



From left to right: UNODC law enforcement training in Kenya; Alternative development initiative in Thailand; a staff member in the laboratory at UNODC headquarters, Vienna, Austria.

UNODC: who we are and what we do

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) contributes to global peace and security, sustainable development and human rights by helping to make the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism.

UNODC provides technical assistance, research and normative support to Member States to help them develop and implement comprehensive, evidence-based solutions to the complex and interconnected threats that they face at the national, regional and global levels. In today's challenging times, our work is needed more than ever.

Our efforts center on protecting people and our planet from criminal exploitation through inclusive, sustainable, human rights-based approaches. Headquartered in Vienna with a network of over 130 offices around the world, UNODC advances justice, health and security to build resilient societies and improve everyday life for individuals, families and communities around the globe.

What we do

UNODC works in all regions of the world through our normative expertise, our research, our regional and global programmes and our extensive network of field offices to help Member States in:



Tackling the world drug problem

through balanced, evidence-based responses to address drug abuse and drug use disorders, as well as the production and trafficking of illicit drugs



Preventing corruption

by promoting integrity and good governance and helping recover stolen assets



Countering terrorism

through effective, accountable and inclusive legal, crime prevention and criminal justice measures in line with international norms and the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy



Combating organized crime

by providing technical assistance and support and strengthening international cooperation to address organized criminal activity and all forms of trafficking



Preventing crime and promoting criminal justice

through human rights-based and victim-centered approaches that strengthen the rule of law and access to justice



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

All of UNODC's work supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



From left to right: Integrity workshop in partnership with the private sector; UNODC Container Control Programme officer at work in the Port of Santos in Brazil; teaching youth about wildlife crime and how to conserve the environment at the Vienna Museum of Natural History.

UNODC's unique strengths

UNODC's normative, research and technical assistance work are mutually reinforcing, which helps us to work with governments and other stakeholders to rapidly identify new trends and threats, develop effective responses to counter them and support Member States in taking strategic action.

Global expertise and broad field presence provide specialized assistance to Member States

Research, data collection and policy analysis create a strong, evidence-based foundation for policies and operational approaches

Role as guardian of international crime and corruption conventions and Secretariat of global UN policy bodies on drugs, crime and corruption ensures normative support for multilateral policymaking

Partnerships

UNODC cooperates with a wide range of stakeholders to maximize the impact of our work. These include governments, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, the private sector, international and regional organizations and other UN entities.

We also foster South-South cooperation between countries facing similar challenges to share know-how and good practices.

Funding

UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from governments, to carry out the majority of our work.

The UNODC Strategy 2021-2025 is committed to promoting human rights, gender equality and disability inclusion, as well as protecting children and harnessing the transformative power of youth.



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