

**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# Milestones

January - April 2015

Regional Office for Central Asia



## NEW BORDER LIAISON OFFICE WAS OPENED ON 'NIJNIY PYANJ' BORDER CROSSING POINT AT THE TAJIK-AFGHAN BORDER

Well-developed infrastructure, modern equipment, trained staff – this is “Nijniy Pyanj” border crossing point on the Tajik-Afghan border. As we approached the site, three young Afghan men were passing the Tajik border. Gradually Tajik part of the border filled up with diplomatic cars: guests and visitors gathered to take part in the opening ceremony of a new Border Liaison Office.

This is the first Border Liaison Office established at Tajik-Afghan border in the framework of the UNODC project “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) through the establishment of Bor-

der Liaison Offices (BLOs)”. The other four border posts have been established and made operational along the Uzbek – Tajik border which is seen as a key response to achieve cross-border communication and coordination.

We consider drug trafficking as a serious threat equal to terrorism which requires a strong response, - said Mr. Radjab Makhmadaliev, Deputy Commander of Border Guard Forces under the State Committee on National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan in his opening speech. –We are pleased that our colleagues from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were also able to take part in the ceremony today. Let me express my sincere our gratitude to

the Government of Japan for the excellent infrastructure created by them at “Nijniy Pyanj” Border Crossing point.

Law enforcement representatives from Central Asian countries, Ms.Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kamada, Ambassador of Japan to Tajikistan, Mr. Kiyoshi Ishii, JICA Resident Representative in Tajikistan, Mr. Radjab Makhmadaliev, Deputy Commander, General Department of Border Guard Forces, the State Committee on National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, participants of the Project Steering Committee from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and other officials took part in

## Border control



the event.

During the opening ceremony Mr. Kamada, Ambassador of Japan to Tajikistan, said that the “Government of Japan recognizes the particular importance of the stability in this region. Central Asian countries that border Afghanistan are playing an increasingly important role more than ever before in bringing stability to the region as well as in the prevention of drug-trafficking. One of our goals is to contribute to the stability of this region by working together with the governments and international organizations in the region”.

Starting from 2009 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime implements the project aimed at countering drugs and transnational organized crime and building trust between the countries of the region by enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers by training of staff working in the border areas, improving infrastructure of the selected Border Crossing Points (BCPs), providing specialized equipment, and facilitating legal ground for inter-agency cooperation at the



selected Border Crossing Points. There are several BLOs in Afghanistan. We found this mechanism very useful for better cooperation among counterparts through exchange of respective information as well as face to face meetings. I would say that the role of Border Liaison Offices in interagency and cross border cooperation is crucial, - said Fazlbari Fazlee, representative of Inves-

tigation Department of the Afghanistan Border Police.

Main donors for this project are: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which provided totally more than 2,660,000 US dollars, Norway – 1,440,000 US dollars and INL (USA) – 446,000 US dollars for implementation in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.





Partnership

## CROSS BORDER COOPERATION WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN DUSHANBE

Steering Committee meeting of the UNODC regional project “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)” in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was held in Drug Control Agency in Dushanbe on 16 March.

Participants discussed BLO legal framework in Kyrgyzstan, BLO staffing, the role of Border Liaison Offices in combating violation of Customs Regulations, role of Border Liaison Offices in interagency and cross border cooperation, processing and analysis of information collected by Border Liaison Offices/Legal basis



for assignment of Border Liaison Officers and many other issues. Plans for monitoring and evaluation of the BLO activities as well as issues related to the next workshop in Bish-

kek in June 2015 were also discussed and approved by the participants from the beneficiary states of the project.

## COUNTERING EMERGING THREATS AND CHALLENGES



### *Briefing for the Heads of diplomatic missions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan*

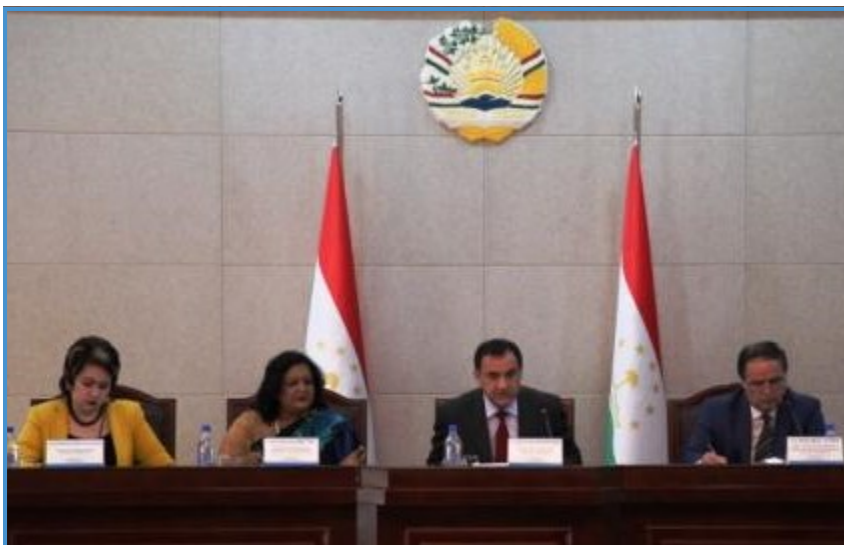
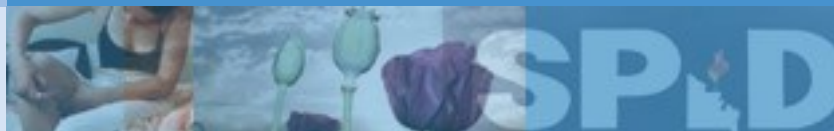
Briefing for the Heads of Diplomatic Missions “International cooperation on countering modern threats and challenges” was organized by the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan in close cooperation with the UNODC Programme Office in Tajikistan on 17 March

2015 in the Ministry.

Lt. General Rustam Nazarzoda, Director of the Drug Control Agency (DCA), briefed participants on the drug control situation in Tajikistan and presented DCA’s Review for 2014. He shared that in 2014 in close cooperation with the law enforcement agencies of Afghanistan, the DCA conducted its first ever operations using control delivery methods. He underlined that the DCA has its Drug Liaison Officers present in Afghanistan for more than 9 years. Over 12 tons of drugs were seized with their support in this period and over 50 refining labs were destroyed jointly with Afghanistan counterparts. He stressed that the international community should enhance the cooperation in the counter nar-

## Partnership



cotics area considering the existing threats in the region. Mr. Nazarzoda proposed to conduct research on purity of heroin seized in the Northern Route from Afghanistan (from the country of production to the consumption markets). He also informed the group that the Government of Tajikistan is planning to organize a “High Level International Conference on Counter Narcotic Cooperation” on 27 May 2015 in Dushanbe. This Conference will be attended by heads of counter narcotic agencies from Central Asian states and the wider region.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia delivered a presentation on the drug situation in the region. She informed the participants of the security issues affecting Central Asian region including drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and the emerging challenges of radicalization. She briefed the group on the heroin seizures statistics along the Northern route through Central Asia to the Russian Federation highlighting possible reasons for trafficking of illicit drugs. In 2014, of the over 300,000 ha of global opium cultivation, 70% was estimated to

have been cultivated in Afghanistan. The global demand for opiates has been largely stable. In Afghanistan in 2014 only about 3% opium and opiates produced were seized. The Southern routes, the Balkan route and the Northern Route continue to constitute the primary trajectories for Afghan heroin.

In Central Asia the drug seizures in 2014 dropped but there was an increase in seizures in Russia and Southern Caucuses. These could be attributed to the possible changes in routes, methods and techniques deployed by traffickers. Given the vulnerability and proximity of Central Asia to the largest opiate producing country, Afghanistan, it is a shared responsibility of the countries in the region and the international community to further strengthen the cooperation and capacities in this region to address drugs, transnational crime and terrorism. Knowing the communities and reducing risk factors and strengthening the protective factors are central to this response. In this context an integrated, three tier approach is important at a country, regional and inter regional levels. Ms. Mittal shared that the UNODC

will be launching a new Programme for 2015-2019 in Central Asia, covering the areas of rule of law including drug control, anti- money laundering, other related transnational crimes, strengthening the criminal justice system, prison reform and juvenile justice as well as increasing access, availability and acceptability of evidence based drug and HIV prevention, treatment and social reintegration services for drug users. Improving evidence through research and advocacy for effective policy development will be an integral part of this strategy. Additionally, the Ninth meeting of the MoU between the five Central Asian countries, Russia, Azerbaijan and the Agha Khan Development Network will be taking place in May 2015 in Ashgabat.

Ms. Nodiri Shahnoza Anvar, Deputy Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan made speech covering the Government policy in the area of legal reform; achievements and future reform agenda in the area of criminal justice; main pillars of the newly adopted Programme for Judicial –Legal for 2015 – 2020; areas of potential cooperation with diplomatic missions and international organizations. She asked for assistance in support to the Juvenile Justice system by developing strategic plan for 2015 -2020 in line with international norms and standards. She requested donors support in establishment of the electronic Data Base to better coordinate and monitor the Ministry of Justice activities/initiatives. Ms. Nodiri noted that donors support is required to implement accepted recommendations in improving the system of Prison Reform including provision of trainings and equipment supply.

The presentations were followed by the exchange of views and opinions in the area of drug control and crime prevention.



Meeting

## DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL COUNTERPARTS

In January 2015, Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia conducted her first visit to Turkmenistan. During her meetings with high level Government officials issues of further collaboration between UNODC and Turkmenistan as well as forthcoming 9th Meeting of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sub-regional Drug Control Cooperation to be held on 4-5 May in Ashgabat were discussed. The MOU process will facilitate further discussions among Member-States on counter-narcotics, terrorism and organized crime issues in a wider regional context and strategize UNODC interventions in the region under the new Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019. The Programme was devel-



oped in close collaboration and consultations with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uz-

bekistan and Aga Khan Development Network which are the Member States of the MOU.

12 February 2015, UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, led by Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative and the team had a meeting at the National Center for Drugs Control (NCDC) under the Cabinet of

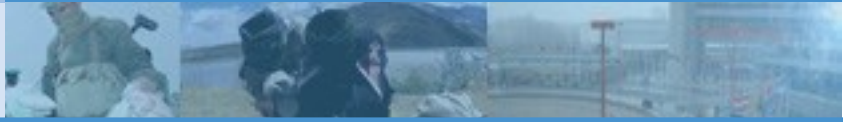
Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Ms. Mittal laid out priority thematic areas and plan of action for 2015 to be implemented in partnership with the Government of Uzbekistan to address strengthen tech-

nical cooperation on counter narcotics, criminal justice, health and research. This annual plan will be implemented through projects operational in Central Asia, the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries and the Global programmes on Container Control, against organized crime and on drugs and HIV prevention.

The Head of NCDC, Mr. Mansurov, accompanied by the representatives from Ministries of Justice, Internal Affairs, Health, HIV center and Border Control Service expressed their interest in jointly implementing the proposed Plan of Action for 2015 and beyond. Among some of the proposed areas for future collaboration with UNODC by the national partners were reinforcing the role of CARICC; further involvement and active participation of NGOs in criminal justice area; drug use preven-



## Regional programme



tion among youth, especially to prevent use of newly emerging illegal substances, and reduce their consequences; as well as further capacity building of law enforcement officers through specialized training programmes.

UNODC, the Regional Office is developing a new Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 in close consultations the Governments and experts from the region. This Programme will focus on four thematic areas: (i) Countering transnational crime,

illicit drug trafficking and terrorism; (ii) Criminal justice, crime prevention and integrity; (iii) Drug prevention, treatment and reintegration, and HIV prevention; and (iv) Research and trend analysis.

## INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN COUNTERING CORRUPTION

Regional workshop on “Investigative Techniques of Transnational Corruption Offences” was concluded on 4 March 2015 in Tehran by adopting a set of recommendations for promoting international/regional cooperation in better addressing corruption related cases. The workshop was organized under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring countries with technical support of Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of UNODC HQ and General Inspection Organization of Iran. The training brought together senior-level experts/officials from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. International standards in countering corruption with an emphasis on joint investigation techniques including financial investigation were at the focus of the workshop. Par-



ticipants discussed practices and techniques used in a joint investigation of transnational corruption offences and potential areas for cooperation. They highlighted the importance of regional cooperation to better address transnational organized crime and corruption, improvement of quality of data on

corruption, establishment of the network of focal points aimed at identifying, freezing, tracing of proceeds of crime and recovery of assets as well as establishment of joint investigation teams to investigate corruption offences in line with UN-CAC requirements.





Training

## GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME ENHANCES CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE REGION



UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized two-week training for Tajik Customs and Drug Control Agency officers under the "UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme - Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The training aimed at strengthening officer's skills to identify high-risk containers using a combination of high-tech profiling techniques, human intelligence and traditional

hands-on methods. Thirty officers took part in the event. The training facilities of the Customs Institute of Advanced Training in Dushanbe was provided by the Tajik Government as in kind contribution.

General-major Turabeg Nazarov, Head of the Operational-Investigative Department of Drug Control Agency, stressed the importance of Container Control Programme (CCP) assistance to Tajikistan as the country is on the frontline of the flow of illicit Afghan

opiates.

CCP is a joint UNODC/ WCO initiative aimed at establishing so-called Port Control Units (PCU) comprising Police, Customs and relevant law enforcement authorities in key regional container ports. Tajikistan has joined CCP Programme in March 2014. Tajikistan segment of the programme is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Representatives from the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan visited Georgia in February in the framework of "UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme (CCP)". The visit aims at holding consultations between Turkmen and Georgian Customs and other law enforcement agencies responsible for container control to share best practices and strengthen regional cooperation. Turkmen delegation met with their counterparts from the Customs Department of the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance, the Patrol Police Department, Central Criminal Police Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as visited Poti seaport to familiarize



themselves with the operation of the Port Control Unit established with the assistance of the CCP.

The Container Control Programme aims at assisting countries in minimizing risks of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime at selected sea and dry ports. At the heart of the CCP is the establishment of port control units (PCUs) at selected container terminals staffed by front line trained and equipped personnel while free flow of legitimate trade will be further facilitated. As a member of CCP Turkmenistan is in the process of establishing similar units in the country.

## Training



2-6 February training aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills of Customs officers on “profiling” of the container movements and using modern methods of customs control including secured communication system “ContainerComm” was organized in Tashkent under the “UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme – Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan”. Twenty-seven officers from the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, its Central apparatus,

regional Customs departments and the Higher Customs Military Institute participated in the event hosted at the Higher Customs Military Institute in Tashkent. WCO and UNODC representatives facilitated the training. Mr. Saidodil Gulyamov, Deputy Chief of the Higher Customs Military Institute welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the Container Control Programme (CCP) in tackling the illicit drug trafficking in the region. Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia stated that CCP is uniquely

placed to assist Governments to create sustainable enforcement structures in selected sea and dry ports in order to minimize the risk of shipping containers being exploited for illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

CCP is a joint UNODC/WCO initiative aimed at establishing so-called Port Control Units (PCU) comprising Police, Customs and relevant law enforcement agencies in key regional container ports. These JCPU will receive training as well as specialized equipment. Uzbekistan has joined CCP Programme in December 2013.



## DUAL-USE GOODS, EXPORT AND IMPORT WERE IN THE FOCUS OF THE TRAINING FOR CUSTOMS SERVICE

8 officers from the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan and 5 officers from the State Service of Turkmenistan to Protect Security of a Healthy Society took part in the advanced workshop “Control on transit shipment at national, regional and international levels” in March in Ashgabat organized in the framework of UNODC national project “Strengthening customs service and other law enforcement agencies capacity in implementing border and trade control, in particular, export/import control regimes”.

The workshop was focused on strategic and dual-use goods, export, import, transit control measures, including prevention, investigation, detection, information gathering, sharing and risk profiling techniques.





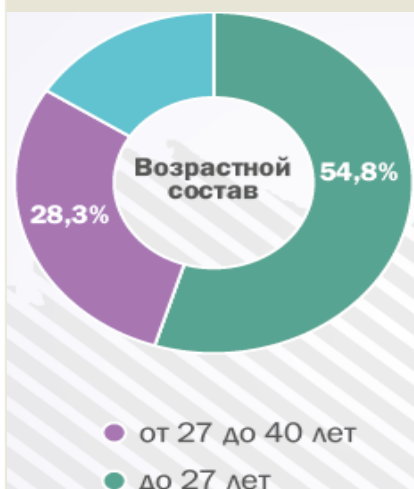


In the field. Kyrgyzstan

## GENDER BALANCE IN THE POLICE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC TRUST

According to the data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

Female age groups in internal affairs bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic as of 1 January 2014:



The number of female students in the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic fluctuated during the past 5 years from 13.2% to 19.2%

Three-day training course for trainers “Increased confidence in the police through a gender balance” took place in Bishkek. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was the initiator of this event. In 2014 UNODC started a new project “Peace and Trust: Equal Access to Law Enforcement and Justice” aimed at enhancing public trust in the police funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

The ToT training course was attended by 28 police officers - the heads of district departments of internal affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the teachers of the Academy and

Training Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. Lecturers from Estonia and Austria shared best practices of European countries in improving professionalism of the police and its credibility, which are part of police reform, told about special programs and activities aimed at increasing the number of women and their role in the police. The participants developed skills on how to prepare plans to attract women to the police, as well as their skills in training of middle and junior staff to work with local communities focusing on the role of women in the police.

The issue of public trust in the police and gender equality in law enforcement bodies was also discussed at the round table held on March 11, where the participants – representatives of the Office of the President and the Government, the Parliament, ministries and departments of the Kyrgyz Republic, international organizations, diplomatic missions and civil society - identified the main tasks and priorities to strengthen public trust in the police, including by means of its gender and ethnic composition formation.

Gender-oriented human rights policy is one of the key priorities identified in the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Action Plan for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution #1325 on women’s role in peace and security and the Regulation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “Measures to reform internal affairs bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic”. Mr. Kursan Asanov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs called increasing participa-

tion and representation of women in the police “one of the key strategies for access to justice”.

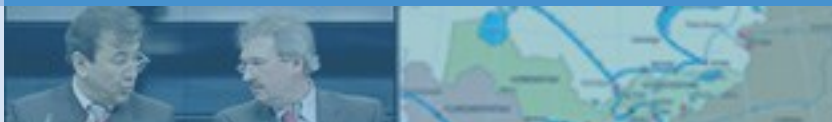
The results of the survey carried out by the UNODC in summer 2014 and in spring 2015 in 14 priority districts and cities of Kyrgyzstan on the role and representation of women in the bodies of internal affairs show that there is a gap between actual representation of women in the police and gender equality principles and standards stipulated in the legislation and public policy in Kyrgyzstan. Given that women make up 50.6% of the population, the level of representation of women in the police is not correlated with general data. There is still a widespread stereotype that women in the police service are not in traditions of local communities.

UNODC project “Peace and Trust: Equal Access to Law Enforcement and Justice” is aimed at comprehensive reform of the police, including recruitment of staff on competitive basis and evaluation of their work; creation of district police stations in accordance with principles of social partnership between the police and the public; increasing the number of women and ethnic minorities in the police; as well as strengthening public oversight of the police and its accountability.

### The main facts:

As of 1 January 2014, total number of female police officers made up 13% from total staff of the Kyrgyz Republic internal affairs bodies. The total number of the ranked female police officers reached 6.3%

Drug demand reduction



## USAID AND UNODC: CONTRIBUTION TO PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION

HIV spread remains one of the challenges requiring a comprehensive response. In this regard professional medical education is crucial for equipping medical practitioners with relevant skills.

USAID and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) worked together to provide assistance to local experts in development and printing of interdisciplinary manual “Medico-social

aspects of HIV prevention, treatment and care among most at risk groups” in Uzbek and Russian languages. The manual was approved by the Ministry of Health and was included into pre- and post-diploma medical education.

In November-December 2014, UNODC in cooperation with the Centre for Medical Education Development and Central Asian Education Centre for PLWHIV conducted series

of seminars for 132 practitioners of medical universities and colleges of Bukhara, Khorezm and Karakalpakstan.



## SCALING UP FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM IN SELECTED REGIONS OF UZBEKISTAN



Introduction meetings for the representatives of the Regional Public Education Departments and the administration of pilot schools selected by the Uzbek Ministry of Public Education were held in Samarkand region. Participants of the meetings were briefed about the goals, values and components of the FAST program. School teachers, school psychologists and parents who are actively involved in school life were selected to be FAST trainers.

FAST training for 24 team members from 3 pilot schools of Samarkand

and Urgut was held in School #9 of Samarkand in February. Training goal was to train local team members on conducting FAST sessions for families. Implementation of the 8-week FAST sessions among 60 families in 3 pilot schools of Samarkand Region (School #9 and School #52 of Samarkand city and school #5 of Urgut city) started in February and was successfully completed in April. As output of these training three national FAST trainers were certified.

These activities were organized in

the framework of UNODC project “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries” jointly with sub-programme 3 of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. UNODC supported the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan in scaling up culturally adapted by national experts evidence-based family skills training program “Families and schools together” (FAST) in Samarkand Region.





UN award

## ***“I AM HAPPY THAT MY WORK WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE OFFICE”***



UNODC presence in Central Asia began in 1993 with the establishment of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent. People were always the main value of the Office. Their expertise, dedication to work, knowledge of the region, respect to national governments and people helped Regional Office for Central Asia to successfully assist countries in countering drugs and crime issues.

There are several staff members who have been working for more than 10 years at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Central Asia. This year four staff members from the Regional Office in Tashkent and four from the UNODC Programme Office in Tajikistan were awarded with the “UN long term award for dedicated service to promoting social development and human security”.

*“15 years flew unnoticeable. My work is so interesting, full of life and dynamics. I always remember those who taught me, shared their knowledge, who were and still remain my professional Gurus. This Office became my home and my family”*  
(Sayora)

*“So many years with this team ... live and learn”*  
(Zokir)

*“I am happy that my inputs into the office work were recognized. This gives me a stimulus for more initiatives to the UN activities in the region”*  
(Gulnara)

*“I really appreciate it”*  
(Zafar)



*“10 years of challenges and success that filled in the gaps in my personal and professional life”*  
(Nargiz)


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