

# UNODC

**RESULTS-BASED  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2019**



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## ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>ACC</b>	Anti-Corruption Commission
<b>ACCU</b>	Air Cargo Control Unit
<b>AIU</b>	Airport Interdiction Unit
<b>AML/CFT</b>	Anti-money laundering and the counter-financing of terrorism
<b>API</b>	Advance Passenger Information
<b>ARIN WCA</b>	Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of West and Central Asia
<b>ARINSA</b>	Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa
<b>AS</b>	Advocacy Section
<b>ATS</b>	Amphetamine-Type Stimulants
<b>CCP</b>	Container Control Programme
<b>CCPCJ</b>	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
<b>CID</b>	Criminal Investigation Department (Ghana)
<b>CND</b>	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
<b>CNPA</b>	Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan
<b>CoSP</b>	Conference of the States Parties
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CST</b>	Civil Society Team
<b>DGC</b>	Department of Global Communications
<b>DIRANDRO</b>	Anti-Narcotics Police Division (Peru)
<b>DLEU</b>	Drug Law Enforcement Unit (Ghana)
<b>EWA</b>	Early Warning Advisory (EWA)
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>FAST</b>	Families and Schools Together
<b>FINGOV</b>	Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation of UNODC
<b>FIU</b>	Financial Intelligence Unit
<b>FTF</b>	Foreign Terrorist Fighter
<b>GCC</b>	Gulf Cooperation Council
<b>GLO.ACT</b>	Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants
<b>GMAF</b>	Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework
<b>HCV</b>	Hepatitis C Virus
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
<b>HLPF</b>	High-Level Political Forum
<b>ICPA</b>	International Corrections and Prisons Association
<b>ICSANT</b>	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
<b>ICSE</b>	International Child Sexual Exploitation
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Device
<b>IES</b>	Independent Evaluation Section
<b>IFFs</b>	Illicit Financial Flows
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INCB</b>	International Narcotics Control Board
<b>INTERPOL</b>	International Criminal Police Organization
<b>IRM</b>	Implementation Review Mechanism
<b>ISIL/Da'esh</b>	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
<b>ITS</b>	Integrated Training Service
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal Unreported and Unregulated

<b>JAITF</b>	Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces
<b>LAC</b>	Latin American and the Caribbean
<b>LACSI</b>	Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>MINUSMA</b>	UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
<b>MLA</b>	Mutual Legal Assistance
<b>NAPP/CVE</b>	National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (the Philippines)
<b>NCCTP</b>	National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (multiple countries)
<b>NMR</b>	Nelson Mandela Rules
<b>NPS</b>	New Psychoactive Substances
<b>ODG/OED</b>	Office of the Director General (UNOV)/Office of the Executive Director (UNODC)
<b>OSINT</b>	Open Source Intelligence
<b>OST/MAT</b>	Opioid Substitution Therapy/Medication-Assisted Treatment
<b>PCU</b>	Port Control Unit
<b>PDMS</b>	Prisoner Database Management System
<b>PMIS</b>	Prison Management Information System
<b>PNR</b>	Passenger Name Record
<b>PNRC</b>	Palestine National Rehabilitation Centre
<b>PWID</b>	People Who Inject Drugs
<b>PWUD</b>	People Who Use Drugs
<b>RBM</b>	Results-Based Management
<b>RTAMC</b>	Risk and Threat Analysis and Management Centre
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SEDENA</b>	Secretary of the Defense (Mexico)
<b>SENAC</b>	National Anticorruption Secretariat (Paraguay)
<b>SHERLOC</b>	Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime
<b>SITs</b>	Special Investigation Techniques
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
<b>SoM</b>	Smuggling of Migrants
<b>SPIA</b>	Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit (UNODC)
<b>STRs/SARs</b>	Suspicious Transaction and Activity Reports
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TiP</b>	Trafficking in Persons
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNAPS</b>	United Nations Advanced Prison Standards
<b>UNCAC</b>	United Nations Convention against Corruption
<b>UNEG</b>	United Nations Evaluation Group
<b>UNFCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNTOC</b>	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
<b>VAC</b>	Violence against Children
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence against Women and Girls
<b>VEP</b>	Violent Extremist Prisoners
<b>WCO</b>	World Customs Organization
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WENDU</b>	West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use
<b>WLFC</b>	Wildlife and Forest Crime

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This sixth edition of the *Results-Based Annual Report* presents the most significant results achieved by UNODC's global, regional and country programmes and projects in 2019. The Report highlights the Office's efforts in assisting Member States to fulfil the achievements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically the results that fall under Goal 16 - *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*. It also provides examples of good practices in the inclusion of human rights approaches, along with gender and youth mainstreaming across its interventions.

In 2019, UNODC continued to support Member States in increasing cross-border cooperation and coordination efforts to identify and investigate cases related to drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. As a result, intelligence operations to dismantle organized crime networks related to illicit drugs, trafficking in persons, and wildlife crime, among others, were conducted in several countries. For example, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali jointly implemented "Operation Benkadi", covering 19 land border crossings, which resulted in the arrest of 15 people, the identification and rescue of 33 potential child victims of human trafficking for exploitation in gold mines in Mali, as well as the seizure of 6.5 tons of fraudulent medicine, 50 kg of explosive wicks, among other illicit substances, weapons and goods.

Leading a global and integrated response to the opioid crisis, UNODC continued to enhance the effectiveness of national laboratories in Member States to successfully implement the International Drug conventions. In this regard, the Office provided 2,698 reference standards of controlled drugs and their precursors to 115 laboratories in 51 countries and supported a network of 289 forensic drug testing and toxicology laboratories in 90 countries worldwide. Moreover, UNODC supported law enforcement interdiction capacity through the provision of over 1,400 field drug and precursor testing kits, along with specialized trainings for forensic and law enforcement personnel on the identification and analysis of drugs, precursors and related chemicals.

During the past year, UNODC improved access to evidence-based drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation programmes aimed at supporting key vulnerable populations, including people in prisons and people who use drugs (PWUD). One of the major developments in this area was the opening of the first Palestine National Rehabilitation Centre in the Palestinian town of Bethlehem, which treated 200 cases through both inpatient and outpatient services along with 10 opioid substitution cases. The Office provided consultancy services to clinical and administrative staff of the centre and delivered training on healthcare system management.

The Office, through its programmes on alternative development and sustainable livelihoods, contributes to sustainable development by providing environmentally and economically viable, legal alternatives to coca cultivation in rural communities. In 2019, UNODC continued to support 99,097 families from Colombia to switch to licit crop cultivation. As a result, 60,731 families received comprehensive technical assistance and 34,492 are implementing food security projects in 14 departments of the country. In 2019, 40,270 hectares of coca were eradicated through voluntary strategies, with 95% compliance in voluntary eradication.

Preventing and countering corruption continues to rank as a high priority for governments. The international community reaffirmed and renewed its commitment to fight against corruption at the eighth

session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, by the adoption of 15 resolutions. At the national level, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC worked with municipal governments related to the disclosure of public information. This allowed citizens to have increased access to public records related to the management and administration of the municipal governments. As a result, 30 municipal governments developed public websites that show substantive and budgetary information against their municipal plans promoting more transparency and accountability.

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose major threats to international peace and security. In this regard, UNODC promoted the ratification of the international legal instruments to prevent and counter this crime in several countries. This assistance helped Member States to deposit 38 instruments of ratification, accession, approval, acceptance, or signature regarding the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism. Kazakhstan and Turkey became the third and fourth countries, respectively, to become party to all 19 international legal instruments against terrorism.

UNODC stepped up efforts to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice systems by supporting the drafting of national legislation and policies in line with the United Nations norms and standards and relevant Conventions. In Central Asia, the Office contributed to the development and adoption of 20 legal documents in the region. A highlight was supporting the implementation of local crime prevention action plans focused on the needs of local communities. For example, in the city of Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan, 10 women's committees were established and equipped to work on prevention of crime and gender-based violence. Similarly, in cities in Colombia and Mexico, UNODC finalized urban safety audits enabling a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of crime trends and risk factors and the development of local, government-led crime prevention and urban safety policies.

Over the course of the year, the Office continued to promote understanding and evidence-based policymaking. The third edition of the *Global Study on Homicide* was launched in July providing Member States relevant data and information for effective responses and interventions to counter violent crime, including homicide. UNODC also gathered information on firearms trafficking in 81 countries to develop the *Global Study on Firearms*, which will serve as a vital resource for law enforcement, policymakers and public bodies who seek to reduce the damage caused by the illicit circulation of firearms. Information contained in both of these reports is also useful for global reporting on SDGs and for Member States and UN Country Teams to assist national level reporting on relevant targets. The annual *World Drug Report* identified latest trends in drug markets and in a number of countries and continued to be a global benchmark on data and analysis related to the world drug problem. Additionally, other research initiatives such as illicit crop cultivation and production surveys, corruption and victimization surveys and studies on illegal mining were conducted to support government institutions in the design of new policies and measures to control illicit crops and illegal mining.

With regards to forensic science and services, UNODC intensified its capacity building activities on detection, identification and seizure of synthetic drugs and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). In 2019, over 400 law enforcement officials from different countries were trained. The Office provided technical assistance to Member States aimed at enhancing national legislation and evidence-based policies on synthetic drugs and NPS. As a result, Argentina adopted generic NPS definitions in their national legislation, El Salvador released a drug control strategy which included - for the first time - synthetic drugs and NPS and Trinidad and Tobago updated its legislation to better address these potentially dangerous substances. Information from the Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on NPS has effectively contributed to the

improvement of these legal instruments by providing up-to-date information on NPS trends, scientific information on individual substances and informing about options to adapt national legal frameworks to the challenges of a dynamic NPS market.

The fight against trafficking of human beings and the restoration of the dignity and humanity of millions of victims worldwide have been key areas of work for the Office. UNODC continued to encourage governments, civil society organizations and the private sector to be involved in campaigns that foster collective action to combat trafficking in persons. As a result of the international community's commitment to curbing this crime, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Peru, Romania and Sweden joined the *Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking*, bringing the total number of States to 31.

Given the diversity and geographical coverage of UNODC's programmes, the Report is structured in seven chapters mirroring the subprogrammes of the 2020 Annual Programme Implementation Plan<sup>1</sup>. The first six chapters provide a global overview of the challenges and interactions between illicit economies, violence, drug consumption and world crime trends, as well as the breakdown of key actions taken to prevent and adequately respond to these issues at the regional and country levels. The seventh chapter describes core functions and cross-cutting issues necessary to carry out the Office's mandate.

This Report demonstrates that UNODC's efforts to establish a culture of results-based management (RBM) are bearing fruit. The Office gratefully acknowledges the generous funding provided by the Government of Sweden and its continued support for monitoring and reporting, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the ongoing development of Umoja 2.0, UNODC will only strengthen its commitment to ensure transparency, accountability and adaptive management in order to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of its programmes.

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<sup>1</sup> The Annual Programme Implementation Plan replaced UNODC's biennial strategic frameworks.

## NOTES

- The *2019 Results-Based Annual Report* was produced by the Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit (SPIA) of the Public Affairs and Policy Support Branch (PAB) in the Division of Policy Analysis and Public Affairs (DPA) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) based on inputs received across all UNODC divisions and offices at headquarters and in the field.
- The report is meant to inform Member States on the progress achieved in the implementation of UNODC's Global, Regional, and Country Programmes. In this sense, the report is clustered in seven chapters reflecting UNODC's subprogrammes. The first six chapters are divided in two main sections: *i) Global Overview and main results* which provides a global situation analyses of the subprogramme and the most significant results achieved by the global programmes; *ii) Regional and national overview and main results* which outlines specific context and crime trends across Africa and the Middle East, Europe, West and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, as well as the most relevant contributions of the regional and country programmes in addressing these issues.
- The last chapter addresses core functions and cross-cutting issues. It gives an overview of the support provided by the Office on change management, gender equality and women's empowerment, advocacy, evaluation and civil society engagement.
- In order to evidence progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the report includes success stories which highlight how UNODC assists Member States in achieving the Goals - most notably SDG 16 on building peaceful, just and inclusive societies and strong institutions - and demonstrate the interlinkages of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Moreover, each chapter provides examples of good practices in the inclusion of human rights approaches, along with gender and youth mainstreaming across the Office's interventions. These examples emphasize the inclusive nature of UNODC's programmes and projects as well as how the Office continues to advocate for and uphold the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights.

## PRESENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

UNODC operates in more than **80 countries** around the world through its global network of **115 field offices** and **2,400 personnel**.



Photo Credit: UNODC



# Countering Transnational Organized Crime



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Seizing illicit goods through multi-agency Port Control Units*

UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO) continued to jointly implement the *Container Control Programme (CCP)* to help Member States in creating functioning, multi-agency Port Control Units (PCUs) at identified seaports, airports and land border crossings. This improved the security of the international containerized trade supply chain and detection of illicit goods in high-risk shipments. For instance, the PCU in Da Nang, Viet Nam, profiled a container arriving from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The X-ray examination of the declared “wooden floorboards” showed an anomaly and the container was selected for full examination. The search teams unloaded the timber which, at first, appeared normal; however, on deeper examination, a concealment within the stack of timber was discovered. While a frame of timber had been constructed to look like a solid structure, the inside was, in fact, hollow and contained over 9.1 tonnes of ivory packed within sawdust. This discovery of illicit ivory is the largest seizure of ivory ever made in the world.

Such seizures are directly linked to the capacity building efforts of the CCP, enabling Member States to effectively combat illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime. The programme also supports Member States in the achievement of the SDGs by contributing to: SDG Target 15.7 on taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna; SDG Target 16.4 on combating all forms of organized crime; and SDG Target 17.9 on targeting capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement the 2030 Agenda.

## Significant result for 2019

### *Dismantling transnational criminal networks in the Americas*

At the global level, UNODC engaged in a joint operation with INTERPOL, “*Operation Turquesa*”, against smuggling of migrants through the Americas that resulted in the dismantling of an entire network of migrant smugglers in Brazil. The operation led to 53 arrests, including the arrest of a 32-year old man from South Asia who is believed to be the mastermind behind one of the largest migrant smuggling networks into the United States and allegedly facilitated the smuggling of more than 200 migrants from South Asia through Brazil and into the USA and Canada.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)*

#### Context and trends

Many countries are still insufficiently equipped to prosecute transnational organized and serious crimes for a number of reasons. When investigators, prosecutors and judges need to obtain information and evidence or secure the presence of persons from other jurisdictions, they must send requests for mutual legal assistance (MLA), extradition or other forms of cooperation. Challenges, such as inadequate legal frameworks, differences between legal systems, various languages and lack of knowledge on the requirements of other States, often make international cooperation in criminal matters slow, cumbersome and ineffective. In some countries, there is a need to institutionalize central authorities for effective MLA, while other States need support in terms of training and resources (lack of modern communication channels, case tracking, data management, etc.). The ability to preserve and then request electronic evidence is a major challenge faced by most States due to a lack of knowledge and experience.

#### Progress made in 2019

In response to the situation analysis, in 2019, UNODC developed and strengthened regional cooperation networks between central authorities, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies aimed at implementing the UNTOC provisions to prevent and combat transnational organized crime. As a result, **Member States from the South East Asian region established a judicial cooperation network to facilitate MLA**. In addition, countries of Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus strengthened their cooperation network through the implementation of operational recommendations.

UNODC also supported the development of the new secure module for Member States on Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). The SHERLOC portal is an initiative to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of UNTOC, the three Protocols thereto and the international legal framework against terrorism. The new secure module of SHERLOC will constitute the main communication channel and platform to host the information gathering tool of the UNOTOC’s review mechanism. This development aims to enhance the political commitment and capacities of Member States to prevent and combat transnational organized crime and build related legal, institutional

and operational frameworks. As a result, **SHERLOC will host self-assessment questionnaires enabling improved information on the implementation of the UNTOC and its Protocols.**

**During the year, SHERLOC was accessed by 338,000 users, a 22.6% increase from 2018.** Most of the visitors use the portal in English, followed by Spanish and French. The top 10 countries by number of users in 2019 were Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

## ***Countering Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants***

### **Context and trends**

Virtually every country in the world is affected by Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM). Besides the devastating effects that these crimes have on individuals, the consequences for sustainable development are also severe, with negative societal and economic effects. While Member States have made significant efforts to prevent and address these crimes, a number of key challenges persist, including: limited capacity to identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of TiP and SoM; the complex legal definition of the two crimes and poor understanding of the various elements of the definition on the part of criminal justice practitioners; poor international cooperation to successfully investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases; links with other crimes (including corruption, terrorism, drug trafficking, forced criminality, money laundering, cybercrime); lack of adequate protection and assistance to victims of trafficking; and, low levels of awareness and reporting of these crimes.

### **Progress made in 2019**

At the global level, UNODC engaged in a joint operation with the International Criminal Police Organization INTERPOL, “*Operation Turquesa*”, against SoM through the Americas **that resulted in the dismantling of an entire network of migrant smugglers in Brazil.** This operation led to 53 arrests, including the arrest of a 32-year old man from South Asia believed to be the mastermind behind one of the largest migrant smuggling networks into the United States and allegedly facilitated the smuggling of more than 200 migrants from South Asia through Brazil and into the USA and Canada.

UNODC developed a training module with the Integrated Training Service (ITS) of the Department of Peace Operations aimed at supporting police officers to prevent and address TiP and SoM. As a result, **UN Police personnel deployed in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) supported the investigation of possible TiP and SoM cases conducted by Malian Security Forces, including rescuing potential victims.** They have also used the knowledge and skills from UNODC trainings to support Malian Security Forces’ participation in an operation coordinated by INTERPOL in October 2019.

Under the framework of the Global Programme, *Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT)*, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Government of Colombia to develop a comprehensive strategy to address SoM. As a result, **the country adopted the first strategy regarding SoM by the third Intersectoral Commission to Combat Smuggling of Migrants**, which included a strong gender focus. Workshops, discussions and validation roundtables were held with the participation of multiple state entities and institutions, ensuring that broad range of key stakeholders were able to provide their inputs to develop the strategy.

## *Securing maritime and air supply chains*

### **Context and trends**

In 2019, over 750 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) of container movements were recorded. Approximately 90% of the world's cargo is containerized and a growing volume of air cargo is now shipped around the globe, as it is a much faster, although more expensive, mode of shipment. Considering the risk that containers could be used for several illegal activities and to facilitate terrorist attacks, the selection and inspection of containers can pose a challenge for law enforcement agencies. Similar challenges exist for air cargo with the additional risk that cargo and passengers are frequently transported on the same aircraft. Therefore, there is a clear need for customs and law enforcement administrations to have efficient and modern targeting techniques at hand to avoid exploitation of the containerized trade supply chain by organized crime and terrorist groups and to ensure that legitimate trade is not hampered by slow procedures.

### **Progress made in 2019**

UNODC in cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) improved capacities of 3,379 customs and law enforcement officials (81% men, 19% women) from various national agencies on container profiling and controls, inspections based on risk management, export control, cultural heritage, illegal timber and fisheries crime. This was done with the aim of creating functioning multi-agency Port Control Units (PCUs) and Air Cargo Control Units (ACCUs) at seaports, airports and land border crossings to improve the security of the international containerized trade supply chain. Due to these efforts, **national authorities increased container profiling and controls/inspections based on risk management**. For instance, the PCUs and ACCUs made seizures amounting to 76,873 kg of cocaine, 558 kg of heroin, 45 kg of cannabis, 36,650 kg of precursors, 120 kg of NPS, 123 shipments of intellectual property rights (counterfeit) goods and 282 shipments with other infractions (i.e. fiscal fraud, stolen vehicles, etc.). In addition, the PCUs successfully apprehended more than 692,080,000 cigarettes.

## *Addressing illicit arms trafficking and its links to transnational organized crime and terrorism*

### **Context and trends**

The illicit trafficking and misuse of firearms is intrinsically linked to organized criminal groups and networks. Firearms feed into violent crime and ongoing conflict, facilitating the escalation from political dispute to violence. In light of the international community's repeated expressions of concern regarding the negative impact of illicit arms trafficking, UNODC will continue promoting understanding and evidence-based policy making on firearms trafficking through its Global Study on Firearms which was completed in 2019 and is expected to be published this year. This is expected to provide an insight into patterns of firearms trafficking at the global, regional and national levels. Based on collected data, over 550,000 firearms were seized during 2016 and 2017, showing the continuing challenges in the fight against firearms trafficking and the need for sustained efforts on this front.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In 2019, UNODC continued to support Member States in strengthening the criminal justice chain to prevent and counter illicit firearms trafficking and related crimes, from detection to prosecution and adjudication. In this regard, **UNODC together with INTERPOL and law enforcement agencies from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali, conducted the cross-border "Operation KAFO", leading to the seizure of firearms and ammunitions and the arrest of individuals who are currently under investigation.**

Prior capacity building activities on the use of operational tools and techniques provided to 27 officials from the three countries, was key to the operation's success.

In addition, UNODC in a joint operation with INTERPOL and law enforcement authorities conducted "Operation Trigger V" across air, sea and land border points of eight Latin American countries (Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama). **The operation led to 560 arrests and the seizure of 857 firearms, drugs and stolen vehicles.**

In terms of assisting in the implementation of the Firearms Protocol of the UNTOC and other relevant regional and global instruments, UNODC increased the capacity of 350 law enforcement practitioners from police, gendarmerie, and customs to investigate and prosecute illicit trafficking cases. **National authorities from selected countries are better equipped to identify and classify firearms, as well as to manage crime scenes and intelligence.**

Furthermore, UNODC reviewed and assessed national legislation on firearms and organized crime, and provided legislative advice to Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Montenegro and North Macedonia in the accession process to the Firearms Protocol. The Office also developed legislative assessment reports including gap analysis and recommendations in Bolivia, Chad, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Paraguay.

### ***Money-laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism***

#### **Context and trends**

The overriding motive of organized criminal groups worldwide is to profit by contravening the law and to accumulate and secure the wealth thus accumulated. Money laundering and related illicit financial activities have a devastating impact on economic, security, and social spheres. They continue to pose serious challenges to most Member States, due to the existence of cash-based economies and a combination of deficient legal frameworks, weak border controls and poor regulatory mechanisms along with a lack of law enforcement, judicial and regulatory capacities. This global challenge is exacerbated in areas of conflict by drug trafficking, piracy, wildlife trafficking and other serious crimes. It should be noted that the same international financial mechanisms used to launder the proceeds from these crimes are often used to provide financial support for terrorism. In addition, newly emerging and increasingly complex money laundering techniques are appearing that involve the use of the international trade regimes, cash couriers, alternative remittance systems and complex corporate structures.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, UNODC assisted Member States in establishing regional networks to prevent and suppress illicit financial flows (IFFs) from drugs and crime, as well as to foster bilateral and multilateral cooperation on anti-money laundering and the counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). As a result, **the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA) seized more than US\$1 billion of restricted and preserved property.** Several ARINSA countries now access and use regional informal networks: i) 75% (12 of the 16) countries have established an Asset Forfeiture Unit; ii) 50% of the countries have established an established asset forfeiture fund; and, iii) 32% of the countries have established or are in the process of establishing Asset Management mechanisms and processes.

## ***Stepping up efforts to counter cybercrime***

### **Context and trends**

Cybercrime is an ever-evolving criminal activity that has emerged as a massive global challenge. It is therefore vital to strengthen existing national and international legal responses and propose new measures, especially through intergovernmental processes. While Member States have made significant efforts to prevent and address this type of crime, technological advances and lack of capacity to investigate, prosecute and sanction cybercrime remains a key challenge. Cyber-enabled crimes continue to use modern technologies to facilitate illicit activities such as illegal drugs and weapons trade, TiP, wildlife crime and online child sexual exploitation. It is estimated that cybercrime generates around US\$1.5 trillion in revenue annually. In December 2019, the General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/74/247 entitled, “*Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes*”, which established an open-ended, ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts to elaborate on a comprehensive, international convention regarding countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

### **Progress made in 2019**

During the year, UNODC provided specialized equipment (hardware and software) to improve the investigation of cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes of selected Member States, aimed at preventing and combating cybercrime according to UNODC protocols and operational technical assistance tools. As a result, **the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) opened the First Digital Forensic Laboratory equipped with cutting-edge technology for the identification, extraction and analysis of digital evidence.** Investigators use this laboratory to analyze digital media for over 2,000 criminal cases per year, enabling the overall integrity and reliability of digital evidence to be ensured whilst maintaining a proper chain of custody.

In Kenya, UNODC supported the national police in establishing and equipping of the Anti-Human Trafficking Child Protection Unit. **In addition to conducting daily investigations, the Unit organized relevant operations such as the “Operation Safisha” which targeted online child sexual exploitation cases, resulting in four arrests under possession and distribution of indecent images charge.**

UNODC also strengthened cooperation mechanisms and synergies between law enforcement agencies and relevant international organizations to improve cybercrime investigations. As a result, **UNODC together with INTERPOL and the Brazilian Federal Police, co-organized the First Victim Identification Task Force in Latin America integrated by 11 countries.** In 2019, 66 victims of online child sexual exploitation and 16 offenders were identified. The information gathered (analysis of videos and images) enriched the INTERPOL’s International Child Sexual Exploitation Data Image (ICSE) Database improving the possibilities to rescue those victims.

## ***Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime***

### **Context and trends**

Wildlife and Forest Crime (WLFC) is a serious and growing problem. The illegal trade in wild fauna and flora is highly lucrative. Illegal logging and the resulting international trade cause deforestation and serious long-term environmental damage, endangering sustainable development in some of the poorest countries. Trends suggest a decline in poaching activities for some species (e.g. elephants and rhinoceros), whereas others (e.g. pangolins) are being targeted more frequently. Legislative loopholes and weak law

enforcement capacities are major obstacles to successful wildlife crime prosecution. Lack of centralized data, failures to secure evidence and poorly managed legal trials, are among the main shortcomings of wildlife crime prosecution. Furthermore, corruption remains a major challenge, facilitating the illegal trade and enabling illegally-sourced products to enter parallel legal markets. Large multi-ton seizures of illegal wildlife products and the dismissal of legal cases against high-profile wildlife traffickers in 2019 underlined the high-reward, low-risk nature of this type of crime.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, UNODC conducted national assessments and developed action plans aimed at supporting Member States in preventing, identifying, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating WLFC related offences. The World Wildlife Crime Report, that was completed in 2019, takes stock of the present wildlife crime situation, with a focus on illicit trafficking of specific protected species of wild fauna and flora, and provides a broad assessment of the nature and extent of the problem at the global level. It includes a quantitative market assessment and a series of in-depth illicit trade case studies. As a result, **Member States have a better understanding of criminal justice and preventive responses related to WLFC.** For instance, UNODC implemented the ICCWC Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit in Lao PDR, Namibia and Uganda, as well as the ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in Bolivia, Brazil, Lao PDR, Namibia, the Philippines and Thailand.

In addition, UNODC implemented the law enforcement advisory programme in several countries in South East Asia, providing tailor-made assistance to police investigators to effectively respond to wildlife crime cases. As a result, **police officers in Lao PDR and Thailand arrested several wildlife traffickers throughout the year.** Moreover, UNODC supported criminal justice authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania with handling the case of a Chinese businesswoman nicknamed the “Ivory Queen” and her accomplices. They were sentenced to 15 years in prison for operating one of Africa's largest ivory-smuggling rings, responsible for the trafficking of 860 elephant tusks between 2000 and 2014. This sentence stands out as one of the most significant court decisions in the global fight against elephant poaching.

UNODC also fostered intersectoral and international cooperation mechanisms for the investigation of WLFC cases. Due to these efforts, law enforcement officers from 22 countries in Asia and Africa effectively exchanged intelligence related to WLFC across borders. **For example, the effective exchange of information between South Africa and Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China) resulted in the seizure of 16 kg of rhinoceros horn (estimated at US\$3.2 million).**

### ***Strengthening criminal justice investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa***

#### **Context and trends**

There seems to be anecdotal evidence that criminal networks operating across Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa have increased their cooperation to traffic illicit drugs to Europe. Cocaine trafficking has negatively affected overall security, undermined the rule of law and damaged the livelihood of local communities throughout these regions. The trafficking routes from the producing countries – Colombia, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia – to Europe are diverse, passing through Central America, the Caribbean and West Africa. According to the World Drug Report produced by UNODC in

2019<sup>2</sup>, the rise of cocaine manufacturing in Colombia, coupled with the emergence of new consumer markets, has provided fresh fuel to the global cocaine market.

Cocaine produced in South America is also increasingly appearing on local consumer markets, escalating drug abuse and further destabilizing the region. The problems associated with cocaine trafficking have reached acute levels for many countries along the cocaine route. Large-scale organized crime groups are targeting public sector and criminal justice institutions through means such as bribery, corruption, infiltration and violence to undermine their efforts to combat drug trafficking. Additionally, the lack of trust and limited regional/interregional exchange of information hinder joint efforts to successfully investigate and prosecute drug trafficking cases.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC delivered specialized trainings on detecting and stopping cocaine production to law enforcement officers to effectively counter organized crime and drug trafficking. **The trainings shed light on the inherent relationship between discerning drug production processes and illicit laboratories and dismantling drug networks.** In addition, best practices for the chain of custody and handling of chemical substances were addressed. Moreover, UNODC conducted 16 training courses for 438 prosecutors and judges from Argentina, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Liberia, Panama and Peru and to build capacity for proceeds of crime and asset recovery and for international cooperation, including through the development of an international cooperation manual for Argentina and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Africa and the Middle East*

#### Context and trends

Transnational organized crime poses a threat to development, peace and stability to Africa and the Middle East. In West Africa, the drugs trafficked are mainly cannabis, synthetic opioids (tramadol, in particular), cocaine and heroin. Evidence also indicates some methamphetamine production and distribution, mainly in South Africa and Nigeria and possibly elsewhere in the region. Drug seizures in West Africa are on the rise, with several unusually large quantities of cocaine and heroin intercepted in 2019. Cocaine seizures, including those made in Cabo Verde in January and August 2019 (large seizures of 9.5 tons and 2.2 tons, respectively), in Guinea-Bissau in March and September 2019 (largest seizures ever made in the history of Bissau, 789 kg and 1863 kg, respectively) and in the port of Dakar in June and October 2019 (a total of approximately 1 ton), are a reminder that West Africa is an important transit region for illicit drug trafficking. The majority of cocaine is transported by sea and air from Latin America, primarily from Brazil, Colombia and Peru. The overland route through the Sahelo-Saharan band also continues to be used by traffickers. While most of the cocaine is destined for European markets, some of it remains in the region and is consumed locally.

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<sup>2</sup> World Drug Report produced by UNODC in 2019. Link: <https://wdr.unodc.org/wdr2019/>

Additionally, irregular migration, including TiP and SoM, from sub-Saharan Africa towards Europe, and between West and Central Africa, has substantially increased in recent years (outside ECOWAS countries). Moreover, West African states previously considered only as countries of origin, are also becoming transit and destination countries. Root causes for migration and exploitation include lack of safe pathways for regular migration, limited economic opportunities, risks related to the instability and conflicts within the region, human rights violations, as well as long traditions of migration.

With regard to East Africa, there is a large number of criminal activities resulting from both illicit markets that span continents and an underlying weakness in the institutions rule of law. Maritime security, trafficking in drugs and wildlife products, and TiP and SoM pose major challenges for the region demanding a comprehensive and coherent approach to better prevent and combat organized crime.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the year 2019 has seen several positive developments. However, political instability, insecurity and the consequences of conflict continued to take their toll in Libya, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen and are also creating spill-over effects for neighbouring countries, providing an environment conducive to expanding organized criminal activities. Human trafficking and migrant smuggling continued to have a major impact in the MENA region, with many countries in the region being origin, transit and destination countries. The proximity of North African shores to Southern Europe have made North African countries an attractive hub for irregular migration. Libya is currently a major concern because it has become the main hub for trafficking and smuggling routes from Sub-Saharan Africa to many European and MENA countries.

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region<sup>3</sup>, human trafficking continues to be a major concern. Most of the countries in the region have been identified as source, transit and/or destination countries, with South Africa highlighted as the primary destination country for TiP owing to its favourable economic conditions, the number of vulnerable migrants and asylum-seekers (around 250,000), developed air transport infrastructure and connectedness to the rest of the world, as well as access to maritime transport. Moreover, in South Africa, collection and analysis of data on TiP are sporadic entailing a significant gap in knowledge on the identification of persons who are victims of TiP and/or its perpetrators.

Due to the strategic location of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries<sup>4</sup>, situated between the world's major opiates and cannabis production zone (i.e. South-West Asia) and large consumption markets, (especially Europe), illicit drug trafficking is a concern. This is also increasingly making them more vulnerable to TiP and SoM, and IFFs, including those associated with money laundering and terrorism financing. It is important to highlight that the GCC countries have made substantial progress on upgrading the supervisory and regulatory frameworks for the financial sectors. Moreover, due to the drastic rise of cybercrime at the global level, most GCC countries have developed legal frameworks to address this crime.

### Progress made in 2019

In 2019, UNODC strengthened the operational capacities of law enforcement agencies in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali to increase cross-border cooperation and coordinate efforts to identify and investigate drug trafficking and organized crime. **With the support of UNODC, law enforcement**

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<sup>3</sup> SADC Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

<sup>4</sup> GCC Member States are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

authorities from the three countries implemented the *“Operation Benkadi”*. The operation resulted in the arrest of 15 people, the identification and rescue of 33 potential child victims of human trafficking for exploitation in gold mines in Mali, and the seizure of 17 kg of cannabis, over 1 kg of amphetamines, 6.5 tons of fraudulent medicine, 33 sticks of dynamite, 10 detonators, 50 kg of explosive wicks, 1 rifle with 789 ammunition, 18 stolen cars and 10 unauthorized military uniforms. UNODC set up this operation in July 2019, as part of its contribution to the “ECOWAS Action Plan on Illicit Drug Trafficking, related organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa”. Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Mali held strategic and operational meetings, specialized trainings for border crossing officers with UNODC support, and simultaneous joint cross-border operations in preparation for *“Operation Benkadi”*.

In addition, UNODC enhanced the capacity of national authorities to detect, investigate and prosecute various serious crimes, including TiP and SoM. As a result of these specialized trainings, **national authorities of Burkina Faso prosecuted eight people for pimping combined with human trafficking and provided support to approximately 50 girls who were victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and/or potential trafficking victims for forced labour.**

In selected MENA countries, UNODC supported the development of comprehensive border control systems, aimed at strengthening the responses of Member States to counter organized crime, including trafficking of illicit goods and migrant smuggling. For instance, **a National Risk and Threat Analysis and Management Centre (RTAMC) was established in Tunisia.** The RTAMC is fully installed and connected to two border crossing points, the Carthage Airport and the Goulette port as of October 2019, focusing on different types of transit and passengers. It aims to improve the screening of travelers entering Tunisia through analysing Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) from air carriers operating within Tunisia, including passport data of travellers at land borders and either API/PNR, or passport data, and cargos at seaports. Moreover, in Egypt, Libya, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia, UNODC provided specialized training to several law enforcement officials and criminal justice practitioners on detection, investigation and prosecution of TiP and SoM cases.

In South Africa, UNODC, in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development of South Africa, convened several multi-stakeholder workshops to deploy the SADC Regional Trafficking in Persons Data Collection System in South Africa, aimed at supporting the government to collect national data at country level in a coordinated manner. In this regard, **South Africa is better equipped to identify TiP cases, types and routes and profile traffickers and victims in the country for policy development. In addition, dialogue between national agencies in the criminal justice system has increased.** One of the outcomes of the workshop was the successful upload of South African TiP cases into the Data Collection System, as well as the appointment of provincial data collection focal points.

Moreover, UNODC supported the planning and implementation of bilateral and regional operations to combat TiP across countries in the SADC region. As a result, **between September and November 2019, the joint UNODC-INTERPOL “Operation Batho II” was successfully conducted resulting in the rescue of 92 victims of TiP in South Africa and the reporting of 14 cases in Mozambique.**

Regarding anti-money laundering, the Office supported regional networks for the confiscation and forfeiture of criminal proceeds aimed at supporting SADC Member States to join efforts to combat this crime. As a result, **through ARINSA, Member States continued to seize assets and conduct investigations. For example, in 2019, investigations were opened to 486 cases and 455 forfeiture orders were issued.**

In addition, under ARINSA, the *Dar es Salaam Declaration* (more commonly known as the Dar Declaration) was adopted where 14 Member States called for allocation of greater resources from confiscated proceeds of crime to support law enforcement efforts. UNODC has provided dedicated mentorship, as well as prosecutor placement programmes, to further equip criminal justice officials and guide their efforts to effective investigation and prosecution of money laundering and related financial crimes.

In GCC countries, UNODC continued to enhance capacities of national practitioners, aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime. As a result, **countries of the region are better prepared to provide effective responses different crimes such as TiP, cybercrime and money laundering.** For instance, after training activities, the Dubai Police in the United Arab Emirates started delivering its annual Diploma Programme on Combating TiP. In Bahrain, national practitioners trained are able to train others on criminal intelligence analysis to better detect cybercrime and money laundering across the country.

Furthermore, in Bahrain, the Office continued to engage with the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (NCCTP) to support other countries' efforts across the region towards creating national referral mechanisms for victims of TiP. As a result, **more countries in the GCC and broader Arab regions enhanced dialogue to develop a victim-centered approach to preventing and combating TiP.** For instance, UNODC actively contributed to facilitate dialogue and exchange of experiences among GCC countries through high-level meetings and workshops. Moreover, **the NCCTP in Saudi Arabia started a project with the support of UNODC to create an effective national referral mechanism for TiP victims and to strengthen national capacities to prevent, suppress and punish this crime.**

Regarding maritime crime, in Oman, UNODC enhanced customs officials' capacities on trade security and facilitation standards and controls at borders. In this regard, **the PCU at Sohar Seaport became fully operational and made the first seizures in the country. A total of 1,686 high-risk import containers were identified of which, 812 were selected for physical examination resulting in seven seizures.** In this regard, UNODC delivered 13 training activities benefitting 165 trainees.

## ***Europe, West and Central Asia***

### **Context and trends**

Drugs and organized crime remain one of the central challenges in sustaining and building peace, stability, security and economic development in Afghanistan and neighboring countries. For well over a decade, Afghanistan has been at the epicenter of the global illicit opiate trade, accounting for over 80% of opiate production (9,000 tons in 2017 and 6,400 tons in 2018). The crime and illicit financial flows associated with drug production support insurgency and terrorism, fuel corruption and undermine governance, increasing insecurity and vulnerability of societies.

UNODC estimates that an average of 35% - 40% of all Afghan-produced opiates are trafficked from Afghanistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran for domestic use and re-export to third destinations. In addition, the production and trafficking of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) from Afghanistan are emerging concerns. According to the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police, there was an increase in the establishment of ATS laboratories in major Iranian cities, as well as in near Iranian borders in Herat province of Afghanistan, in 2019. The Balkan route remained a main corridor for trafficking of Afghan heroin to the Islamic Republic of Iran and its transit to Europe and the illicit cash flow derived from heroin trafficking and sales fuels organized crime and narco-terrorist networks. In addition, the illicit finances, that are derived from this crime, fuel corruption and have a destabilizing effect on local economies and

societies, eroding the authority of governments. At the same time, the activities of the groups go beyond illicit drugs and may include smuggling of goods including weapons, illegal extraction and trade of natural resources as well as human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Tackling these threats - both from a legal and law enforcement point of view - is a priority for all countries of West and Central Asia.

Central Asia is experiencing a significant transformation. The pace of interaction in the region has grown considerably, and this provides opportunities for greater regional cooperation, the resolution of border disputes and regional security. Although intergovernmental cooperation has increased, governments continue to express their concerns on potential exploitation of increasing integration for crime purposes and the development of infrastructure by transnational organized criminal groups. Security remains an important issue on the agenda of the Central Asian countries. The challenges faced by countries of the region include record opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan, TiP and IFFs.

In South Eastern Europe, the Balkan route - which sees drugs smuggled from Afghanistan through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and through the Balkan States, on to various destinations in Western and Central Europe - has remained the world's most active heroin trafficking channel, with over 47% of the world's heroin and morphine seized by states along this route in 2017. Considering its key geographical location, being the shortest corridor between the source and destination countries for heroin, the region is essential for the transit of illicit drugs and other goods.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, UNODC equipped, trained and mentored forensic officers from the Counter Narcotic Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) on illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking to counter drug trafficking in the country. This has enabled the Government of Afghanistan to better detect, interrupt and investigate drug trafficking at the national and international level. For instance, the CNPA Forensic Laboratory analyzed 7,068 samples related to 3,269 cases received from different national entities and institutes. Moreover, UNODC supported the Precursor Control Unit in coordinating operations for the interdiction of chemical precursors utilized in the production of heroin and synthetic drugs. **The Unit was then able to conduct 30 operations in which different chemical substances for drug manufacturing were seized. These operations led to the arrest of 19 suspects and the seizure of 13 vehicles, with a total of 28 drug manufacturing laboratories dismantled.**

In the same country, the Office strengthened the operational response capacity of law enforcement authorities to prevent and stop drug trafficking and related activities through international airports. As a result, **the Airport Interdiction Units (AIU) carried out 150 operations with the intention of combating the transportation of drugs to international destinations such as New Delhi, India; Dubai, the United Arab Emirates; and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.** These operations resulted in the arrest of 185 traffickers and the seizure of 203 kg of heroin, 17 kg of methamphetamine, 25 kg of hashish and a gun. In addition, the AIU confiscated US\$541,660 in cash in different currencies and confiscated 989 grams of raw gold.

In 2019, UNODC established a network of judicial institutions from Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries to strengthen regional and international cooperation and coordination. As a result, countries of the region reaffirmed commitment for shared responsibility and increased the volume of information sharing using different mechanisms and platforms. For instance, **under the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of West and Central Asia (ARIN WCA), the Strategic Plan (2019-2023) to enhance international asset recovery cooperation was developed.** Furthermore, UNODC strengthened regional cooperation mechanisms for countering IFFs, aimed at preventing money laundering and countering terrorist financing

in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries. As a result, a Memorandum of Understanding on anti-money laundering and countering of terrorism financing was signed among countries in the region.

Despite funding challenges in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Office strengthened law enforcement mechanisms and operational capacities of the Anti-Narcotics and Customs Police aimed at enhancing responses to counter the illicit trafficking of chemicals precursors and the ATS laboratories, near Iranian borders in Herat province of Afghanistan. **This contributed to 2,319 urban, rural, and border area operations against drug networks and distributors which resulted in dismantling of 1,886 criminal groups. As a direct result of this, 582 tons of drugs and illicit chemical precursors were seized by the National Police.**

In Pakistan, UNODC, in partnership with the Federal Investigation Agency, developed and implemented a public awareness campaign against TiP and SoM in the provinces of Punjab and Balochistan. This campaign aimed at increasing knowledge on risks associated with TiP and engaging relevant stakeholders through a broad range of communication channels. As a result, **the population in these provinces are better informed and aware of the dangers associated with TiP, as indicated by 49% of the target audiences of the campaign.** As part of the campaign, flyers and posters were distributed and similar messages were also disseminated through national and district newspapers and local radio stations.

On the Kazakh-Kyrgyz border, UNODC worked intensively with 185 law enforcement officers to help them better respond to illicit trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism threats in Central Asia in line with SDG 16<sup>5</sup>. **This enabled joint operations on drug interdiction resulting in the seizure of more than 22,750 kg of hemp, 54.5 kg of narcotic drugs, 1,645 liters of precursor chemicals, as well as contraband cigarettes, firearms and ammunition.**

Regarding container control, UNODC jointly with the Government of Uzbekistan opened a new PCU at "Alat" Customs post on the Uzbek-Turkmen border. The Unit was established to conduct systematic profiling, selection and inspection of high-risk consignments to prevent illicit drug trafficking and other forms of illegal activity whilst facilitating the flow of legal trade by minimizing unnecessary delays. As a result, **Uzbekistan is better prepared to cooperate and share information among customs and border control agencies in Central Asia for identifying and suppressing high-risk consignments.**

In South Eastern Europe, the Office supported law enforcement, prosecution and judicial bodies in strengthening their investigative, prosecutorial, detecting, profiling, adjudicating and forensic capacities for preventing and countering organized crime and illicit trafficking. As a direct result, **the six Western Balkan jurisdictions (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244) participated and coordinated relevant joint operations.** Moreover, UNODC in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, produced a report on the Implementation of Import Marking Requirements for firearms and subsequently organized study visits to the Vienna Proof-House, in Austria, and to Bern, Switzerland, which led to the country becoming the first in the region to develop and adopt both primary and subsidiary legislation on import marking.

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<sup>5</sup> For more information, visit <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/about-unodc/sustainable-development-goals/sdgs-index.html>

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Context and trends

Criminal networks in Latin America and the Caribbean are expanding and diversifying their activities, which has led to a convergence of threats with destabilizing impacts. Criminal violence associated with transnational organized crime is the most severe problem facing countries of the region. Apart from the direct human toll, the rise in crime and violence has imposed significant social costs and has significantly hindered the processes of economic and social development, democratic consolidation and regional integration. The region is caught in a vicious circle, where economic growth is thwarted by high crime rates, and then, insufficient economic opportunity contributes to high crime.

In Colombia, organized crime continued to pose a serious threat to citizen security. This situation, fueled by socio-economic factors and corruption, has resulted in higher rates of violence and forced displacement. In 2019, over 150 social leaders and human rights activists were killed. In addition, the growing influx of migrants from Venezuela to Colombia has generated a humanitarian crisis in the country. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia is hosting approximately two million Venezuelan migrants. Moreover, Colombia is a transit country for Venezuelans heading towards Ecuador, Peru and Chile through the border with Ecuador. The financial impact for the country is high in terms of additional public spending, notably in the education, health and social sectors. Several cases of sexual and labour exploitation of Venezuelans nationals have been reported in Colombia.

In Peru, the increase of illicit precursor chemicals trafficking due to increasing market demand for cocaine remains a significant destabilizing factor for the country. In addition, there is serious growing concern surrounding illegal logging, a principal driver of forest degradation and deforestation in the country. Recent studies reported that over 60% of the forest sector is comprised of timber of illegal origin, accounting for losses of over US\$150 million annually<sup>6</sup>. Evidence of widespread illegal activities such as corruption, fraud, tax evasion and money laundering are further enabling the high rates of illegal timber in the country's exports and the alarming rates of deforestation across the Amazon.

Organized crime is a growing challenge in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, although not in the same magnitude as in other Latin American countries. The level of common and violent crime has increased in recent years, due to the establishment of criminal networks for drug trafficking, trafficking in wood and wildlife, contraband and SoM, which are often transported in containers beyond the control of the authorities. In recent years, the country has become aware of the serious problem of TiP, aggravated by the difficult socio-economic situation in some regions, mainly in border areas. While the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia made progress in the fight against TiP and sexual exploitation, the adoption of a protective and advanced legal framework has not been accompanied by other efforts in terms of implementing policies and allocating budgetary resources.

In the Southern Cone of Latin America, crime and violence have become major problems, with social inequality constituting a major contributing factor to the levels of violence. In 2019, the new Government of Brazil approved the *Anti-Crime Bill* which proposes changes in 14 laws with the aim of making the State

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<sup>6</sup> Unidad Inteligencia Financiera (UIF-Peru) de la Superintendencia de Banca, Seguros, y AFP Peru (2018): [https://www.sbs.gob.pe/Portals/5/jer/ESTUDIO-ANALISIS-RIESGO/ERS\\_Madera\\_Informe\\_final\\_20.12.2018.pdf](https://www.sbs.gob.pe/Portals/5/jer/ESTUDIO-ANALISIS-RIESGO/ERS_Madera_Informe_final_20.12.2018.pdf), El Comercio: <https://elcomercio.pe/peru/60-madera-movilizada-peru-2017-tuvo-origen-ilegal-noticia-558040-noticia/>

more efficient in tackling organized and violent crime by creating new investigative tools and altering procedural legislation.

The Mexico Central America corridor is one of the world's busiest migrant corridors, making it an attractive market for smugglers. In Mexico, domestic human trafficking is a concern due to the size of the country. The country is a source of transit, destination and return of migrants. During 2019, there was a significant arrival of migrant caravans coming to Mexico mainly from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Additionally, citizen security has become an ever-increasing concern for many Central American and Caribbean countries. Their geographical position is one of the key factors for the growth of organized crime and drug trafficking. Since these countries are located between some of the main cocaine producers in the world and the largest consumers, the region acts as a "bridge" through which illicit substances and criminal groups transit every day.

### Progress made in 2019

In response to the situation analysis, UNODC developed innovative tools in line with the national strategy to combat human trafficking, aimed at strengthening capacities of the national interinstitutional bodies to offer an effective response in cases of TiP. As a result, **Colombian authorities, with the support of UNODC, developed the *National Tool for the Identification of Forced Labour Trafficking Cases, which enables the detection of populations at risk of labour exploitation, with particular emphasis in areas with high presence of Venezuelan migrants***. This tool has been useful for the identification, investigation and prosecution of TiP cases as well to assist victims.

UNODC also enhanced capacities of relevant stakeholders in Colombia on policymaking related to security, aimed at designing and implementing public policies on crime prevention and criminal justice. As a result, local authorities are better prepared to analyze the nature, scope and trends that affect national and local security. For instance, **UNODC finalized the urban safety audit for the city of Cali enabling a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of crime trends and risk factors and the development of evidence-based strategies targeting distinct groups, including at-risk youth and gangs, as well as the strengthening of local, government-led crime prevention and urban safety policies**. Moreover, a total of 500 people and five civil society organizations (CSOs) were trained through local initiatives focused on violence prevention for young people at risk of recruitment by organized crime structures.

In Peru, the Office strengthened knowledge of anti-drug prosecutors and police investigators on precursor trafficking, aimed at identifying and dismantling chemical precursors for drug trafficking activities. As a direct result, **the Anti-Narcotics Police Division (DIRANDRO) is better prepared to identify routes, locations and methods used in precursor trafficking through GPS technology**. For instance, UNODC developed and provided specialized training, including mock investigations and casework, to 30 law enforcement officers of DIRANDRO contributing to improved operational work for interventions in drug production and trafficking sites, as well as strengthened inter-agency cooperation on operational measures.

In addition, UNODC established an inter-agency investigative group on IFFs related to illegal logging, aimed at strengthening the national criminal justice system to effectively investigate forest crime and the convergence of related serious criminal activities. In this regard, **national authorities developed an inter-agency investigation plan and strategic documents towards building a model forest crime case with**

**parallel work related to IFFs.** For instance, UNODC facilitated four investigative group meetings to improve inter-agency collaboration among national authorities.

UNODC fostered regional cooperation and public awareness to prevent and fight against human trafficking, aimed at decreasing the rates of occurrence of this crime. As a result, **the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru developed and approved the 2019-2020 Binational Roadmap Against TiP. Moreover, the Plurinational State of Bolivia affirmed its commitment to combating human trafficking by joining the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking.** Furthermore, UNODC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia launched the boardgame “Enredados” (“Tangled” in English), in December 2019, aimed at creating awareness among youth on the modalities and risks of TiP by empowering them with self-protection and care tools.

In close collaboration with WCO and the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC inaugurated the first PCU in the Bolivian city of La Paz and enhanced police and custom officers’ knowledge and skills to control trafficking in drugs and other illegal goods. **National authorities improved their capacities to detect and control drug trafficking and illegal merchandise on the border with Chile,** as demonstrated by the identification of two suspicious containers destined for Antwerp, Belgium. 679 kg of cocaine were seized by the Belgian Police through a joint collaboration with the Bolivian counterparts. Members of the PCU benefited from specialized trainings and received equipped including the latest technology in drug detection.

In addition, UNODC strengthened capacities of law enforcement officers and judicial authorities, aimed at depriving criminal networks from their means to continue trafficking drugs and committing related crimes and undermining the rule of law in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. As a result, **more than 150 criminal justice officers nationwide are better prepared to implement national legislation on drug-related asset forfeiture,** as demonstrated by the 56 sentences on drug-related asset forfeiture reached in the country in 2019. Over the course of the year, UNODC conducted technical workshops focused on the dismantling of criminal organizations in the country.

In 2019, UNODC enhanced legal frameworks and guidelines to counter organized crime in the Southern Cone countries of Latin America. Therefore, **Members States improved investigative, legislative and regulatory frameworks.** In Salta, Argentina, UNODC supported the development of an investigation guide on drug trafficking, money laundering and related serious crimes which improved the accuracy of investigations conducted by prosecutors. **Moreover, in Brazil, UNODC contributed to the development of a new national law on asset management which was approved by the Congress.**

In Mexico, the Office enhanced capacities of national authorities aimed at strengthening responses to support victims of TiP identified in the country. In this regard, **Mexico standardized protocols for the operation of specialized shelters related to TiP case-management monitoring.** Furthermore, UNODC developed specialized training tools to enhance the detection of possible TiP among vulnerable populations, such as in indigenous communities. As a result, knowledge on TiP increased by 33% after training activities. UNODC also delivered specialized trainings and developed a prevention campaign on TiP with local authorities, civil society and indigenous communities from the Mexican states of Baja California, Puebla, and Veracruz.

Concerning the region of Central America and the Caribbean, UNODC helped countries make progress towards profiling high risk containers and preventing cross-border movement of illicit goods. As a result,

**PCUs in the region successfully profiled containers and seized illicit goods.** For instance, the PCU in the Jamaican city of Montego Bay, Jamaica, conducted two important seizures of arms and ammunitions. The PCU in Montego Bay also reported four cases of arms and ammunition and five cases of undeclared goods. In Suriname, the PCU in the Port of Paramaribo seized 3,190 kg of cocaine.

In Jamaica and Barbados, UNODC, in collaboration with WCO and INTERPOL, enhanced capacities of key stakeholders and law-enforcement officers on detection of drugs, illicit goods and high-risk passengers in origin, transit and destination countries to disrupt illegal criminal networks. **This contributed to several operations conducted in both countries led by Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs).** In Jamaica, 69 travelers were arrested, of whom 65 were related to drug offences. In addition, 200 kg of cannabis, with an estimated value of US\$15,738.60, and 98.60 kg of cocaine with an estimated value of US\$774,714 were seized. In Barbados, 91 kg of cannabis and 7.25 kg of cocaine were seized, along with US\$15,000 in cash and 16,800 illegal cigarettes with a street value of US\$10,500.

Over the course of the year, UNODC delivered TRUNARC devices (handheld narcotics analyzers) to detect narcotics and control substances and chemicals to police departments and forensic laboratories of Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. As a result, **national authorities increased capacity for the detection of synthetic drugs, as well as capacities for early warning systems through modern technology.** For example, UNODC conducted a workshop on synthetic drugs for 51 officials from health and security institutions in the Dominican Republic covering several topics such as synthetic drug trends in the Americas, science and laboratory services and the use of the TRUNARC device.

## ***South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific***

### **Context and trends**

In South Asia, the strategic location and lack of adequate criminal intelligence sharing platforms make countries particularly susceptible to organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism. Additionally, the population is an easy target for TiP, SoM and violent extremism and terrorism due to the region's high unemployment rates. Latest UNODC assessments point to an increase in the number of migrant smuggling boats that travel from Sri Lanka across the Indian Ocean to La Reunion Island. Another assessment points to emerging forms of TiP for the purposes of forced surrogacy, fraudulent marriages (for the purpose of exploitation), sex tourism, forced begging, medical drug testing and organ removal. In 2019, UNODC launched the first multi-country study on SoM from Nepal revealing that vulnerable migrants are being smuggled from some countries in Asia to South Africa to Brazil and Colombia in order to reach North America. In addition, the research also explored the extent to which fraudulent documents are being used on this route by citizens of other South Asian nationalities.

Crime and drug challenges in Southeast Asia are multifaceted, and many are transnational in nature. A combination of threats posed by transnational organized crime in the illicit manufacturing, trafficking and use of drugs and their precursors, TiP, SoM, and environmental crimes such as the trade of illegal timber, have been facilitated by the ease of laundering proceeds of crime and inadequate border management and control frameworks. According to the Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment (TOCTA) issued by UNODC in 2019, organized crime groups in the region have changed their business models and trafficking patterns to maximize illicit income and expand their operations, especially in border areas that are marked by weak governance. These groups generate their illicit income from cross-border trafficking and smuggling of illegal drugs and precursors, people, wildlife, timber and counterfeit goods. Moreover,

synthetic drugs have rapidly become substantial and profitable business in Southeast Asia, due to the new business models and the expansion of methamphetamine demand. In the region, it is estimated the annual value of the methamphetamine market is worth between \$30.3 and US\$61.4 billion, while the heroin market value ranges between US\$8.7 billion and US\$10.3 billion annually.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, UNODC enhanced the interdiction capacities of national border agencies to effectively detect the use of sea, land and air cargo for illicit purposes. As a result, **Nepal established an ACCU in the city of Kathmandu which will conduct systematic risk assessment at the airport** including selection and inspection of high-risk consignments to facilitate the flow of legal trade by minimizing unnecessary delays, and to increase security in the wider supply chain.

In Bangladesh, UNODC equipped law enforcement officers with technological tools, aimed at strengthening cross-border management and security in the country. In this regard, **national authorities became better prepared to identify criminal elements traveling through the Dhaka International Airport and sea routes**. For example, UNODC installed an innovative facial recognition system, and equipped law enforcement officers with a boat and CCTV surveillance tools to enhance security preparedness on hybrid islands in Maldives. Moreover, the Office delivered Visit Board Search and Seizure trainings to Sri Lanka to better equip law enforcement officers with boarding and searching skills. Officers experienced different scenarios, including offshore operations involving physically boarding dhows and fishing vessels with active crew onboard.

In Bhutan, UNODC provided legal assistance to the Government for the review of the country's forest law in order to prevent and fight against WLFC. As a direct result, **the Bhutanese Government amended their legislation and submitted the draft law to Parliament which is expected to be discussed in mid-2020**. Moreover, in Nepal, UNODC organized a regional workshop on the prosecution of serious forms of wildlife crime. **The workshop resulted in the establishment of a network of prosecutors with strengthened capacities for the investigation and prosecution of WLFC**.

Regarding TiP and SoM, a situation assessment of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border was undertaken to identify hotspots and key challenges in border management, especially in the Cox's Bazar area. This led to **national authorities developing a better understanding of TiP and SoM dynamics on the border**. In addition, UNODC delivered training to 18 law enforcement officers on countering border crimes. All materials were translated into Bangla and widely disseminated.

In South Asia, the Office fostered regional coordination and cooperation to better prevent and combat TiP. As a result, **UNODC, in collaboration with UN Women and the Ministry of Home Affairs of India, established the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Platform**, which seeks to create synergies between partner entities, facilitate exchange of information and good practices, encourage joint responses and identify immediate priority actions to address TiP. Under this platform, UNODC organized an event with approximately 90 representatives from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka to strengthen victim-centered responses.

Concerning the Southeast Asia and the Pacific region, organized crime challenge is continuing to expand and diversify, particularly in areas characterized by weak law enforcement capacity and border controls. In 2019 UNODC worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, during the Thai Chairmanship of ASEAN, to develop a "Regional Border Management Cooperation Roadmap", which was

presented at the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime. This discussion is expected to further advance under the ASEAN Chairmanship of Vietnam in 2020.

UNODC also conducted specialized training on investigation benefiting 757 border liaison officers from Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand. **This enabled these countries to more effectively identify and profile drugs and precursors and share and utilize real time information regarding drug production and trafficking.** The Office also contributed to the report, *“Increasing Resilience to Trafficking in Persons and Violent Extremism”*, in Indonesia and the Philippines, aimed at improving availability of information and data related to the nature and scale of TiP and SoM in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. This study explores an alternative approach that characterizes the various ecosystems in which TiP and violent extremism occur, allowing for geographically targeted and customized interventions.

UNODC also enhanced regional cooperation and information exchange mechanisms to identify, combat and prevent cybercrime in South East Asia. As a result, **Member States of the region share information more effectively and collaborate more closely.** UNODC organized high-level meetings to foster international and regional cooperation, and facilitate exchange of information and operational intelligence, especially on cryptocurrency and internet crimes against children.

In Indonesia, UNODC enhanced capacity of front-line government, law enforcement officers and prosecutors to prevent and combat forest crime and related offences. As a result, **national authorities are better prepared to detect and investigate forest crime. In addition, government agencies and institutions involved in combating forest crimes improved communication and coordination.** For example, UNODC in collaboration with WCO and the Ministry of Finance’s Customs and Excise’s Directorate-General delivered training on forestry crime and illicit timber trade. UNODC also co-sponsored an investigation and prosecution training related to forestry crime in the Indonesian city of Makassar, in partnership with the Attorney General’s Office. In addition to these trainings, UNODC, in partnership with two state-run universities in the provinces of Papua and West Papua, established e-learning centres that will blend UNODC’s knowledge management system with modules on forest crimes.



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Combating Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM): A Human Rights and Gender Mainstreaming Approach*

The *Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT)* programme developed a *Human Rights and Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit* for Asia and the Middle East that will contribute to gender transformative programming and assist policy makers, practitioners and UN staff in meeting their due diligence obligations when implementing activities to counter TiP and SOM. The focus of the Toolkit is not on the consequences of the crimes themselves, but on the human rights and gender equality objectives of the work that UNODC does to support Member States. The toolkit is expected to be piloted across five target countries in 2020.



## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### ***Strengthening prevention of cyber-enabled sexual abuse of girls in El Salvador and Guatemala***

One of the main cyber-enabled crimes committed across the world is the distribution of child sexual abuse material on the Internet. According to the Internet Watch Foundation, 86% of the images reported with child sexual abuse material featured girls. In this regard, UNODC provided technology and strengthened the capacities of the judicial sector, in several countries, to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate these crimes. In El Salvador and Guatemala, the Office supported the creation and establishment of interactive museums on cybercrime in rural and urban zones. The exhibits raise children's awareness and prepares them to recognize and to confront different types of online crimes and misdemeanours. In El Salvador, 5,254 girls from rural zones were sensitized on how to avoid being a victim and be safe on the internet. Moreover, with the support of UNODC, the Ministry of Education of El Salvador established its Cybercrime Prevention Strategy in all public schools, with two thirds of the school in rural areas with the capacity to reach over 325,000 girls.



## Progress on empowering youth

### ***Educating young people on Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM)***

UNODC produced 14 online teaching modules to be used in tertiary educational institutions including a series of videos on TiP and SoM, human rights, and gender (available in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Urdu). The purpose of these tools is to critically engage secondary-level students (aged 13 to 18) in understanding the meaning and impact of these crimes. The videos also include a *Teacher's Guide* which contains useful material and resources, such as handouts and exercises to support teachers in delivering the modules related to TiP and SoM.



# A Comprehensive and Balanced Approach to Countering the World Drug Problem



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Providing educational assistance in the Islamic Republic of Iran on HIV testing procedures*

UNODC, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and civil society organizations, has made progress in developing national guidelines and standards on HIV testing procedures. One of the main results of these guidelines are training sessions for peer educators on how to deal with HIV treatment and interventions. In 2019, the training programme was provided to 32 peer educators and 40 staff of short-term residential camps in Tehran. In addition to these training sessions, peer educators and staff also received education on HIV treatment, prevention and care, including reliable initial testing methods with rapid test kits, case management, preliminary algorithms for conducting the test, along with referral mechanisms of cases to the HIV testing and treatment centres. Overall, this initiative provided HIV testing services to 1,092 people from vulnerable populations including people who use drugs (PWUD) and their spouses.

These efforts are linked to SDG Target 3.3 on ending the epidemics of AIDS and other communicable diseases, SDG Target 5.c on adopting and strengthening sound policies to empower women and girls, and SDG Target 16.a. on international cooperation for national capacity building. The achievements, linked to several SDG targets, also demonstrate how UNODC activities have been successful in including vulnerable populations like women, youth and children within the Country Partnership Programme.

## Significant result for 2019

### *Improving social and economic conditions through alternative development in Colombia*

UNODC, through its alternative development and sustainable livelihoods programmes, supports the Government of Colombia to achieve overall sustainable development by providing environmentally and economically viable, legal alternatives to coca production in rural communities. The Office continued supporting 99,097 families to switch from illicit to licit crop cultivation. As a result, 40,270 hectares of coca were eradicated through voluntary strategies with a 95% compliance in voluntary eradication. In 2019, 60,731 families received comprehensive technical assistance and 34,492 implemented food security projects in 14 departments of the country. Over the course of the year, the National Comprehensive Crop Substitution Program assisted a total of 5,701 coca leaf harvesters who took part in social work and local infrastructure maintenance and building, reaching 835 locations on over 4,000 kilometers of roads.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Leading a comprehensive and integrated response to the opioid crisis*

#### **Context and Trends**

In 2019, UNODC, through the Opioid Strategy, established inter-agency collaboration with WHO, UPU, OECD and supported UNODC programmes such as CCP, Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering, CrimJust, Global SMART Programme and the Global Forensic Science and Services programme, to deliver sustainable capacity building and technical assistance focused on addressing the challenges posed by synthetic opioids. As a result, Member States increased awareness on the proliferation of synthetic opioids and challenges posed by them and were informed of practical solutions and tools available to put in place comprehensive and balanced responses. For instance, UNODC facilitated a thematic session titled, “Synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs pose increasing risks to public health and safety, as well as scientific, legal and regulatory challenges, including with regard to the scheduling of substances”, at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), 62nd session Intersessional meeting.

In addition, as part of UNODC's Integrated Opioid Strategy, the Office developed and launched the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, together with WHO and INCB, and with contribution from other UN agencies, such as the UPU, to offer innovative and practical tools on how to approach challenges related to synthetic drugs and particularly opioids. As a result, the Toolkit serves as an online interactive platform, housing over 220 practical resources and tools provided from across the UN system. In less than one year since its launch, the Toolkit has over 1,500 active users and has been accessed from over 86 countries.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

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## *Preventing drug use*

### **Context and trends**

Drug use and drug use disorders continue to be a global problem. Despite the existence of drug prevention and treatment strategies that are impactful, cost-effective, human rights-based and address gender issues, they are not systematically or widely applied. In 2017, an estimated 271 million people worldwide aged 15–64 (one in 18) had used drugs at least once in the previous year. Between 2009 and 2017, the global estimate of past-year users of any drug increased by 30%, from 210 million to 271 million, in part as a result of global population growth (the global population aged 15–64 increased by 10%).

Despite Member States continuing to identify prevention of the non-medical use of controlled drugs (drug use prevention) as an important pillar of the global response to drugs, the number of Member States reporting high coverage of prevention interventions with good or very good evidence of effectiveness through the Annual Report Questionnaire remain low (31% in 2016/17), and has only modestly increased since the Political Declaration of 2009 (25% in 2010/11).

### **Progress made in 2019**

Regarding drug use and drug use prevention, at the global level, UNODC implemented evidence-based family-skills training and life-skills education programmes. **As a result, 95,000 children and parents in 18 countries are better equipped to prevent and address drug use, youth violence, other risky behaviours, and child maltreatment.** For instance, in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan, the national Governments adopted UNODC's “Strong Families Programme” as part of the national curricula in schools and supported its implementation reaching over 80,000 children and families. Another notable example is Montenegro, where the implementation of the life-skills education programme for schools reached 20% of the student population.

In 2019, UNODC also finalized a new tool specifically tailored to the needs of low- and middle-income countries: “Families UNited”, aimed at complementing the “Strong Families Programme”, especially for families in stressful situations and humanitarian settings. Finally, **the Youth Initiative mobilized and supported youth and CSOs in delivering evidence-based prevention through social networks (18,400 people) and the Youth Forum (41 participants from 34 countries).**

## *Treatment, care and rehabilitation services for people with drug use disorders*

### **Context and trends**

Of the estimated 271 million people worldwide that used drugs at least once in the previous year, 35 million were estimated to suffer from drug use disorders and needed access to drug treatment services. Approximately 500,000 died for causes related to drug use, the majority (2/3 of cases) due to preventable opioid overdoses. On average, only 1 in 6 of these persons were in treatment, with many facilities providing low quality services. In spite of the mortality rate being mostly associated with opioid overdose, more people use stimulants (68 million past year users in 2017) than opioids (53 million), with no evidence-based pharmacological therapy available for people with stimulant use disorders. In all regions, prevalence amongst young people (with data covering mostly 15-16 years old) is higher than the average amongst the general population, with fewer treatment options and services available for this age bracket, in the context of possible drug use disorders or contact with the criminal justice system.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In 2019, **UNODC expanded and improved treatment, care and rehabilitation services, in 22 countries reaching an estimated 39,000 people with drug use disorders (including dependence)**. The services provided are varied, for example: pharmacological and psychosocial treatment services, services to prevent and manage opioid overdose, treatment as an alternative to conviction and punishment, and services tailored to the needs of women and pregnant women.

**UNODC also published two landmark documents.** The first is “TreatNet Family”, the UNODC family therapy package for the treatment of adolescents with drug use disorders, including those in contact with the criminal justice system. This package has made one of the few therapies for adolescents with a strong scientific base available to low-resource settings and in the public domain. Moreover, **UNODC published “Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorders: Current Practices and Promising Perspectives” summarizing the current scientific evidence to support Member States in providing treatment services for people with stimulant use disorders.**

In Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, UNODC improved treatment, care and rehabilitation services for children exposed to drugs at a very young age and their families. **This has led to an estimated 12,000 patients from the region receiving specialized treatment services.** For example, UNODC developed a psychosocial protocol for vulnerable populations in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Additionally, UNODC supported service providers through continuous training and monitoring of their service delivery in Kabul and 5 other provinces, reaching thousands of children every year.

## *Enhancing HIV measures and treatment attributable to drug users*

### **Context and trends**

Globally, in 2019, Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) populations and their sexual partners accounted for 54% of all new HIV infections. New HIV infections are rising at an alarmingly rapid pace in countries that have not expanded health and HIV services to reach the areas and the key populations. For example, between 2010 and 2018, the annual number of new HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia increased by 29%, and by 10% in the MENA region. In those two regions, 95% or more of all new HIV infections are among HIV key populations and their sexual partners.

Key populations, including PWUD and people in prisons, make up a small proportion of the general population, but are at extremely high risk of HIV infection. In 2018, PWID accounted for an estimated 12% of all new HIV infections globally. In this sense, PWID and people in prisons continue to face major challenges in accessing the HIV prevention, treatment and care they urgently need.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC supported Member States in developing and implementing public health-focused, human rights-based, and gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment and care services. This aims to prevent HIV infections among PWID and among people who are living and working in prisons and other closed settings. As a result, **25 high priority countries for HIV and drug use and 35 high priority countries for HIV in prisons became better able to reduce the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS of people who use drugs (PWUD) and people in prisons.**

In 2019, UNODC continued the implementation of a training programme in response to the CND Resolution 62/6 *“Promoting measures to prevent transmission of HIV attributable to drug use among women and for women who are exposed to risk factors associated with drug use, including by improving access to post-exposure prophylaxis”*. As a result, the **Dominican Republic, the Republic of Moldova and Myanmar became better prepared to prevent transmission of HIV attributable to key populations using a gender-responsive approach.** As part of the training programme, UNODC delivered specialized training benefiting 150 healthcare service providers, managers, outreach workers and other professionals from these countries. These capacity building activities were followed by policy-level dialogues with national stakeholders. In addition, UNODC, in collaboration with prison and public health authorities, identified and addressed gaps in healthcare for women in prisons in 14 countries.

### Access to controlled drugs for medical purposes

#### Context and trends

Globally, access to controlled drugs for medical purposes continues to be extremely unequal. WHO estimates that 80% of the world’s population lives in countries with zero or very little access to controlled medicines for relieving moderate to severe pain<sup>7</sup>.

#### Progress made in 2019

In 2019, UNODC continued to support changes in national drug policy in Nigeria. Following the publication of a landmark national policy guidance on ensuring access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, national authorities are now concentrating on developing the human resources of the country in actually prescribing and using the medication. In this regard, **over 150 trainers were trained and who, in turn, will equip additional health workers to accurately assess the pain of patients and use protocols to decide when and how much medication to prescribe. Similarly, in Panama, following an assessment in the country which received regional attention, UNODC trained trainers in the country and in the six countries of Central America, with a follow up in Costa Rica and Belize (over 250 trainers trained).**

Finally, advocacy partnerships with a range of international entities (WHO, International Narcotics Control Board and the International Atomic Energy Agency) and CSOs (Human Rights Watch and International

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<sup>7</sup> World Health Organization. Report: *Ten years in public health 2007-2017*. Available on: <https://www.who.int/publications/10-year-review/chapter-medicines.pdf?ua=1>

Association for Hospice & Palliative Care) continued with high-level and high-visibility events at the CND and other international fora.

## *Alternative Development*

### **Context and trends**

Alternative development continues to be recognized by Member States as a fundamental pillar of a comprehensive drug control strategy and plays an important role as a development-oriented drug-control approach. In this regard, the Office conducts illicit crop cultivation surveys in several countries to determine the scale and scope of production, as well as its implications. Concerning opium poppy cultivation, despite a 20% decrease in cultivation in Afghanistan in 2018, the country remains the largest producer of opium globally. In 2019, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar decreased, a continuation of a downward trend since 2014. Regarding coca cultivation, Bolivia, Colombia and Peru continue to remain a concern. The Colombia Peace Agreement acknowledges alternative development as a key pillar in the achievement of security and peace in the country.

### **Progress made in 2019**

At the global level, UNODC increased policy dialogue to promote alternative development as an important development-oriented drug-control approach, aimed at supporting Member States in addressing drug-related socioeconomic issues. As a result, **Member States affected by illicit crop cultivation engaged in policy dialogue on alternative development**. For instance, further to the Expert Group Meeting held in July 2018, UNODC presented a Conference Room Paper on the Future of Alternative Development at the plenary of the 62<sup>nd</sup> CND in March 2019, to foster an open dialogue between experts from Member States, relevant UN agencies, civil society and academia. The 62<sup>nd</sup> CND plenary and intersessional provided potential new ideas on how to enhance alternative development programmes and increase its relevance. UNODC also co-hosted a side event on the importance of quality standards of products derived from alternative development to enhance marketing opportunities.

## *Intensifying partnerships through the Paris Pact*

### **Context and trends**

With opium production in Afghanistan remaining at record level, the magnitude of the illicit opiate market is one of the most significant international policy challenges faced today. Health and security threats posed by high production of opiates call for enhanced, coordinated responses by Member States along the supply chain. The monitoring of the modus operandi of drug traffickers and their trafficking routes needs to capture the dynamics and incentive systems inherent to drug trafficking including associated IFFs.

The Paris Pact partnership continues to play a pivotal role as a global advocacy platform at the highest political level for concrete action aimed at reducing the cultivation of opium poppy and the production, trafficking and global consumption of opiates by prioritizing technical assistance in four areas of the Vienna Declaration (Regional Cooperation, Illicit Financial Flows, Precursors and Drug Demand Reduction). The strategy of the partnership is adapting to reflect ongoing shifts and trends along opiate trafficking routes.

Intensified efforts are needed to address the nexus between transnational organized crime and narcotics to counter challenges to security and development in the region. The 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the

Heart of Asia process, which took place in December 2019, stressed the urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the nexus between revenue from illicit narcotics and financial support for anti-government actors and terrorist entities in Afghanistan and globally. It also stressed the need to advance regional cooperation as an effective and necessary means to address common challenges and to promote security, stability and socio-economic development.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC coordinated Expert Working Group Meetings to engage in evidence-based policy dialogue and set implementation priorities linked to the four priority areas outlined in the Vienna Declaration. As a result, **Paris Pact partners continued to exchange information, coordinate and prioritize activities to respond to the threat posed by opiates.** For instance, UNODC organized meetings in India and China with experts on detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates and the diversion of precursor chemicals.

UNODC also strengthened the connection between the global partnership and the country/regional level to combat drug trafficking in Afghanistan. In this regard, **Paris Pact partners benefited from firsthand evidence gathered by the Research and Liaison Officer Network and the link established by the Research and Liaison Officer Network with the country/regional level.** This benefit to Paris Pact partners is demonstrated by the increased availability of evidence on the supply and demand of opiates used to update, revise and benchmark progress within the four priority areas of the Vienna Declaration. In Afghanistan, UNODC provided training to law enforcement agencies on data collection, mapping and analysis, statistical and spatial analysis and the darknet.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Africa and the Middle East*

#### Context and trends

Illicit drug supply as well as drug use and dependence are a dynamically developing phenomena in West Africa. Drugs use in West Africa includes a wide range of psychoactive substances and poly drug use is a common phenomenon, especially among young people in the region. The non-medical use of pharmaceutical opioids including tramadol is also an alarming phenomenon in this region. Increasing seizures of tramadol (especially higher-than-normal dosage tablets) in Member States indicate a possible rise in non-medical use in the region. Similarly, increasing seizures of cough mixtures containing codeine, in some countries in West Africa, indicate an uptick in the non-medical use of prescription opiates.

With regard to HIV, it should be noted that Nigeria has the second highest burden of HIV infection in the world. It is estimated that 3.2 million people are living with HIV in Nigeria. Considering international experience suggesting that HIV/AIDS is particularly prevalent among prisoners and high-risk drug users, in particular injecting drug users, special attention must be paid to these vulnerable groups.

The use of heroin and injectable drugs in East Africa is a serious concern, as are the high rates of HIV infection of users, particularly among women. Injecting drug behaviours are recognized as key facilitators of HIV transmission. It was estimated that there are 18,327 people in Kenya who inject drugs.

In the MENA region, injecting drug use in prisons has been documented, especially in Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, and the Syrian Arab Republic. Unsafe injecting drug use is considered the primary mode of HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) transmission among prisoners in these countries. In 2018, approximately 20,000 people acquired HIV in the region constituting a 10% increase compared with 2010. In certain countries, the increase in incidence is even higher, at approximately 20% in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen. More than one-third of HIV infections in 2018 were among PWUD, and key populations, including prisoners, accounted for approximately 95% of all new infections in the MENA region.

In the Southern Africa region, an issue that continues to require urgent attention in curbing the predicament of HIV/AIDS is the high number of new infections (37% of all infections) among adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years. Another persistent challenge is the limited access to HIV prevention among PWUD and people in prisons. Moreover, the lack of data in different countries about the population size of PWUD and the prevalence of HIV among them also exacerbates the HIV/AIDS problem.

Additionally, Malawi and Zimbabwe have high levels of cervical cancer incidence and mortality in the world. As stated by the Human Papillomavirus Information Centre, in Malawi, cervical cancer ranks as the most frequent cancer among women between 15 and 44 years of age in the country. Due to the high prevalence of HIV, inadequate screening and treatment services for precancerous lesions, late diagnosis, limited access to timely, standard treatment of cancer and palliative care, cervical cancer incidence and mortality remains high.

Concerning GCC countries, drug use has been identified as a growing problem in most countries in the lower Gulf, especially amongst youth. According to the Arab Youth Survey, in 2019, 36% of young people (aged 15-24 years) in GCC countries perceive an increased amount of drug consumption. Moreover, 62% of Arab youth (i.e. including both GCC and non-GCC countries) identified peer pressure at school or work as the main driver of drug use.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC assessed the situation of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and other infectious diseases in 13 Nigerian prisons, aimed at improving drug and HIV, prevention, treatment and care. As a result, **HIV prevention, treatment and care responses among drug users and those in detention settings improved**. For instance, UNODC supported in conducting surveys and situation assessments among 2,511 people in prison to provide reliable data on prevalence of HIV/AIDS and TB, as well as on the availability of health services in prisons.

In Senegal, the Office identified and disseminated good practices on drug prevention and treatment to improve drug and HIV prevention treatment and care. **These good practices enabled national authorities to provide enhanced access to evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care**, as demonstrated by the increased capacities, knowledge, and skills of treatment and care service providers in the implementation of comprehensive and multisectoral treatment and care strategies. For instance, UNODC organized a TREATNET<sup>8</sup> training workshop on drug use disorder treatment and care for the Ministry of

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<sup>8</sup> For more information on UNODC's TREATNET training package, please visit <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treatment-and-care/treatnet-training-package.html>

Health of Senegal, along with 25 social workers, health professionals, national defense and security forces' representatives from different regions of the country.

In Kenya, UNODC continued to support local health authorities to expand its service delivery network for Opioid Substitution Therapy/Medication-Assisted Treatment (OST/MAT). **This has resulted in improved access to treatment options for PWU/ID through the establishment of 9 OST/MAT sites across the country serving over 4,938 clients in 2019.**

In the MENA region, UNODC improved access to evidence-based treatment programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable populations, including PWID and people in prisons. As a result, **Palestine opened the first National Rehabilitation Centre (PNRC) in the Palestinian town of Bethlehem to provide evidence-based drug use prevention and HIV treatment and care services among people suffering from drug use disorders.** UNODC provided consultancy services to 42 clinical and administrative staff of the centre, as well as training on medical management of drug dependence treatment and management of the healthcare system. **Since the opening of the PNRC in January 2019, 200 cases have been treated through both inpatient and outpatient services, in addition to 10 opioid substitution treatment cases.**

In addition, in selected MENA countries, UNODC strengthened HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support in prison settings, aimed at increasing access to comprehensive evidence-based drug prevention and HIV treatment response packages. As a result, **Member States of the region have broadened and improved access to health services in prisons and closed settings.** For example, Tunisia, in 2019, started to implement harm reduction services in four prisons and two juvenile detention centres. Moreover, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia provided access to infection control and prevention measures in 16 prisons and two juvenile rehabilitation centres which host close to 50,000 male and female prisoners.

In the United Arab Emirates, UNODC supported the launch of a national campaign by the Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Hemaya International Centre of Dubai Police, and the Erada Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. **This campaign was a key development because it marked the shift towards a more health-centred approach, as it encouraged families of people with substance use disorders to seek treatment and care without fear of any criminal proceedings being initiated against them.**

In Kuwait, UNODC supported national authorities in drafting a national drug control strategy, aimed at enhancing effective responses to drug use prevention and care and treatment of drug use disorders. As a result, **the Ministry of Interior of Kuwait developed and validated a comprehensive and balanced drug control strategy which will be launched at the national level in 2020.** As part of the process, the Office facilitated a series of meetings and two drafting workshops where 130 key drug control stakeholders drafted the strategy and the action plan for its implementation.

To address the challenge of cervical cancer in Zimbabwe, UNODC collaborated with the Prisons and Correctional Service, the Ministry of Health and Child and the National AIDS Council to provide cervical cancer screening for female prisoners, female prison officers, and spouses of prison staff. **The screening, which was conducted in Shurugwi Female Prison, Mlondolozhi Female Prison and Khami Prison Complex, helped to ensure access to diagnosis of all precancerous lesions or cancers, appropriate management, and referral for confirmed cancer cases.** In total, 189 women were screened, and eight positive cases were identified and referred for further treatment.

## Europe, West and Central Asia

### Context and trends

According to the World Drug Report produced by UNODC in 2019, Afghanistan reached 263,000 hectares of illicit opium poppy and a production of 6,400 tons of opium in 2018. In addition to numerous drug-related deaths, higher levels of drug use are contributing to an increasing number of people affected by HIV/AIDS. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran has one of the highest rates of heroin and opiate use, and significant prevalence of ATS use in the world. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 78,300 people live with HIV of which 68% acquired HIV through unsafe drug injecting. Furthermore, in some of the countries, there are drug users in prisons, including injecting drug users. Where known, the prevalence of HIV in prisons is significant.

South-Eastern Europe, through the so-called “Balkan Route”, is a key pathway for the delivery of opiates from Afghanistan into Western and Central Europe. According to the European Union Drug Markets Report 2019<sup>9</sup>, it is estimated that there are about 1.3 million high-risk opioid users in the EU. In 2017, the retail value of the heroin consumed was estimated to be at least EUR 7.4 billion per year (likely ranging from EUR 6.4 billion to EUR 9.1 billion). Although the extent of opioid use in many countries in Europe has stabilized over recent years, the illicit use of opioids remains responsible for a disproportionately large share of drug-related harms: primary opioid users still represent over a third of those entering drug treatment in the EU, opioids are found in over 85% of drug-related deaths, and injecting use is associated with an increased risk of acquiring blood-borne virus infections such as HIV and HCV.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC enhanced the capacity of policymakers and practitioners in Western and Central Asia to develop comprehensive evidence-based drug use prevention programmes and systems, aimed at supporting the improvement of the coverage and quality of drug use prevention programmes and policies. **This has allowed Member States of the region to develop and implement evidence-based drug prevention programmes**, as demonstrated by eight countries that implemented the *Strong Families Programme* and the *Families and Schools Together (FAST)* programme. **In 2019, 32 national trainers and 125 facilitators were trained under the Strong Families Programme and 1,166 family members including 406 youth across five countries of the region participated in weekly sessions.** As previously mentioned, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan adopted the programme into the national curricula for schools.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC adapted and scaled up scientific and evidence-based tools and guidelines to enhance the country’s drug prevention, treatment and care initiative. As requested by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the *Strong Families Programme* was introduced and adapted to the country’s needs. As a direct result, in 2019, **UNODC started the implementation of the first phase of the programme which included the training of government officials, NGOs and CSOs, as well as events with the participation of 152 Iranian and Afghan families.** The government counterparts, NGOs and CSOs, and families have reported 94% satisfaction rate under the programme.

In Afghanistan, UNODC supported the development of national strategies on drug demand reduction, aimed at strengthening comprehensive drug and HIV prevention, treatment and care policies based on scientific evidence. **Due to these efforts, Afghanistan has established a National Drug Demand Reduction**

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<sup>9</sup> European Union Drug Markets Report 2019: [http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/eu-drug-markets-report-2019\\_en](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/eu-drug-markets-report-2019_en)

**Strategy for 2019-2023 to enhance access to evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.** During 2019, UNODC trained clinical staff on evidence-based drug treatment approaches and also reviewed the national monitoring tool and patient case files.

In the same country, the Office enhanced relevant stakeholders' capacity on responses to HIV/AIDS amongst PWID and in prison settings in Afghanistan. **This increased access to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services for injecting drug users and prisoners**, as demonstrated by the provision of OST services to the community and in prison settings. **In 2019, OST services were provided in five communities and four prisons. Furthermore, the Office established a prevention, treatment and care centre in the city of Kabul where 2,105 clients, from the communities and prison sites, received OST services.**

With a view to enhancing alternative development interventions in accordance with the national strategies of the Government of Afghanistan, UNODC provided support to the Ministry of Counter Narcotics and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock on the implementation of the national policy on alternative development, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity in policy formulation, programme design, implementation and impact assessment in the country. As a result, **a total of 6,389 jobs were created. 24,807 farmers received extension services and a total income amounting to US\$5.2 million was generated from licit livelihoods.**

In Pakistan, UNODC enhanced the capacity of prevention professionals from multi-disciplinary settings on prevention of drug use, aimed at increasing the knowledge of harmful effects of illicit drugs and misuse of psychotropic medicines. **This has provided national authorities and CSOs with a better understanding of drug use prevention.** As part of its capacity building efforts, UNODC trained 11 multi-disciplinary professionals as master trainers on evidence-based drug use prevention in school settings and through social media. **These master trainers have further trained 131 multi-disciplinary professionals across the country in drug misuse prevention.**

In Central Asia, the Office strengthened legal policies and operational frameworks for HIV prevention among PWID. The Office also provided capacity building for 630 addiction professionals on evidence-based and cost-effective drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention services. These trained professionals reached approximately 3,500 patients in 2019 allowing **Member States to increase access to comprehensive, evidence-based and affordable drug dependence treatment, rehabilitation, HIV prevention, and social reintegration services.**

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, UNODC supported the development of evidence-based drug use prevention policies and tools and guidelines on drug use prevention, aimed at enhancing effective responses to drug use prevention. As a result, **these Member States adopted and implemented drug use prevention policies, based on international standards and including efforts aimed at youth and vulnerable groups.** In 2019, the Office facilitated technical workshops to discuss the development of evidence-based drug use prevention policies, strategies and workplans among countries.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Context and trends

The land area under coca cultivation in Colombia has been increasing since 2013, despite considerable efforts of the Government to reduce coca cultivation. As of 31 December 2018, the area of coca in Colombia stabilized in comparison with the results of the 2017 census, reaching 169,000 hectares. 32% of those coca crops were identified in isolated areas more than 10km away from urban areas. Since coca remains in the territory, the interest of illegal groups also persists, triggering security problems in these areas. Moreover, most of the territory affected by illicit crops is also affected by illegal mining which has caused serious environmental damage. Another concern is the increase of internal drug consumption in the country. This issue is negatively affecting the public health and fostering the creation of micro-trafficking networks which generates violence, illicit economics and social consequences, especially for vulnerable local communities. There is a need to implement effective evidence-based programs meeting quality criteria and international standards.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has the third highest levels of coca cultivation in the Andean region and a large proportion of the peasants in the coca-growing areas continue to depend on the production of coca leaf. The readmission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Single Convention of 1961 with a reservation regarding the traditional and medicinal uses of the coca leaf within its borders, effective since February 2013, implies additional obligations for the country. Therefore, coca crops monitoring is vital for the State in order to comply with these obligations, as well as to inform and effectively implement national coca control policies. According to UNODC's Coca Cultivation Survey implemented with the Government, the number of hectares of coca crops in the Plurinational State of Bolivia decreased by 6% in 2018, reaching 23,100 hectares. This exceeds the total permitted by legislation approved in March 2017 by 1,100 hectares.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC in support of the Government of Colombia, assisted 99,097 families to switch from illicit to licit crop cultivation. As a result, **40,270 hectares of coca crops were eradicated through voluntary strategies with a 95% compliance in voluntary eradication. In 2019, 60,731 families have received comprehensive technical assistance and 34,492 are implementing food security projects in 14 departments of the country.** Over the course of the year, the National Comprehensive Crop Substitution Program assisted a total of 5,701 coca leaf harvesters who took part in social work and local infrastructure maintenance and building, reaching 835 locations on over 4,000 km of roads.

UNODC also executed and delivered social infrastructure, and productive projects to reduce illicit crops. As a result, **145 agricultural and livestock projects were delivered, benefiting over 7,000 families. In addition, a total of 44 rural organizations were strengthened through project implementation at local level.** UNODC also strengthened associativity capacities for small producers, aimed at improving and promoting competitiveness of alternative development organizations. **This led to 94 rural organizations from 19 departments of Colombia improving their business processes and marketing strategies contributing, in turn, to the economic development of 3,000 families.**

Moreover, UNODC strengthened the national policy on formalization and access to land aimed at enhancing capacities of the Colombian Government for developing, implementing and monitoring the integrated strategy on alternative development and reduction of illicit crops. **A total of 13,000 families benefited from the national *Legalizing for Substituting* programme and 3,694 land titles were delivered,**

**of which 42% were for women.** The programme contributed to the formalization of approximately 12,000 hectares, giving beneficiaries the opportunity to access funding mechanisms to establish legal income projects. Moreover, a total of 2,200 properties were identified as part of the strengthening of the Colombian Land Bank.

Regarding drug prevention, in Colombia, UNODC developed and supported the implementation of information, education and communication strategies seeking to discourage contact with drugs. **This has helped government authorities and CSOs to implement evidence-based programmes and strategies seeking to reduce early contact with psychoactive substances.** For instance, as part of the *Strong Families' Programme* implemented in five territories (Caucasia, Puerto Tejada, Sardinata, Tarazá and Tumaco), UNODC has strengthened the resilience capacities of 500 families by promoting communication skills between parents and children to prevent risky conduct including resisting peer pressure, safer sexual behaviour and stress management.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC provides technical assistance for integral development in the municipality of La Asunta, i.e. the municipality with the largest area of coca in the Yungas region of La Paz and the region with the largest area of coca cultivation in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. UNODC supported workers from coca-producing regions in cultivating 87 new hectares of forestry and agroforestry plantations, aimed at mitigating the socio-economic impact of surplus coca crops eradication. As a result, **the total surface of licit crops and families engaged in forestry management have increased in La Asunta.** For instance, UNODC provided technical assistance to **659 families from 44 coca-producing communities in Yungas de La Paz in planting licit crops and decreasing their mono-dependence on coca.** Moreover, UNODC supported the cultivation and maintenance of 290 hectares of coffee and supported the organic certification process of 170 coffee producers that seek to export their coffee to the European market.

UNODC also supported the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in validating the destruction of seized drugs. **In 2019, UNODC published two semi-annual reports regarding the efforts of the national law enforcement authorities in seizing and destroying 7,354 kg of cocaine paste, 4,034 kg of cocaine hydrochloride and 5,229 kg of cannabis.** In addition, the Plurinational State of Bolivia is making greater coordination efforts with its neighbouring countries and at the regional level for a comprehensive and effective response to these drug challenges.

## ***South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific***

### **Context and trends**

South Asia has always been a vulnerable target for manufacturing and trafficking activities between the 'Golden Triangle' and the 'Golden Crescent'. Opiates, cannabis and ATS remain the main substances of concern in the region. Drug-related challenges facing South Asia include heroin trafficking, the rise of methamphetamine trafficking and manufacture and the smuggling of pharmaceutical preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Additionally, in recent years, the region has started to see flows of synthetic drugs increasing the risk of a new devastating wave of synthetic drug users. Due to corruption, lax pharmaceutical regulations and poor control of chemical industries, there is a high risk of trafficking of chemical precursors, especially across the Indo-Myanmar border, for drug manufacturing purposes. Likewise, South Asia remains a target for traffickers smuggling illicitly produced opiates from Afghanistan to Europe and North America along the

‘alternate’ southern route. The majority of drug seizures along this route not only confirms that the southern route which runs from Afghanistan through the Makran Coast is functioning, but also the fact that Al Qaeda is majorly profiting from it. Moreover, coastal States in South Asia are vulnerable to maritime trafficking as a result of their exposure to trafficking routes across the Indian Ocean.

One of the most relevant developments of the year was the publication of the results of the 2019 National Survey on Substance Abuse in India (after a gap of over 15 years). The survey findings revealed a higher prevalence of the use of opioids and opiates than previously estimated. This reliable, new data has significantly improved the accuracy of overall regional and global estimates of drug use. From a health perspective, there is a risk of exponential growth in opiate use globally and, as a consequence, more deaths from overdose and increased levels of HIV infection. In general, access to treatment services for people affected by substance use disorders remains grossly inadequate. In South Asia, health systems and providers of drug dependence treatment face challenges posed by new drugs, as well as by cocktails of unknown combinations of drugs for which treatment is not available or has not yet been developed. Furthermore, there are difficulties in tackling the harms associated with drug use, especially the abuse of drugs by injection, such as HIV, HCV and TB.

In Southeast Asia, the use of opiates and ATS, such as methamphetamine, continues to be a major problem in the region where PWID are among the most severely affected population groups. Much remains to be done to more effectively prevent, treat and reintegrate drug users. There is also a significant opportunity to reduce the supply of opiates by supporting alternative development projects in poppy growing areas to provide farmers with sustainable, licit livelihoods.

Myanmar remains one of the major opium producers in the world, accounting for 7% of the world’s total opium production and 11% of the world’s total cultivation. However, opium poppy cultivation has been subsiding significantly, with a decrease in cultivation by a third between 2015 and 2018. Displacement of organized crime groups from China to Northern and Eastern Myanmar (an area known as the Golden Triangle) and the continued presence of conflict and corruption, combined with a lack of economic opportunity in many parts of the country, have created difficult conditions which have fueled methamphetamine production in Myanmar over the past several years.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC strengthened regional cooperation between South Asian countries on drug control, specifically to address the fallout of the Afghan opiate crisis. In this regard, **national authorities more effectively prevent and counter illicit trafficking of drugs, precursors, including new and emerging drugs**. UNODC organized a regional workshop in Manipur, India for senior drug law enforcement officers and policy makers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, to foster collective action and carve out recommendations to counter trafficking of opiates and amphetamines. The key recommendations derived from this workshop were presented as a project proposal to the Government of India.

UNODC, under the joint UN initiative, *Unified Budget Results and Accountability Framework*, conducted a Behavioural and Biological Assessment in the central prisons of the Indian cities of Rajkot and Surat with a sample size of 1,501 prison inmates (750 prison inmates from Rajkot and 751 prison inmates from Surat). This aimed to ascertain the prevalence of HIV, TB and other blood borne viruses and related risk behaviours associated with HIV transmission in prison settings. **This has enabled national authorities to**

**broaden and improve HIV prevention, treatment and care responses among PWUD and those in closed settings.**

In Southeast Asia and the Pacific region, UNODC supported Member States in developing and promoting relevant legislation and strategies for the treatment of drug use disorders. For example, in **Viet Nam, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Security in reviewing their national laws related to drugs, as well as developing amendments and policy analysis documents that were submitted to the National Assembly.**

In Myanmar, UNODC developed, adapted and implemented national standards, tools and guidelines for drug use prevention and drug dependence treatment and care rehabilitation, aimed at contributing to a healthier and safer national community, free from the threats posed by organized crime and drug use. In this regard, **Myanmar improved access to drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services in line with scientific evidence.** For instance, UNODC delivered two training programmes on community-based care and services for PWUD in Shan and Kachin states benefiting 63 volunteer social workers.

In the area of alternative development, during 2019, UNODC strengthened the access of alternative development products into markets, aimed at improving the socio-economic situation of small farmers and to mitigate the impact of opium poppy cultivation and eradication. As a result, **the Government of Myanmar exported 71 tons of Green Gold's coffee to France (the amount is equivalent to 20% of Myanmar's annual exported coffee). In addition, Green Gold received the international fair-trade certificate in 2019.**

In Indonesia, UNODC enhanced evidence-based policies and plans for the implementation of a comprehensive package of HIV services, as well as voluntary-based drug dependence treatment in community and prison setting. As a direct result, **the Directorate General of Corrections (DGC) developed a National Action Plan on HIV-AIDS Control Programme for Prison Inmates and Detainees in Indonesia (2020-2024).** Parallel to that effort, UNODC collaborated with the DGC to conduct a study to cost selected health services for HIV, TB and drug treatment in prison settings.

Moreover, the Office upgraded database management systems to monitor the service delivered to the patient/client under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) of Indonesia, aimed at improving prevention measures and providing more effective treatment and reintegration services for people with substance use problems. **This enabled 187 drug treatment centres in 34 provinces of the country to have access to a database management system improving the accuracy of data for persons who access treatment services and ensure services are provided with minimum standard of care.** For instance, the Government of Indonesia is monitoring the number of people accessing services and measuring performance of the treatment providers.



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Fostering a health- and human rights-oriented response to drug use disorders in North Macedonia*

UNODC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of North Macedonia, organized a high-level meeting for policymakers on drug use prevention and treatment of substance use disorders in the country. Representatives from various governmental and non-governmental institutions had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and good practices on these issues. Moreover, UNODC assisted in the development of a comprehensive inter-ministerial workplan to strengthen the development of a health- and human rights-oriented response to drug use. The workplan, which was aimed at improving national drug demand reduction policies and promoting and supporting effective strategies, is compliant with international drug conventions and standards.



## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### *Cervical cancer screening in prisons in Malawi reaches 446 women*

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Malawi and the Prison Service, UNODC launched an initiative to provide cervical cancer screenings for women prisoners in Malawi. The country has the highest cervical cancer incidence and mortality rate in the world. This is compounded with other factors such as high prevalence of HIV, inadequate screening and treatment services for precancerous lesions, late diagnosis and limited access to timely cancer treatments. In terms of at-risk groups amongst Malawian women, female prisoners are a key demographic and are often overlooked by healthcare systems and prison authorities. By not prioritizing women prisoners, Member States fail to meet the standards set out in the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), which encourage screening of all female prisoners for reproductive health related issues.

The screenings were conducted in prisons and helped to ensure access to diagnosis precancerous lesions or cancer, along with appropriate management and referral for confirmed cancer cases. In total, 446 women were screened of which 197 were inmates. 11 positive cases were identified and referred for further treatment.



## Progress on empowering youth

### *Senegalese youth provide valuable data to inform drug use prevention strategies*

As young people are more vulnerable to engage in risky behaviour, it is crucial to raise their awareness of the harmful effects of drug use. Involving young people in prevention measures, especially through peer support, has proven to have positive impacts on reducing drug use. In light of this, the Government of Senegal launched a national drug use survey, in December 2019, to improve the national drug-use prevention strategy. The survey was conducted in schools across 17 different regions of the country reaching approximately 3,500 students (aged 15-16). Aside from quantifying drug use and risk, the survey also aimed at learning whether youth had peers, mentors or parents with whom they could easily communicate. The results from the questionnaire will help guide policymakers, schools, communities and parents on the different ways in which young people can be supported.



# Countering Corruption



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Joint efforts to prevent and address corruption in the fisheries sector*

UNODC's *Global Programme on Preventing and Combating Corruption* and *Global Programme on Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime* are working closely together to tackle corrupt practices that facilitate wildlife, forest and fisheries crime, by providing technical assistance to Member States to assess and mitigate corruption risks and by strengthening their capacity to investigate and prosecute such corruption. Corruption remains a major challenge, facilitating illegal trade and enabling illicitly sourced products to enter legal markets. Independently, wildlife, forest and fisheries crime as well as corruption are detrimental to sustainable development but when combined, they are devastating, adversely impacting societies and development in a variety of areas.

These global programmes jointly developed two resource guides on preventing and addressing corruption in the fisheries sector and for wildlife management authorities, to help governments identify corruption risks in their current policies, procedures and systems and in the different stages of the fisheries and wildlife supply chains. Based on these tools, UNODC has initiated corruption risk assessments in eight countries at their request, while supporting the development of anti-corruption policies in Botswana, Kenya and Palau. This successful partnership between UNODC's Global Programmes, supports the achievement of SDG Target 15.7 on taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and SDG Target 16.5 on substantially reducing corruption and bribery in all its forms.

## Significant result for 2019

### Conducting corruption surveys in Nigeria

UNODC, in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria, conducted the second corruption survey on bribery in the country aimed at increasing the availability of national statistics on drugs and crime, in particular the provision of data on corruption trends and typologies to measure progress toward achieving SDG Indicator 16.5.1. As a result, national authorities reinforced the culture of integrity through preventive measures to create evidence-based policies to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

### Context and trends

Combating corruption ranks among the highest priorities of governments globally. Corruption weakens economic growth, undermines the legitimacy of government and democratic values, and damages people's trust in State institutions. Fighting corruption, therefore, needs to go hand in hand with allocating resources, strengthening the rule of law and good governance, and fostering law enforcement cooperation and effective dialogue between countries. These key actions continue to be priorities for governments in their efforts to tackle corruption.

In 2019, the international community reaffirmed and renewed its commitment to prevent and fight corruption at the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. They adopted 15 resolutions on strengthening prevention and the work of anti-corruption bodies, improving data collection, safeguarding sport and more, including preparations for the first-ever UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption in April 2021.

### Progress made in 2019

UNODC strengthened coordination and cooperation in addressing corruption at the regional, inter-regional, south-south, and global levels among States parties. As a result, **joint anti-corruption initiatives were developed at the regional level such as the Regional Platform for South America and Mexico and the Regional Platform for Southern Africa allowing to fast-track the implementation of UNCAC.** Moreover, in line with resolution 7/8 on "*Corruption in Sport*" adopted by the CoSP, UNODC implemented more than 45 capacity-building, awareness raising and technical assistance activities, addressing significant risks of corruption and criminality that have accompanied the evolution of sports over the last decade.

Furthermore, the Office provided support to States parties to conduct country reviews under the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) of the UNCAC for preventing and combating corruption. **This contributed to the finalization of 172 country review reports of which 157 and 15 correspond to the first and second review cycles, respectively.**

UNODC also enhanced knowledge on judicial integrity to prevent corruption based on international standards and good practices, aimed at an effective implementation of the Doha Declaration. As a result, **Member States have a better understanding of the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct and the UNCAC.** For instance, UNODC trained 27 judges and other relevant stakeholders from court administrations, of which 60% indicated that they gained significant knowledge from the training.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Africa and the Middle East*

#### Context and trends

Corruption is widespread throughout Africa and the Middle East, undermining peace, security, development, and the protection of human rights in the region. In addition to its detrimental impact on the capacity and effectiveness of national authorities to deliver basic social services, including healthcare, education and justice, corruption erodes people's confidence in public and private institutions. Moreover, terrorism and various forms of organized crime thrive in environments affected by corruption, benefiting from the lack of national capacity to stop such criminal activities. It is therefore crucial to reinforce national legislative and institutional anti-corruption frameworks, as well as to strengthen preventive anti-corruption measures in Africa and the Middle East. In order for law enforcement and the judiciary to more effectively prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption cases, international cooperation must be enhanced. Additionally, the importance of producing analyses and developing robust methodologies to study corruption is high on the anti-corruption agenda, both at national and international levels.

#### Progress made in 2019

In Ghana, UNODC enhanced capacity of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges to prevent and combat corruption. As a result, **national authorities have improved integrity and accountability mechanisms to enable more effective investigations, prosecutions and international cooperation,** as demonstrated by 81% of participants in capacity-building activities reporting high levels of satisfaction, with topics covered perceived as highly relevant for their line of work. **In 2019, UNODC's CRIMJUST Training Programme was officially adopted by the Detective Training School of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Drug Law Enforcement Unit (DLEU) of the Ghana Police Service,** entailing the inclusion of a two-day module in each of its training cycles, with a view of strengthening the culture of integrity within the institution.

In the East African region, UNODC strengthened anti-corruption frameworks and enhanced capacity on whistleblower protection through eight technical workshops reaching 50 government officials from Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. This enabled government officials to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the intent, purpose and design of a whistleblower programme.

In Nigeria, UNODC in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics conducted the second corruption survey on bribery in the country aimed at increasing the availability of national statistics on drugs and crime, in particular the provision of data on corruption trends and typologies to measure progress toward achieving SDG Indicator 16.5.1<sup>10</sup>. As a result, **national authorities reinforced the culture of integrity**

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<sup>10</sup> Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months.

**through preventive measures to create evidence-based policies to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.**

In GCC countries, UNODC enhanced regional and inter-regional collaboration and coordination aimed at strengthening networks on corruption across the region, in line with the UNCAC. As a result, **GCC countries established an Arab Women's Working Group to Combat Corruption, under the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, to engage various women's networks across the region in the fight against corruption.**

### *Europe, West and Central Asia*

#### **Context and trends**

The weak rule of law and high levels of corruption continue to be a major challenge in Afghanistan. Reforming the Afghan judicial system is considered a key component of the state-building process in Afghanistan, with significant structural problems and rampant corruption which require serious attention from both the government and international community. It is vital to improve existing laws and enhance the capacity of justice officials in numerous areas. Most importantly, there is a need to detect, investigate and prosecute offences, improve the infrastructure, enhance coordination among the relevant governmental institutions, and mobilize civil society and communities. As Afghanistan is a party to the international conventions against drugs, transnational organized crime and corruption and other relevant legal instruments, it must fulfil its obligations in line with their provisions.

Concerning the South Eastern Europe region, there is a need for more tangible results in the fight against corruption. Particularly essential is a stable and transparent business environment to mitigate the threats to democratic structures, with public procurement remaining especially prone to widespread corruption. All five countries in the region completed the first cycle of the UNCAC IRM assessing State parties' status of implementation of Chapters III and IV of the UNCAC. Regarding the second cycle of the IRM, implementation by Bosnia and Herzegovina of Chapters II and V of UNCAC was reviewed in 2016, and the executive summary of the review was published in 2018. Albania and North Macedonia are currently under review while the reviews of Montenegro and Serbia are anticipated to start in 2020.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, in Afghanistan, UNODC supported the revision of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, aimed at strengthening the rule of law, and significantly reducing corruption and economic crime and recidivism. **This enabled national authorities to identify relevant benchmarks to better prevent and counter corruption.** For instance, UNODC actively participated in the established working group for the revision of the national strategy and ensured that all benchmarks were aligned with the UNCAC and the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework (GMAF).

UNODC also strengthened the capacity of civil society and media to advocate for anti-corruption policy promotion and enforcement. As a result, **80 Afghan journalists have a better understanding of how written investigative reports can play a key role in reducing, investigating and exposing corruption cases within governmental structures, mechanisms and bodies.**

Similarly, in South Eastern Europe, UNODC enhanced the involvement of civil society and private sector in anti-corruption initiatives and actions. **This led to greater involvement by civil society and the private sector in Member States' responses to corruption, in line with UNCAC, and its related challenges, as**

demonstrated by the Belgrade Outcome Statement which lays out concrete and practical steps towards the anti-corruption action endorsed by a large group of CSOs and six private sector actors from all jurisdictions in the region. As part of the preparatory work, UNODC organized multi-stakeholder workshops to facilitate the drafting and discussion of the Belgrade Outcome Statement.

## *Latin America and the Caribbean*

### **Context and trends**

Corruption has become an increasingly visible political issue in Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, in Colombia between January 2009 and October 2016, 3,966 cases were registered with at least one conviction for any of the crimes related to corruption. More than 75% of these cases are related with at least one of the following crimes: giving or offering a bribe (27%), tax evasion (22%), embezzlement (18%) and extortion (9%).

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, corruption remains one of the main obstacles to sustainable development, especially at the local level. The problem is related to the process of decentralization of the country and involves the transfer of funds from the national treasury to the municipal governments. One challenge is the lack of well-trained public servants, as reflected by the significant number of complaints of corruption in municipal governments. The main difficulties contributing to the prevalence of corrupt practices at the local level are related to the lack of transparency in municipal administrations, institutional weakness and lack of accountability. There is a high level of social permissiveness and tolerance towards corruption, both by public servants and the general population. These problems are interrelated and have a direct and corrosive impact on public trust in local governance, given that local governments are the closest to citizens.

Regarding the Southern Cone of Latin America, corruption has garnered public interest and has emerged as a significant issue due to the magnitude of the cases that have been revealed in these countries. Despite the substantial changes that have taken place in recent years involving the creation of institutional anti-corruption frameworks, corruption and bribery schemes still persist.

In Mexico, the fight against corruption is one of the priorities of the new government. According to the 2017 National Survey on Quality and Government Impact, 91% of Mexicans consider that corruption is frequent in their country. In addition, official statistics report that 83% of companies consider that corruption is very frequent or frequent in their state. It should also be noted that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which represent 97.6% of the Mexican private sector, are the most vulnerable to corruption risks. Most SMEs acknowledge that they do not know how to implement integrity programmes.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in Colombia, UNODC developed technical studies for the formulation of anti-corruption policies, aimed at strengthening the implementation of the UNCAC. **National authorities with the support of UNODC, designed the Code of Integrity for the Office of the General Inspector to promote good behaviour and practices among public officers.** In addition, a system for the detection, assessment and resolution of Conflicts of Interest was developed.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC enhanced municipal public officials' capacities on procurement processes, aimed at reducing corruption risks and promoting a culture of transparency. **This enabled 60 municipal governments to conduct competitive and transparent public procurement**

**processes, in line with the UNCAC.** In this regard, UNODC provided specialized training to 1,063 municipal public officials (46% women and 54% men), 181 private sector representatives and 1,435 civic representatives on competitive and transparent procurement processes, in line with current legislation and best practices at national and international levels. **Moreover, UNODC and the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency published the Guide on Public Procurement facilitating the dissemination of transparency principles in procurement.**

UNODC also provided strategic orientation to municipal governments related to the disclosure of public information. **This allowed Bolivian citizens to have increased access to public information regarding the management and administration of the municipal governments.** 30 municipal governments, for example, developed public websites that show substantive and budgetary information against their municipal plans promoting greater transparency and accountability.

In Paraguay, UNODC continued to support the National Anticorruption Secretariat (SENAC) in the implementation of the anti-corruption plan to ensure the participation of the country in the Cycle II of the Review Mechanism of the UNCAC. **With UNODC's support, SENAC created 80 transparency and anti-corruption units within public sector entities to identify risks associated to corruption and take actions to mitigate and minimize them.** For instance, in 2019, UNODC delivered training to law enforcement and criminal justice officials, working in specialized units, on the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of acts of corruption.

In Mexico, UNODC provided technical assistance and advisory services, aimed at preventing and combating corruption and promoting integrity and transparency. As a result, **the Corporate Integrity Program of the Ministry of Public Administration was strengthened.** In this regard, UNODC participated in the 6th Ordinary Session of the Business Working Group where the results of trainings for SMEs, conducted by UNODC, were presented contributing to the development of an action plan to strengthen integrity of Business Chambers.

### ***South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific***

#### **Context and trends**

Corruption and bribery remain significant obstacles to sustainable development in several countries of the South Asia region. Even though all Member States of the region have ratified the UNCAC and have taken efforts in building their legal and institutional framework to respond to the existing and emerging corruption issues, many of them have enacted laws that criminalize most forms of corruption. Likewise, the legislation is often not properly enforced due to insufficient capacity and lack of political will, special privileges and impunity, as well as a lack of practical strategies. In this sense, there is a need to strengthen protection measures for reporting persons and witnesses.

Following ratification of UNCAC, the President's Office created the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Committee in January 2013 and a new Anti-Corruption Law was passed in July 2013. The new law mandated the creation of Anti-Corruption Commission, which now coordinates national anti-corruption efforts. Despite this progress, a number of governance indicators reveal that the country is severely afflicted by corruption, constituting a significant obstacle to development. While recent reforms have improved the situation, certain indicators remain major challenges. The 2019 UNODC report, *"Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific: A Threat Assessment"*, indicates that corruption underlies and enables most other types of crime in South East Asia, including drug trafficking and migrant smuggling which pose

particular threats in Myanmar. Corruption's links to these crimes have wider consequences and risk undermining governance and the rule of law. After many years of political isolation, the governance infrastructure and legal framework of Myanmar need to be upgraded to effectively prevent new opportunities for corruption that are associated with transition periods in emerging economies.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC strengthened Member States' anti-corruption policies, legislation and strategies in line with the UNCAC, as well as enhanced capacities of law enforcement authorities to prevent and combat corruption in the region. As a result, **Maldives, Nepal and India more effectively prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption**. For example, UNODC delivered specialized training on corporate fraud and corruption risks assessment and management to effectively investigate complex corruption cases that involve financial transactions and laundering of proceeds of crime.

In Myanmar, the Office improved the legal and policy environment to support the Government's anti-corruption efforts in line with international standards, aimed at effectively preventing, raising awareness of, detecting, investigating and prosecuting corruption. As a result, **national authorities developed the Whistleblower Protection Law which is expected to be adopted during the first quarter of 2020**.

UNODC also enhanced institutional capacity to prevent and combat corruption in Myanmar. This contributed to the investigation and prosecution, by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), of government officials, inter alia, representatives of the judiciary, the attorney general's office, regional and local administrators, the police force and the customs department. **During the year, 9,895 complaints were received, 97 cases were investigated and culminated in prosecutions, and 81 cases were prosecuted.**



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Unpacking the relationship between human rights protection and anti-corruption measures*

The UN Human Rights Council recognizes that effective anti-corruption measures and human rights protection mechanisms are mutually reinforcing. UNODC, in its anti-corruption work, integrates a human rights-based approach into the planning and conduct of its activities, including efforts to deepen the understanding of connections between human rights and corruption. For instance, a side event at the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to UNCAC, in December 2019 was dedicated to this intersection. The event highlighted the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights and the consequent need to undertake effective anti-corruption measures to protect them.



## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### *Highlighting the importance of the role of gender in corruption*

Men and women are affected by corruption in different ways and are subjects and objects of different corrupt practices and behaviours. For example, women are regularly confronted with corruption in public services as they are typically the primary care takers for children and the elderly. Women who work in the business sector are more likely to have experiences of petty corruption in informal trading and have reduced access to markets and credits. In addition, sexual favours are used as a currency in corruption, violating human rights and disproportionately affecting women.

UNODC recognizes that gender inequality allows corrupt networks to grow and that this, in turn, entrenches gender inequalities. The Office has adopted a systematic approach in gender mainstreaming all its anti-corruption work. In 2019, UNODC developed a publication on gender and corruption which aims to form a basis for a more inclusive fight against corruption. Furthermore, dedicated sessions on gender and corruption were held at several conferences including: the High-Level Conference on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption; the High-Level Segment of the Regional Conference in Southern Africa to Fast-Track UNCAC Implementation; and the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) to UNCAC. Other notable efforts also include UNODC's presentations on this issue to G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group contributing to gender dimensions of corruption being included in the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration.



## Progress on empowering youth

### *Engaging with youth to promote a culture of integrity and transparency*

Observing the International Anti-Corruption Day 2019, UNODC South Asia engaged with over 5,000 students and educators from the Indian cities of Bengaluru, Delhi and Gurugram to strengthen youth action against corruption. Extending support to UNODC's Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative, schools convened a range of interactive activities, pledge drives, skits and workshops to sensitize students on corruption and its impact of society. For example, in an interactive workshop on SDG 16, corruption and the rule of law, over 300 students from grades 7-9 shared insights on ways to promote ethical behaviours and address corruption around them. In focused group exercises, students proposed the creation of an "SDG 16 Club" in their school, to promote anti-corruption awareness and to familiarize themselves with key legislations like the Right to Information Act. Over 2,000 students took an anti-corruption pledge and committed to act as responsible and honest citizens, saying "*Our voices and actions matter!*"



# Terrorism Prevention



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Countering terrorism in Southeast Asia and the Pacific*

In today's globalized society, no state can effectively combat terrorism alone. Terrorists are adept at exploiting countries with weak counter-terrorism capabilities, and even those countries which do not currently encounter such threats need to ensure adequate counter-terrorism preparedness. The ability to successfully address these challenges depends heavily on the capacity of national criminal justice systems to undertake effective preventive measures and to administer fair and effective justice for perpetrators of crimes related to terrorism in accordance with the rule of law.

UNODC coordinated a training session on Cyber Threat Intelligence Sharing to Respond to Terrorists and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs). This training marked an important milestone in regional collaboration and in technical cyber operations to support investigation and prosecution of returning, relocating or transiting FTFs in Southeast Asia. 35 officials from nine ASEAN Member States enhanced their skills to collect evidence and share intelligence. The training also facilitated the exchange of best practices on using specialized cyber techniques to preserve the integrity and ensure admissibility of digital evidence. This initiative assisted Member States from Southeast Asia and the Pacific in achieving SDG Target 16.a on strengthening national institutions to prevent violence and combat terrorism as well as SDG Target 17.9 on enhancing support for capacity building in developing countries to support the implementation of all SDGs.

## Significant result for 2019

### *Assisting Member States to implement legal instruments against terrorism*

With UNODC support, Kazakhstan and Turkey became the third and fourth countries, respectively, to become party to all 19 international legal instruments against terrorism. 68% of the total number of ratifications required for universality of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism has been achieved.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

### Context and trends

Terrorism continues to pose a major threat to international peace and security. In addition to the devastating human cost of terrorism, terrorist acts aim to destabilize governments and undermine economic and social development. Addressing this threat is that much more difficult given the complex and constantly evolving nature of terrorist activity. Terrorist groups are in a continuous process of fragmentation, decentralization and re-organization leading to new structures and alliances. The situation is further complicated by the increasing use of the internet for terrorist purposes, with social media platforms becoming strategic tools for a wide range of illegal purposes.

Despite the territorial loss of the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant's (ISIL/Da'esh), this terrorist group remains one of the most significant threats at the global level. In addition, there is an influx of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) who return to their countries of origin or relocate to other conflict zones, in some cases with their family members. These fighters often travel through remote areas to avoid detection using, in some cases, existing human trafficking and smuggling networks. In order to combat this issue, the international community needs to urgently address these fighters in terms of investigation, prosecution and adjudication of their cases as well as their rehabilitation and reintegration.

Finally, the role of women in terrorist groups is a concern to which we pay close attention. Women can play multifaceted roles: from non-violent support functions to more involvement in operations. In some cases, women join groups voluntarily while in others, groups target and recruit women by force. UNODC has also been working to support countries in preventing and responding to the recruitment and exploitation of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups, a serious form of violence against children.

### Progress made in 2019

At the global level, UNODC implements its mandate through the *Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism*. In 2019, significant progress was achieved. UNODC enhanced criminal justice officers' capacities on the application of international legal instruments with the aim of preventing and countering terrorism. **This contributed to national authorities enhancing their criminal justice responses to terrorism in accordance with the rule of law, human rights, and relevant international requirements**, as demonstrated by the increased number of human rights compliant investigations. In

this regard, UNODC provided training on special investigation techniques (SITs) to law enforcement officials from Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. **As of 31 December 2019, 29 investigations using SITs were conducted. In several cases, Iraqi law enforcement officials trained by UNODC used open-source intelligence (OSINT) to locate and arrest individuals who were planning terrorist activities.**

UNODC also promoted the ratification of the international legal instruments aimed at preventing and countering terrorism. As a result, **national authorities strengthened functional criminal justice regimes**, as demonstrated by the percentage achieved towards the universal ratification. **During 2019, Member States deposited 38 instruments of ratification, accession, approval, acceptance, or signature regarding the 19 international legal instruments against terrorism.** In addition, Kazakhstan and Turkey became the third and fourth countries, respectively, to become party to all 19 international legal instruments against terrorism. **68% of the total number of ratifications required for universality of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism has been achieved.**

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Africa and the Middle East*

#### **Context and trends**

West Africa is experiencing a sharp rise in insecurity. Violent extremist groups are generally pragmatic and opportunistic in how they position themselves vis-a-vis illicit activities and local conflicts, enabling them to quickly expand in the region. Boko Haram has evolved into a transnational terrorist challenge threatening the security of civilian populations of Nigeria and its neighbouring countries, especially Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The Sahel region is, more than ever, facing security threats linked to the intensification of terrorist attacks, the spread of local conflicts, and the destabilizing effect of illicit trafficking flows. Criminal activities have reached a level that poses a threat to governance in the entire region and beyond.

While the Lake Chad basin suffers from recurrent and large-scale attacks from Boko Haram, specifically targeting military forces, the G5 Sahel countries face threats from both al-Qaida and the Islamic state. Fighters from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq have alarmingly increased their strike force in the region, sourcing supplies and weapons through the looting of military installations and opportunistic use of crisis situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and in particular, Mali. In recent years, several attacks from various terrorist groups have been recorded throughout the country, with specific zones perpetually targeted by deadly attacks, for instance, around the Malian town of Macina and in the Liptako-Gourma region.

In Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, terrorism threats, most notably from the Somali-based militant group al-Shabaab, continue to be a serious concern with terrorist organizations using Eastern Africa for recruitment, logistical and financial purposes. Moreover, al-Shabaab has also attracted FTFs from Africa, Europe and the Middle East and has benefitted from transnational organized crime activities in the region. Although Member States in the Eastern African region have increased their efforts to counter the growing threats within their own borders, much remains to be done to enhance regional cooperation and effectively prevent and counter terrorism.

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism has been recently prioritized in the Southern Africa region. With a steep increase in terror-related incidents in the region, including in the Democratic Republic of

Congo and more recently in Mozambique. Attacks in northern Mozambique have resulted in the deaths of around 700 people and have displaced approximately 100,000. While some countries in the sub-region have strengthened their counter-terrorism capacities in recent years, significant gaps remain, and most countries require legislative and investigative skills assistance.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, national counter-terrorism efforts in the past years have had a positive impact to decrease areas held by some terrorist groups and to reduce attacks conducted in some countries. In fact, Iraq is at present almost free from ISIL/Da'esh. Despite the military defeat of ISIL, terrorism remains a threat to national security to many countries both inside and outside of the MENA region. For example, FTFs continue to fuel instability in Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen and have also played key roles in attacks in other countries. As national and international forces increase the pressure on terrorist groups in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Libya, FTF flows in some countries have reversed, with an increasing number of fighters returning to their countries of origin. The potential for FTFs to spread ideology, knowledge and skills upon their return entails that the threat of terrorism is more widespread than ever.

The US\$100 million donation by Saudi Arabia to support the establishment of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and the hosting of the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Hedayah) in the United Arab Emirates are strong examples attesting to the political commitment of GCC countries in supporting international efforts against terrorism. More recently, the outcomes of the 40th meeting of the Supreme Council of the GCC which took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in November 2019, confirmed that collective action against terrorism remains a high priority on the GCC agenda. UNODC has received an increased number of technical assistance requests from GCC countries to address their need for strengthening capabilities of the law enforcement community, as well as members of the judiciary and public prosecution, in dealing with emerging threats such as: the financing of terrorism; the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; border management and control in relation to FTFs; and, to a lesser extent, radicalization to violence in prisons.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in Mali, UNODC has enhanced national authorities' capacity to investigate and prosecute different types of serious crimes, aimed at preventing and countering terrorism. **This has enabled national authorities to prevent and counter major terrorism challenges more effectively, in accordance with the rule of law, human rights and relevant international requirements**, as demonstrated by the improved judicial cooperation in Mali with investigative judges and prosecutors increasing the use of international cooperation mechanisms, including MLA and extradition requests. In this context, **UNODC has been providing regular mentoring sessions to Mali's Specialized Judicial Unit (Pôle Judiciaire Spécialisé - SJP or PJS), a unit established to investigate and prosecute terrorism cases, related organized crimes as well as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocides**. The sessions include guidance on the management, organization and leadership of the PJS and their respective staff and cases, advanced investigative and prosecution techniques, domestic and international cooperation, security and material needs assessments.

In Nigeria, UNODC supported criminal justice officers to increase their knowledge and skills to effectively handle terrorism cases in order to effectively prevent and counter terrorism in the country. As a result, **national authorities strengthened their law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial responses to terrorism cases, in compliance with the rule of law, human rights, and relevant international instruments**. Over the course of 2019, UNODC launched two major training modules tailored to the

Nigerian context, namely the *Nigeria Handbook on Counter-Terrorism Investigations* and the *Nigeria Training Module on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism*.

In East Africa, UNODC helped countries make progress towards promoting and strengthening a functional criminal justice system regime against terrorism. **This has led to countries in the region undertaking effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related offences in accordance with the rule of law, human rights and relevant international instruments**, as demonstrated by the number of officials trained and countries reached. In 2019, UNODC conducted specialized trainings for 145 officials on digital evidence in cross-border cybercrime and terrorism investigations in Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Moreover, 1,063 resource materials and publications, including threat assessments, were published and translated into local languages and distributed at key workshops across the East African region.

UNODC also supported Member States in East Africa to enhance their national counter-terrorism legal frameworks in line with international norms and standards. As a consequence of UNODC's support, **countries in the region are strengthening their response to terrorism**, as demonstrated by some Member States revising national legislation on terrorism and related offences. For instance, the Office provided assistance to Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania in reviewing draft counter-terrorism legislation and promoted the ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

In Southern Africa, UNODC enhanced capacities of criminal justice officials on rule of law-based investigation and prosecution of terrorism and its financing offences. As a result, **the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique developed responses and coordinated their efforts to address terrorism cases and related emerging crimes**. For instance, UNODC trained a total of 133 criminal justice officials on different aspects of terrorism and raised awareness among law enforcement officials and prosecutors on human rights and gender issues in criminal justice responses to terrorism.

In the Middle East region, the Office supported GCC countries in their efforts to counter the financing of terrorism in the region in order to contribute to preventing and countering terrorism. **This has led to enhanced capabilities of national authorities to address the nexus between financing of terrorism and money laundering**, as demonstrated by GCC countries adopting measures to counter the financing of terrorism. For example, in 2019, the **United Arab Emirates was the first GCC country to launch goAML**, UNODC's software solution for Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). As part of the package of technical assistance services provided by UNODC to the FIU, the software was specifically customised to align with the requirements of the UAE's AML/CFT framework in order to facilitate the receipt, analysis and dissemination of suspicious transaction and activity reports (STRs/SARs) to law enforcement authorities.

In Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, UNODC strengthened the capacities of investigators in the region to more effectively respond to terrorism and promote the ratification and application of the 19 universal legal instruments against terrorism and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. **This resulted in Iraq and Lebanon enhancing their legal frameworks' admissibility of digital evidence before counter-terrorism courts. Furthermore, Iraq developed two national strategies**: one on the protection of critical infrastructure vulnerable to attacks and, the second, on the prevention of Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) with dual-use chemical materials.

## *Europe, West and Central Asia*

### **Context and trends**

The challenges posed by organized crime's foothold on South Eastern Europe, whether in terms of TiP and SoM, trafficking of drugs and weapons, or risk of criminal infiltration of the political and economic systems, intersect with the threat posed by terrorism. Terrorism, including the challenges related to FTFs, in particular FTFs returning from conflict zones to South Eastern Europe, remains an issue of concern and one that requires both the attention of national authorities, as well as improved regional and inter-regional cooperation.

Similarly, in Central Asia, recent developments in the recruitment, return and cross-border movement of FTFs present pressing challenges for criminal justice systems in the region. According to various estimates, at least 2,000 citizens from Central Asia moved to fight in conflict zones and, due to the territorial loss of ISIL, there are growing concerns surrounding the return of those FTFs. In 2019, several Central Asian countries conducted special humanitarian operations to bring their nationals back from the Syrian conflict zone. In total 609 citizens of Kazakhstan were returned from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, including 33 men, 156 women and 420 minors. Tajikistan repatriated 84 minors with further repatriations foreseen. Uzbekistan has completed two repatriation operations, bringing back a total of 220 citizens, including 48 women and 172 minors.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in South Eastern Europe, UNODC enhanced capacities of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials on investigation and prosecution of terrorism, aimed at supporting Member States in strengthening the rule of law. **This has enabled national authorities in the region to prevent and counter terrorism more effectively**, as demonstrated by the percentage of participants in UNODC trainings that apply the acquired knowledge in their work. For example, in 2019, the Office conducted a specialized training on countering terrorism and related matters. 77% of participants indicated that they use and apply the knowledge and skills acquired through training activities and assessed the tools provided during the training as “excellent”.

In Central Asia, UNODC strengthened national inter-agency and international cooperation mechanisms in order to effectively respond to terrorism threats in the region. **This has strengthened the capacities of Member States in the region to effectively prevent and counter terrorism**, as demonstrated by activities undertaken by law enforcement agencies related to cross-border intelligence sharing. During 2019, **UNODC supported the implementation of UNSCR 2396 (2017) and strengthened related investigation capacities and cooperation against transnational and cross-border terrorism**. In addition, the Office organized capacity building workshops for 128 law enforcement and criminal justice officials on issues of border security cooperation at the intra-agency and inter-agency level, including through cross-border patrols and investigations.

## *South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific*

### **Context and trends**

Terrorism, and particularly the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, is a security challenge in South and Southeast Asia. Aided by criminal networks exploiting cross-border and regional links, terrorist groups are increasingly able to join wider networks and form alignments across the region. Regional leaders have made clear counter-terrorism policy statements and, through ASEAN, have adopted the

ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Among Like-Minded ASEAN Member Countries. Steady progress is being achieved regarding the ratification of international counter-terrorism instruments, with most countries having some legislative provisions in place, and some countries having already ratified up to 13 instruments. However, many States need to undertake a review of their counter-terrorism legislative provisions and adopt legislative modifications for establishing full compliance with the provisions of all 18 instruments.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, UNODC strengthened legislative frameworks, policies and strategies of Member States in South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific to bring them in line with international legal instruments. As a result, **countries in the region more effectively prevent and counter terrorism including its financing**, as demonstrated by the number of States that ratified the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, adopted or revised relevant domestic legislation in line with the instruments, and/or developed Action Plans. For instance, **after the completion of an inter-agency training conducted by UNODC, the Office of the National Security Council of Thailand (NSC) announced it was in the process of incorporating UNODC's training manual into its national training curriculum for counter-terrorism officers**. In addition, the Office provided substantive input on the draft of the Philippines' National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (NAP P/CVE), which was formally adopted in July 2019. Moreover, UNODC, in partnership with UN Women, UNESCO and ASEAN, facilitated regional dialogue through the organization of events such as, *"Promoting Peaceful Engagement: Learning from and Empowering the Youth on Preventing Violent Extremism"*, in Bangkok.

In South Asia, UNODC contributed to enhancing the capacity of criminal justice practitioners across the region in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism offences and crimes related to terrorism, aimed at preventing and countering terrorism. **This enabled Member States to enhance their criminal justice measures to prevent and counter violent extremism, and address issues related to FTFs and other major terrorism challenges**, as demonstrated by Maldives amending its national anti-terrorism legislation to comply with the latest measures in the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. In addition to providing tailored assistance to Member States, UNODC carried out a series of workshops to train and orient over 450 policymakers and criminal justice and law enforcement officers from across South Asia.



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Countering terrorism using a human rights-based approach in Cameroon and Burkina Faso*

In recent years, Burkina Faso and Cameroon have increasingly faced serious threats from terrorism. Addressing these challenges in a human rights compliant manner is essential. In January 2019, the Office organized two national training workshops on human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism in Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Delivered primarily by Burkinabe and Cameroonian experts previously trained by UNODC, the training enabled participating civilian and military judges, investigators and prison officials to confront key issues related to human rights in the fight against terrorism and to exchange good practices and possible solutions to identified challenges. The workshops were very well received by the national officials, with a Cameroonian judge from the military court noting that, *“The workshop helped national officials to understand that effective action against terrorism and the protection of human rights are not contradictory but have complementary and synergistic objectives. I came back from the training with recommendations that could help reconcile the fight against terrorism and respect for human rights”*.



## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### *Addressing gender dimensions of criminal justice responses to terrorism*

Traditional analysis has often placed women on the periphery of terrorism and counter-terrorism discourses, being viewed either as victims or as unwilling or incidental associates of the primary terrorist actors. In 2019, UNODC continued its efforts to mainstream gender in its work to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The Office launched the “Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism” in May 2019. Following a multidisciplinary approach, the handbook integrates best practice from the fields of counter-terrorism, criminal justice, promotion of women’s rights and equality, and the elimination of violence against women. Legal and policy recommendations are provided, based on international standards and promising practices of international, regional and selected national bodies, in order to assist the users in addressing some of the key gender issues arising in the criminal justice response to terrorism. The handbook supports the work of judicial officials, prosecutors, law enforcement and corrections officers, and lawyers assisting suspects or victims of terrorism. It is also useful to policymakers, lawmakers, and CSOs active in the fields of women’s rights and counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.



## Progress on empowering youth

### *Preventing and countering violent extremism amongst youth in the Philippines*

UNODC conducted a pilot project on the prevention of violent extremism in the Philippines, targeting youth in universities. As part of the project, two national youth workshops were held, in the Philippine islands of Mindanao and Luzon, where students from different universities engaged with the recommendations from the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Students developed and discussed creative ideas to prevent the radicalization and violent extremism in academic institutions. Through the workshops, they gained valuable knowledge on how to participate in, and even initiate, activities that could prevent the radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of youth by terrorist and violent extremist groups.



# Justice



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Reintegrating formerly imprisoned women into Bolivian society and the labour market*

UNODC's initiative in Bolivia, *Building Freedom*, under the framework of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, aims to reintegrate formerly imprisoned women into society and the labour market. Women make up about 8% of the total prison population, of which two thirds are in prison for non-violent crimes, usually related to the micro-trafficking of drugs. With most women coming from low socio-economic and educational backgrounds, and with the additional burden of being the main or even sole earner in the family, these detained women could easily fall back into crime if they are unable to guarantee a steady and sufficient livelihood. Helping them prepare for life after their release is key to avoid recidivism.

Given that construction is the Plurinational State of Bolivia's fastest-growing economic sector, and that 64% of women prisoners surveyed in the project's design phase had worked in this sector and were interested in improving their capacities, *Building Freedom* provides training to women prisoners on various skills that can be applied in the construction industry, including building, metal work, plumbing, pipefitting, electricity and carpentry. In partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the initiative also prepared released women to establish their own business in the construction sector.

These efforts contribute to SDG Target 5.1 on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls. In addition, they contribute to SDG Target 8.3 on supporting productive activities, decent job creation and entrepreneurship, and SDG Target 8.5 on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men. By reducing recidivism for female prisoners, they also contribute to SDG Target 16.3 on promoting the rule of law and equal justice for all.

## Significant result for 2019

### *Strengthening forensic capacities to assist cases of violence against women in Egypt and Palestine*

In Egypt, UNODC strengthened forensic capacities aimed at ensuring equal and just criminal justice responses, in particular with regard to women and children. Clinics for women victims of violence were established in the Egyptian cities of Alexandria, Cairo and Mansoura. Standard operating procedures and manuals for forensic doctors are in place and these clinics have been equipped with highly advanced tools for the forensic examination of cases of violence against women. As a result, the Prosecutor General's Office has received more conclusive evidence and technical opinions from the Forensic Medical Authority on assault and rape cases. UNODC also upgraded the clinic in Cairo with a proper waiting room providing a friendly environment for women who are waiting to be examined and continued to procure medical equipment and material for all three clinics, including toluidine blue, disposable rolls, latex gloves and swabs.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

### *Preventing and eradicating violence against women*

#### Context and trends

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains widespread, systemic and culturally entrenched, affecting over one third of women worldwide. Its impact ranges from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences for women and girls, including death. It negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. According to the 2019 *UNODC Global Study on Homicide*, women and girls make up the vast majority of homicides perpetrated by an intimate partner or other family member, with 64% female victims and 36% male victims.

While Member States have made significant progress to prevent and eradicate VAWG, a number of key challenges persist including: lack of proper capacity in the criminal justice system; loopholes in criminal legislation; poor enforcement of criminal laws and regulations; diminishing and discriminatory attitudes among relevant professionals; and, lack of sufficient and sustainable resources. Moreover, in many countries, cases of VAWG go unreported, unprosecuted or unpunished. Hence, the assistance, protection and redress needed for a high proportion of victims are not met or even recognized.

#### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC improved the capacity of criminal justice professionals in order to enhance responses to VAWG and to provide essential services to victims and survivors. As a result, **Member States have a better understanding of legal, policy, and institutional frameworks on VAWG in line with international standards and norms.** For instance, UNODC produced and published the "*Handbook for the Judiciary on Effective Criminal Justice Responses to Gender-based Violence against Women and Girls*", which contains legal and technical information along with institutional practices. This tool was shared

through UNODC networks and international judges' associations and distributed to the heads of lower courts, regional magistrates, and the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court of Namibia and South Africa. **In total, UNODC supported crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women in 16 countries, including Bolivia, Egypt, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.**

### ***Strengthening justice for children***

#### **Context and trends**

Violence against children (VAC) continues to be a global problem, with an estimated 1.5 billion children around the world experiencing some form of violence every year<sup>11</sup>. This violence takes many forms, including child sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking, forced child labour, exploitation and slavery. It has serious implications for children's physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing and development. A more recent and particularly challenging form of violence is that of child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups. While this phenomenon shares key features with child association with criminal and armed groups and the use of child soldiers in hostilities, it poses new challenges to Member States in effectively preventing and responding to this serious form of violence against children. In this regard, the legal complexity of determining and harmonizing applicable legal frameworks, the innovative use of technology to recruit and groom children, and the increasingly cross-border nature of this phenomenon, demonstrate the intricacy complexity of the problem and the need for effective, tailored and collaborative responses from the international community.

UNODC continued to support Member States in implementing appropriate prevention and justice responses to VAC; understanding the role technology plays in VAC; strengthening children's access to justice; and ensuring that both children in conflict with the law and children victims of violence have access to rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

At the global level, UNODC continued to provide sustained support to Member States on VAC by developing a comprehensive training package which builds on the "Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System"<sup>12</sup>, aimed at supporting Member States to overcome challenges associated with child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist and violent extremist groups. **As a result, regional and national capacity-building events were conducted in Asia, the Middle East and Africa on the basis of the training package. Furthermore, UNODC developed and launched the Roadmap on the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups<sup>13</sup>** which elaborates key preventative, rehabilitative and reintegrative and justice principles for practitioners to consider when responding to the complex legal and socio-economic challenges posed by the phenomenon.

UNODC also supported Member States in enhancing the capacity of sport centres, schools and other community-based entities in marginalized communities with the aim of using sport as a crime prevention tool, as part of the implementation of the Doha Declaration. More specifically, the programme focused on providing at-risk youth with necessary life skills to make them more resilient to crime and violence by

<sup>11</sup> According to statistical data available on UNICEF's website: [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_45451.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_45451.html)

<sup>12</sup> For further information on the training package, please see: **E-Press Folder**.

<sup>13</sup> For more information, please visit: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/61793921-8dc6-4fc2-9e46-b27c6390fff2>

offering alternatives to criminal behaviour. **Over 11,000 boys and girls have benefited from training on the *Line Up Live Up* life skills curriculum, 850 sport coaches have been trained on implementing the sport-based life skills training and 450 centres have received equipment.**

### ***Promoting effective crime prevention with a focus on youth***

#### **Context and trends**

Prevention is key to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 in terms of reducing violence, crime and injustice. Effective prevention requires actors in the justice system to collaborate with those in other sectors to address the root causes of disputes and avert conflict, violence and human rights abuses. In relation to crime and violence, this means that it is necessary to move from punitive measures to evidence-based prevention that reduces levels of violence. Young people, especially those in vulnerable situations, are at higher risk of becoming involved in criminal activities, either as perpetrators or victims. Youth participation in crime prevention efforts as agents of change is fundamental. Emphasis should be placed on preventive policies that facilitate the successful socialization and integration of youth, including positive proper personal development. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 2019, adopted two resolutions dedicated to crime prevention, one entitled “Strengthening the engagement of all members of society in crime prevention” (CCPCJ Resolution 28/1), in which it specifically called for the integration of crime prevention considerations into national plans towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and a second resolution entitled “Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies” (A/RES/74/170), aimed at strengthening the resilience of children and youth to antisocial and delinquent behavior, including through the use of sports-based activities.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

At the global level, UNODC continued to assist Member States in developing knowledge-based policies and programmes on crime prevention, including at the local level, aimed at integrating and institutionalizing sport-based programmes in holistic crime prevention frameworks. For instance, in 2019 **the programme provided life skills training to nearly 7,000 boys and girls, which strengthens key personal and social skills to increase their resilience to crime, violence and drug use. Since the start of programme in 2016, over 13,000 boys and girls from 12 Member States have benefited from *Line Up Live Up* training. As well, 900 sport coaches have been trained on implementing the curriculum and 550 centres supported with sport equipment and capacity- building activities.**

Furthermore, in 2019, in view of concerns regarding youth engagement in violent extremism in many countries, under the Youth Crime Prevention through Sport initiative, UNODC held an expert consultation on the development of guidance regarding the use of sport for the prevention of violent extremism. **As a result, two guides on the topic, one addressed to policy makers and a practical tool for coaches and practitioners, will be published in mid- 2020 and tailored capacity- building activities will be conducted in selected countries.**

### ***Strengthening prison management and improving prison conditions***

#### **Context and trends**

The worrying situation in prisons around the world and its serious effects on prisoners, their families and communities continue to be of grave concern to UNODC. More than 10.74 million people worldwide

(including at least 410,000 children) were held in penal institutions in 2018<sup>14</sup>, an increase of 24% since 2000, including an increase of over 50% of women prisoners<sup>15</sup>. Prison overcrowding affects a solid majority of countries worldwide and gravely undermines security, safety and the adherence to minimum standards for the humane treatment of prisoners.

In addition, the notorious neglect of prison and corrections administrations in many jurisdictions leads to inadequate management, oversight and accountability mechanisms as well as poorly trained and ill-equipped personnel. These systemic deficiencies further increase the risk of ill-treatment, corruption and violence in prisons as well as high rates of recidivism upon release. From a security perspective, these deficiencies also undermine efforts to ensure prison security, to effectively manage prisoners assessed to be of high risk and to counter the risk of radicalization to violence in prisons.

As the custodian of the international standards and norms related to prison management and non-custodial measures, UNODC serves as a lead UN entity that ensures that prisoners as well as those charged with their care are not left behind. UNODC's *Global Programme on Addressing Prison Challenges* focused on assisting countries in: reducing the excessive resort to imprisonment, strengthening a human rights compliant approach to prison management, improving prison conditions and increasing social reintegration prospects for prisoners upon release.

### Progress made in 2019

In 2019, UNODC finalized the development of an innovative e-learning course on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) tailored to the needs of frontline prison officials, which includes inter-active prison management scenarios filmed in selected prisons in Algeria, Argentina and Switzerland. **The innovative tool has been met with great interest amongst prison practitioners and prison staff training academies alike, as evidenced by the more than 16,000 users from 93 countries by the end of the year. Further prove of the course's quality and relevance was that it led to UNODC receiving the 2019 Excellence Award from the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) in the category of prison management and staff training.**

UNODC also invested heavily into improving prison conditions and supporting the initiation of prison-based rehabilitation programmes. Prisoners in **Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Namibia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the State of Palestine, Tajikistan and Zambia** will benefit from an enhanced access to education, vocational training and suitable work programmes.

### Countering maritime crime

#### Context and trends

Maritime crime threats and trends are rapidly changing, and therefore, there is a need for adaptable responses and flexible solutions. The *Global Maritime Crime Programme* tailors its support and assistance to the current maritime crime situation, which varies per region. For example, the Gulf of Guinea is a hotspot for piracy and armed robbery at sea and is currently a critical hub for global drug trade, wildlife crime and contraband. Additionally, fisheries in the region are under severe pressure from a combination of climate change, marine pollution, overfishing and illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. All

<sup>14</sup> Institute for Criminal Policy Research. World Prison Population List. Twelfth edition: [https://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/wppl\\_12.pdf](https://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/wppl_12.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Prison Insider. Global Prison Trends 2018: <https://www.prison-insider.com/en/articles/tendances-mondiales-de-l-incarceration-2018>

these issues are affecting local health, increasing drug use, depleting wildlife and undermining the legal blue economy.

In the first half of 2019, in the Bay of Bengal, piracy and armed robbery incidents declined. However, the recent outbreaks of political violence contributed to a mix of maritime migration and trafficking along maritime routes. Hence, States in the region have placed an increased emphasis on maritime domain awareness to counteract illicit maritime activities such as piracy, armed robbery, kidnapping, illicit trade, human trafficking and fisheries crimes.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In response to the maritime crime situation analysis in the Indian and Pacific Ocean, in 2019, UNODC's *Global Maritime Crime Programme* enhanced knowledge and provided specialized equipment for courts hearing maritime crime and other serious criminal cases, aimed at improving the capabilities and capacity of the criminal justice system of States to carry out effective prevention and prosecution of maritime crimes, in accordance with the rule of law. **As a result, Kenya built two court complexes in Nairobi, close to Kamiti Prison, and in Shanzu, close to Shimo La Tewa Prison**, improving their judicial system. Moreover, mentoring to court administration staff was provided to improve responses to maritime crime cases.

In the Atlantic Ocean States, in 2019, UNODC provided technical advice for the development of legal frameworks and related capacity building to counter maritime crime. As a result, **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo conducted assessments to evaluate their responses to piracy and maritime crime**. Further assessments were carried out for the Inter-Regional Coordination Centre of the Gulf of Guinea.

### ***Facilitating continuous learning***

#### **Context and trends**

As a tool for capacity building, face-to-face training is considered to be very costly and time consuming, resulting in eLearning tools becoming a technological solution to enhance knowledge, skills and performance. Besides its cost effectiveness, this digital approach has led to remarkable changes in how the content is accessed, consumed, discussed, and shared.

The e-learning courses provided by the *Global eLearning Programme* can reduce the cost of training, as there is no need to organize constant face-to-face meetings. Undertaking e-learning as an innovative learning approach allows trainees to benefit from self-paced training and form a deeper engagement with the thematic areas, as they can access the learning material at any time. Furthermore, e-learning has become a solid base for disseminating knowledge. The agencies of several Member States use a blended learning approach, which entails a combination of e-learning courses with live training. This method is implemented with e-learning being used either as a prerequisite, to set a ground knowledge level, or after training, to enhance and retain knowledge acquired in face-to-face exercises. **During 2019, the *Global eLearning Programme* reached 47,300 users from 197 countries and delivered eight Mobile Training Unit Sets.**

### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, the *Global eLearning Programme* supported the development of eLearning tools, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to better address global human and security

challenges through the delivery of online and offline eLearning courses. **Due to these efforts, the number of officials from Member States who have successfully completed eLearning courses has increased by 23% compared to 2018.** For instance, 778 law enforcement officials successfully completed the Transnational Organized Crime Course on the UNODC eLearning Platform.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Africa and the Middle East*

#### **Context and trends**

The strengthening of criminal justice architecture to deliver justice in a fair, equitable, efficient and effective manner is key to restoring and sustaining peace and stability in West African societies affected by many forms of insecurity. In West Africa, especially in rural areas of the Sahel, some of the population no longer trusts the state justice system, turning to vigilante groups or traditional justice.

In order to restore and strengthen justice in the region, there is an urgent need to remedy deficiencies of the penal system and to improve trust between the populations and actors. The consolidation of coherent criminal justice systems around established procedures, which are known to the public and enforced in a consistent manner against every citizen, is crucial to the construction of the rule of law. In this context, attention needs to be drawn to the importance of the availability and delivery of sustainable specialized legal aid services for women. Indeed, many women lack the financial means to pay for legal representation when they need it and run the risk of discrimination and abandonment by their families due to gender stereotypes and cultural constraints. The current paradigm must shift towards a more gender-sensitive and inclusive approach, for both victims and offenders.

The improvement of justice administration is a central tenet in a context of terrorist threat propagation coupled with an increasingly active and sophisticated transnational organized crime operations in West Africa. Prisons continue to be places of vulnerability, bearing specific risks, such as the long-recognized potential for criminal contamination. More recently, there has been an increasing concern that, if left unchecked, prisons may also serve as incubators for terrorism by constituting environments where violent extremism can thrive. Police administrations are required to take measures to prevent radicalization in prison, notably involving the implementation of non-custodial sanctions and measures and guaranteeing the protection of those who need it.

Following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by all countries in the MENA region in line with the International Standards and Norms on Juvenile Justice, most have enacted or proposed to enact laws to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. A number of countries have put in place comprehensive child laws, bringing together legal provisions for the protection of children. However, challenges remain in relation to the implementation of these international standards. Children across the region continue to see their rights neglected by laws and institutions and have to endure harsh and retributive punishments that further stigmatize and marginalize them. In particular, children and youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who have fled home as a result of violence, and those who suffer from mental health problems or substance abuse, find themselves at heightened risk and in need of greater protection.

Youth, including in the MENA region, face many challenges that make them particularly vulnerable to crime, violence and victimization, including gang-related crime, violent extremism, drug use and sexual exploitation. At the same time, young people are key agents of change in creating a better future for our communities and societies. Holistic crime prevention measures actively involving youth in decision making, education and skills training, entrepreneurship and job creation as well as creating opportunities for socio-economic development can be very effective to build youth resilience to violence, drug use and crime. This is of particular importance for youth in vulnerable situations with lower access to education, employment and public services

VAWG continues to pose a significant challenge in the MENA region. Following the recent changes in the region, some Arab States have paid increased attention to specific VAWG forms, and related legislative and procedural developments have occurred in this area. Nonetheless, obstacles remain. The various actors in the criminal justice system – police judiciary and courts – are still failing women that are subjected to violence. Negative attitudes from officials dealing with such cases and underdeveloped services result in underreporting of VAWG cases and therefore go unpunished.

Another concern for the MENA region is the lack of prison infrastructure and management that undermines prison security and safety. Many of the prisons across the region also lack suitable prisoner file management systems, a deficiency which hampers not only the effective and timely follow-up on individual cases, but also the individual assessment of prisoners upon admission, as well as informed classification, allocation and treatment decisions. In addition, the long periods of pre-trial detention, common across the region with an average of 50% of pre-trial detainees and up to 70% in some countries, are leading to overcrowding. Part of the problem may be attributed to deficiencies in the judiciary, together with insufficient access to legal assistance and the limited resort to non-custodial measures. Overcrowding and poor detention conditions have moreover become a high-risk factor when it comes to radicalization.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone, UNODC enhanced the capacity of legal aid providers to deliver high-quality gender-sensitive legal aid services, aimed at strengthening the criminal justice systems of these countries. **This enabled national institutions to provide improved access to justice for women, in line with UN standards and norms**, as demonstrated by 90% of legal aid providers who received training in 2019 indicating an increased knowledge on how to provide gender-sensitive legal aid services. For instance, UNODC developed and piloted a training tool for 62 legal aid providers, including lawyers, public defenders, paralegals, bar associations, and non-governmental organizations in these countries. This training facilitated the development of essential skills, including conducting gender-sensitive interviews, collaborating between professionals and establishing trust of legal aid providers by victims of gender-based violence.

In Burkina Faso and Mali, UNODC supported prison reform and harmonization of policies on disengagement and rehabilitation of imprisoned and detained terrorists aimed at strengthening the criminal justice systems of these countries. As a result, **six prisons in Burkina Faso and Mali are implementing a prison risk assessment and classification tool developed by UNODC, enabling prison authorities to classify prisoners based on their individual needs and security risk**. For instance, in this context, UNODC conducted training for 24 prison officials responsible for piloting the prison risk assessment and classification tool.

In Egypt, UNODC supported the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law, aimed at improving criminal justice responses, in particular with regard to women and children. **During 2019, 130 children benefitted from medical services, 95 children participated in vocational training and 70 children in literacy classes. 31 boys were re-enrolled in the schooling system and 26 children were reunited with their families. Reintegration, including legal services, were provided to 39 children and 25 children were provided with a job.**

With the aim of building youth resilience to crime, violence and drug use, UNODC provided life skills training on the *Line Up, Live Up* curriculum to over 4,500 vulnerable youth in Lebanon, the State of Palestine, South Africa and Uganda in schools and community settings, and trained nearly **100 sport coaches and trainers working with youth in the delivery of the curriculum**. In the State of Palestine, UNODC provided sport equipment to 33 schools of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) **benefiting almost 19,000 students and facilitating access to safe public spaces where youth can positively interact**. In South Africa, UNODC provided support to **two NGOs whose efforts benefitted 3,000 youth, parents and other community members**.

Furthermore, UNODC strengthened forensic capacities in Egypt aimed at ensuring equal and just criminal justice responses, with particular regard to women and children. **Clinics for women victims of violence were established in the Egyptian cities of Alexandria, Cairo and Mansoura**. Standard operating procedures and manuals for forensic doctors are in place and these clinics have been equipped with highly advanced tools for the forensic examination of VAWG cases. **Through these clinics, the Prosecutor General's Office has received more conclusive evidence and technical opinions from the Forensic Medical Authority on assault and rape cases**. UNODC also upgraded the clinic in Cairo with a proper waiting room providing a friendly environment for women who are waiting to be examined and continued to procure medical equipment and material for all three clinics. An independent evaluation conducted in 2019, found that these institutional improvements have been translated into new services for victims that did not exist before (preventive medicine, emergency contraception, and psychological support) and led to ideological transformations among service providers<sup>16</sup>.

In Lebanon, UNODC enhanced capacities of 36 front-line line personnel of detention facilities where children are deprived of their liberty. This initiative supports the rehabilitation and reintegration process of children that have been recruited and exploited by armed groups. **As a result, Lebanon introduced the approach "Reconciliation with Life" to reintegrate children who have been involved in violent extremism and related offences. 735 boys at the Roumieh prison and 43 girls at the Moubadara facility for girls have benefited from this initiative**. Moreover, in order to showcase the results of this new approach, the Lebanese Government launched a national report, in September 2019, entitled, "From Suspect of Terrorism to Faith in Life", which documents the experiences and improvements in prison management.

## ***Europe, West and Central Asia***

### **Context and trends**

Most countries of Central Asia have intensified their efforts to reform and strengthen their penitentiary systems, including the focus on introduction of modern probation services, collaborating with the local

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<sup>16</sup> UNODC Independent Project Evaluation: Improving the Criminal Justice Response to Violence against Women in Egypt, 2019.

authorities and social services to manage rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners. Several countries in Central Asia have also strengthened their youth crime prevention efforts, including through social-developmental and innovative approaches that promote life skills among youth as a way to increase their resilience to violence, crime and drug use.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, UNODC enhanced capacities of prison and probation staff, law enforcement officials and civil society on prison-based rehabilitation and social reintegration strategies for Violent Extremist Prisoners (VEPs) after release, aimed at strengthening criminal justice and penitentiary systems. Therefore, **national authorities of these countries have a better understanding of prison management and its application in-line with international standards and norms.** For instance, UNODC conducted trainings on rehabilitation and reintegration reaching over 450 people (34% female).

In Central Asia, UNODC supported the implementation of crime prevention plans focusing on the needs of local communities. **As a result, countries of the region are more effective in preventing crime through evidence-based crime prevention and community resilience strategies,** as demonstrated by the number of local municipalities and crime prevention centres supported. For example, in Kyrgyzstan, UNODC established and equipped 10 women's committees to work on crime prevention and gender violence and opened six local crime prevention centres.

In 2019, UNODC *Youth Crime Prevention through Sport* Initiative supported the integration of sport based programmes in national and local crime prevention frameworks and provided life-skills training on the *Line Up Live Up* sport- based curriculum to over 1,400 youth in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with the ultimate goal of strengthening their resilience to crime, violence and drug use. In addition, **three sport centres and schools in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were renovated, increasing access to safe public spaces to more than 11,000 youth, and three civil society organizations were supported with UNODC grants that benefitted over 1,000 highly vulnerable youth in Kyrgyzstan, including youth in state institutions and youth in conflict with the law.**

In Pakistan, UNODC installed a Prison Management Information System (PMIS) in the Pakistani provinces of Punjab and Sindh, aimed at enhancing the prison and probation systems in line with national priorities and international standards and norms. As a result, **42 prisons in Punjab and Sindh are effectively implementing PMIS.** As part of the installation process, UNODC provided training on functional and non-functional operations of PMIS to 369 prison constables and mid-level officials from all the targeted prisons of Punjab and Sindh.

## ***Latin America and the Caribbean***

### **Context and trends**

In Latin America and the Caribbean, social inequality is significant contributing factor to the high-levels crime and violence. Additionally, prisons in the region are in crisis. Overcrowding and understaffing make it difficult for prison authorities to maintain control within many prisons, leaving detainees vulnerable to violence and recruitment into gangs.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, prisons are characterized by very high levels of occupation due to obsolete infrastructure and excessive use of preventive detention, especially of women, as well as the lack of application of alternatives to incarceration by the justice system. The

national population of inmates has doubled during the last decade, with a proportion of pre-trial detainees reaching an average of 70% in recent years. In addition, there are not enough prison staff and current staff are poorly trained to respond to the challenges that emerge with such high levels of overcrowding. As a result of these multiple factors, the Bolivian penitentiary system does not achieve the objective of reintegrating people deprived of liberty into society. Rehabilitation programs are scarce and, where they exist, they have limitations in linking people deprived of liberty to the labor market when they leave prison.

Regarding VAWG, Peru has one of the highest number of complaints of this crime in the world ranking the third according to the WHO, behind only Ethiopia and Bangladesh. In 2017, 81,009 women victims of physical, sexual and/or psychological violence were registered. From January to August 2019, there were 105 cases of femicide. The absence of a specialized justice system, as well as the lack of trained professionals, prevent an effective criminal justice response to VAWG, including provision of protection and assistance to victims. An additional challenge for the country is the protection of justice sector collaborators which has been exacerbated due to the rise in the number of witnesses and informants from corruption and organized crime cases. The surge in these cases has created large pools of unprotected and unassisted citizens in criminal proceedings. The legal measures for witnesses and informants have fallen short of meeting the complex needs of protective services and assistance for witnesses, victims and informants.

In Mexico, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), 36,685 homicides were registered on 2018, with a rate of 29.3 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, which is a record in the statistics of homicides in the last three decades. Moreover, VAWG continues to be an issue of significant concern. According to the National System on Public Security, 2,833 women were murdered from January to September 2019. Despite this, the National Observatory on Femicide reported that only 726 cases (25.6%) are investigated as feminicides, while the remaining murders are investigated as intentional homicides. The widespread VAWG combined with impunity and lack of access to justice for victims has turned it into a nationwide crisis. Most crimes related to gender-based violence are not reported to the authorities and in most cases the victim does not get the assistance they need, nor are they properly referred to the competent authorities.

Regarding Colombia, the situation of children in conflict with the law has significantly improved since UNODC started to support the Colombian Government, in 2015, in the implementation of the *United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice* (A/RES/69/194).

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC developed and concluded the pilot project, *Building Freedom*, aimed at enabling the reintegration of ex-imprisoned women into society and labour market in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Through this pilot project, **50 women from two penitentiary centers in the Bolivian city of La Paz graduated from the programme and obtained a certificate on Basic Technician in Civil Construction, recognized by the Ministry of Education.** Additionally, 22 trainers of trainers (four prison staff and 18 women deprived of liberty) were trained and recognized by UNODC with a diploma of participation.

In Peru, the Office established a coordination and capacity building platform for national authorities, aimed at promoting an effective criminal justice response to VAWG, reducing impunity and social

injustice, while maintaining a victim-centered approach. **This has enabled 40 practitioners from the National Police and Prosecution Service to provide a more effective, coordinated and integrated first response services for women and girls subject to violence.**

UNODC also established an inter-agency working group among relevant stakeholders of the Government of Peru, aimed at enhancing knowledge and capacities to provide effective legal and operational protection and assistance measures for witnesses and informants. As a result, **the Prosecutor's Office, the Judiciary, and the Ministry of Justice conducted 20 national interviews to assess the state of the national Witness and Informant Protection Programme.** This enabled national authorities to identify gaps, opportunities and responses to improve the justice system in the country.

In Mexico, UNODC continued to implement the *Spotlight Initiative*, aimed at promoting the right of access to justice for women, girls and their families, and strengthening local institutional capacities to investigate crimes related to VAWG. **This led to authorities from the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Guerrero and State of Mexico developing two assessment documents to identify the causes of VAWG and compare the protocols used in femicide investigations.** This information will be used in the development of public policies for preventing and combating VAWG. As part of the *Spotlight Initiative*, the Office conducted technical activities focused on the prevention of VAWG through the transformation of social norms and behaviours and the improvement of quality services for victims of violence.

Moreover, UNODC developed the UN Advanced Prison Standards (UNAPS) aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Mexican penitentiary system through the implementation of advanced standardized criteria for human rights, social reinsertion and professionalization of prison staff. As a result, **Mexico adopted 91 standards of the UNAPS to regulate prison public policies, as well as for the tools to follow up on policy implementation and the evaluation mechanism.** Prior to their adoption, the UNAPS was piloted in 12 penitentiary centers of Mexico.

The Office in Colombia continued to enhance laws and policies on restorative justice for children aimed at strengthening the rule of law as the basis for sustainable development through the prevention of crime and the promotion of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems. Through these efforts, **Colombia further aligned its legal, policy, and institutional frameworks on justice for children with the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/RES/69/194).** As part of its support, UNODC conducted an assessment of the risk factors related to children in conflict with the law in the Department of Cundinamarca which has directly contributed to improving juvenile justice policies.

Moreover, in Colombia and Mexico, UNODC assisted local governments in conducting local safety audits to generate information on crime, violence, victimization and related risk factors, combining quantitative and qualitative data, including data collected in focus group discussions with community stakeholders. **These audits subsequently allowed for the development of knowledge-based policies and programmes on crime prevention in the cities of Cali, Colombia and Queretaro, Mexico.**

Finally, regarding youth crime prevention, in 2019 UNODC provided sport -based life skills training on the *Line Up Live Up* curriculum to over 1,000 vulnerable youth in Colombia, Dominican Republic and Peru building their resilience to crime, violence and drug use and supported the integration of sport and sport-based programmes in national and local crime prevention frameworks. In addition, **UNODC built the capacity of more than 60 sport coaches and trainers to use sport as a tool for life skills training and**

**deliver UNODC Line Up curriculum to youth in schools and community settings. In Peru, UNODC provided sport equipment to 22 centres linked to the National Strategy on Safe Neighbourhoods, increasing access by youth to safe public spaces for physical activity and positive social interactions.**

### *South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific*

#### **Context and trends**

South Asia faces many challenges related to the administration of criminal justice systems. Regarding the prison systems, key problems include prison overcrowding, lack of alternatives to imprisonment, poor training for criminal justice officials and lack of specialized systems and measures for vulnerable groups, including women and child detainees. In South Asia, juvenile justice systems need to embody more child-friendly environment and systems, using appropriate language and the minimum possible use of physical restraints. Moreover, there is a need for more legislation and policies to effectively protect female victims of violence and bring perpetrators to justice.

Likewise, some countries of Southeast Asia lack laws criminalizing VAWG and children may not be able to access child justice systems and may be treated similarly to adults under the law. Prison management systems vary significantly from country to country and it is unclear whether some are operating in line with international standards or commitments.

In Myanmar, the legal framework of criminal justice is outdated and largely incompatible with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Crime Conventions as well as of the relevant United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The standard and accessibility of healthcare and nutrition in prisons is reportedly poor, which, together with the effects of overcrowding and lack of access to prevention services, exacerbates the spread of communicable diseases such as malaria, TB and HIV.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in Bangladesh, the Office established a modern prisoner database management system (PDMS), aimed at strengthening prison management in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules (NMR). **Using the PDMS, two prisons, Gazipur District Jail and Kashimpur Central Jail-2, improved management and strengthened security architecture of the prisons by ensuring infallible processes using information technology.** Over 7,000 prisoner records have been entered into the database. This authentic data source has a high degree of fidelity and can be easily considered a solid baseline for extrapolating crime patterns of the surrounding society. UNODC in close partnership with Bangladesh Prisons Directorate, assessed the regulatory framework of Bangladesh related to prisons, developed a strategy to transform Bangladesh Prison into a correctional service, delivered specialized training to 120 relevant prison staff and provided a set of security equipment for installation in selected prison sites.

In Nepal, UNODC, in partnership with other UN agencies, supported the Ministry of Home Affairs in the formulation of the second phase of the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security, which focuses specifically on the victimization of women in conflict contexts. In this regard, the Office organized a validation workshop in December 2019. **Moreover, the Office contributed to the revision and finalization of the Nepali version of the Essential Services Package, in particular the chapter related to “Justice and Policing”.**

In Viet Nam, UNODC strengthened legislative and policy frameworks pertaining to child sex offences and safeguarding of victims. As a direct result, **the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam developed the guidelines on prevention, verifying information, reporting and denouncing child sexual abuse crimes.** During 2019, UNODC supported the drafting a resolution of the Judges Council of the Supreme People's Court guiding the implementation of a number of provisions related to human trafficking in the 2015 Penal Code.

In Cambodia, UNODC strengthened legal, regulatory, policy and operational frameworks for the delivery of justice for children, including children in conflict with the law, child victims and witnesses of crime, aimed at promoting a criminal justice reform that allow to deliver justice in a fair, effective and equitable manner. **This has supported the country's implementation of the "Strategic and Operational Plan 2018-2020 for the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law".** This plan builds a solid and sustainable foundation for a modern juvenile justice system and provides effective and positive impact to current and future children, who are in conflict with the law.

In 2019, in Myanmar, UNODC enhanced capacity of law enforcement officials, aimed at preventing and combating gender-based violence. As a result, **1,300 members of the Myanmar Police Force have improved capacities to detect, prevent and respond to gender-based violence cases and related criminal issues.** As part of these capacity building efforts, the Office conducted 13 trainings covering a variety of topics including concepts, forms and responses to VAWG.

In the same country, UNODC fostered inter-institutional cooperation and coordination, aimed at contributing to a healthier and safer national community that is free from the threats posed by organized crime and drug use and confident in the integrity of the criminal justice system. **This contributed to enhancing dialogue between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health Services of Myanmar on the strengthening of legal, regulatory and policy frameworks related to prison reform.** For instance, UNODC assisted in the coordination of high-level coordination meetings between ministries. A total of 129 participants from government bodies came together in this discussion to share progress and to discuss future objectives.



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Justica Presente: Mainstreaming human rights efforts in the Brazilian justice system*

In July 2019, UNODC started implementing the project, *Justica Presente* in order to decongest Brazil's national prison system, which operates at an occupancy rate of 197%, according to the Ministry of Justice. The project also encourages compliance with specialized protocols and recommendations for preventing and tackling cases of torture and other forms of mistreatment. For this purpose, 27 specialized advisors were allocated into all the units of the Federation to provide technical support to criminal justice professionals in developing alternative policies to incarceration and replacing imprisonment with other more appropriate actions whenever possible, such as precautionary measures and electronic monitoring. The Office supports increasing the capacity of courts to apply alternatives to incarceration in order to lower pretrial detention rates across the country in line with human rights, UN conventions and international standards.

## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### *Understanding challenges to women's access to criminal justice systems in South Asia*

UNODC's Regional Office in South Asia continues to provide evidence-based information for policies on gender and to increase awareness of issues that affect women in the criminal justice system. In this regard, the Office conducted a study on women in the Nepal Criminal Justice System, focusing on victims of gender-based violence, women in conflict with the law and women as practitioners of professionals in the criminal justice system. This contributed to identify the levels of discrimination that victims of TiP and gender-based violence face in accessing the justice system.

## Progress on empowering youth

### *Crime prevention for youth through sports and life-skill programmes*

In Peru, UNODC's *Line Up Live Up* initiative applied best practices in crime prevention amongst youth in vulnerable and impoverished communities. UNODC partnered with Peru's "Safe Neighbourhood" crime prevention strategy, to deliver sport-based life skills training to youth in community settings and conduct awareness-raising sports initiatives to demonstrate the benefits of sport in keeping youth from becoming involved in crime and violence. Through *Line Up Live Up*, youth are placed at the centre of outreach activities to enhance their knowledge on risks associated with violence, crime and substance use and to strengthen their skills. By sharing their experiences on how sports and life skills training helped them to stay away from crime, they act as agents for change in the community, promoting this message among their peers.



# Research, Trend Analysis and Forensics



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Enhancing evidence-based policy on the trafficking of illicit firearms*

Trafficking of illicit firearms, their parts, components and ammunition, is a global and transnational threat to peace, security and development. Illicit firearms are a common denominator in many crimes, from urban gang violence to transnational organized crime and terrorism. As lucrative commodities that fuel armed conflicts, crime and insecurity, firearms are also used as tools for criminal groups to consolidate their power. The availability of illicit firearms to organized criminal and terrorist groups exponentially increases the destructive power of these groups and provides them with the necessary material and financial support to perpetuate their existence.

In 2019, UNODC continued to promote understanding and evidence-based policy making on firearms trafficking through the development of its *Global Study on Firearms 2020*. To date, the study is the most comprehensive collection of data on firearms trafficking gathering information from 81 countries between 2016-17. This information provides a unique insight into patterns, routes and modus operandi of trafficking globally, regionally and nationally, constituting a vital resource for law enforcement, policymakers and public bodies who seek to reduce the damage caused by the illicit circulation of firearms. Based on these sources, over 550,000 firearms were seized in 2016 and in 2017, demonstrating the continued challenge in the fight against firearms trafficking. This work directly contributes to data monitoring and collection on SDG Target 16.4 on reducing illicit financial and arms flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets and combating all forms of organized crime.

## Significant result for 2019

### *Strengthening forensic capacities around the world*

In 2019, UNODC continued to enhance the effectiveness of national laboratories in Member States to successfully implement the International Drug conventions. As a result, the Office provided 2,698 reference standards of controlled drugs and their precursors to 115 laboratories in 51 countries and supported a network of 289 forensic drug testing and toxicology laboratories in 90 countries worldwide. Moreover, UNODC supported law enforcement interdiction capacity by the provision of over 1,400 field drug and precursor testing kits, along with specialized trainings to forensic and law enforcement personnel on the identification and analysis of drugs, precursors and related chemicals.

## GLOBAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

### *Promoting understanding and evidence-based policy making*

#### **Context and trends**

Member States face challenges in collecting quality data on trends and patterns, as well as emerging issues, related to drugs, chemical precursors and transnational organized crime. This data is essential to monitor progress and develop appropriate policies. For many years, the international community has sought a way to accurately gauge the number of homicides worldwide. This quest has received renewed impetus following the adoption of the SDGs, of which targets under SDG 16 seek to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates. In 2019, UNODC launched the third edition of the *Global Study on Homicide* which provides Member States with relevant data and information for effective responses and interventions to counter homicide.

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling continue to be a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, and a global challenge to sustainable development often targeting the most vulnerable communities. The Office has provided relevant information and data to understand and study the dynamics of these criminal phenomena. However, as large part of both human trafficking and migrant smuggling is hidden it is difficult to measure these crimes. Particularly worrying is the fact that a large group of hidden victims do not have access to the rights and support normally allocated to human trafficking victims and migrants who are smuggled.

With regard to global drug production and trafficking, Afghanistan has been the major source of the world's illicit opium production for almost two decades. Further to the negative impact on governance and economic development, it continues to fuel insurgency, terrorism, corruption and poor health in Afghanistan and the wider South West Asia region. In 2019, latest data revealed higher levels of opiate use in India as well as the emergence of new trafficking routes, methods and markets. This makes it challenging for the Government of Afghanistan and international partners to effectively tackle the illicit trade in opiates. Several countries reported record breaking seizures of high purity heroin in Europe and different parts of Asia including Central Asia.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC collected data processed and disseminated data, undertook qualitative and quantitative research, and developed technical publications and survey reports aimed at enhancing knowledge of thematic and cross-sectoral trends to support effective policy formulation, operational response and impact assessment in drugs and crime. **This enabled Member States, policy-makers, academia, civil society and the international community to have access to comprehensive analyses about the state of drugs and crime in the world.** For instance, UNODC produced and launched the third edition of the *Global Study on Homicide*, which covers, analyses and disaggregates all aspects of homicide, allowing Member States to design effective homicide prevention policies. As custodian of 15 SDG global indicators (alone or in partnership with other agencies), UNODC continued to inform the global monitoring of SDG targets related to violence, rule of law, access to justice, trafficking in persons, corruption, wildlife trafficking and drug treatment. To support Member States to improve SDG monitoring, **UNODC also developed statistical standards on some critical SDG indicators such as illicit financial flows and corruption.**

Moreover, **UNODC improved the quality, relevance and comprehensiveness of the Annual Report Questionnaire to better address the world drug problem.** During the drafting process, a working group was established, and a global online consultation and pilot test was conducted, in order to receive relevant feedback from Member States, non-governmental organizations and other UN agencies. The final version of the questionnaire was presented at the 63rd session of the CND (E/CN.7/2020/12).

Due to UNODC research efforts on TiP, **Member States and the international community have access to enhanced knowledge on TiP to formulate strategic responses.** The Office collected global data to initiate the forthcoming 2020 edition of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* which will cover more than 130 countries with information, from 2017 to 2019, on patterns and flows of human trafficking at national, regional and international levels. The demand for such comprehensive reports on the issue are evident, **with the 2018 GLOTIP report being downloaded more than 158,000 times in 2019, more than any other UNODC report or document included on the website.** In addition, UNODC provided seminal information to plan field research work of the Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants, as demonstrated by the number of research activities in Italy, Morocco, Nigeria and Spain, where more than **110 qualitative interviews were conducted on the ground.**

In 2019, the Office continued to analyze, use and disseminate accurate, reliable, objective and comparable data and to reflect such information in the *World Drug Report*, the flagship publication of UNODC on drugs. The 2019 edition of the Report enabled stakeholders to access the latest estimates and trends on illicit crop cultivation, drug trafficking and drug use at global, regional and sub regional levels. It is actively used by the international community to foster greater international cooperation to counter the impact of the drug problem on health, governance and security.

Finally, UNODC continued to work with government counterparts in coca bush, opium poppy and cannabis cultivating countries, on improving illicit crop monitoring systems and enhancing knowledge about the illicit drug markets in these countries. **UNODC's Afghan Opiate Projects produced two regional analysis reports on opiate trafficking in the Caucasus and the Balkans. These reports enabled stakeholders to access enhanced information on recent threats associated with opiate trafficking, as demonstrated by UNODC analytical reports and technical advice provided to governments on current issues related to opiate and acetic anhydride trafficking.** In 2019, UNODC continued to develop its Drug Monitoring

Platform system and **added 150,424 opiate seizure cases to the system, for a total of 354,374 drug cases. 71 new users were also granted access.**

### *Enhancing forensic science and services*

#### **Context and trends**

In recent years, over 950 potentially harmful psychoactive substances have emerged in global drug markets, with several of these resulting in emergency room admissions, hospitalizations and fatalities<sup>17</sup>. Some of these substances have been implicated in the ongoing opioid crisis, which the World Drug Report produced by UNODC in 2018 estimates to have claimed tens of thousands of lives in North America and parts of Europe, and continues to pose a significant threat to countries in Africa and Asia.

In 2013, the UNODC Early Warning Advisory (EWA) was established to ensure timely global sharing of information on these potentially dangerous substances, to protect human health and welfare and reduce the associated social and economic costs. Today, EWA connects 120 countries worldwide. The timeliness of information provided by the system, its ability to track the market dynamics, and the around-the-clock accessibility to the tens of thousands of records it holds, have contributed to national, regional and international efforts to design effective responses and reduce the availability of these dangerous substances, including through tailored support for national law enforcement and forensic science institutions.

Currently, the synthetic drug market is characterized by a high level of complexity with a larger number of traditional and new synthetic substances being present. While new NPS continue to emerge, the rapid expansion of the methamphetamine market in South-East Asia and the Americas is a worrying development. In this regard, UNODC, through its Global Scientific and Forensic Programme Support Project, has intensified its capacity building activities to support national law enforcement efforts to detect, identify and seize synthetic drugs and NPS. The project achieved a high relevance particularly with its EWA on NPS, which continues to be recognized as the major source of information on NPS at the global level. In 2019, the information produced through the project was actively used by Member States and WHO (Expert Committee on Drug Dependence) as a reference for the assessment of NPS in the context of the scheduling decisions at the CND in March 2019, and by forensic laboratories around the world.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, UNODC continued to enhance the effectiveness of national laboratories in Member States to successfully implement the international drug conventions. **As a result, the Office provided 2,698 reference standards of controlled drugs and their precursors to 115 laboratories in 51 countries and supported a network of 289 forensic drug testing and toxicology laboratories in 90 countries worldwide. Moreover, UNODC supported law enforcement interdiction capacity with the provision of over 1,400 field drug and precursor testing kits, along with specialized trainings to forensic and law enforcement personnel on the identification and analysis of drugs, precursors and related chemicals.**

In addition, the Office intensified its capacity building activities to law enforcement officials on detection, identification and seizure of synthetic drugs and NPS by adding web-based training methods and fostering collaboration with partner agencies. **As a result, Member States were able to make effective evidence-**

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<sup>17</sup> UNODC Early Warning Advisory on New Psychoactive Substances: <https://www.unodc.org/LSS/Page/NPS>

based decisions to counter the problem of synthetic drugs and NPS. In 2019, over 400 officials were trained.

Regarding EWA, UNODC continued to develop this innovative system for global monitoring of hospitalizations and fatalities due to potentially dangerous substances, such as synthetic drugs and NPS. **As a result, Member States will be able to identify, for the first time, the most harmful substances, constituting a fundamental step to implementing appropriate supply reduction, prevention and treatment strategies to protect future generations from the associated health and social harms.**

Furthermore, UNODC provided technical assistance to Member States aimed at enhancing national legislation and evidence-based policy on synthetic drugs and NPS. **As a result, Argentina adopted generic NPS definitions in their national legislation in August 2019. Moreover, El Salvador released a drug control strategy including, for the first time, synthetic drugs and NPS and Trinidad and Tobago updated its legislation to better address these potentially dangerous substances.** It is important to highlight that EWA contributed to the improvement of these legal instruments by providing up-to-date information on NPS trends, scientific information on individual substances and information about options to adapt national legal frameworks to the challenges of a dynamic NPS market.

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

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### *Africa and the Middle East*

#### **Context and trends**

Drugs used in West Africa include a wide range of psychoactive substances and poly drug use is a common phenomenon especially among young people in the region. Cannabis and alcohol were the two most commonly used psychoactive substances in West Africa.

Challenges involved in protecting the wildlife of West and Central Africa from criminal predation has been highlighted. They are related to several of the cross-cutting issues, which include: diffused, complicated, and outdated legislation; lack of coordination between the many national agencies; substantial uncertainty about wildlife populations and range; a general lack of enforcement resources; and, corruption.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, UNODC has supported the implementation of the West African Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (WENU) and published the first report of the network covering (2014-2017) in October 2019. The report is based on drug-related data (treatment and drug seizures) submitted by the 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania and highlights how drug trafficking and abuse undermines the socio-political and economic stability of the region. **These developments have resulted in increased global efforts to mitigate the negative consequences of drug dependence on health, social cohesion and the stability of the region.** For example, the Office specifically supported the Government of Senegal in the development of a National Drug Information System which is expected to serve as a sub-regional observatory on drugs in other West African francophone countries in the future. In Nigeria, UNODC supported the government in the design and implementation of its first cannabis cultivation survey.

In 2019, UNODC also supported the Government of Nigeria in implementing the first ever comprehensive survey on drug use in the country, which provides relevant information on the extent and patterns of drug use in Nigeria, especially the non-medical use of pharmaceutical opioids such as Tramadol. **As a result, Nigeria has information for the design and implementation of effective prevention, treatment and care services that are evidence-based and targeted to reduce the demand for drugs and prevent the morbidity and mortality attributable to drug use in the country.** The report of the survey was launched in Nigeria, in January 2019, and its results were disseminated at a side event of the 62nd session of the CND. The report has also contributed to improved estimates of drug use prevalence in West and Central Africa.

UNODC has also supported the implementation of first ever school surveys on drug use in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Senegal. The report of the school survey in Cote d'Ivoire was launched in 2019 and has provided national stakeholders with information on the extent of drug use among secondary school students, emphasizing the need to implement prevention interventions in the country.

Furthermore, the Office completed a West and Central Africa Wildlife Crime Threat Assessment for the CITES Secretariat. This report assessed the transnational trafficking of contraband from several species, including rosewoods, elephants, pangolins, and parrots. It was presented at the 18th CITES Conference of the Parties and **became part of the official record of that meeting leading to increased awareness of the challenges to address wildlife crime in West and Central Africa.**

## *Europe, West and Central Asia*

### **Context and trends**

Member States in Europe, West and Central Asia region have made significant efforts in generating quality evidence, data collection, and analysis on crime, drugs, corruption and terrorism issues. However, a number of key challenges persist, including a lack of trained researchers and forensic experts, poor access to existing information, lack of commitment to share transparent data, and a limited degree of data standardization and data accuracy.

### **Progress made in 2019**

In order to enhance knowledge of the patterns and trends of organized crime in the Western Balkans, UNODC implemented a regional initiative aimed at developing a statistical and conceptual framework to measure organized crime under the MACRO project. A quantitative data collection under the framework elicited more than **7,000 submissions on 15 crimes as well as qualitative information from over 250 interviews with three populations: prisoners convicted of organized crimes, expert practitioners and persons affected by organized crime** (victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants). Finally, a case law analysis was undertaken including 127 prominent organized crime cases from the region.

When analyzed, this vast amount of data elicited important findings about levels of criminal group involvement in several crimes, as well as the capacity of the criminal justice system to investigate and prosecute organized crimes. Such a framework to measure and monitor organized crime can provide a standardized set of indicators based on internationally agreed upon legal instruments and definitions.

In 2019, the Office standardized and strengthened capacities of relevant national institutions to collect, manage and analyze statistical data on drugs and drug-related crime in Central Asia. These efforts aimed to increase informed evidence-based policies and strategies through trends analysis and impact

monitoring at the regional level. **It has led to an improvement in the availability and use of data regarding counternarcotics, criminal justice and drug use**, as demonstrated by relevant national institutions with increased capacity to collect, manage and analyze statistical data on drugs and drug related crime using standardized methods. For instance, UNODC has supported implementation of school surveys in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan and a survey on drug use among youth in Afghanistan. These surveys will provide essential information to the national stakeholders in these countries to develop evidence-based prevention interventions.

UNODC also enhanced Central Asian Member States' scientific reporting and forensic capabilities to improve knowledge on thematic and cross-sectoral trends for effective policy and operational responses. These efforts led **Member States in the region to develop their data collection, analysis and response to transnational organized crime**, as demonstrated by the increased number of laboratories actively participating in international collaborative exercises. For example, in Uzbekistan, UNODC supported forensic laboratories of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop and introduce Quality Management System in line with the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard.

In Afghanistan, UNODC prepared and published the annual Opium Survey Report which provided reliable information on opium poppy cultivation, production, prices and eradication verification. In addition, the Office prepared a report on the socioeconomics of opium cultivation and the opiate economy and the related challenges to sustainable development, peace and security. **The results of the Opium Cultivation and Production Report 2019 are being actively used by international and national stakeholders to improve the policies and strategies for counternarcotic activities in the country.**

## *Latin America and the Caribbean*

### **Context and trends**

Countries in the region continue to suffer gaps in the quality and quantity of statistical data on drugs and crime, as there are only sporadic population surveys that provide timely information on victimization, corruption and drug use. Administrative data on crime and criminal justice systems also lack comparability across the different stages of the criminal justice systems and across sub-national sub-systems and contained limited detailed information that can allow for a more analytical use of these data.

According to the World Drug Report produced by UNODC in 2019, most of the cocaine produced in the world comes from Colombia. The multifaceted dimensions of this problem include production, processing, trafficking and consumption of cocaine products, as well as its links to corruption, violence and crime. To address this problem, it is vital to continue supporting the Colombian Government in monitoring illicit crops and identifying conditions of the development of illicit economies.

As the second and third largest producer of coca in the Andean region, it is important for Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to effectively monitor coca crops in order to inform and effectively implement national coca control policies. Similarly, Mexico, accounts for most of the heroin supply to the United States while also supplying the smaller heroin markets of South America. The farming of illicit crops in Mexico is a large-scale problem that compromises the security of the country and monitoring of illicit crop cultivation forms an essential aspect of the response. According to the opium poppy cultivation survey, between 2015 and 2016, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Mexico reached 25,200 hectares while in the period of 2016-2017 around 30,600 hectares were registered. Opium poppy cultivation increased by 21% in the country between these time periods, representing a net increase of

5,400 hectares. To counter this, various efforts have been undertaken by Mexican Government institutions, mainly the Secretary of the Defense (SEDENA), which is in charge of most of the eradication in the country.

Furthermore, in Mexico, despite the critical role that police forces play in maintaining and enforcing the law, national analysis shows the rising need to professionalize officers at all levels of government. Professionalization initiatives have not been effective due to the lack of empirical information and data to identify the main vulnerabilities and opportunity areas regarding the admission, training and day-to-day tasks of police officers at the national, state and local levels.

Key priorities in the Central America and the Caribbean region include the development of quality management systems in forensic laboratories and the expert training of – and regional cooperation among – law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities and laboratories, particularly in violent crime scene investigations and organized crime cases, including with regard to the capacity to preserve the integrity of evidence from the crime scene to the courtroom. Quality forensic services are crucial for the provision of evidence-based data and information, intelligence purposes and court convictions. It is also necessary to raise awareness among the judiciary and law enforcement about the relevance of forensics in an effective and fair criminal justice process.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, the Office in Colombia estimated the area affected by coca crop cultivation in the country, contributing to the establishment of methodologies to collect and analyze data and, in turn, enhancing the capacities of the Government in illicit crops monitoring. **Due to these efforts, Colombia uses information on illicit crops areas and drug production for public policy formulation to combat drug trafficking**, as demonstrated by the annual census for framing comparable historical series related to coca cultivation. In 2019, the Office developed the annual census enabling the detection of coca crop cultivation areas. The geographical analysis has also served to produce evidence-based data regarding the presence of illegal activities in the territory, and the economic and social conditions that make these activities possible.

Moreover, **remote perception tools and methodologies used in the collection and analyses of illicit coca crops were used to detect and gather information related to illegal mining in Colombia**. For instance, UNODC developed and launched the 2018 Alluvium Gold Exploitation study which reported that 96,042 hectares are affected by illegal mining. The study allowed the Government of Colombia to develop and coordinate comprehensive programmes and strategies to counter illegal mining and other criminal activities linked to organized crime in the country.

In Mexico, UNODC supported the collection of information for the preparation of national reports on opium poppy crops and opium gum yield, aimed at strengthening technical capacities of the Government of Mexico in generating evidence-based information related to illicit crops. **This has enhanced access to accurate and updated information on opium poppy crops and opium gum yield** to facilitate appropriate, evidence-based public policy responses. For example, **UNODC developed the third report on opium poppy crops for 2017-2018 which was launched in March 2020**. The Office also measured 124 fields in the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Guerrero and Sinaloa which enabled an update of the database on physical characteristics of the opium poppy fields (height, diameter of the capsule and density).

UNODC also supported the installation of a mobile application to register eradication activities, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Government of Mexico in monitoring, collecting and reporting information on illicit crop eradication and destruction of clandestine drug laboratories. As a result, **Mexican authorities are able to record the exact location and extension of the illicit crop and send photographs of the eradication process.** In 2019, UNODC installed a mobile application in 352 satellite devices, owned and operated by SEDENA and the Attorney General's Office, that detects and records illicit crops in real time across Mexican territory. A complementary training for more than 350 operative personnel was also delivered.

The UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence on statistical information on governance, public security, victimization and justice provided technical support to countries in Latin America to undertake victimization surveys, to improve the quality of their national crime and criminal justice statistical systems (through the implementation of the Internal Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes – ICCS) and to monitor drug and crime related SDG indicators, including illicit financial flows.

In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC published the 2018 Coca Crop Survey, aimed at supporting institutions responsible for the fight against drug trafficking in the design of public policies and measures to control surplus coca crops. **The information gathered through the survey supported the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to improve its efforts to control surplus coca crops,** as demonstrated by the area of coca crops eradicated by the Joint Task Force of the Antinarcotics Police. In this regard, **11,173 hectares of coca crops were eradicated, resulting in a 6% decrease in the area of coca crop cultivation to 23,100 hectares.**

The Office also enhanced the knowledge and skills of drug control officers of forensic laboratories in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, aimed at improving detection, management and analysis of illegal drugs, including synthetic drugs. **Through UNODC's support, the Antinarcotics Police of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has a more comprehensive understanding of NPS and its commercialization,** as demonstrated by the detection of Ketamine, a substance that allows the development of NPS, as well as the presence and commercialization of Ecstasy (MDMA). As part of the support provided, UNODC transferred two TRUNARC devices (handheld narcotics analyzers) to the Bolivian Government to support drug control officers in the swift detection of controlled substances, narcotics and chemicals.

In Latin American and the Caribbean region (LAC), as a whole, UNODC disseminated information on crime statistics methodologies across the region, aimed at strengthening the statistical, analytical and monitoring capacities in the fields of governance, victimization, perception of public security and justice statistics. Moreover, the Office presented the *Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative* (LACSI) and organized the 7th Technical Meeting of the Working Group on LACSI, where the improvement of measures on victimization, perception of insecurity and trust in institutions were addressed. **This information has contributed to a better understanding by Member States of the statistical use for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of justice policies. One of the major achievements was the adoption of the LACSI Initiative by Saint Lucia.** The country will be able to generate quality, reliable, timely and comparable crime statistical information, as well as to monitor the progress of the 2030 Agenda. The results of this initiative will be available in 2020. Additionally, **Jamaica and Saint Lucia implemented the LACSI Module on Possession of Firearms, becoming the first two countries to fully implement this module.**

UNODC conducted statistical quality assessments aimed at improving Member States' capacities on data collection, research and analysis for designing, monitoring and evaluating evidence-based crime prevention policies. As a result, **the Criminal Justice National Statistical Systems of the LAC region reinforced its capacity to produce data**, as demonstrated by the number of Statistical Quality Assessments conducted. In 2019, UNODC participated in the development of the Statistical Quality Assessments of the National Criminal Information System of Argentina, the Public Safety Management System of Uruguay, the Homicide Administrative Records of Ecuador and the Statistical Review Model Project (MORE).

### ***South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific***

#### **Context and trends**

In 2019, the area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar was estimated at 33,100 hectares. In comparison to 2018, the area under opium cultivation decreased by 11%, a continuation of the downward trend which started in 2014. Opium cultivation, heroin manufacturing and the illicit drug economy are important elements to consider in the context of the peace process and the establishment of long-term stability in Myanmar. The influence of the drug economy can be mitigated through alternative development programmes that provide viable sources of legitimate income, as well as by addressing the threat of transnational organized crime groups that continue to produce and traffic heroin and that have significantly scaled-up the production of methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs for the regional drug market.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In 2019, UNODC partnered with the Kostat (the national statistical office of the Republic of Korea) to establish a Center of Excellence, aimed at supporting Member States of the region to enhance statistical, analytical and monitoring capacities with respect to crime and criminal justice data of Asia-Pacific UN Member States. **Particular focus will be given to promoting, adopting and implementing the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), increasing the availability and quality of data provided to the UN-Crime Trends Surveys (UN-CTS), and other global data collections, and supporting the production of data indicators required to monitor relevant SDGs in the areas of crime, violence, trafficking, access to justice and the rule of law.**

In Myanmar, UNODC enhanced national capacity to monitor and report on drug production and seizure, aimed at strengthening capacities to address drug production through illicit crop monitoring and alternative development. As a result, **the availability and utility of data on illicit crop cultivation, drug production has improved**, as demonstrated by increased data relating to illicit crop cultivation, illicit drug production and seizures, as well as the main socio-economic factors driving illicit crop cultivation. In 2019, UNODC delivered three training sessions to government surveyors in Shan State reaching a total of 86 surveyors and targeting 39 opium poppy growing townships for field data collection for the annual *Myanmar Opium Survey*.



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Incorporating a human rights approach in research*

Human rights affect every aspect of drug-use policy and research. Member States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights standards when implementing programmes and conducting research on issues related to people who use drugs (PWUD). UNODC complies with a Do-No-Harm approach in its research initiatives, particularly research related to health and drug use. For instance, the *World Drug Report* produced by UNODC in 2019, provides a comprehensive understanding to the world drug problem and how Member States can better address it by providing human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches when assisting PWUD.



## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### *Providing disaggregated data to inform policy on violence against women in Kyrgyzstan*

In 2019, UNODC continued to support Member States in eradicating violence against women and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in their criminal justice systems through the revision of statistical forms for collection and analysis of disaggregated data on gender related crimes. For example, the National Statistics Committee of Kyrgyzstan, in partnership with UNODC, conducted surveys and assessments to identify the level of victimization from different crimes, with emphasis on victimization from gender-based violence. This information contributed to design and implement activities to address VAWG.



## Progress on empowering youth

### *Determining the extent of drug use amongst youth in Kazakhstan and Afghanistan*

In 2019, UNODC's *Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries* successfully implemented two studies on drug use among youth in Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. These studies determined the prevalence of drug use, as well as the social and education impact of illicit drug consumption. The data was collected through self-administered questionnaires and interviews, strictly considering the confidentiality of the respondents. The questionnaires were used in schools and face-to-face interviews were conducted among out-of-school youth and street youth. The analytical reports derived from these initiatives will support government institutions, as well as organizations involved in youth development, to make informed decisions and formulate evidence-based, polices and interventions.



# Core Functions and Cross-Cutting Issues



## Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

### *Enabling gender equality within UNODC and the UN System*

UNODC's Gender Team facilitates a variety of events to support Member States in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and contributes to international discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with the ultimate aim of ensuring a gender-responsive approach to policymaking and implementation. In this sense, UNODC, in collaboration with UN Women and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat and UNIDO, organized an Expert Group Meeting in Vienna, to assess progress on SDGs 10, 13 and 16 and consider the interlinkages between them from a gender perspective, as a contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2019. The meeting, which brought together experts from governments, academia, and civil society, discussed the latest evidence, good practices, challenges and data gaps, to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective in policies and practices at all levels, with particular emphasis on the principle of leaving no one behind.

As a direct contribution to the HLPF debate on barriers for transformative and lasting change, the EGM developed a set of catalytic and actionable recommendations to support the achievement of sustainable and resilient societies through the accelerated and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as related UN priorities on prevention and sustaining peace. The work of UNODC's Gender Team directly addresses SDG Target 5.1 by providing support for Member States to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.

## Significant result for 2019

### *Blue Heart Campaign: Raising awareness on Trafficking in Persons (TiP)*

In 2019, UNODC continued to encourage the involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector in the fight against TiP and the restoration of the dignity and humanity of the millions of victims of this crime worldwide. As a result of the international community's commitment to curbing this crime, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Peru, Romania and Sweden joined the *Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking*.

## OVERVIEW AND MAIN RESULTS

### *Enhancing change management*

#### Context and trends

The Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit (SPIA) forms part of the Public Affairs and Policy Support Branch and is responsible for two main policy and operational responses: i) Development of RBM frameworks, standards and procedures for programming purposes; and ii) Coordination with other United Nations agencies and selected international organizations on issues related to drugs, crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Unit supports substantive branches and sections of UNODC as well as its field offices in the development, monitoring and reporting of global, regional and country programmes. Additionally, SPIA assists the Office in developing the programme budget and implementation plan and ensure its alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the custodian of inter-agency Memoranda of Understanding, the Unit also facilitates strategic partnerships, regular strategic dialogue and joint action frameworks with other UN entities and international organizations. For example, the Unit made significant contributions to improve collaboration with UN Habitat in the area of urban safety governance through facilitating cooperation on field projects and the initiation of the drafting process at Headquarters of a joint programmatic framework, thereby furthering the linkages between UNODC's work, the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

One of the main challenges has been the dissemination of RBM tools across the Organization. Hence, SPIA has designed interactive material and practical exercises on RBM and the 2030 Agenda to develop an e-learning training course. This new tool is currently in production and will be made available to users on Inspira.

#### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, SPIA enhanced the capacity of UNODC staff on RBM aimed at fostering accountable and results oriented programmes and projects within UNODC. This work, with the support of the network of quality assurance focal points that was established by the Unit in 2016, is comprised of substantive global branches as well as the Division for Operations' regional sections, which are mandated to assist field offices in programme development and management and **contributed to UNODC improved adherence to principles of Project Cycle Management and RBM**. For instance, five logical frameworks

(logframes) of Global Programmes and three of Country Projects were submitted for project revision evidencing enhanced formulation of results. The Unit also conducts random quality control checks on project logframes at the global, regional and country levels and provides on the job support to the network of quality control focal points.

SPIA also contributed and participated in inter-agency fora on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a result, **UNODC incorporates the SDGs in all its documents and publications on crime prevention, criminal justice and drug control**. In 2019, UNODC prepared a Guidance Note on the SDGs, Human Rights, Gender and Sustainable Development in the 2030 Agenda, developed a compilation of all UNODC tools and publications relevant to the SDGs and created a brochure highlighting UNODC's contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, UNODC participated in the preparatory conference for the 2019 HLPF under the theme, *"Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: SDG 16 implementation and the path towards leaving no one behind"*, where progress made and challenges incorporating the SDGs were addressed.

### ***Enhancing programme oversight, knowledge management and UNODC field strategic position and involvement in UNDS reform***

#### **Context and trends**

The Division for Operations, comprising the regional and substantive sections, is responsible for strategic guidance and programmatic support at the country and regional levels, including by offering quality control, monitoring and oversight to ensure coherent and integrated UNODC field operations. The Division assists field offices in programme development, result based management, knowledge management, field office risk management and early warning systems, and involvement in UN reform streams and partnership development.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In 2019, the Division through its Regional Sections has maintained and ensured RBM oversight and provided support to field offices to reflect theories of change throughout the results chain in programme documents, including joint proposals to assist Member States in achieving the 2030 Development Agenda. Through cross divisional initiatives informed by the work of SPIA in following the reform of the UNDS, the Division supported the positioning and integration of UNODC programmes and mandates in Common Country Analysis and United Nations Sustainability Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). In this regard, UNODC contributed towards the development of the UNSDCF in Libya, Mauritius, Niger, Chile and Cambodia in UNODC mandate areas.

In addition, the Division also works to support the knowledge and application of UN Management Reform, including better inter-divisional understanding on common back offices, common offices, mutual recognition statement, Business Operations Strategy and Multi-Country Offices, through the systematic dissemination of information and guidance to field offices. The Division also supported the development and maintenance of Business Continuity Plans and the updating of risk management tools.

UNODC has prioritized knowledge management and established a "knowledge network", the SDG Community of Practitioners among colleagues from field offices and headquarters. This community has been fruitful in crystalizing the understanding across UNODC of the implementation of SDGs and the repositioning of UNODC within the United Nations Development System and in strengthening coordination with UN country teams as well as regional UN architecture. The inter-divisional network

holds quarterly virtual update meetings to share the latest developments, upcoming challenges and opportunities. The network also serves as a help-desk and maintains an online repository of UN reform policy and documents. **The network runs a quarterly mapping exercise collecting and analyzing data related to Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Cooperation Frameworks and provides substantive support such as the work of the Research and Analysis Branch in relation to SDG indicators and on the link between development and violence.**

Significant operational success was achieved in the course of 2019 through the deployment of “Surge” capacity to priority contexts in the field. This initiative, under which UNODC shifted core funding towards, made coordination capacities and expertise available in several locations including Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Mozambique, and UN headquarters in New York. Additionally, key thematic reform areas of counter-terrorism and migration, allowed UNODC to enhance its role in support of wider UN responses in these contexts during the reform transition year. Specifically, the Surge capacity contributed to enhanced recognition of UNODC’s role by UN and Government partners, facilitating inter-agency coordination and information exchange and contributing to the provision of integrated multi-agency technical assistance and joint programming under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators. In several cases, based on a clear need for sustained support, the Surge led to increased programme volume and sustainability of the engagements into 2020. In particular, in **Indonesia UNODC continued to operationalize, within the context of the RC’s Office, the ‘Peace Hub’**, a platform facilitating operational coordination of the UN-wide response to violent extremism in the country. **In Mozambique, the Surge deployment has led to increased and sustained requests for UNODC’s assistance from the Government, the UN country team and international partners.**

In 2019, the Division has started and/or strengthened its role in coordinating the UNODCs efforts to engage with and promote coherent and strategic inter-agency approach to cross-cutting issues such as **Security Sector Reform, Global Focal Point on Rule of Law (GFP) and Sexual Violence in Conflict**, among others. The Division represents UNODC in the inter-agency coordination mechanism including GFP and UN Action on Sexual Violence in Conflict, thus providing strategic guidance in policies in these areas.

### ***Mainstreaming of gender equality and women’s empowerment***

#### **Context and trends**

The *Global Programme on Gender* was established in 2017, in the Office of the Director General/Executive Director (ODG/OED) to ensure that UNOV and UNODC achieve gender equality, by promoting it in a coordinated and comprehensive way. These efforts include mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment into all areas of UNODC’s programmatic work and backing this up with strong accountability frameworks. The first Gender Equality Strategy for UNOV and UNODC came into effect in 2018 and the Action Plan for its implementation was approved in the same year. Notably, the adoption of the UNOV/UNODC Strategy and Action Plan in combination with senior management leadership have made gender equality issues more prominent in the work of the Offices, leading to an improvement in UNOV/UNODC’s performance on gender across its mandated areas of work and institutional practices.

In 2019, the Office maintained and expanded on the achievements made in 2018 by enhancing staff capacity on gender issues, developing gender mainstreaming tools, fostering external collaboration with stakeholders on gender and UNODC’s mandated areas of work, establishing a Network of Gender Strategy Focal Points, developing five UNODC thematic step-by-step guides on gender mainstreaming, expanding

technical assistance work on issues related to drugs and crime, targeting and evaluating efforts on gender and improving internal and external advocacy and communication.

### Progress made in 2019

The Gender Unit continued to implement the *Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018-2021)* and its Action Plan to promote gender mainstreaming into all areas of UNODC's work. **This contributed to UNODC scoring the highest rating of "Exceeds Requirements" in five categories of the UN-SWAP, compared to only one in 2017.** The Unit also enhanced Headquarter staff capacity on gender and developed different tools to incorporate gender perspectives in the project cycle stages ensuring that gender inclusive communication forms were an integral part of the Office's outreach material.

Moreover, UNODC established working groups and sessions, aimed at informing UNODC decision-making bodies, staff and Member States about the gender aspects of the Office's mandate. As a result, **UNODC raised awareness amongst relevant stakeholders on the achievements and progress of the gender programme.** For instance, UNODC organized informal "Food-for-Thought" sessions and, since 2017, has made "*Mainstreaming a gender perspective into the practices, policies and programmes of the UNODC*" a standing item of the Standing Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation of UNODC (FINGOV).

### Enhancing communication and public information

#### Context and trends

The Advocacy Section (AS) is part of the Public Affairs and Policy Support Branch and provides communication and advocacy support to the whole Organization, covering all thematic areas. UNODC's advocacy work aims to raise the profile of the Office as a global leader in tackling illicit drugs, crime and terrorism and to increase knowledge and understanding of these issues among a broad audience. Communication outputs are developed in line with the Secretary General's 'digital first' approach and the overall outreach priorities and frameworks are defined by the Department of Global Communications (DGC). This includes a major focus on the SDGs as well as cross-cutting issues of gender and human rights.

One of the key developments in 2019 was the adoption of the AS-led UNODC-wide implementation of the UN Secretary General's Bulletin on the "*Institutional Use of Social Media*". The purpose of this new policy is to provide all Secretariat entities with a legal and operational framework governing the establishment and use of their institutional social media accounts.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, UNODC produced and disseminated multimedia materials, aimed at enhancing communication and public information. As a result, **the Office increased attention on social media, as demonstrated by the increase in the number of partners, both within and beyond the UN family, as well as the growth in the number of followers on UNODC's corporate social media channels.** For instance, UNODC's corporate media channels have shown a rise in the number of followers in 2019 accordingly: Facebook by 9.3%, Twitter by 14.4%, LinkedIn by 88% and YouTube by 38.8%. Follower numbers on the various language Twitter channels have also increased: Russian by 11.2%, French by 32.3% and Spanish by 4.7%. Additionally, UNODC website views grew by 13.3%. Moreover, **UNODC developed a weekly series of minute-long videos summarizing the Office's work of the respective week.**

UNODC engaged with multiple stakeholders to raise awareness on TiP and related issues in support of UNODC's mandate. As a result, **UNODC's Blue Heart Campaign received increased attention as demonstrated by the 14 countries that joined the Campaign, nearly doubling the number of supporting countries.** As part of its awareness raising efforts, UNODC organized a special event on the *Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking* during the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

### ***Contributing to accountability and evaluation-based decision-making***

#### **Context and trends**

Accountability and evaluation-based decision-making in UNODC's response to drugs, crime and terrorism is critical to the organization's infrastructure. The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) plays a critical role in contributing to these by conducting independent evaluations at the policy, programme and project levels. The evaluation architecture in the UN system experiences a call for renewal and change, steered by the United Nations Evaluation Group, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in conjunction with the Secretary General's reform.

IES fully contributes to building an infrastructure within and beyond UNODC, addressing the demand for joint and system-wide evaluation, as well as coordination and cooperation with oversight functions. This is also reflected in respective resolutions, with the expectation from Member States that national evaluation capacity building is supported. IES invests in sustainable instruments by building innovative, evaluation knowledge management systems and products, thereby meeting demands within and beyond UNODC. Examples of this include a Meta-Synthesis of all evaluations from 2017-2018 and the web-based evaluation management and knowledge sharing tool, *Unite Evaluations*, that is now being used for all UNODC independent evaluations. In addition, communicating evaluation results and advocating for the use of evaluation recommendations has been a key priority. Modalities range from offering evaluation briefs, newsletters, and bilateral and multilateral briefings both at Headquarters and in the field.

#### **Progress made in 2019**

In response, in 2019, the IES improved UNODC and partner countries' accountability and evaluation-based decision-making in line with the UNODC Evaluation Policy and Evaluation Norms and Standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). As a result, **evaluation findings triggered organizational learning to make UNODC more efficient and effective. In addition, evaluation results, shared in different fora, generated opportunities for knowledge-sharing and dialogue among UNODC management, Member States and other key stakeholders.** For instance, in 2019, IES managed and completed 12 evaluations, with an additional 18 ongoing. One of the most innovative aspects was the direct engagement with the EU to ensure utility of recommendations, making it a model for future evaluations.

Additionally, UNODC engaged with UNODC's Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa, UN Resident Coordinators and UNEG to strengthen national evaluation capacity in line with General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/237 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a result, **Morocco presented its experience in evaluating public policies related to the SDGs, as well as progress made in institutionalizing evaluation practice. The partnership with IES was regarded as a "case of good practice to further develop".** To support this process, IES continued engaging in capacity building to internal and external stakeholders, through technical support and the development of evaluation guidelines, templates and tools.

## Engaging Civil Society

### Context and trends

The UNODC Civil Society Team (CST) aids in the implementation of the international conventions on drugs, corruption and organized crime, by building on the synergy between civil society, UNODC and Member States. The purpose of the Global Programme, *Looking Beyond: Towards a Strategic Engagement with Civil Society on Anti-Corruption, and Drugs and Crime Prevention* is to increase CSOs' understanding of conventions falling under UNODC's mandate and enable them to promote their implementation at global, regional, national and local levels.

Over the year, CST continued to increase civil society organisations (CSO), academia and private sector engagement in the conventions falling under UNODC's mandates. As such, UNODC recognizes the need to promote strong partnerships with civil society organizations in dealing with the complex issues of drug abuse, corruption and crime which undermine the fabric of society. The active involvement of civil society, which includes NGOs, community groups, labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations and foundations is essential to help UNODC carry out its global mandates.

### Progress made in 2019

In response, in 2019, CST continued to foster cooperation between Member States, CSOs and UNODC. As a result, **Member States engage in enhanced dialogue with CSOs, academia and the private sector on all subject matters under the mandate of UNODC, facilitating the effective participation of civil society in intergovernmental meetings and communication with relevant stakeholders.** In total, 500 CSO representatives attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> CND and its Ministerial Segment, 171 CSO representatives attended the 28<sup>th</sup> CCPJ and 244 CSO representatives attended the eight session of the CoSP to the UNCAC.

In addition, CST launched a new project to build the capacity and prepare NGOs, private sector, and academia to support Member States in the implementation of UNTOC and to facilitate their broad and inclusive participation in the review process at the national level, in line with Resolution 9/1 of UNTOC. **Through several recommendations made by NGO, private sector and academic stakeholders, CST initiated the drafting of a Civil Society Guide, in partnership with the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime and a Stakeholder Engagement (SE4U) Training Toolkit on UNTOC engagement, and fostered dialogue with three Member States to facilitate country-specific pilot initiatives.** For instance, CST supported a workshop to Ensure Safer and Sustainable Cities in the margins of the 68<sup>th</sup> UN Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City, USA, demonstrating how civil society can meaningfully contribute to the successful implementation of UNTOC.

Regarding drug prevention, CST facilitated civil society's participatory role and contribution to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration aimed at strengthening CSO actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of the African Union commitments to address and counter the world drug problem. **As a result, a draft civil society common position paper on how African CSOs can forge a plan of action in line with the African Union's Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2019-2023) and other regional treaties and conventions was discussed and agreed between 25 CSOs representing 12 African countries.**

Finally, CST enhanced capacity of NGOs from Ethiopia, Philippines and Colombia on the implementation of the UNCAC. **As a result, 115 representatives of civil society, private sector and Governments increased**

their knowledge on the Convention and learned how to support its implementation, with some of them engaging directly in their country's second UNCAC review cycle. Moreover, CST supported five East African NGOs through anti-corruption grants, enabling them to engage in public procurement and whistleblower protection. One of these initiatives, in Uganda reached out to over 400 beneficiaries through a series of advocacy and awareness raising tools.



## Progress on mainstreaming human rights

### *Improving whistleblower protection to counter corruption*

Corruption is an enormous obstacle to the realization of all human rights. In this regard, CST embeds human rights considerations into its anti-corruption training curricula. For example, in April 2019, CST in coordination with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Coalition and the Austrian Development Agency, hosted a workshop to train 27 civil society and 26 government representatives from 15 African countries on implementing UNCAC principles. During the workshop, representatives discussed whistleblower protections including how to design and implement effective protective measures using a human rights-based approach, underlining that human rights and constitutional rights can play a decisive role in adjudicating whistleblower cases. For example, if cases need to be judged where an individual went to the public or to a newspaper.



## Progress on mainstreaming gender

### *Ensuring gender equality in evaluation practices*

UNODC's Independent Evaluation Section (IES) identified good practices for conducting gender responsive evaluations. Likewise, IES stepped up efforts in mainstreaming gender equality in all evaluation processes, guidelines, templates and evaluation-based knowledge products in line with the UN Gender SWAP Evaluation Performance Indicators. In 2019, gender parity was reached in the use of female evaluators and experts for In-depth evaluations. Additionally, female representation of key stakeholders increased, due to systematic follow up to the recording of gender-disaggregated data along with outreach efforts to female stakeholders in evaluation processes.



## Progress on empowering youth

### *#Youth2030: Enabling the UN Youth Strategy*

The Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs (SPIA) Unit coordinates internal youth-focused efforts by contributing to the development of the system-wide *UN Youth Strategy* and mapping youth related activities across the Office. Over the course of the year, the Unit was successful in positioning youth-focused initiatives at the forefront, for example through including mandatory reporting mechanisms on youth initiatives, such as in the Results-Based Annual Report for 2019. One of the most significant achievements, was UNODC's adherence to the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security. The participation in these inter-agency groups enables UNODC to contribute towards the achievement of the *UN Youth Strategy* and fosters the engagement of youth as positive agents for change across the Office's interventions.

