



# Europe and West/Central Asia

## Afghanistan

Afghanistan's opium harvest reached an all-time high in 2006, with total cultivation increasing by 59 per cent and production up 49 per cent, according to UNODC's *2006 Afghanistan Annual Opium Survey*.

The main increases were seen in the troubled southern provinces. With 165,000 hectares under opium cultivation in 2006, the harvest of around 6,100 tonnes of opium represented a staggering 92 per cent of total world supply and exceeded total global consumption by 30 per cent. Poppy cultivation in Helmand province alone rose by 162 per cent compared with 2005. Only six of the country's 34 provinces were opium-free.

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa made several visits to Afghanistan in 2006. He urged the Afghan authorities to crack down on rampant corruption at all levels of Government and to arrest traffickers. He also appealed to major drug-consuming countries to do more to curb demand for illicit drugs.

In partnership with the World Bank, UNODC issued a report in December entitled *Afghanistan's Drug Industry: Structure, Functioning, Dynamics, and Implications for Counter-Narcotics Policy*. It analysed the \$US 3 billion annual narcotics trade, which accounts for one third of total economic activity in the country and involves 13 per cent of the population. The report concluded that efforts to combat opium production had been weakened by high-level corruption.

In November, the Good Performers Fund, a programme supported by the US and the UK, was set up to reward Afghan provinces that had eliminated opium poppy with development grants. UNODC will certify whether provinces are opium-free and as a result whether they qualify for grants. UNODC also encouraged the creation of a central opium-free region in Afghanistan to achieve a drastic reduction of opium poppy cultivation by 2010. UNODC developed a timetable for the plan, which it proposed to monitor.

Through its Country Office in Kabul and five provincial offices, UNODC helped the Afghan Government to boost its counter-narcotics capacity and improve its legislative framework and judicial system. In particular, it provided support in the areas of drug law enforcement, alternative livelihoods, drug-demand reduction, criminal justice reform, drug-data collection and the monitoring of drugs and crime.

### Strengthening provincial institutions

UNODC helped the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN) to establish five provincial offices, an important new area of work. These offices will handle all areas of counter-narcotics at the local level.

UNODC piloted projects to develop alternative livelihoods for opium farmers in five provinces. It established networks of experts working for the MCN, provided them with training and advised them on policy



UNODC has piloted projects to develop alternative livelihoods for opium farmers in five provinces. Former opium grower selling nuts and pomegranates

development. The Office also helped the new provincial offices to update a database on alternative livelihood projects in Afghanistan.

### **Counter-narcotics law enforcement and border control**

UNODC trained the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) in drug law enforcement in eight provincial offices, including Kabul, and set up a Forensic Science Laboratory at the CNPA headquarters in Kabul. It also established a precursor chemical unit to help stem the flow into Afghanistan of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of heroin.

To strengthen security on the Afghan-Iranian border, UNODC provided equipment and established a network of communications among control centres in Herat province and at 10 border posts. Similar assistance was planned for another 25 border posts in Farah and Nimroz provinces.

Increased enforcement activities resulted in a ten-fold rise in the number of laboratories being destroyed (262 in 2006 compared with 26 in 2005), while the number of drug-related arrests more than doubled to 900.

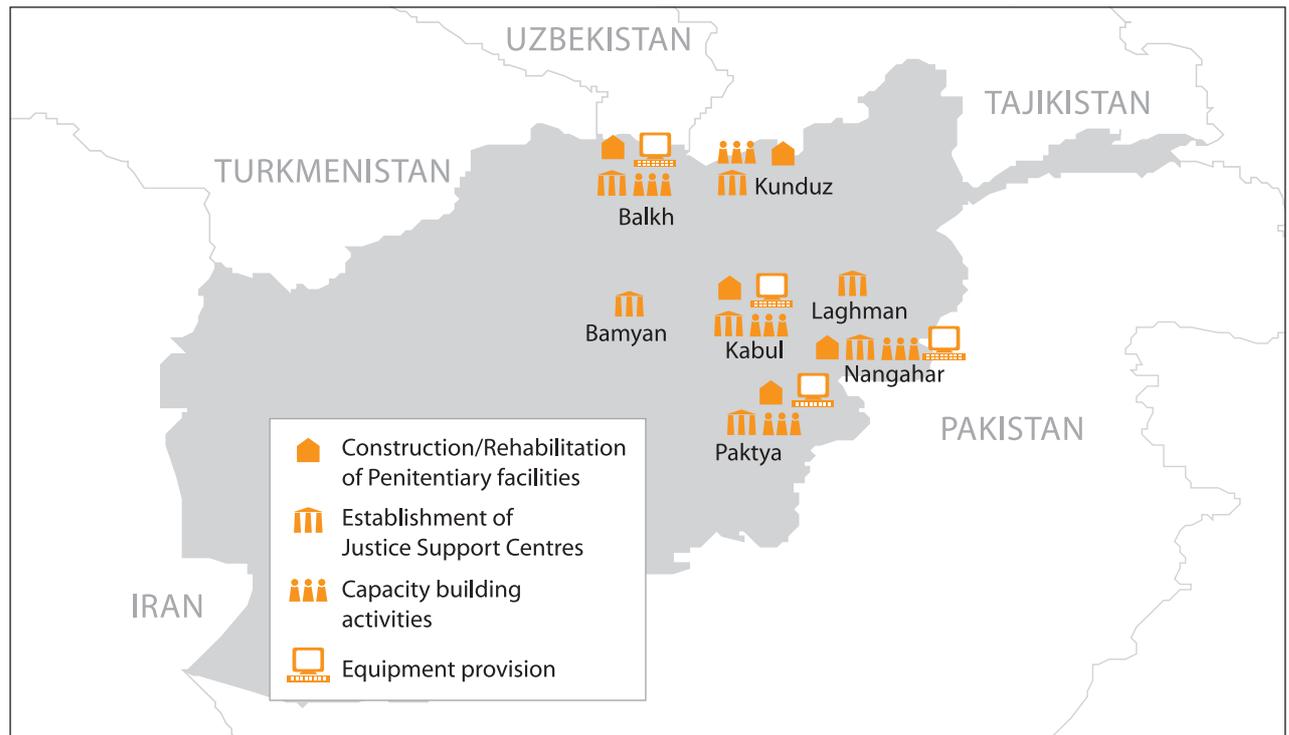
### **Criminal justice**

UNODC trained 100 officers of the Counter-Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force, established in 2005 to speed up the process of bringing drug traffickers to trial, in investigation techniques and drug-seizure and intelligence operations.

The Office built Justice Support Centres in five provinces. It will establish legal libraries in each Centre, assist the Ministry of Justice in producing legislative documents and train the judiciary on rule of law issues.

In 2006, UNODC, in partnership with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, led working groups

## UNODC Criminal Justice Programme in Afghanistan — institution and capacity-building



on criminal justice reform and anti-corruption efforts within the framework of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. UNODC also helped to create a Government regulatory body to supervise the import and export of drugs.

As part of its work in support of reform of the Afghan criminal justice system and prison administration, UNODC worked on the construction of a juvenile detention centre for girls and a prison for women in Kabul. UNODC concentrated on the needs of women and children, and helped ensure that they would have access to rehabilitation after release.

UNODC also paid special attention to the development of juvenile justice in Afghanistan, focusing on improving data on children in conflict with the law. As a member of the Child Protection Action Network, UNODC supported the development of an awareness campaign on the newly adopted Juvenile Code, which raised the age of criminal responsibility from seven to 12 years, and trained personnel dealing with juvenile offenders.

### Reducing drug abuse

In 2006, UNODC published the first survey on drug use in Afghanistan, which showed that the country had

around 920,000 drug users—1.4 per cent of the total adult population. Based on those findings, UNODC developed a country-wide action plan to support Government efforts to reduce demand.

UNODC provided detoxification treatment for over 1,500 drug abusers through six Drug Demand Reduction Action Teams based in Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Kandahar, Balkh and Badakhshan.

The growing number of illicit drug users among displaced people and former refugees was destabilizing society. In response, UNODC, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education worked with partner agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to reduce drug demand among these groups. UNODC also trained staff to promote drug reduction in Afghan refugee camps in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan.

UNODC raised awareness on reducing drug demand among the police in Kabul's central prison. It established a clinical laboratory enabling the Government's only Drug Dependency Treatment Centre to conduct blood tests to detect narcotics, hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. This was the first facility to provide such services for drug addicts undergoing treatment.

# Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran bore the brunt of soaring opium production in neighbouring Afghanistan and saw worrying numbers of people succumb to drug addiction. Afghan opium was trafficked into Iran for both domestic use and onward passage to European and Gulf markets.

UNODC strengthened its programmes in Iran in 2006. Its portfolio, totalling \$US 21.3 million over three years, focused on countering drug trafficking, preventing and treating drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and promoting the rule of law through crime prevention and anti-corruption measures. Thanks to the contribution of UNODC, the Government's policy shifted from pure drug-supply reduction to a more balanced approach, including demand reduction, building the capacities of NGOs and judicial reform.

UNODC worked to promote international cooperation in the areas of drug control and crime prevention. It implemented a number of joint initiatives in supply reduction, rule of law and demand reduction in collaboration with the "Mini Dublin Group" of 23 countries, the Presidency of the EU and national authorities.

## New Iranian drug-control policy

UNODC contributed significantly to the adoption by the Government of new General Policies in Fighting against Narcotics.

UNODC continued to assist the Government by promoting regional and international cooperation and drug control, including the establishment of an e-mail network of drug liaison officers and police experts based in the region and beyond.

Equipment provided to the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police Force on the borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan was given maintenance checks, which enabled the authorities to tighten controls on the trafficking of opium and heroin.

## Reducing drug abuse and HIV/AIDS

In 2006, UNODC focused on advocacy and fund-raising to address drug-demand reduction. It made possible the first visit in March of international delegations (from 21 European countries, Canada, Mexico and the World Bank) to the Rajaei Shahr Prison in Tehran. UNODC, the World Bank and UNAIDS worked with the

Drug Control Headquarters to organize consultations on HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users in Tehran. UNODC strengthened coordination with organizations including UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS in the area of drug-abuse treatment.

In May, UNODC organized a workshop for 30 local officials and NGOs on HIV/AIDS prevention among injecting drug users, in collaboration with the NGO Hayat-e Shargh and UNAIDS. In coordination with the United Nations Joint AIDS Team Group, UNODC conducted training for journalists on drug and HIV/AIDS control.

## Rule of law and legal assistance

As part of its efforts to promote international cooperation on crime prevention, UNODC organized a visit by the Deputy Head of the Italian Anti-Mafia Bureau, Dr. Giovanni Melillo, which resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau and the Judiciary of Iran. UNODC and the Iranian Judiciary explored the possibility of establishing an anti-organized crime structure under a project funded by Italy and the UK.

Under a UNODC project funded by the European Commission (EC) and the Government of the Netherlands, the Iranian Judiciary received assistance with its reform plans for the justice and prison systems.

## UNODC Executive Director's visit to Iran

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa went to Iran in November to review the anti-trafficking efforts of the Iranian authorities. The Executive Director visited the Central Command of the Anti-Narcotics Police and police garrisons in the Sistan-Baluchestan and South Khorasan provinces bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He signed agreements with the authorities for two projects: the first, under which UNODC and the Drug Control Headquarters will strengthen integrated border control, and the second, to assist the Judiciary in improving its legislative and judicial capacities to tackle organized crime and money-laundering and to promote international mutual legal assistance. UNODC and the Iranian Government agreed to increase cooperation between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

### Assessment mission to Afghanistan-Iran-Pakistan border areas

Despite Government efforts to control narcotics trafficking across Iran's borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan, the authorities struggled to shut down new trafficking routes. In November, UNODC and Iranian

counterparts organized an assessment mission for the international donor community to the border areas of Sistan, Baluchestan and South Khorasan provinces, which were seriously affected by international drug trafficking. The visit enabled the donors to learn first-hand about Iran's efforts to stop drug trafficking at its borders and the types of support it needed.

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa visiting the border points between Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan with UNODC staff and Iranian anti-narcotics police



## Pakistan

UNODC Pakistan works at both the national policy and grass-roots levels to help prevent drug abuse and drug-related HIV/AIDS, and to support the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users. UNODC also supports action against drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption.

### Strengthening policy

UNODC assisted Pakistan in the preparation of its Second National Drug Control Masterplan for 2007-

2011. A Steering Committee comprising Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force and UNODC supervised completion of the plan for submission to the Federal Cabinet in early 2007. UNODC contributed substantive inputs on law enforcement, drug-demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention.

### Action against drug abuse and HIV/AIDS

Pakistan could be on the verge of a serious HIV/AIDS epidemic driven by a combination of injecting drug use

and commercial sex. A major epidemic was detected among injecting drug users in Karachi, 26 per cent of whom were found to be HIV-infected in 2004 (source: Ministry of Health, Pakistan, 2005).

UNODC, in conjunction with Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force, carried out a national drug-abuse assessment study on drug-abuse levels and trends, including behaviour likely to increase transmission of HIV/AIDS. The results of the assessment, to be published in early 2007, will help shape policy and determine where to allocate resources.

In October, UNODC helped Pakistan's National AIDS Programme to establish a National Task Force to address the link between injecting drug use and HIV/AIDS, as well as HIV/AIDS in prisons. UNODC also developed training in motivational counselling skills for outreach workers dealing with injecting drug users.

Pilot activities on drug-abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS prevention services for street children and women were launched in July. The projects will help reintegrate street children into their families, teach them to read and provide vocational training and micro-credit enabling them to earn a living. To strengthen the capacities of public institutions and NGOs to provide

high-quality drug treatment to women, UNODC designed a project for the counselling and treatment of women with substance-abuse problems. The project includes a twice-weekly radio programme in Urdu to advise women on drug abuse and treatment options, with a telephone hot-line to counselling and referral services. It will also provide home-based drug treatment.

Other initiatives in the pipeline included a project to train prison staff and NGOs on drug-abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention in prisons; a pilot substitution therapy programme for the management of opium dependence; and a project to increase awareness of the risks of drug abuse among injecting drug users, prisoners and other high-risk groups.

### Crime prevention and law enforcement

Although Pakistan was declared poppy-free in 2000, there is a real risk that cultivation could resume, displaced from neighbouring Afghanistan as a result of law-enforcement efforts there. The trafficking of opiates to Europe via Pakistan rose between 1990 and 2005 as Afghan production of opium and heroin increased. UNODC monitored residual poppy cultivation closely in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan.

Street children in Pakistan



Pakistan also faced the challenges of organized crime, including trafficking of weapons and human beings and the smuggling of migrants. UNODC provided training on fighting organized crime for Government agencies and NGOs and promoted more effective collaboration between agencies in the country and the region.

UNODC continued to strengthen the intelligence collection and analysis capacities of four Pakistani law-enforcement agencies—the Anti-Narcotics Force, Frontier Corps Baluchistan, Frontier Corps of North West Frontier Province and the Federal Investigation Agency. So far, over 300 law-enforcement officers have benefited from training provided by specialist international trainers (either in Pakistan or at the Turkish Academy on Drugs and Organized Crime) or by fellow-nationals previously trained under the programme. UNODC provided equipment to improve national intelligence collection, communications and surveillance.

UNODC provided a two-week regional advanced drug law enforcement and intelligence management course in Islamabad, together with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, for officers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The British High Commission in Islamabad sponsored another course on investigation techniques.

Plans went ahead to introduce Urdu-language computer-based training for the law-enforcement agencies of Pakistan based on a UNODC training programme already in use in 26 countries. The programme will provide 180 hours of computer-based instruction in dedicated training centres in Pakistan, addressing subjects including risk management for senior officers, human rights observance, interdiction techniques for airports, seaports and land border crossings, measures to counter money-laundering, searching vehicles, aircraft, shipping containers, baggage and persons, and drug identification and testing. The project will provide an effective, flexible and low-cost means of improving the quality of training in law-enforcement agencies.

Three mentoring visits in 2006 assisted former trainees in making full use of know-how acquired during the 2005 project training. Another project in the pipeline will help Pakistan improve security on its borders with Afghanistan and Iran by training law-enforcement agencies and promoting cooperation between the three countries. That project will complement a recently agreed UNODC integrated border-control project for Iran.

In 2006, UNODC also worked on helping the Federal Investigating Agency to address the problems of cyber-crime and theft of intellectual property.

## Russian Federation

Russia is a primary destination country for trafficked Afghan opium. As President of the G8 group of leading industrial countries in 2006, the Russian Government, together with UNODC, organized the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan in Moscow in June to highlight the importance of international cooperation in countering the threat of Afghan opium. Ministers recognized that the Afghan opium problem required action on both the demand and supply fronts and adopted a number of concrete recommendations.

### Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS

In April, Russian President Vladimir Putin said HIV/AIDS posed a grave national threat and called on

the Government and civil society to work harder to halt its spread. About 340,000 drug addicts are registered by the Health Ministry but the real figure is thought to be as high as 1.8 million.

UNODC is active in confronting the dual drug and HIV/AIDS epidemics in Russia. As a UNAIDS co-sponsoring organization, it is at the heart of efforts to support national prevention, treatment and care strategies. UNODC focuses primarily on two of the most vulnerable groups—injecting drug users and prisoners.

UNODC developed academic and practical partnerships with experts from around the world. In partnership with St. Petersburg State Medical University of Pavlov and the US National Institutes of Health, UNODC organized

a two-day international seminar in November for healthcare specialists on evidence-based drug-treatment methods. Experts presented a comprehensive model of drug treatment, including abstinence-oriented treatment methods, cognitive behavioural interventions, as well as rehabilitation and treatment of HIV-positive drug users.

UNODC organized a series of seminars on medication-assisted therapy for regional officers of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation (FDCS) to help keep them abreast of the latest developments in treatment and rehabilitation. About 200 officers attended the seminars given by leading researchers in Moscow, Volgograd, Kurgan and Irkutsk.

In December, UNODC conducted a study visit to London for high-ranking FDCS officers to familiarize them with British drug-treatment services. Officers also learned how police and other law-enforcement agencies could support public health initiatives in their daily work.

By mid-2006, the total number of children born to HIV-infected mothers in Russia had exceeded 30,000. Up to 70 per cent of them were less than three years of age. As many as one fifth of children born to HIV-infected mothers were abandoned and mainstream schools and orphanages often rejected them due to their mothers' HIV status.

UNODC joined UNICEF in developing a project for abandoned children in state care in Cheliabinsk, one of the most HIV-affected regions of Russia. The aim is to help reintegrate them into pre- and primary schools, as well as children's homes. The initiative, supported by generous contributions from the private sector, was due to be launched in early 2007.

### Pilot drug-referral scheme

The number of drug-using and HIV-infected detainees in Russian prisons continued to rise. UNODC, with support from the police, the FDCS and treatment services, provided expertise for the establishment of a pilot drug-referral scheme in the city of Voronezh, which will help to ensure that detainees are sent for appropriate treatment.

UNODC created the Eastern European Youth Network of NGOs active in drug-abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention in Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. In 2006, UNODC



Youth event "Drugs are not child's play" in St. Petersburg, organized by the Eastern European Youth Network

conducted training on the prevention of addictive substances for 30 network members from youth NGOs from the four countries. A special web page [www.eegy.com](http://www.eegy.com) was created.

### Workplace substance-abuse prevention

Since President Putin launched a major project in 2005 to improve health care, Russian businesses have become more involved in social partnership projects. Poor health and premature death arising from chronic substance abuse are widespread. Private firms are keen to find a solution to problems such as a loss of productivity and absenteeism, which are estimated to cost the equivalent of about 1.4 per cent of GDP every year.

UNODC Russia teamed up with UNODC Brazil to present its workplace substance-abuse prevention programmes to leading national and multinational firms in Russia.

## Fighting corruption

To implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which Russia ratified on 17 February, the Russian Government organized workshops in October for 50 judges on strengthening judicial integrity and accountability. The workshops were held under the auspices of the State Duma (parliament) with the support

of UNODC and the OSCE. More than 80 senior prosecutors attended a separate workshop on strengthening prosecutorial integrity. The workshops dealt with the independence and responsibility of the court and prosecution systems, the evaluation of efficiency, the introduction of a transparent system of selecting and appointing judges and the application of ethical principles of conduct for judges and prosecutors.

# Uzbekistan

UNODC counter-trafficking projects led to tighter border controls in Central Asia, the main corridor for Afghan heroin smuggled into Europe. The region also faced the challenge of a rapid rise in heroin use by its own people, which could spark a major HIV/AIDS epidemic.

UNODC develops programmes for regional cooperation on border control and counter-trafficking, as well as improving legislative and judicial systems. It encourages countries to ratify and implement international treaties and enhances their ability to combat organized crime and terrorism. The Office gathers and analyses data on trends affecting the region.

UNODC's Regional Office for Central Asia serves Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan through its office in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and project offices in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Ashgabat (Turkmenistan). The Regional Office managed a portfolio of 20 projects in 2006.

## Counter-trafficking

UNODC strengthened partnerships with the region's Governments to help them counter drugs and arms trafficking. The new Kyrgyz Drug Control Agency (DCA), set up with UNODC assistance, seized over 700 kg of drugs during the first half of 2006.

In July, the Kyrgyz DCA opened a southern branch in Osh with UNODC support, significantly boosting its ability to combat drug trafficking with a modern forensic laboratory and detention facilities meeting international standards.

Officers from the Drug Control Agencies in both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan made important drug-related arrests—including among members of the police, customs and national security services. Besides improving law enforcement, UNODC helped to strengthen professionalism and integrity in both agencies. Significantly, the Kyrgyz Government extended lie-detector tests already in use in the Drug Control Agency to the civil service in a bid to tackle corruption.

The newly established Mobile Rapid Intervention Teams, which had received training and equipment from UNODC, improved security along the Tajik-Afghan border and conducted successful counter-narcotics operations. Promising new projects included the establishment of border liaison offices on the Tajik-Uzbek frontier.

Traffickers are not the only challenge. To help disrupt shipments into Afghanistan of chemical precursors used to turn opium into heroin, UNODC piloted "Operation Transshipment" at 20 strategic border checkpoints in five Central Asian countries. This exercise combined the training of law-enforcement officers with mentoring and real-life operations to seize precursors.

The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), a significant regional project supported by UNODC, was approved by the seven participating States in February. Located in Almaty, Kazakhstan, it will mobilize international law-enforcement cooperation against drug trafficking and improve the communication, analysis and exchange of intelligence, as well as the planning and execution of joint exercises. Operations were due to commence in mid-2007.

In July, UNODC and the NATO-Russia Council agreed to cooperate in training law-enforcement officers in Central Asia and Afghanistan to fight the narcotics trade. Under the agreement, mobile training teams from NATO countries and Russia will visit Afghanistan and its five Central Asian neighbours, and provide specialist training to local counter-narcotics forces that will supplement training in permanent facilities provided by the Governments of Russia and Turkey. UNODC will act as executing agency for the \$US 927,000 project launched by Foreign Ministers of the NATO-Russia Council in December 2005. Some 90 Afghan and Central Asian drug-control personnel at centres in Russia, Tajikistan and Turkey have already received training.

Afghanistan expressed interest in joining CARICC and its membership will be considered when the Centre becomes operational. This would complement the pioneering joint initiative by UNODC and the NATO-Russia Council.

UNODC continued to provide computer-based training throughout the region to law-enforcement personnel and this paid dividends in the form of increased drug seizures.

A UNODC team made an assessment of Central Asia's borders with Afghanistan and met senior officials in key agencies as well as border officers. The mission yielded valuable information on the potential for curbing drug trafficking and other illicit flows across borders.

### Legal assistance

In 2006, Kyrgyzstan introduced anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing laws with UNODC assistance, while Kazakhstan passed legislation bringing it into compliance with United Nations drug control conventions. In Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, UNODC facilitated the establishment of Financial Intelligence Units to trace and freeze the proceeds of crime. It also pro-

Drug seizures in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan



moted extradition and mutual legal assistance practices among the countries of the region and their neighbours. The United Nations Democracy Fund approved a UNODC project to assist the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Kyrgyzstan.

Human trafficking is a serious problem in Central Asia, involving large numbers of male labourers, as well as young women and children, many of whom are sexually abused. UNODC designed a new national project in Uzbekistan to promote tougher national legislation in line with international conventions, establish a human trafficking database and train law-enforcement personnel.

### **Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention**

Central Asia is witnessing an explosion in injecting drug use, sex work and migration, factors conducive to the spread of HIV/AIDS. In 2006, the Office assisted NGOs in carrying out education and information cam-

paigns highlighting the dangers of drug use. Over 50 young journalists from the region were trained in HIV/AIDS and drug awareness so as to stimulate better-informed reporting on sensitive issues.

UNODC and the Uzbek Ministry of Education conducted workshops for 1,200 schoolchildren and 200 teachers to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyle choices.

In recognition of UNODC's expertise in this field, the World Bank commissioned the Regional Office to conduct a study of drug-use patterns and HIV infection in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which will be completed by mid-2007.

UNODC supported Governments in their efforts to develop prevention and care programmes for people at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS through unsafe injecting practices and unprotected sex. UNODC assisted countries in compiling internationally comparable statistics on drug users, commercial sex workers and prisoners.