

REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH ASIA (2018 – 2021)

A Brief Note

BACKGROUND

The UNODC Regional Office for South Asia is located in New Delhi, India and covers Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. It has been operational for over three decades. UNODC ROSA works with the six Governments of South Asia through technical cooperation projects to address the threats posed by drugs, crime, terrorism and corruption. Through its work at global, regional and country levels, UNODC provides support to Member States to reach their Targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Regional Programme for South Asia (RPSA) is a **strategic work framework** for the Regional Office that informs and guides UNODC's technical cooperation and delivery of assistance in close consultation with government counterparts of South Asia. The Regional Programme (2018-2021) was developed in close consultation with Government counterparts of South Asia. **It highlights a set of priorities and operational responses for the period 2018-2021, while offering sufficient flexibility to adapt to evolving threats and Member States' specific needs and constraints.** The RP articulates on-going and future global, regional and national programming efforts. In addition to ensuring coordination and, whenever possible, synergies between these efforts, it promotes integrated and transnational responses.

The RP document was developed in line with the ECOSOC Resolution 2009/23. The document highlights (i) a broad situation assessment on drugs and crime issues affecting South Asia; (ii) key achievements of UNODC Regional Office for South Asia (UNODC ROSA) over the past few years; (iii) proposed work plan of action for the period 2018-2021; (iv) an indicative budget; (v) management and monitoring structure; and (vi) logframe.

More importantly, the RP document incorporates all the recommendations suggested by Government experts during the expert group meeting **(EGM) held in New Delhi India on 18-19 December 2017. This EGM drew participation of over 50 government representatives and experts from the six countries in the region.**

The RP was endorsed by all six countries of South Asia in 2018.

FEATURES OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME

The new RP document outlines the broad thematic areas (**called subprogrammes**) under which UNODC delivers its technical assistance. It reflects some of the priority areas identified by UNODC through its cooperation with governments as well as the interests and priorities noted by UNODC, from its various deliberations and interactions with Government counterparts.



The Regional Programme contains the following five sub-programmes (SP), outlined below:

- Sub-programme 1:** Combating Transnational Organized Crime
- Sub-programme 2:** A comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the drug problem (*drug trafficking & drugs and health: drug use prevention, treatment and care and HIV prevention, treatment and care and support services for people who use drugs and for people in prisons*)
- Sub-programme 3:** Countering Corruption
- Sub-programme 4:** Terrorism prevention
- Sub-programme 5:** Crime prevention and criminal justice

The RP promotes and show-cases in-house South Asia expertise and also brings international good practices and expertise to the region.

The RP promotes cooperation with countries of Southeast Asia & the Pacific, West and Central Asia and the Middle East for experience sharing and also promotes inter-regional cooperation for addressing the challenges posed by drugs and crime.

UNODC fosters partnerships with other UN agencies, Think Tanks, Civil Society, Academic & Research Institutes, Law Institutes and the private sector.



REGIONAL PROGRAMME: KEY OUTCOMES UNDER THE SUB-PROGRAMMES (SP)

Expected Outcomes (SP – 1):

Outcome 1: National authorities more effectively prevent and counter illicit trafficking (goods, wildlife and forest products, counterfeits, drugs) through maritime, land, sea and air routes

Outcome 2: Policy, operational and criminal justice responses to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants are strengthened, at local and regional levels, and in line with human rights principles and UN standards

Outcome 3: Countries use compatible methods for inter and intra-regional information/ intelligence exchange and participate in regional cooperation, enhanced service to improve threat assessment

Outcome 4: Increased capacity of countries for effective action against transnational organized crime, including in the areas of money laundering, combating illicit financial flows, firearms trafficking and illicit trafficking of emerging crimes;

Outcome 5: Increased evidence on transnational organized crimes in South Asia

Expected Outcomes (SP – 2)

Outcome 1: National authorities more effectively prevent and counter illicit trafficking of drugs, precursors, including new and emerging drugs, through regional cooperation

Outcome 2: National authorities, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders more effectively prevent the use of drugs

Outcome 3: National authorities provide enhanced access to evidence-based drug dependence treatment, care and rehabilitation services

Outcome 4: National authorities broaden and improve HIV prevention, treatment and care responses among people who use drugs and those in closed settings strengthened

Expected Outcomes (SP – 3)

Outcome 1: Member States act to improve their compliance with UNCAC through strengthening of their legal, policy and institutional frameworks

Outcome 2: Anti-corruption practitioners and other stakeholders have and apply the capacity to prevent and combat corruption

Outcome 3: Partners actively promote and support UNCAC implementation in a coordinated effort

Expected Outcome (SP – 4)

Outcome 1: Member States develop national and regional strategies/action plans for combating terrorism with UNODC assistance

Outcome 2: Member States have an enhanced capacity to undertake rule of law-based criminal justice measures (investigation, prosecution) to prevent major terrorism related challenges including violent extremism, foreign terrorist fighters

Outcome 3: Member States have an enhanced capacity to undertake rule of law based criminal justice measures to prevent and counter violent extremism (CVE), foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) and other major terrorism-related challenges

Expected Outcomes (SP – 5):

Outcome 1: Prison systems operate in line with relevant United Nations standards and norms

Outcome 2: Member States apply standards and norms to prevent violence against women

Outcome 3: Member States apply standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against children in conflict with the law, including: Every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the law; child victims and witnesses of crimes; children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups

- (i) every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the law;
- (ii) child victims and witnesses of crimes;
- (iii) children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

Outcome 4: Crime prevention initiatives and measures developed and implemented in accordance with UN standards and norms

Outcome 5: Targeted support to improve access to justice

Outcome 6: Integrated youth crime prevention policies and measures are developed to address at risk youth, in accordance with UN standards and norms.