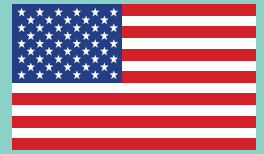




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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Central Asia



Strengthening Law Enforcement Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Tajikistan

Final Report

Strengthening Law Enforcement Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Tajikistan

Final Report

December 2021

Title:	Strengthening Law Enforcement Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Tajikistan
Total duration:	September 2018 – March 2021
Amount requested:	315,000.00 USD – – via Sub-Programme 2 “Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity” of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 (PROFI Nr. XAC/Z61)
Objective:	To assist Tajik authorities to develop capacities of law enforcement and judicial bodies to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate trafficking in persons cases
Target group:	<p>Ministry of Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized Crime Department, Human Trafficking Unit - Police Academy <p>General Prosecutor’s Office and its Training Center Supreme Court and its Training Center for Judges Parliament (Majlisi Oli) Statistics Agency under the President of Tajikistan</p>
Expected results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on prevention, detection and investigation of human trafficking cases for law enforcement officers rolled out and institutionalized in the practice of the MOI’s Organized Crime Department and MOI Training Centre • Training on prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking cases for prosecutors and judges rolled out and institutionalized in the GPO Training Centre and Supreme Court • Cooperation with destination countries strengthened through capacity development on mutual legal assistance

Background

The project “Strengthening Law Enforcement Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Tajikistan” was implemented from September 2018 to March 2021. The project was embedded in the UNODC Program for Central Asia and implemented within the framework of Sub-Program 2 “Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention and Integrity”.

The aim of the project was to assist the Tajik authorities to develop capacities of law enforcement and judicial bodies to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate trafficking in persons cases. The Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Supreme Court were the main target groups of the project.

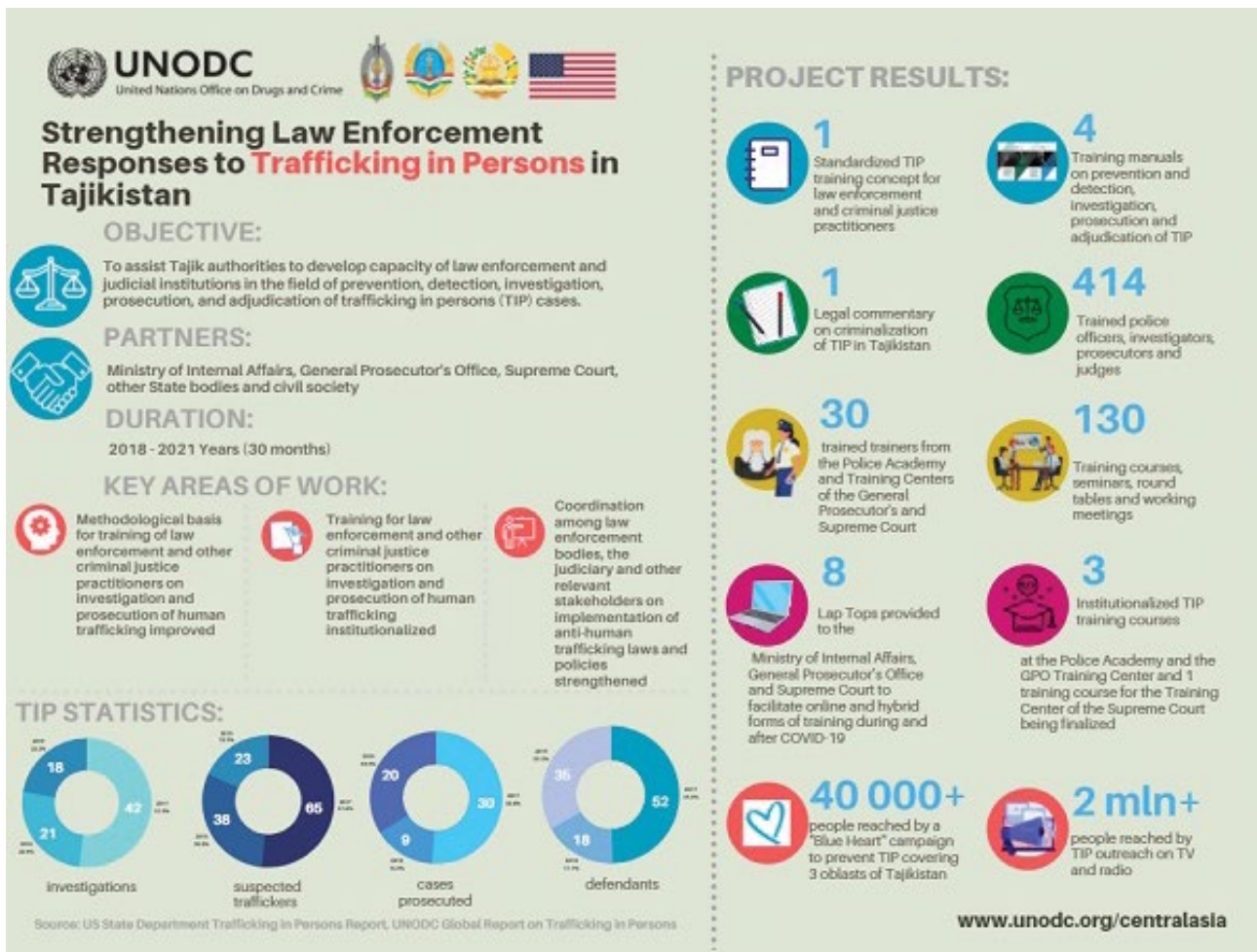
The project facilitated the development of adapted training materials for the above criminal justice practitioners and the organisation and institutionalisation of a training process based on these materials. This process was guided by the UNODC Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners and other relevant UNODC tools based on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, to which Tajikistan is a party.

The project opened a dialogue with the authorities and civil society on evidential issues in human trafficking cases, data collection to track the trafficking situation and challenges in mutual legal assistance. The project also facilitated review of legislation and discussion on recommendations to improve compliance with international standards, as well as engagement of law enforcement bodies in public awareness and outreach to prevent and address trafficking in persons.

Key project achievements

Key project achievements are summarized in the below infographic and include:

- 1 standardized training concept, 4 training manuals and 2 training films produced on prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of trafficking in persons.
- 30 trained trainers at the Police Academy and the Training Centers of the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court.
- 414 trained police officers, investigators, prosecutors and judges based on these manuals.
- 3 courses on trafficking in persons incorporated in the curricula of the Police Academy and the Training Centers of the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court.
- 1 action plan for public awareness raising on trafficking in persons, which resulted in a coordinated campaign in 3 regions of the country, reaching over 40,000 people.



During the period of project implementation, the number of registered trafficking in persons crimes increased from 42 in 2019 to 51 during the first 6 months of 2020 (as per available statistics of the Ministry of Interior).

Project Outcome: Law Enforcement Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Tajikistan strengthened.

Output 1. Methodological basis for training of law enforcement and other criminal justice practitioners on investigation and prosecution of human trafficking improved.

Activity 1.1. Based on the results of 2 scoping missions in October 2018 and February 2019, a roundtable discussion and press conference to launch the project with national partners in February 2019, and in-depth consultations with key national stakeholders, including the Ministry of Interior and its Academy, the General Prosecutor’s Office and its Training Centre and the Supreme Court and its Training Centre, the project developed a standardized training concept for criminal justice practitioners.

This training concept describes the overall objectives and expected results of required training and skills development of law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners on trafficking in persons. The training concept outlines

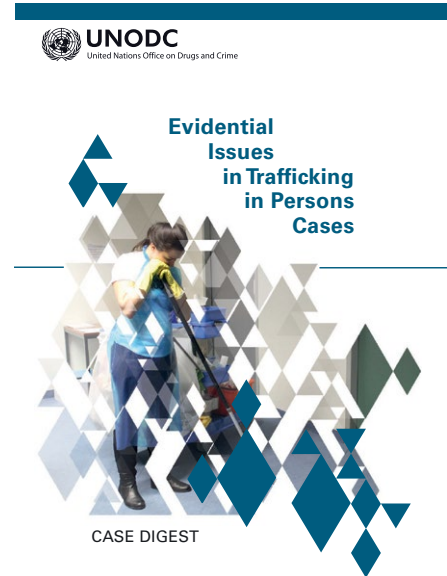
thematic issues and skillsets that should be covered, as well as a step-by-step approach to the development of necessary training tools and materials, their piloting and further institutionalization in the curriculum of national training institutions for the police, prosecutors and judges.

UNODC presented the concept to national stakeholders at a national conference (organized by OSCE in July 2019) on the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons with positive feedback received from the representatives of the Interagency Commission on TIP, Supreme Court, General Prosecutor’s Office and MFA.

Activity 1.2. Based on the training concept, UNODC developed a set of four different training manuals on prevention, detection and investigation, prosecution and adjudication of trafficking in persons during the second half of 2019. The project piloted the manuals in 2020 through a series of training sessions conducted in close cooperation with national partners (available in Russian and Tajik languages). To sustain the training effort, the project disseminated 1000 copies of the manuals



Activity 1.3. Twenty-one (21) practitioners from law enforcement and justice sector (14% female) were introduced to tools to address typical evidential problems arising in trafficking in persons cases during a workshop held in March 2021. To help Tajik criminal law practitioners better understand nuances of criminal proceedings on TIP cases and to equip them with knowledge and skills in addressing the evidential issues typical to trafficking cases, UNODC presented its Case Digest, which was published in Russian. Thirty (30) copies of the Case Digest were printed and distributed to raise the capacity of judges, prosecutors, investigators, and lawyers.



Activity 1.4. 20 prosecutors and 60 judges were involved into discussions related to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking based on UNODC training films “Victims not Villains 1” on victim sensitive interviewing and “Victims not villains 2” on prosecution and adjudication of TIP cases. The films were shown at the training centers of the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Supreme Court in February 2019. These training films were well received, and recommendations made to use for training purposes in Tajikistan. The project then produced the training films in Tajik and handed over 400 copies to the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Supreme Court and related law enforcement and judicial training institutions.





Output 2. Training for law enforcement and other criminal justice practitioners on investigation and prosecution of human trafficking institutionalized.

Activity 2.1. In 2019, UNODC partnered with ABA ROLI on the organization of pilot training on TIP investigation skills for police and GPO investigators. UNODC supported and organized the mission of one of the US experts invited by ABA ROLI to facilitate the training for 21 male participants (9 from GPO and 12 from MIA) on 22-23 April 2019.

In 2020, the project launched its training program based on the developed manuals. 414 police investigators, prosecutors, judges, and other stakeholders improved their knowledge and skills on TIP investigation and prosecution during 10 training courses held between June 2020 and March 2021. To implement the training program, UNODC purchased 8 laptop computers to facilitate online and hybrid forms of training during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were further transferred to national partners.

Based on the agreed training concept, UNODC also facilitated training of trainers' courses with the law enforcement and judicial training institutions. 30 trainers (20% female) of the MIA Academy and training centers of the GPO and Supreme Court are now able to independently conduct TIP training based on the developed manuals.

The trained MOI instructors cascaded the training to 258 cadets of the MOI Academy, with a focus on TIP prevention, detection and investigation issues. The Academy of the Ministry of Interior officially endorsed the UNODC training course and related police manuals in its curriculum for the upcoming 5 years.

The GPO Training Center introduced the project's training program in its curriculum and trained an additional 56 prosecutors on investigation and prosecution.

With the Training Center of the Supreme Court, UNODC initiated joint work with its experts to introduce the manual for judges in the training practice of this training institution as well.

Activity 2.2. On 21 June 2019 UNODC joined a roundtable on countering trafficking in human beings organized by OSCE's Border Management Staff College to present UNODC online tools aimed at strengthening the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons. The 35 participants (24 women) represented border, customs, migration and other border-related services from 16 countries from Asia and Europe, as well as Australia.

Further, UNODC partnered with the General Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Court and Ministry of Interior to organize a two-day webinar on "International cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants" held on 31 August – 1 September 2020. Fifteen (15) investigators, judges and prosecutors (20% female) received in-depth training on effectively tackling human trafficking and migrant smuggling through efficient implementation of international cooperation instruments, tools and best practices. UNODC HQ experts delivered presentations focusing on an array of themes, including definitions and provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols; the general principles of formal and informal international cooperation; best practices in mutual legal assistance; extradition and the transfer of sentenced persons; and confiscation of proceeds of crime. Recommendations for better international cooperation and mutual legal assistance in human trafficking cases were developed and shared with the respective government authorities.



Activity 2.3. Throughout the project, UNODC conducted consultations with the Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office, and Supreme Court on integration of the project's training materials in the curriculum of law enforcement and other training institutions (see also above under 2.1).

UNODC also partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan in establishment of a Working Group to review and adapt other global educational tools on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The working group was comprised of specialists and experts in the sphere of trafficking of persons from the Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office and Supreme Court, as well as the Law Faculty of the Tajik National University and the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Independent national experts and colleagues from IOM participated in the working group meetings during which experts from UNODC Headquarters presented UNODC's training tools at the global level. UNODC assisted in translation of 8 modules in Russian out of 14 selected by the working group for their further review and integration.



Output 3. Coordination among law enforcement bodies, the judiciary and other relevant stakeholders on implementation of anti-human trafficking laws and policies strengthened.

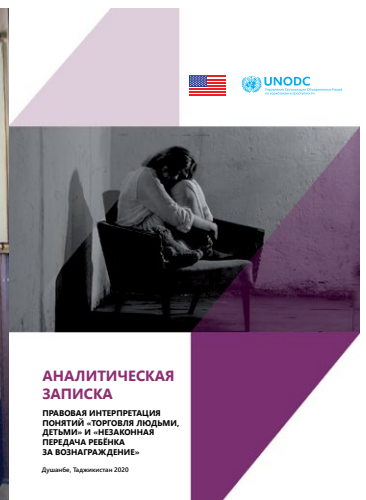
Activity 3.1. On 14-16 September 2020, UNODC organized a three-day workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of national counterparts on data collection and analysis, as well as related processes and mechanisms in the area of trafficking in persons. The workshop provided an opportunity for 11 data collection specialists from different government authorities to share experiences on the collection and analysis of data related to TIP and to learn best practices of other countries. Training sessions covered data collection methodologies, indicators for victims

and offenders, availability of relevant and timely information and flow of data. Recommendations for improving the data collection system of human trafficking cases were developed and shared with the respective government authorities.



Activity 3.2. UNODC developed a legal commentary with recommendations to bring provisions on trafficking in persons, trafficking in children and sale of children further in line with international standards, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (but also the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

UNODC presented the analytical paper at a roundtable (2 December 2020), which gathered 20 government representatives, members of parliament, national human rights institutions, academics, and independent experts. As a follow up to the roundtable and recommendations made by the participants, UNODC shared the legal commentary with government authorities and the parliament for consideration during the finalization of new criminal legislation.



Activity 3.3. UNODC organized a two-day workshop (29-30 September 2020) for 20 government officials, law enforcement officers, academia and civil society (53% female) who gained skills on the organization of public awareness raising campaigns and effective media engagement against trafficking in persons. Based on the knowledge and skills gained during the training, these key stakeholders elaborated an action plan for a Blue Heart campaign, which was launched officially in early 2021 and targeted 3 Oblasts of Tajikistan during a three-month period: Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, Sughd and Khatlon Regions.



The comprehensive nationwide awareness raising campaign “100 days against trafficking in persons” was held in close partnership with the Ministry of Interior and its Public Councils on Police Reform, civil society organizations and local government authorities. Key results of the campaign include:

- 1 logo and slogan and related visibility items produced (banners, flyers etc.) for youth to promote the “100 days against TIP campaign” in Tajik language.
- 10 press-conferences and roundtables held with government and civil society representatives to agree the Action Plan and kick of the information campaign in 5 districts of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomic Oblast, Sughd Oblast and Khatlon Oblast.
- 1 article in the local newspaper Asia Plus published to announce the launch of the campaign with further information on activities posted by engaged civil society on social media on a regular basis.
- 10+ different types of activities/actions organized including official press conferences, live programmes on TV and radio, theatre performances, film screenings, drawing contests among school





students, job fairs, round tables and conferences with government stakeholders and youth, outreach meetings with local population on risks of TIP and irregular migration, etc.

- Over 600 people attended 5 job fairs organized by local government and civil societies, and over 100 obtained employments.
- 40,000 people reached directly with different meetings/events held by Public Councils on Police Reform and Civil Societies in respective districts.



- 1 short film produced and placed in social media to raise awareness of forced labour and sexual slavery. 1 UNODC film on countering trafficking in persons dubbed in Tajik and broadcasted through national television channels. Daily TV and radio coverage and social advertisements reached 2 million people during the campaign.

On 31 March 2021, UNODC held a concluding roundtable meeting in Dushanbe on “Preventing and Addressing Human Trafficking in Tajikistan”. The purpose of the roundtable was to present the project’s results and achievements, to further promote the training manuals and other publications developed to enhance the professional capacity of criminal justice practitioners in the area of combating trafficking in persons, and to discuss the way forward to assist the Tajik government in the implementation of its National Action Plan to combat human trafficking. This event brought together 38 representatives of ministries, law enforcement and justice sectors, institutions and civil society organizations, as well as UN and international organizations (34% female) engaged in the field of combating human trafficking.



Key lessons learnt and suggestions for further interventions in Tajikistan

The project showed the importance of an approach based on national ownership with training processes implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court. The project's training materials were based on international standards and guided by relevant UNODC global tools, whilst at the same time tailored to the requirements of the curriculum of the country's law enforcement and judicial training institutions. Based on recommendations derived from the various policy dialogues and roundtable discussions facilitated by the project, the following follow up activities are suggested to further strengthen the law enforcement and criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in Tajikistan:

- Implement a training program for lawyers on legal aid to victims of human trafficking during investigations and criminal proceedings and support pro bono legal aid in trafficking cases.
- Conduct training of trainers with the training institutions of the Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office and Supreme Court to replicate training and reach all territorial divisions.
- Establish an interagency task force on investigation and prosecution of human trafficking to support coordinated evidence gathering and qualification of the crime as human trafficking.
- Develop an updated compilation of sample documents for evidence gathering in human trafficking cases for investigators and conduct related training.
- Adapt and introduce mock trial methodology to support vigorous investigation and prosecutions of suspected traffickers.
- Establish an interagency working group on implementation of the victim support law with the involvement of victim support organizations and facilitate development of further secondary legislation.
- Undertake consultations with the Ministry of Interior and General Prosecutor's Office on mutual legal assistance in human trafficking cases and identify the countries of interest for Tajikistan (e.g. Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, other emerging destination countries).
- Facilitate bilateral interagency discussions with destination countries aimed at solving cases and establishing effective cooperation to address challenges related to investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, including with involvement of Interpol.
- Conduct and support implementation of an inter-regional dialogue of Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries with countries of transit and destination to more effectively and efficiently address challenges related to combating TIP in the form of a forum with possible bilateral events.
- Facilitate cross-border networking of Tajik victim support organizations and coordination with law enforcement bodies to ensure victim sensitive approaches and build trust to bring more cases to court.
- Develop a training case study on mutual legal assistance for use by law enforcement and judicial training institutions.
- Develop and conduct specialized training on international cooperation in criminal matters in human trafficking cases for investigators and prosecutors.
- Study linkages between cybercrime, online recruitment and human trafficking and conduct related training, including on investigation of related illicit financial flows.
- Conduct training on the protection of children from recruitment and exploitation by violent extremist and terrorist groups.

- Conduct training on rehabilitation and reintegration of children returned from and Iraq.
- Establish an interagency working group to improve the collection of anti-trafficking law enforcement data, including preparation of updated data entry templates with appropriate disaggregation and support to the development of related software.
- Institutionalise the organization of comprehensive, nationwide anti-trafficking public awareness campaign based on social partnerships between government, law enforcement and civil society.
- Disseminate education for justice training tools on trafficking in persons in Tajik among universities to build a pool of trainers for university level education on trafficking in persons and engagement with law enforcement and judicial training institutions to introduce more innovative and interactive training techniques.

Annex 1 - Publications

1	Standardized concept for criminal justice practitioners	https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2021/publications/Training_Concept_to_Enhance_the_Professional_Capacity_of_Criminal_Justice_Practitioners_in_Tajikistan_to_Combat_Human_Trafficking_Rus.pdf
2	Training manual on prevention of trafficking in persons	https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2021/publications/Tajikistan/Manual_on_Prevention_of_Trafficking_in_Persons_for_Police_Officers_Rus.pdf
3	Training manual on detection and investigation of trafficking in persons	https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2021/publications/Tajikistan/Manual_on_Detection_and_Investigation_of_Trafficking_in_Persons_for_Police_Investigators_Rus.pdf
4	Training manual on prosecution of trafficking in persons	https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2021/publications/Tajikistan/Manual_on_Investigation_and_Prosecution_of_Trafficking_in_Persons_for_Prosecutors_Rus.pdf
5	Training manual on adjudication of trafficking in persons	https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2021/publications/Tajikistan/Manual_on_the_Adjudication_of_Trafficking_in_Persons_for_Judges_Rus.pdf
6	Legal commentary on illegal adoption/sale of children	https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2021/publications/Tajikistan/Legal_Commentary_on_Criminalization_of_Trafficking_in_Persons_in_Tajikistan.pdf
7	Case Digest	https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2017/Case_Digest_Evidential_Issues_in_Trafficking.pdf (English) https://www.unodc.org/documents/centralasia//2020/August/TIP/TIP_Case_Digest.pdf (Russian)
8	E4J Modules translated into Russian	Module 6. Defining the Concept of Trafficking in Persons Module 7. Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Module 8. A Human Rights-Based Approach to Trafficking in Persons Module 9. Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons Module 10. The Role of Civil Society in Countering Trafficking in Persons Module 11. Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Module 13. The Gender Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Module 14. The Links between Cybercrime, Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

Annex 2 - Media Articles:

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/victims-not-villains--tajik-prosecutors-and-judges-discuss-good-practices-in-investigation-and-prosecution-of-human-trafficking.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/unodc-pilots-new-manual-on-prevention-detection-and-investigation-of-trafficking-in-persons-crimes-in-tajikistan.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-issues-standardised-training-concept-to-enhance-the-professional-capacity-of-criminal-justice-practitioners-in-tajikistan-to-combat-human-trafficking.html>

https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-in-tajikistan_-new-manual-helps-law-enforcement-enhance-investigation-skills-to-fight-human-trafficking.html

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-publishes-legal-commentary-on-criminalization-of-trafficking-in-persons-in-tajikistan.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-in-tajikistan-pilots-specialized-training-manual-for-judges-on-prosecution-and-adjudication-of-human-trafficking-cases.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-strengthens-data-collection-and-reporting-on-trafficking-in-persons-crimes-in-tajikistan.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc--inl-enhances-the-inter-agency-cooperation-in-tajikistan-to-combat-trafficking-in-persons.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-publishes-comprehensive-training-package-for-law-enforcement-and-justice-professionals-on-investigation-and-prosecution-of-trafficking-in-persons-in-tajikistan.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/unodc-and-inl-train-prosecutors-and-judges-in-tajikistan-on-effective-prosecution-of-trafficking-in-persons-based-on-real-life-cases.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/tajikistans-police-academy-institutionalizes-training-of-police-officers-on-detection-and-investigation-of-trafficking-in-persons-with-unodc-and-inl-support.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/government--law-enforcement-and-civil-society-launch-public-awareness-raising-campaign-against-trafficking-in-persons-in-tajikistan.html>

<https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/unodc-and-inl-provide-comprehensive-support-to-tajikistan-in-preventing-and-counteracting-trafficking-in-persons.html>

<https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/society/20210204/v-hatlone-zapuskayut-kampaniyu-protiv-torgovli-lyudmi>

https://twitter.com/UNODC_ROCA/status/1377132989998452738?s=20

https://twitter.com/UNODC_ROCA/status/1308352780839591941?s=20

https://twitter.com/UNODC_ROCA/status/1301421506484994048?s=20

https://twitter.com/UNODC_ROCA/status/1376901394272256001?s=20

<https://www.facebook.com/UNODCCentralAsia/posts/2514436002013986>

<https://www.facebook.com/UNODCCentralAsia/posts/2513971048727148>

Annex 3 - Outcome Document, National Workshop on “International cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants”.

Conclusions on key points for improved responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants both domestically and in the field of international cooperation

A. Trafficking in persons – smuggling of migrants: domestic aspects

- The importance of promoting effective implementation of international standards, particularly the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its two supplementary Protocols, to address the challenges posed by trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- The need for enhanced knowledge of definitions of, and differences between, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, as well as the criminalization requirements of related offences, as set forth in the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UNTOC; and, in particular, the significance of acquiring a common understanding of the definition of trafficking in persons, as foreseen in article 3 of the Protocol, its constituent elements (acts, means and purpose of exploitation, including for forced labour) and their relationship to the consent of the victims;
- The significance of training and capacity-building activities to upgrade the skills of criminal justice personnel, including judges and prosecutors, and law enforcement, such as, for example, tailor-made training on investigations in TIP and SOM cases.
- The need to train relevant practitioners on the identification of victims of trafficking in persons and for gathering evidence in trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants’ cases that would be sufficient to support the adjudication of those cases before the court and the conviction of traffickers and smugglers.
- The need to share good practices of effective implementation of international standards and domestic legal requirements by criminal justice and law enforcement officials, including through the organization of similar workshops or – in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – virtual webinars in future, to facilitate the exchange of views and experiences, as well as gain a better comparative picture of how certain practical aspects are addressed.
- The necessity of having in place multidisciplinary approaches that include not only reactive but also preventive measures against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- The added value of inter-agency coordination to cope with challenges in TIP and SOM cases to achieve better results in the field of protection of victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants.
- The need to have mechanisms and services in place to address issues relating to the protection of victims of trafficking in person and to avoid their revictimization and to protect the human rights of smuggled migrants; and the need to take into account the smuggled migrants’ rights and needs in accordance with the provisions of the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol, which strikes a balance between measures against perpetrators or accomplices of irregular migration (article 6, paragraph 4) and exemption from criminal liability for the fact of being the object of smuggling of migrants (article 5).
- The importance of confiscating the proceeds derived from the illegal activities of traffickers and smugglers. In addition, the use of confiscated proceeds for compensating victims of trafficking in persons.
- The key role of special investigative techniques for effective investigations in TIP and SOM cases.
- The practical usefulness of the UNODC analytical and information-gathering tools, including SHERLOC and the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Knowledge Portals, to accumulate and make widely available knowledge on measures taken at the national level against trafficking in persons, including legislative

measures, caselaw, national strategies and action plans; and the added value of training guides and other material on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants developed by UNODC as guidance to, and for further use by, competent authorities of Member States; and the importance of making as many of these tools available in Russian language as possible to enable their use in the region.

B. International cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

- The added value of using efficiently and effectively the UNTOC and the two supplementary Protocols as legal basis for international cooperation, in conjunction with other regional instruments such as the CIS Minsk Convention, as well as applicable bilateral treaties.
- The key role of central authorities in mutual legal assistance and generally international cooperation in criminal matters; and the need to ensure that they have the necessary institutional capacity and skills to deal effectively with related requests from requesting States. Particularly for Tajikistan, the need to upgrade, through training and also through additional resources, the General Prosecutor Office so that it performs its functions more effectively as central authority under the pertinent provisions of the UNTOC.
- The need to support the practice of establishing joint investigative teams by agreement or on a case-by-case basis, to facilitate effective investigations in one or more States in the region; and to promote the sharing of good practices and examples of experiences of other countries in this field.
- The priority that needs to be accorded to overcoming delays in MLA practice and expediting the execution of MLA requests to avoid cumbersome procedures linked to the traditional practice of using the diplomatic channels for the transmission of international cooperation requests.
- The practical usefulness and added value of having in place the capacity to draft expeditiously MLA requests in complex TIP and SOM cases, and the usefulness, in this regard, of the UNODC MLA Request Writer Tool as relevant guiding resource.
- The key role of informal consultations before and after the submission of international cooperation requests for better coordination and for the provision of necessary clarifications, especially in cases where the requirements of the requesting and the requested States for the execution of MLA requests differ; and, in this regard, the necessity for having in place focal points of the cooperating States available anytime for such consultations.
- The need to streamline domestic procedures in support of mutual legal assistance and the attention that needs to be given to better coordination at the domestic level between the central authorities and the competent authorities for execution of incoming MLA requests, including through regulations or established practices encouraging such coordination.
- The practical usefulness of tools developed by UNODC, such as the SHERLOC Knowledge Management Portal and the CNA Directory of Competent Authorities, that could facilitate practitioners in getting valuable information on legal requirements for the execution of international cooperation requests and on contact details of responsible counterparts in the requested State.
- The significance of networking and particularly promoting the work of the Network of Prosecutors from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in Response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (CASC networking initiative) to enhance cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- The positive impact and the practical advantages of promoting the regular exchange of information among law enforcement authorities on the modus operandi and trends on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.
- The need to devote sufficient resources to improve cooperation among law enforcement authorities in TIP and SOM cases.

Annex 4 - Outcome Document, National Workshop on “Data Collection and Reporting on Human Trafficking”

- The state bodies and expert community should analyze the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan and approve the list of elements related to crimes related to human trafficking in accordance with international standards.
- The National Agency on Statistics, together with the entities responsible for collecting crime and criminal justice statistics, should analyze and improve legislation in the field of production and dissemination of statistics on trafficking in persons and crimes related to trafficking in persons. In particular, in the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Combating Trafficking in Persons” should introduce provisions on providing the agency on statistics with information on trafficking in persons, including data on the number of registered crimes, on the perpetrators of these crimes, on the victims, on the circumstances of trafficking in persons, as well as on the results of the consideration of cases of this category in the courts and the serving of sentences.
- The National Agency for Statistics should provide methodological assistance to entities collecting criminal law and judicial statistics in the development of reports on trafficking in persons in accordance with international standards.
- Entities collecting criminal law, judicial and penal correction statistics should make necessary changes to the primary registration forms, develop instructions for filling out these forms, and conduct training for personnel responsible for data collection to facilitate preparation of regular trafficking in persons reports.
- The National Agency on Statistics, together with public organizations, should develop and use forms for statistical accounting and state reporting on appeals to crisis centers by victims of trafficking in persons and / or crimes related to human trafficking.
- The National Agency on Statistics on its website should open a tab “Trafficking in Persons” in the section “Gender Statistics” and publish regular reports on trafficking in persons, as well as data from crisis centers, to ensure access of state bodies, expert community, and public to the report. Data on trafficking in persons should also be included in other statistical compilations on crime in general, “Women and Men of the Republic of Tajikistan” etc.

