



MILESTONES

Events:

- A joint UNODC/ OSCE Regional Workshop for CA and the Caucasus on ICT and Transnational Organized Crime (Turkey, 12-16 February)
- OSCE/UNODC joint regional workshop on implementation of nuclear terrorism convention (Tashkent, 12-13 April)

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Issue V

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AFGHAN OPIUM CULTIVATION SOARS 59 PERCENT IN 2006



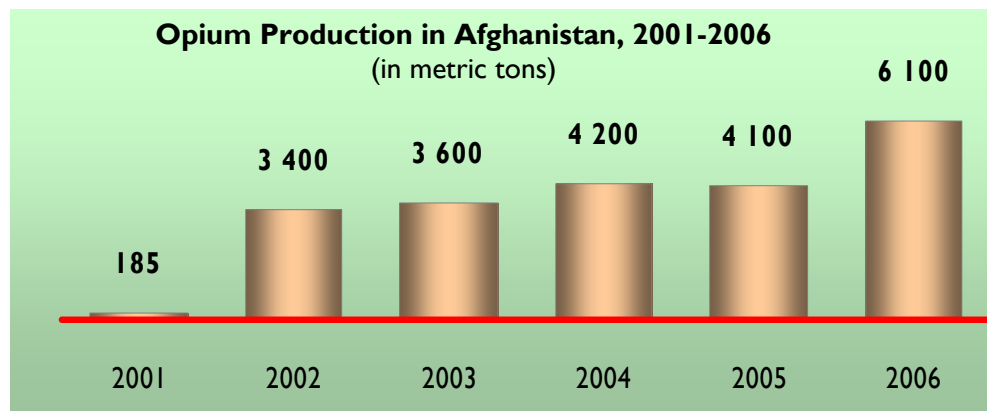
Opium cultivation in Afghanistan rose 59 percent in 2006, largely due to a dramatic increase in the troubled southern provinces. UNODC's Annual Opium Survey for Afghanistan showed the area under opium cultivation reached a record 165,000 hectares in 2006 compared with 104,000 in 2005. In the southern province of Helmand, where Taliban insurgents have scaled up their attacks on Afghan Government and international forces, cultivation soared 162 percent to 69,324

hectares.

The UNODC Executive Director (ED) said the southern part of Afghanistan was displaying the ominous hallmarks of incipient collapse, with large-scale drug cultivation and trafficking, insurgency and terrorism, crime and corruption. In other provinces, especially Badakhshan in the north-east, opium crop increases were the result of weak governance, poverty and the influence of powerful war-lords. Only six of the country's 34 provinces are now opium-free. Cultivation fell this year in eight other provinces, mainly in the north of the country. UNODC ED called on the Afghan Government to take much tougher action to root out corruption and arrest ma-

jor drug traffickers and wealthy opium-farming landlords, seizing their assets and urged the Afghan authorities to double the number of opium-free provinces by the end of 2007 and again by 2008, so as to create a drug-free Afghanistan province by province. The UNODC ED also called on western governments to do more to curb drug abuse in their countries, not least in order to protect the health and safety of their own people. "Heroin habits in the West put huge sums of money into the pockets of criminals and insurgents who destabilize Afghanistan and kill soldiers and civilians alike," he said.

Opium Production in Afghanistan, 2001-2006
(in metric tons)



EVENTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, AMONG OTHERS PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION TRANSSHIPMENT DEBRIEFING MEETING ORGANIZED BY UNODC



UNODC Precursor Control project in Central Asia organized Operation Transshipment Debriefing meeting on 2-4 October 2006 in Tashkent. Besides all the five Central Asian countries, mentor countries namely France, Germany, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States and the international organizations such as International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), CSTO, EU-BOMCA, Interpol, OSCE and WCO and liaison officers from Belgium, Canada, Italy and Norway participated in the meeting. During the meeting implementation of Operation Transshipment was evaluated and the results achieved were assessed. The meeting recommended providing equipment and training at the selected

border checkpoints; equipping mobile teams and training them as trainer; installing CBT programme in the training institutes of law enforcement agencies and providing video training in the use of precursor test kits and equipment for detection and identification of precursors. The meeting further recommended conducting national operations in each Central Asian country before planning the next phase of operations in the larger region in 2007, which will include Afghanistan, China, Iran and Pakistan. The meeting was successful in bringing together all the partners in the region to cooperate and coordinate their activities to fully utilize their capacities, and to harmonize their efforts to realize optimum results.

Operation Transshipment, a time-bound operation focusing on the trafficking of smuggled consignments of acetic anhydride transiting through the Central Asian countries to Afghanistan, was conducted from 19-28 July 2006 at selected strategic border checkpoints in all five Central Asian countries. This was the first operation of its nature conducted by UNODC, which provided implementation of training in practical exercises and joint field operations. It also provided a framework for future project activities in the region and a model for conducting similar activities in other regions.

UNODC AND NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP



UNODC recently launched a pilot project that is being implemented jointly with the NATO-Russia Council. It provides training in modern drug control and law enforcement techniques in Central Asia and Afghanistan in order to strengthen the capacity of counter-drug officers to combat trafficking in opiates

within and through their territories. UNODC plays a key role in assisting NATO experts to develop curricula and to organize the logistical support to trainers and trainees. Effective relationships between UNODC ROCA, NATO, and the UNODC office in Afghanistan have ensured a successful start

to this project. Within the frame of this project, in 2006 UNODC has conducted six capacity building courses for 114 officers of the law enforcement agencies at specialized training centers in Turkey and Russia, as well as a specialized training session in Tajikistan delivered by mobile training teams. Over half of the trainees, 64 officers, were trained at the All-Russia Advanced Training Institute of the Ministry of Interior (Domodedovo Training Centre).

On 14-15 November 2006, UNODC and NATO-Russia Council experts and senior law enforcement officers of the Central Asian states and Afghanistan met in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to discuss the results of the first training sessions, concepts of mobile training teams and the preparation of local trainers, as well as an evaluation and monitoring of training programs. Further, on 25 December 2006 experts met in Domodedovo Training Centre (Moscow) to discuss the details of arranging the next series of the training sessions. During this meeting, the closing ceremony was held and certificates were awarded to the Central Asian and Afghan anti-narcotic agencies' graduates. The first session of 2007 trainings at the Domodedovo Training Centre is tentatively scheduled for February.



PROJECTS

JOINT WORLD BANK - UNODC AML/CFT ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

The World Bank and UNODC recognize that Central Asia region is facing a multitude of special challenges in addressing threats from drug trafficking, organized crime, money laundering and terrorism. As a result, both institutions agreed that Central Asian countries might benefit by providing an expert to provide day-to-day on the ground advice to these countries interested in building new anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing regimes which meet recognized international standards.

Therefore, in November 2004, the World Bank jointly with UNODC placed an AML/CFT

mentor in Almaty. In the first year, the mentor focused primarily on providing technical assistance to Central Asian countries in drafting AML/CFT laws. Currently, the focus of work has shifted to conducting training sessions for officials in each country which go into more technical detail on complicated legal issues, issues of practical implementation and best practices, and lessons learned from other CIS and European countries. The efforts of Central Asian countries in this field have shown results, as AML/CFT laws have been adopted in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and it is hoped that laws in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (currently under consideration in Parliaments) will

be enacted in the beginning of 2007.

Once legislation is in place, the responsibilities of officials and ministries become clearer. In parallel to this work, a regional AML/CFT Network called Eurasian Group (EAG), a FATF-Style Regional Body, was established in late 2004 whose members include Russia, China, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The main role of this regional organization is to conduct mutual AML/CFT evaluations of the member countries, which result in a specific list of recommendations where countries might consider improving implementation of international AML/CFT standards.



UNODC TO ENHANCE DRUG CONTROL AT AIRPORTS ON BEHALF OF EC



The efficiency of counter narcotic efforts at airports in many respects depend on the professional level of the law enforcement personnel, and on the coordination of their activities. Recently, UNDP and UNODC have jointly established a regional project aimed at strengthening the drug control capacities at airports in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The establishment of interagency Drug Profiling Units (DPUs) at the main international airports and rein-

forcing drug control capacities have been planned in the frame of the Central Asian Drug Action Programme (CADAP 2) funded by the EU. The overall objective of CADAP is to foster a development-oriented drug control strategy in Central Asia that ensures a sustained reduction of drug consumption and trafficking in line with European Commission drug strategies. Under the Project, the respective agencies of member-states have signed the Memorandum on these Units establishment, which will be operating in airports and equipped with special-

ized hardware for daily drug search and detection activities. These Units include representatives from the Ministry of Interior, customs service, border guards, national and aviation security services. Recently, the Units' officers from each country were trained in Tashkent, Bishkek, Khujand and Ashgabat. 48 officers were trained in



drug profiling techniques (risk assessment, risk profiling, preliminary observation, questioning, analysis of behavioral indicators, etc.), as well as in collecting, collating, analyzing and the application of relevant information for the detection of illicit drug trafficking. In addition, in order to reinforce regional cooperation among airports and

encourage the adoption of harmonized procedures and methods in drug control, arrests and seizures, a regional seminar was held in mid December in Tashkent. This seminar enabled the trained employees to discuss the establishment of a database for sensitive data and to share best practices for implementing agreements on information-sharing amongst countries.



IMPROVING BORDER CONTROLS AT HAYRATON



In Uzbekistan, UNODC has been active in improving border controls at the Hayraton "Friendship Bridge" check point, which is a major transport connection between Central Asia and Afghanistan and creates benefits for both sides. With a view to maximizing the positive effect of trade there, UNODC has been concerned with minimizing the negative effects that increased drug trafficking through the point could create. UNODC had therefore been providing specialized equipment including weighbridge, video surveillance systems, mobile radar for controlling border area adjacent to the checkpoint. On 16 January

2007, UNODC handed over a Truck crane to be used for loading and unloading cargo and containers for the search purposes. Further, in April UNODC is planning to provide

specialized search equipment and training to Uzbek Customs and Border Guard offices at the crossing. As a result, the checkpoint will be fully equipped and operational.



UNODC ENHANCES COMPUTER BASED TRAINING WITH THE EU SUPPORT



Fundamental to lasting successes in counter-trafficking is the continued enhancement of states' capacities to develop and implement self-sustaining training programs for law enforcement personnel. UNODC has established computer based training (CBT) centers throughout the region, raising skill levels, encouraging consistency amongst regional law enforcement personnel, and creating opportunities for cooperation and interaction. Last year CBT centers were established at the Ministry of Interior and Drug Control Agency (DCA) in Tajikistan; DCA in Kyrgyzstan (in both countries funded by EU BOMCA programme); Customs service in Turkmenistan; and Border Guards and National Security Service in Uzbekistan. On 2 February



2007, another CBT sites were opened at the Cus-

tom and National Security Service Institutes of Uzbekistan thus creating solid grounds for self-sustainable special law enforcement trainings in the country. During 2007, UNODC is planning to establish more than 20 additional CBT cites in Cen-

tral Asian countries and Azerbaijan. These activities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be funded by the EU BOMCA programme. The overall objective of BOMCA is to secure the gradual adoption of modern border management methods in Central Asia.



UNODC TRAINS ON HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CARE

From 6-10 November in Tashkent, UNODC held a five-day national seminar on “Designing and managing effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes targeted at IDUs”. 35 participants from Uzbekistan were taught skills for developing and managing harm reduction projects targeted at IDU, in order to improve their access to services. The workshop also addressed improving relevant skills to coordinate harm reduction projects, develop communication with drug users, and addressing issues related to interactions with the police, health facilities and other service organizations. Subsequently, to ensure the sustainability of the training process, on 13-17 November UNODC held a five-day



national 'Training of Trainers' workshop targeted at developing the training skills of current and future trainers/consultants on methodologies of training outreach workers engaged in

HIV/AIDS prevention and care services among IDUs. 35 trainers from all over Uzbekistan are now able to conduct effective training and supervision of outreach workers.



TRAININGS

AML/CFT TRAINING SERIES STARTED IN UZBEKISTAN



On 25-27 September, a UNODC/WB AML/CFT mentor for Central Asia started a training series for 30 Uzbek officials representing the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Prosecutor's Office, and the ministries of Interior, Justice, Finance, Tax Committee, Central Bank and Customs Committee. This session was the first in a series of 6 training sessions at which all FATF Recommendations were discussed in detail, as well as the corresponding Evaluation Criteria from the Evaluation Methodol-

ogy. Discussions which includes: best practices; lessons learned from other countries; the roles of all respective ministries and agencies concerning

all the FATF Recommendations; and requirements of the Evaluation criteria. The second full-day training session was held on 7 November 2006.



UNODC CONDUCTED SPECIALIZED TRAINING COURSES ON PRECURSOR CONTROL

Strengthening of precursor control in the countries bordering Afghanistan is one of the key ways of reducing the scope of illicit heroin production in Afghanistan. Since 2000 UNODC has been implementing a regional counter-precursors project focused on improving the relevant legal framework, providing necessary equipment and training to customs employees. Within the frame of this project, UNODC has procured software for precursor movement monitoring in specialized centers in Uzbekistan (State Security Services), Turkmenistan (customs office) and Tajikistan (DCA and Ministry of Interior). Four-day interactive training courses were conducted on November 6 - 17 in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and were de-

voted to such important aspects of precursor control as techniques of concealment, investigation methodologies, chemical analysis, intelligence compilation, chemical safety, etc. As a follow up to the training of the customs officers from the 10 strategic border

checkpoints in Central Asia, the trainers from France delivered additional practical on-site sessions to these specialists at "Khayraton" (Uzbekistan), "Bratstvo" (Tajikistan) and Serkhetabad" (Turkmenistan) border checkpoints.



UNODC TRAINS ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

On 11-15 September 2006, UNODC in cooperation with the State Drug Control Committee in Uzbekistan and the Drug Control Agency in Tajikistan organized two workshops for government officials on "Preventing Drug Abuse and

Promoting the Health and Well-being of Children and Young People" facilitated by the Executive Director of the Mentor Foundation (UK). 35 participants from the ministries, state agencies, local municipalities, school administration were in-

troduced to the basic principles in prevention and best practices, and were assisted in developing their action plans for their respective agencies, taking into account local traditions and culture.

STATISTICS

DRUG SITUATION IN THE FIRST HALF YEAR 2006

Drug seizures

During the first 6-month period (2006), a total of 14.6 tons of drugs were seized in Central Asia, which is 2.5 tons more than during the same period in 2005. This increase is due to the growth in heroin seizures up to 2.2 tons (+43%), opium seizures up to 2.1 tons (+23%) and cannabis group seizures up to 10 tons (+27%).

It should be noted that as a result of joint operations "Controlled Delivery" conducted with foreign law enforcement agencies, the DCA of Kyrgyzstan made its first ever seizure of ecstasy pills (100 thousand).

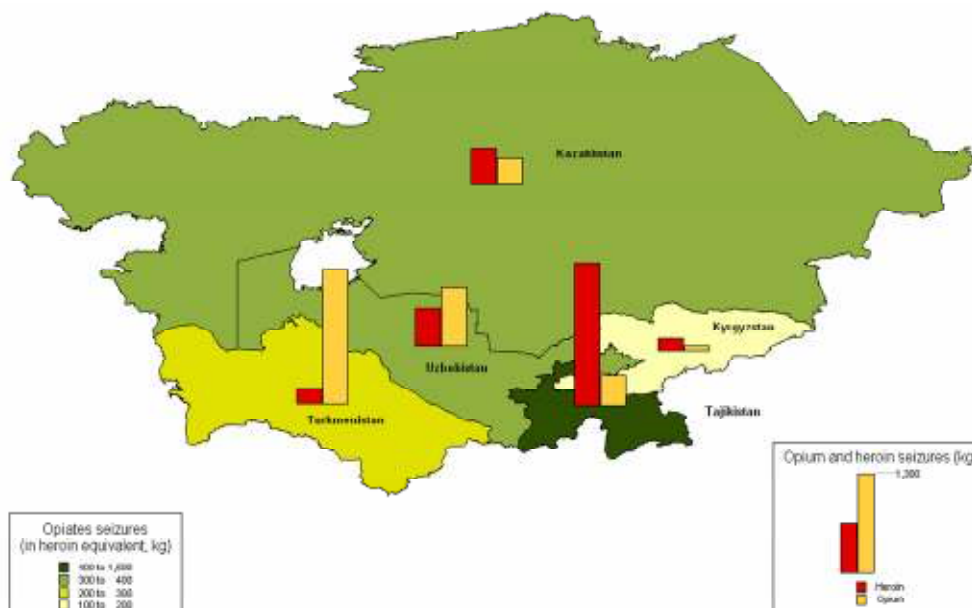
Opiates

Semi-annual amounts of seizures in 2003 – 2006 display an increase in Afghan drug trafficking. Available data also confirms the highest individual seizures of heroin and opium in Central Asia for 2006. If the maximum weight of heroin was up to 116 kg in 2005, it reached 420 kg in September 2006. The highest weight of opium seized is 809 kg which is much more than in 2005. It is probable that an overall increase in opiates seizures will be confirmed by the end of this year, as statistics for previous years displays an increase of drug seizures during the second half of the year.

The opiate seizures situation in Central Asia countries has changed during the 1st half of the year. If heroin seizures during the 1st half 2005 increased only in Kazakhstan, during the 1st half of 2006, all the Central Asian countries except Kazakhstan have reported a growth in heroin seizures from 30% up to 173%. Kazakhstan seized 10% less but in absolute quantities the difference between the current and last years is not significant. Growth of seizures in Central Asia and Russian Federation likely corresponds to a growth of Afghan origin drugs trafficking in 2006.

Opiates Seizures (kg, as of 1 July 2006)

	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	TOTAL
Opium	228.2	50.3	267.8	1,145.9	509.3	2,201.5
in % to 2005	-65	-51	-61	307	698	23
Heroin	324.9	104.4	1,216.3	140.5	326.8	2,113.0
in % to 2005	-10	107	45	30	173	43



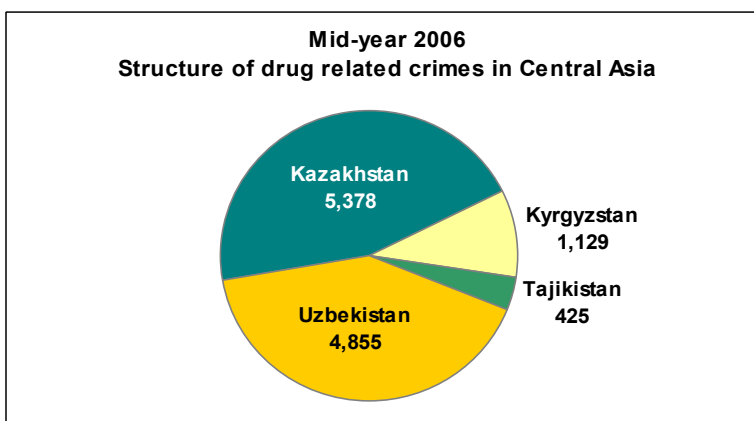
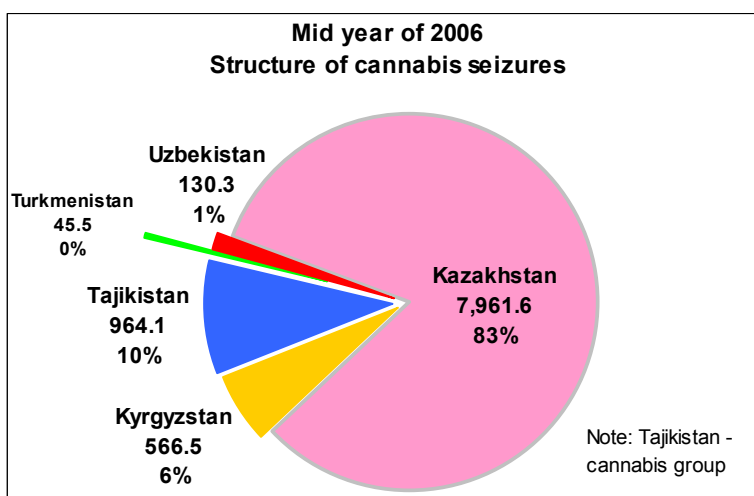
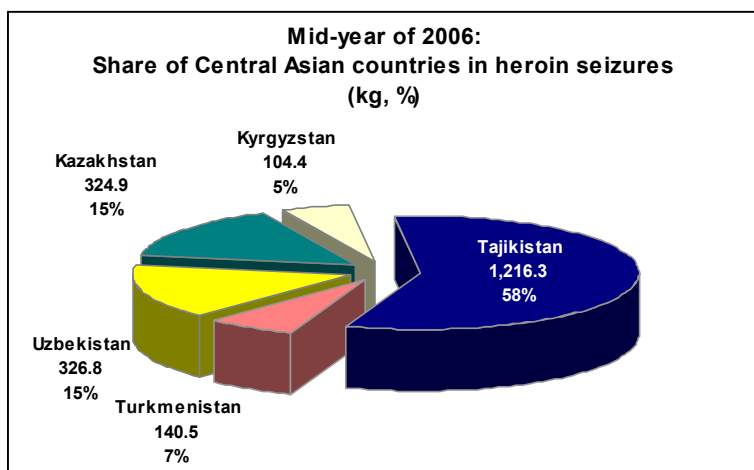
Tajikistan's share of heroin seizures has not changed and constitutes approximately 60% of total seizures in Central Asia. The law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan seized 1,216 kg heroin - that is 45% more than in 2005. Seizures in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan increased up to 104% and 173% respectively. Each country's share in opium seizures has changed for the first time. Tajikistan still ranks first in opiates seizures in Central Asia. In the 1st half of 2006 Turkmenistan led all countries and confiscated over 50% of opium due to a large opium seizure of 809 kg in March 2006. Uzbekistan is ranked second and seized 700% more (509 kg) than in the first half year of 2005. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan reported a decrease of more than 50%.

Cannabis

Kazakhstan annually leads other countries of the region in marijuana seizures, confiscating more than 20 tons every year. As of 1 July 2006, law enforcement agencies of the republic have seized about 8 tons of marijuana (or 83% of total amount of seizures in Central Asia). According to the Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan, 964 kg of cannabis-type drugs - that is 81% more than in 2005 - were seized. Law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan have also reported on the growth of cannabis seizures.

Drug Related Crimes

According to the law enforcement agencies of Central Asia during the 1st half 2006, 11,787 drug related crimes (DRC) were registered, including 5,378 cases in Kazakhstan and 4,485 cases in Uzbekistan. All the countries have reported a growth in DRC (except Tajikistan) during the 1st half of the year.



UNODC RECENT PUBLICATIONS



On 5 February 2007, UNODC launched an updated multilingual

dictionary of all drugs controlled under the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Drugs may have different names, particularly in commerce and in technical literature, which complicates the task of national and international drug control authorities. The dictionary alleviates this by providing current information on existing chemical names and variants, synonyms, com-

mon generic and trade names of over 240 drugs. It provides two-way translation between English and the five other official UN languages. The dictionary also provides information on the international control regime, as well as on the scheduling history and control status of all substances covered by the Conventions.

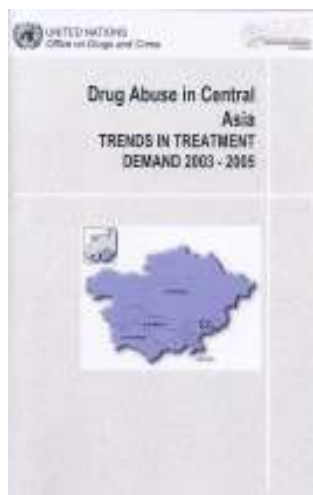
Link: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/publications/MLD-rv2.html>



The Afghanistan Opium Survey in 2006 covered various aspects such as estimations of the extent of opium poppy cultivation, opium yield and production, opium prices and the opium poppy growth calendar. It also included socioeconomic aspects such as the number of families involved in opium poppy cultivation, the number of opium addicts in Afghanistan and the in-

come from opium to farmers and traffickers. The survey methodology was based on a sampling approach that combined the use of satellite imagery and extensive field visits.

Link: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html



The Report on Trends in Drug Abuse Treatment Demand in Central Asia is compiled by the UNODC's Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse as part of its work in supporting the member states in Central Asian region namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in setting up "Drug Abuse Information and Monitoring Systems" using the key epidemiological indicators of

drug abuse. This report is based on the analysis of data collected on individuals treated for drug problems in each of the participating treatment facilities and supplemented by the information from "Annual Reports" covering 2003 to 2005 compiled by each national focal person.

Link: <http://www.unodc.org/uzbekistan>

30a, Abdulla Kahhor street
Tashkent, 700100, Uzbekistan
Phone: (998 71) 120-8050
Fax: (998 71) 120-6290
Web: <http://unodc.org/uzbekistan>

UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Central Asia

