) has been generously provided by Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Russia, Turkey and the USA.
ROCA COORDINATES ON PRECURSORS AND SHOWS OFF ITS NEW CBT PROTOTYPE

On 27th July 2011, the Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) held a meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to coordinate with both international agencies (including OSCE, BOMCA and SCO) and donors interested in conducting activities in the field against illicit precursor chemicals. ROCA’s project RER/E29 Precursor Control in Central Asia is the longest standing international intervention dealing with precursors in the region. It started in 2000 by developing national measures to control licit production of such chemicals before focusing its attention on support for law enforcement activity, notably with the regional operational action called TARCET. Participants at the meeting were treated to a detailed account of the extensive work undertaken by the ROCA project and to the challenges faced in the past, the present and the future.

RER/E29 has trained over 800 officers in precursor identification and interdiction, including 88 trainers. The specialist search and rummaging equipment that has been provided as standard to mobile precursor teams throughout Central Asia was also on display. Also unveiled for the first time was ROCA’s portable CBT classroom developed under Project RER/F60 Computer Based Training in Central Asia now being bench tested. This prototype comes in two trolley suitcases and takes just 20 minutes to assemble into a fully functioning CBT facility with 11 workstations. It can be deployed at any place, any time and will work for approximately 4 hours without external power. The addition of a portable generator allows the system to be used in remote areas where access to a power supply is unreliable or non-existent. So, instead of bringing officers from all over the country to one central fixed training site, ROCA’s portable CBT system takes the training to them.

When packed, the portable CBT classroom can fit comfortably into the boot of any vehicle or stowed as luggage in the cargo hold. At the meeting, participants were able to try the system out for themselves and soon became engrossed in one of the 17 courses available: Using UNODC Precursor Test Kits.
EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNTERING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING

Several recent operations conducted by Kyrgyzstan’s State Service on Drug Control (SSDC) have resulted in the confiscation of drugs worth approximately US$ 1.35 million which were being smuggled as “bullets” - sealed packets of drugs swallowed to avoid detection. These latest results follow an April 2011 agreement between UNODC and the Kyrgyz Government which supports the re-established SSDC in a bid to assist in building the capacity and effectiveness of countering illicit drug trafficking. As the country’s lead entity in tackling the flow of illicit drugs moving out of Afghanistan en route to markets in Europe and Asia the SSDCs latest operation were aimed at targeting “swallowers”, (traffickers who hide drugs in their stomachs), through enhanced operational and intelligence work. In September, three controlled delivery operations were conducted by the SSDC jointly with Russian counterparts and the agency intercepted over 30 kg of heroin and a similar amount of hashish worth some US$ 1.35 million. The seizures, some two months after the SSDCs formation, are a positive development in stepping up targeted actions against drug trafficking in the country and the region. UNODC has provided assistance to the SSDC in organization of two week training on intelligence analysis for selected staff and two intelligence analysts from the Financial Intelligence Service (FIS) of Kyrgyzstan. Earlier UNODC was requested by FIS to provide assistance in training of the dedicated staff in modern analytical techniques.

In January-June 2011, Kyrgyz law enforcement agencies seized a total 1,506 kg of drugs including 175 kg of heroin (up 75% compared to the same period of 2010), 45 kg of opium (up 38%), almost 450 kg of hashish (up 32%), and 413 kg of marijuana (up 203%).

SUPPORT THE BORDER OUTPOSTS ON THE TAJIK-AFGHAN BORDER

The Shurabad region of the Afghan-Tajik border represents one of the most volatile locations in terms of drug trafficking, having witnessed six armed conflicts between drug traffickers and border guards, the deaths of four traffickers and two guards, and the significant seizures of illicit drugs in this year alone. In order to help the area’s Yakchi-Pun border outpost to cope with these high levels of pressure, the UNODC project “Strengthening control along the Tajik-Afghan border” has provided the site with significant infrastructural development and training support.

Delayed since October 2010 due to unfavorable weather conditions, the developments undertaken at the Yakchi-Pun border outpost have included the construction of modern pre-fabricated structures and the installation of an independent hydro power turbine. These developments, completed in May, has improved living conditions at the site while developing the professional capacities of border guards. The prefabricated buildings constructed at Yakchi-Pun have used a design developed in the framework of UNODC project. Their construction, using metallic sheets and sandwich panels, are high strength, waterproof, insulated for protection against the elements, fireproof, and can provide a lifetime of service with minimal maintenance. The new pre-fab buildings have been installed with new green energy equipment, specifically a hydro power turbine linked to a nearby spring which will provide an alternative electricity source to the expensive energy produced by the site’s fuel-powered generator. The official hand over ceremony of the newly constructed buildings and the hydro power turbine was held on 29 June with participation of Mr. Brownfield, a visiting INL Director to Tajikistan, Mr. Kenneth Gross - US Ambassador to Tajikistan, Lieutenant-General Sherali Mirzo - Chief of the Tajik Border Troops and others.

Since the beginning in 2000, the project “Strengthening control along the Tajik-Afghan border” has helped to provide comprehensive support to strategic outposts including Bakhorak, Bog, Sari Gor, Shogun, Yol and Yakchi-Pun. These developments have included the provision of qualitative refurbishment works along relevant training, equipment and furnishings to Tajik Border guards.
The European Union and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Project “Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic” aims to contribute to strengthening the Rule of Law in the country. The project adopts a comprehensive approach within a programme that establishes the basis for the sustainability of the management of the prison service. This includes development of policy, strategy and planning capacities of the prison service, to transform broad objectives into action plans and targeted, high quality training to enable staff to implement plans, despite staff shortages and financial constraints. Summer 2011 was very intensive for the project team who successfully implemented number of activities.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS
In July 2011, UNODC/EU project team continued its efforts in strengthening the capacity of prison administration prison management. In order to achieve sustainability in the longer term and to meet future training needs, Training for Trainers was conducted on 10-15 July 2011. Participants learned new advanced approaches in adult learning and gained crucial experience in development of interactive training modules of prison personnel. 26 trainers from the Prison Service Training Centre participated in the training. The training of trainers course resulted in the establishment of a pool of national trainers, who will be at the disposal of the training centre to roll out the training programme. These trainers will be key to the sustainability of the prison reform program and its expansion all over the country. High quality, professional staff is key to the effective management of any prison system and staff training is a key element of the EU and UNODC Prison Reform project, aiming to train staff to transform strategies into action, with targeted training on carefully selected topics. To ensure sustainability of project’s results, a five year comprehensive training curriculum was developed for all staff of prison service of the Kyrgyz Republic, in cooperation with central prison administration and Prison Service Training Centre, to cover training for new recruits, for in-service training, for external specialists and specialized staff. The Prison Staff Training Curriculum for 2011-2015 has been approved by the Central Prison Administration and will be endorsed shortly. The training curriculum will ensure sustainability of achievements, in particular, when coupled with delivery by national trainers. The basis for ongoing capacity building of prison staff is established with the development of a new staff training curriculum, which incorporated the new topics. A training of trainers program, which trained 26 staff as trainers ensured that the prison service itself has a pool of local trainers available to continue with the training, after the project comes to an end. A training manual designed specifically for the Kyrgyzstan prison service is being developed to accompany the new curriculum. Four Training Modules on prison leadership and management have been developed to support the training process. Additional reference materials were provided to the training centre, including Russian translations of UNODC Handbook for Prison Directors, Handbook on Prisoner File Management, Handbook on Prisoners with Special Needs and Handbook for Prison Managers and Policy-makers on Women and Imprisonment. These tools were used in the trainings and are available for continued training at the Police Service Training Centre in future, ensuring that trainers can refer to international instruments and best practice examples, in delivering special training.
Management of Prison Industries

Social rehabilitation and preparation for release of prisoners should begin on the initial day of the prisoner’s sentence and continue into the post release period. In order to ensure a comprehensive and structured approach, EU and UNODC Project “Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic” facilitated discussion on the overall policy focused on the implementation of social reintegration and preparation for release programs. Expert Group on Prison Income Generating Activities and Vocational Training acts as an advisory and supervisory body focusing on the development of prison income generating activities and vocational training. Expert Group has made preliminary selection of prisons that will be supported in the framework of the project. The project will provide funding for basic equipment and improvement to facilities for rehabilitation activities such as bakery, metal and wood work and clothing manufacturing. The management of social reintegration programs require special training and a shift in mentality from the punitive to the rehabilitative approach. In July-August 2011 Prison Reform Project conducted three seminars on managing small scale prison income generating activities to build the skills of prison administrations to establish constructive links with outside organisations, including potential buyers, NGOs, private companies, state structures and business cooperation with all key stakeholders.

To See, To Learn More

Eight representatives of senior prison staff visited the UK on 21-28 August 2011. During this study tour participants had meetings with senior prison officials, including Security Policy Leads and International Affairs Unit officers. Participants met with representatives of National Preventative Mechanism (under Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture) – which consists of 18 members, HM Inspector of Prisons (Chief Inspector of Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons also chairs NPM), Independent Monitoring Boards, Prison Reform Trust (NGO), Penal Reform International (international NGO), CLINKs (NGO). During the study tour delegation visited prisons of different security category (Cat A, B and D). During visit delegation of the Kyrgyz prison officials looked at themes across all types of prisons. They included architecture and design, risk and security assessment, categorical and sentence planning, Work, vocational training and education, recreational, cultural, sporting and social activities, Preventing re-offending programmes, security and order (including discipline, isolation and segregation), healthcare, basic conditions, Contact with the outside world (visit, telephones, letters), lifers and other special groups, early and conditional release arrangements and preparation.

Prison Reform and Alternatives to Imprisonment

EU and UNODC project provided technical/legal expertise to continue with the reform of the legislative framework for the implementation of prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment. It assessed the needs at the commencement of the project, in cooperation with all key stakeholders and provided technical support to the amendment of primary and secondary legislation, specifically prison related legislation, to bring it in line with the UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, of which UNODC is the guardian. Project focused on thorough revision of secondary legislation, normative acts and internal instructions. This activity was incorporated into the work of the Working Group on Prison Reform, with progress on legislative reforms being discussed at that forum and being aligned to support policy and strategy. The Umum National Programme for Penitentiary Reform came to an end in 2010. Draft National Strategy for Development of Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2011-2015 was developed, following a two part intensive training on strategic planning. The training of senior prison officials on the reasoning behind national strategy for the prison reform and their involvement in the development of the strategic plan for the prisons service ensured maximum ownership and commitment. The objective of this document is to lay the basis for a sustainable prison reform program with the development of sound, long-term policies and strategies to implement the new legislation on prisons and manage prison effectively, in line with the UN standards and norms, promoting social reintegration. Working Group on Prison Reform that was established in the framework of the EU/UNODC prison reform project ensured participation of all relevant state bodies and civil society in the drafting process, promoted ownership and full commitment of key stakeholders to the proposed reforms and developed mechanisms for systemic monitoring and evaluation of ongoing reforms.
CONTAINER CONTROL

The UNODC has been identified by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as one of the partner for the global project GLOG80 “Container Control Project” funded by the European Commission (EC). As members of the ECO governments of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are direct beneficiaries of the project. The training course designed for Azery law enforcement agencies was held in Baku at the Regional Training Centre of the World Customs Organization in June 2011. Two weeks later similar training course was conducted in Kazakhstan in the Aktau seaport. Representatives of the State Customs Control Committee were assigned as national counterpart for the project due to their authority to control containers in Aktau seaport. Officers from main law enforcement agencies attended the training courses in both countries.

TRAINING FOR DOG HANDLERS

The UNODC Programme Office in Turkmenistan and the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) organized three-month training on drugs identification for the dog handlers for the State Drug Control Service in June 2011. Training was organized in the framework of UNODC project “Strengthening border control along the Turkmen-Uzbek border, in particular at Farap checkpoint” and co-financed by the TIKA. Two sniffing dogs have also been purchased for the State Drug Control Service.

ENHANCING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

First technical workshop on the cross-border law enforcement cooperation for officers from Farap (Turkmenistan) and Alat (Uzbekistan) checkpoints was organized in Turkmenabat on July 2011. The workshop was attended by 20 participants from Customs, Border Guards, Migration Service, Drug Control and National Security Service of both countries.
Cooperation in the field of border management never was an easy task. UNODC project “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)” aims to build capacities at the Central Asian Border Crossing Points (BCPs), enhance the level of expertise of officers at these crossings and establish working, intelligence-sharing and communications mechanisms between the agencies employed there. The Border Liaison Office (BLO) concept is considered a cornerstone to achieving this objective within the Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and it has been extended in an effort to increase communication with counterparts in Afghanistan. Today two working groups besides the Project Steering Committee have been established in Tajikistan, the same process is ongoing in Uzbekistan. Technical needs assessment missions were conducted by members of the working groups at four border crossing points in both countries. Following the training circle, in order to understand the real training needs and provide the most effective training courses, a survey has been conducted involving officials working in the counter-narcotics units of law enforcement agencies in the Republic of Tajikistan. In this regard, 369 survey answers from Tajik LEAs were analysed by means of employing SPSS and the assessment was conducted in Tajikistan in September 2011. Hereby, this assessment report set a ground for the content of training courses. A similar survey is being carried out in Uzbekistan.

In Azerbaijan 24,000 drug addicts were officially registered at the end of 2009, 18,000 (75%) of them were intravenous drug users (IDU). Furthermore, 70% of the registered addicts were opioid users. Concentrated HIV epidemics in the country have been driven by unsafe injecting practices, compiling 64.2% of all HIV cases. The round table devoted to “New Policy, revised legislation, updated strategy toward effective prevention of HIV/AIDS among drug users” has been organized by the UNODC Programme Office and the Parliament of Azerbaijan in Lenkoran. The city is situated on a trafficking route that provoke high prevalence of IDUs, HIV/AIDS and other concomitant diseases, including Tuberculosis (TB). Participants discussed wide range of issues including improvement of IDU’s access to integrated HIV/AIDS services as well as strengthening partnerships and multilateral cooperation between respective offices such as health, law enforcement, social protection, education and non-governmental organizations; new legislation and normative frameworks which impact on improvement of monitoring and control of effective HIV/AIDS prevention; raising awareness on HIV prevention at a district level, in order to establish a model for integrated and easily accessible services (including health, law enforcement, and social protection and non-government sectors) for most-at-risk populations (MARP’s) in the community. Representatives of law enforcement agencies expressed their concerns in regard to suitability of the Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST), as applied in Lenkoran. Participants mentioned that the previous use of OST has shown that this method is the only way to control drug situation, since most IDUs sell illegal drugs in order to meet their own needs. Representatives of the National AIDS Centre updated participants on the current HIV/AIDS situation, with a particular focus on MARPs. Introducing OST within the National AIDS Centre has significantly increased ARV treatment adherence among drug users, currently composing 70% of all patients. Representatives from non-governmental organizations shared their experience in providing outreach services for drug users.

EFFECTIVE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION FOR DRUG DEPENDANT PEOPLE

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EVIDENCE-BASED FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM IN CENTRAL ASIA

UNODC global project “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes” implemented in three geographical regions: Central Asia (4 countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan), Central America (Panama) and South East Europe (Albania and Serbia). The project donors are Sweden, USA, France Japan and Spain. As a result of a review of existing, evidence-based family skills training programmes, UNODC has selected Families and School Together (FAST) programme to be implemented through GLOK01 in Central Asia. FAST was chosen for its qualities such as adaptability and suitability for the region as well as for the long, rigorous research evidence that the programme is based on. FAST is an after-school multi-family group programme offered for eight weeks to all children within the same grade and their families. The multisystem intervention brings together family, home, school and community to increase child well-being by strengthening relationships and factors that protect against stress. Under the programme, the whole family comes to the school building after school hours to take part in family activities and share a family meal. In Central Asia activities are undertaken in collaboration with the Governmental counterparts concerned. Depending on the country, the Ministries of Health and/or Education are partnering in the plan of action through selection of a representative to be part of the national cultural adaptation teams, assist in selection and mediation with schools and selection of the facilitators. They are being supported by UNODC ROCA in translating and systematically adapting FAST program to fit the local culture and language. Team of International Consultants led by developer of the FAST educational program Ms. Lynn McDonald, (Professor of Social Work Research at Middlesex University, Great Britain, London) was contracted by UNODC to support setting up the program, deliver training to team members and the staff and the supervisors of the local implementing agencies on supervising implementation of the program, provide support throughout programme implementation (including emails, teleconferences and possible video conferences etc. The first phase of the project, which will be completed by the end of 2011, consists of two implementation cycles. To date three Central Asian countries Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan have completed activities planned for both implementation cycles (autumn sessions 2010 and spring sessions 2011). As Turkmenistan joined the project in December 2010 by the end of May the first implementation cycle was successfully conducted. For the purpose of the first cycle of implementation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, 48 family facilitators (16 in each country) have been recruited and trained to deliver the program. The training was over a period of 5 days facilitated by the developer of FAST (September – October, 2010). During the first cycle, the family facilitators reached 122 families, (369 family members) to benefit from programme. The programme was delivered over 8 weeks at a rate of one day a week in 6 pilot schools (2 per each country) . 24 professionals (schools teachers and psychologists), parent partners and members of cultural-adaptation group who participated in the first cycle were trained as Intern-FAST Trainers, under the supervision of FAST certified supervisors (January, 2011). For the purpose of the second cycle of implementation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, 64 family facilitators have been recruited and trained by 16 Intern-FAST Trainers under the supervision of FAST certified supervisors. During the second cycle, the family facilitators reached 160 families (508 family members) to benefit from programme. The programme was delivered over 8 weeks at a rate of one day a week in 7 pilot schools. For the purpose of the first cycle of implementation in Turkmenistan, 16 family facilitators have been recruited and trained to deliver the material. During the first cycle, the family facilitators reached 40 families, (113 family members) to benefit from programme. The programme was delivered in 2 pilot schools.