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

Annual Report 2019
Together Making the Region Safer from Drugs, Crime and Terrorism
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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Central Asia

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Together Making the Region Safer from Drugs, Crime and Terrorism
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LULU       Line Up Live Up
MOI        Ministry of Internal Affairs
MUN        Model United Nations
NPS        New Psychoactive Substance
OSCE       Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PNR        Passenger Name Record
PVE        Prevention of Violent Extremism
PWID       People Who Inject Drugs
QMS        Quality Management System
ROCA       Regional Office for Central Asia
SCO        Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SDG        Sustainable Development Goals
SFIS       State Financial Intelligence Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
SFP        Strengthening Families Programme
TIP        Trafficking in Persons
UAV        Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UN         United Nations
UNCAC      UN Convention Against Corruption
UN-CTS     The UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems,
UNCT       United Nations Country Team
UNDAF      United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
UN-IAFQ    United Nations Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire
UNODC      United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCRs     United Nations Security Council Resolutions
UNSDCF     United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNTOC      United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime
UTC        Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders
VEPs       Violent Extremist Prisoners
WIUT       Westminster International University in Tashkent
I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for Central Asia (UNODC ROCA) which showcases the cooperation with countries in the broader region of Central Asia and South Caucasus in 2019, to make it safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a guardian of conventions against drugs, crime and corruption, and as a lead provider of assistance to implement the drug conventions and the global counter-terrorism instruments, as well as UN standards and norms on crime prevention and criminal justice, UNODC continued to support the countries in the region to address threats to peace and security and achieve progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2019, UNODC ROCA delivered over USD 15.5 million in technical assistance based on a coordinated, integrated and harmonized response to security and development challenges in line with principles of leaving no one behind, gender equality, human rights, and building resilience. A more diversified portfolio of initiatives allowed to make considerable strides in countering traditional and emerging threats of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism in the region, in addition to fostering criminal justice reforms and strengthening anti-corruption measures. We have promoted evidence-based drug demand reduction and HIV prevention strategies, improving access to treatment services and strengthened forensic research and trends analysis capabilities.

UNODC is pleased to see greater regional cooperation that is leading to not only developing trade and transport corridors necessary for the much-needed economic growth for the region but also has opened an environment for mutual cooperation for addressing the security related issues. The Office has provided and continues to provide support in these developments through duly addressing potential vulnerabilities that arise from intentions of transnational criminal groups, including terrorist groups to exploit increasing integration, new infrastructure and networks, for their nefarious purposes. For instance, UNODC supported a series of high-level strategic meetings that took place across the region aimed at, inter alia, addressing the consequences of continuing record high levels of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan; contributed to strengthened cross-border cooperation and information exchange to prevent drug trafficking and other criminal activities along with facilitation of legitimate trade.

In 2019, some countries in the region conducted humanitarian operations to repatriate their nationals, mostly women and children, from the Syrian conflict zone. This is an important sign for other countries who have been more reluctant in bringing back their nationals. UNODC, recognizing the considerable work required to facilitate the successful reintegration and rehabilitation of these citizens, initiated targeted programmes to enhance the knowledge and capacities of relevant national authorities in implementing age and gender-based rehabilitation and reintegration measures, as well as strengthening prison administration on management of violent extremist prisoners and foreign terrorist fighters in compliance with the applicable international law.
While we take pride in our achievements to enable healthy lives and the enjoyment of rights, safer communities and prosperity in the region, we also remain firmly focused on the future, always seeking to enhance partnerships for greater results.

In view of the fact that youth constitute more than half of the population in the region, we all need to continue leading a coordinated response to guarantee safe and secure lives and ensure prosperity of the young generation. This is our shared responsibility to ensure that the region remains safe from drugs and crime that have far reaching impact on the countries, communities, families and young people.

The 2030 Agenda clearly recognizes that the rule of law and fair, effective and humane justice systems, as well as health-oriented responses to drug use, are all enablers for and part of sustainable development. UNODC, with its broad mandates in addressing drugs and transnational organized crime, and many years of experience in providing capacity building across the wide spectrum of criminal justice issues, continues to support the governments in fulfilling their commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets. UNODC continues to work with other UN agencies and the development partners on capacity enhancement on SDG monitoring.

There can be no sustainable development without rule of law and no rule of law without human rights. In 2019, UNODC closely cooperated with judicial systems in the region to ensure rule of law and equal access to justice, through development of the capacity and standards of state institutions, supporting the lawmaking, and aligning the existing legislation with international norms and standards, as well as, enhancing the humane conditions of people in detention. We are strongly committed to continue our efforts to promote rule of law and support important criminal justice reforms taking place in the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, civil society, UN sister agencies and other partners for their continued engagement in promoting peace, security and sustainable development. The achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the generous contribution of our donors, for which we are extremely grateful.

We look forward for our continued cooperation in making the region safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2020, other regional and global initiatives. In 2020, we will be working on development of the next cycle of the Programme for 2021-2025 and I welcome our key national counterparts to engage in this process in order to ensure that our partnership is developed in line with national priorities and needs.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UN Resident Coordinators and international organizations in Central Asia and South Caucasus for their cooperation and partnership. I would like also to note the continuous support, dedication and professionalism of my colleagues both at UNODC Headquarters and in the region.

Sincerely,
Ashita Mittal
UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Eleventh Meeting of the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation. Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The Fourth Programme Steering Committee Meeting of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia, 2015-2020. Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on Inter-Regional Network of Customs Authorities and Port Control Units within the framework of the Global Container Control Programme of UNODC and the World Customs Organization. Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The 54th Session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

International Scientific-Practical Conference on Effective Measures for Countering International Terrorism, Extremism, Drug Trafficking, Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons as Major Border Security Threats of the CIS. Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Signing of the Plan of Practical Measures (Road map) on Further Development of Cooperation of Turkmenistan with UNODC, 2019-2021. Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
Annual Report

20th Anniversary of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Conference on "100 Days against Trafficking in Persons". Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Signing ceremony of the implementation of the joint UN program "Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and prevention of radicalization to violence in prison facilities". Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

International practical forum on prisoner risks assessment and classification. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Youth Forum "Youth for Justice leads the change" organized within annual Vth Anti-corruption Conference. Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

UNODC-WCO CCP Black Sea 2nd Regional Steering Committee Meeting. Tbilisi, Georgia

Conference on "100 Days against Trafficking in Persons". Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

20th Anniversary of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan
The World Drug Report, 2019, states that **2.21 million people** between ages 15 and 64 had used drugs at least once in Central Asia and South Caucasus in 2017. It is estimated that there are approximately **338,000 people who inject drugs (PWID)** in the region, and around **7% of them** are thought to be living with HIV. Drug use often criminalized and stigmatized throughout the region. Therefore, countries need to reconsider punitive laws and measures, such as detention centres and drug-registers that form prominent barriers to addressing the problems of PWID. To ensure human rights perspective for all, UNODC promotes preventive, evidence-informed, accessible and available treatment and rehabilitation for PWIDs.

**Drug Users**

HIV among PWID is still significant. This is the second predominant route of HIV transmission and in 2017, **39%** of new HIV cases in the region were among this group. Stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV and key populations remains high with restrictive and punitive legislation creating barriers for the key populations accessing HIV services. Furthermore, this prevents getting more accurate data on the size of the key population and building evidence-based prevention measures. UNODC works on developing the capacity of government and non-government institutions, provides support to trust points, and conducts advocacy and outreach activities to ensure better access to services by persons affected by HIV.

**Persons Affected by HIV**

Children and youth make around **60%** of population of Central Asia. The most critical vulnerable groups of children include orphans, street children, children in conflict with law, who often face emotional and behavioral problems while prone to violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, trafficking, sexual exploitation and terrorism. UNODC works with such children to help them to resist negative peer pressures, cope with anxiety, communicate effectively and train valuable life skills that increase adaptive and positive behavior, addressing vulnerabilities that are linked to violence, crime as well as drug use. Besides promoting the use of sports in the context of crime prevention policies and programmes, UNODC trains coaches and physical education teachers, assists sport infrastructure development in remote areas of the country.

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1 UNAIDS (2018) Country factsheets:
Victims of violence, especially gender-based violence (GBV) are in most cases women and girls, whose health, dignity, security and autonomy are undermined, stemming from unequal power relationships, who suffer from physical, sexual, or psychological harm. Being prejudiced by the social norms in the communities, GBV victims are often reluctant to turn to police and to seek for justice. UNODC supports Central Asian countries in enhancing the potential of women in law enforcement and the criminal justice system and promoting coordinated responses to gender-based violence.

In Central Asia, UNODC promotes the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing protocols to address trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM). Official crime statistics for victims of trafficking in persons are understated in the Central Asian region and don’t demonstrate the full victimization picture of TIP crimes. As per official data, trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour ranges around 45 to 48% of victims reported. The share of male victims is slightly smaller than the share of women. Adults account for 92% of all detected victims. The share of detected child trafficking remains minimal compared to other parts of the world, and more boys are trafficked compared to girls.

Incarcerated people, estimated over 120,000, remain among the most vulnerable in the region. The majority of prisoners, in Central Asia come from low-income and working-class backgrounds. As inmates, they are unable to give consent or exercise autonomy over their treatment and are subject to the power of prison staff. In Central Asia, UNODC works to promote implementation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) focusing i.a. on the introduction of alternatives to incarceration, establishment of prison rehabilitation and social reintegration and implementation of HIV prevention and harm reduction strategies in prison.

The repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children affected by the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) phenomenon is of critical importance. In 2019, several countries in the region conducted special humanitarian operations to bring their nationals back from conflict zones in the Middle East. In total, Kazakhstan repatriated 609 citizens, Tajikistan 84 and Uzbekistan 220.

To support Member States’ efforts in assisting the returnees, UNODC builds capacities using its “Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System” and three training manuals on prevention, justice responses, and rehabilitation and reintegration of these children. Based on these tools, UNODC facilitated regional dialogue and cooperation with national authorities from five Central Asian States, Armenia and Azerbaijan. In addition, UNODC organized technical needs assessment missions to identify needs, gaps and opportunities to strengthen laws, practices and the capacity of professionals in preventing and responding to this issue.
PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES WITH STRONG INSTITUTIONS
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR COUNTERING DRUG, TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME, AND TERRORISM

In 2019, UNODC ROCA sought to connect the Central Asian law enforcement agencies through providing platforms for a collective response to counter illicit drugs, diversion of precursor chemicals and transnational organized crime and terrorism. Setting a collective response to such threats, accentuates coordination of activities and strengthening of linkages at country, sub-regional, and global levels, thus providing technical assistance in the field of law enforcement, including establishment of new infrastructure, enhancing capacity and developing cooperation through joint operations and meetings.

The issue of transnational organized crime, particularly the smuggling of illicit opiates from Afghanistan and the emergence of new psychoactive substances increases relevance of UNODC's work in Central Asia. To further facilitate the regional cooperation, UNODC supported the Eleventh review meeting of the Parties to the Memorandum of Understanding on Sub-Regional Drug Control Cooperation, which was held on 2-3 May 2019 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting was hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan and attended by more than 100 participants and delegates. The meeting brought together high-level officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Komilov; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhriddin; the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Araz Azimov; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Mr. Azizbek Madmarov; the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Ovezdurdy Hojanyyazov; the Chief Executive Officer, Health Services, of the Aga Khan Development Network, Mr. Mahbat Bakhromov; the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) H.E. Mr. Vladimir Norov, as a special guest, as well as high-level representatives of the international partners and donors such as INL, EU, OSCE etc. UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yury Fedotov also took part in the Ministerial segment of the meeting on 3 May 2019. "The MoU continues to provide a strong platform for discussing drug control in the region and beyond, and to identify priorities for cooperation in addressing drug abuse, illicit drug..."
trafficking and related transnational organized crime”, said Mr. Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director. As an outcome of this meeting, the Ministerial Declaration was adopted by the Ministers/Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Parties to the MoU to further strengthen the joint commitment to addressing illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.

To address the world drug problems in a multilateral setting, and to enhance international cooperation and promote integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced, scientifically evidence-based and comprehensive approach, UNODC supported the 54th Session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, generously hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan on 23-27 September, in Tashkent. Representatives from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UK, the United Arab Emirates, USA, Uzbekistan and Yemen, as well as experts from over 20 international organizations met to discuss the current situation of regional and sub-regional cooperation in the area of illicit drug traffic and related matters. To ensure that the session would meet the needs of the main beneficiaries, youth and children, the Government of Uzbekistan jointly with UNODC organized a special youth session during the Subcommission meeting. The intervention by the youth allowed an important voice to be heard and sharing their vision and thoughts on the matter, and young boys and girls had an opportunity to address the delegates and articulate their concerns and ways to solve the drug problems among youth.

In 2019, UNODC ROCA supported and contributed to the organization of five side-events during the 62nd session of the CND. During separate side-events, organized by Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, country representatives provided updates on drug policies, the drug situation and information on innovative methods to address drug issues. Moreover, UNODC conducted a separate side-event on outcomes and recommendations of the in-depth thematic cluster evaluation on UNODC’s law enforcement and border control sub-programme and related projects in Central Asia. During this side-event the evaluation findings and recommendations were presented to participants. UNODC also joined the side-event organized by the SCO on how UN and SCO are preventing narcotic drugs, through strengthening the cooperation on international drug control.

The UNODC Initiative on Strengthening Control along the Tajik-Afghan Border, being implemented in line with the “National Border Management Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan” adopted for 2010-2025, provided technical support to the Border Forces of the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan in organization of the International Scientific-Practical Conference.
on Effective Measures for Countering International Terrorism, Extremism, Drug Trafficking, Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons as Major Border Security Threats of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Member States, held in Dushanbe, on 26 February 2019. The event was attended by representatives of the border agencies of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, who discussed the need to develop additional measures to ensure border security at the external borders of the CIS member states in the context of the present-day challenges and threats emanating from the territory of Afghanistan.

Within the Global Container Control Programme (CCP), UNODC facilitated the establishment of the Inter-Regional Network of Customs Authorities and Port Control Units (IREN) aimed to identify and suppress high-risk consignments. On 22 May 2019, the Heads of Customs Authorities of Afghanistan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan committed to further fostering customs cooperation by signing the Memorandum of Understanding on the Inter-Regional Network of Customs Authorities and Port Control Units in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Furthermore, CCP developed a list of focal points of the Network from relevant law enforcement agencies of nine mentioned countries and shared consolidated list with all participating countries. Currently, the PCUs of Central Asian and wider region are exchanging/requesting an information/data on high-risk consignments within the Interregional Network.
UNODC ROCA continued to provide its support to the countries in the region in implementing a balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach to the drug problem. Through maintaining close cooperation with national drug control agencies, the Office supported national legislation on drug control, national operational capacities on drug law enforcement, capacities of competent authorities in maintaining the legal turnover of controlled narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors under the ratified UN conventions. Considering that the scale of drug trafficking is too significant for states to confront alone, UNODC encouraged transnational and cross-border approaches for action. The importance of this role and assistance assumes further significance due to extremely high figures of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, which reached record levels in recent years.

In Uzbekistan, UNODC continued its support to the government in strengthening the Interagency Mobile Teams (IMT), established in 2018 with financial support from the Government of Japan. Establishment of IMT units enabled significant increase in inter-agency cooperation and coordination in countering drug trafficking and allowed for more effective joint operations between relevant agencies. This institutional framework created a new platform to cooperate and coordinate.
activities from operative level to strategic planning and analysis. Operative and investigate officers under the IMT structure can shortcut usual administrative procedures and develop an operation or a case, in close cooperation with their colleagues in other agencies. IMT officers act as focal points to mobilize all the required resources of their respective agencies. Initial information received by any party is instantly shared with all involved officers and each side applies their own strengths and advantages for the success of the case. The IMT Operation Coordination Team, which gathers senior level officers, oversees and coordinates the work of the IMT units at strategic level. As a result of this cooperation, differences and specifics of various law enforcement agencies become an added advantage.

In 2019, the IMT initiative in Uzbekistan was provided with a range of technical and specialised equipment, including for search and surveillance as well as vehicles necessary for the mobility of the IMT units. In 2019, IMT initiative developed the capacity of 354 law enforcement officers through 13 training programmes. The provided training courses were intended to improve the quality and quantity of drug seizures and involved the skilled experts from a number of different countries, who shared knowledge and skills relevant to the work of the IMTs. In 2019, IMT conducted over 230 joint operations, in the course of which over 150 drug-related crimes were suppressed and over 180 kg of various types of drugs were seized. While the idea of inter-agency cooperation is not new in the region, this is the first successful implementation of the concept of mobile interagency counter-narcotics units at such a wide scale in Central Asia. Thus, the experience comes with valuable lessons for other countries in the region willing to implement a similar initiative.
The “Drug Law Enforcement Systems for Criminal Intelligence Collection, Analysis and Exchange and Pilot Intelligence Led Policing” initiative (ILP), funded by the US State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, enhanced the law enforcement officers’ skills and knowledge in intelligence gathering and information management to support ongoing investigations by creating and providing sophisticated analytical reports. In 2019, seven “Intelligence analysis” and “Intelligence led policing” trainings were provided to over 126 law enforcement officers/analysts at different levels. The ILP concept was introduced in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, training modules developed and adapted to the local requirements. Provided courses enabled law enforcement officers and analysts to draw on their respective strengths and share intelligence products with agency decision makers to enable them using the intelligence to identify hotspots, repeat offenders, threats and risks. ILP compliments community policing, which aims to build trust and develop communication between police and the public.

Combatting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking requires a new, innovative approach from national authorities and UNODC. In 2019, UNODC started a new project “Establishment of Mobile Operational Teams in the Kyrgyz Republic”, funded by the Russian Federation. UNODC brought its best expertise to bear and made this project innovative not only for the law-enforcement agencies in Kyrgyzstan, but also for other neighboring countries. Thus, Mobile operative teams will be provided with two high-tech searching complexes, consisting of multi-terrain vehicle platform and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The UAVs, in turn, to be equipped with high resolution cameras, allowing to monitor vast ground areas, identify suspicious or illegal activities, track criminals and their vehicles day or night. As the first step in implementation of the project, UNODC facilitated establishment of an interagency working group, represented by 12 law-enforcement and civil agencies, with the purpose to unify technical specifications for
the search complexes (multi-terrain vehicle, and UAV), bring synergy (for example, UAV to be used in interests of all law-enforcement agencies) and contribute to improvement and development of relevant legal acts, regulating the use of UAVs. The next step is to deliver special training and procure the equipment. The project's successful implementation will allow Kyrgyz law-enforcement agencies to save and optimize resources, identify new channels of smuggling drugs, trafficking of human beings, illegal cultivation, better investigate transnational crimes by identifying and collecting new evidences and provide faster incidence response.

"Today, we are at a very important stage in our joint activities, because it is repeatedly emphasized at various international forums that organized crime is better equipped in comparison to agencies, countries that counter them. The ability to equip mobile operational teams will strengthen their technical potential in the fight against organized transnational crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, and will make an important contribution to ensuring the security and stability of our societies."

Mr. Alexey Rogov, Deputy Director of the Department of New Challenges and Threats of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Within the initiative “Support to Drug Control in Kyrgyzstan”, funded by the Government of Japan, UNODC procured all necessary equipment, vehicles, initiated construction of administrative facilities for the Counter-Narcotics Service in Talas, Jalal-Abad, and Karkyra. An important component of the initiative is deployment of Drug Liaison Officers (DLO) in neighboring countries. Since DLOs started their work, international cooperation between law-enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan and neighboring countries increased and resulted in commencement of joint counter-narcotics operations. With the aim of strengthening control over licit drugs, UNODC supported development of the National Electronic License System for the Department of Medicaments Supply of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic. This system is unique in Central Asia.

During 2019, UNODC concertedy implemented activities related to licit (legal) turnover of narcotic drugs. The Ministry of Healthcare of the Kyrgyz Republic issued two Decrees on: (1) establishment of technical working group and (2) conducting country wide study/research on accessibility of pain relief opioids to the population. The Technical Working Group started to work on development of the amendments to the governmental decrees, which would regulate turnover of medical opioids, their storage and prescription rules. Moreover, to strengthen the capacity of the staff of Licit Drug Trafficking Department, UNODC organized three study tours to Georgia, Belarus and Japan, renovated the new premises of the Department, provided new IT equipment and two vehicles.

Within the “Strengthening Capacities of the Analytical Unit of the CNS”, funded by the Government of USA, UNODC developed the capacity of analytical officers, refurbished the premises of analytical unit, provided special software for intelligence analysis (IBM i2, ArcGIS), equipment and furniture. The Analytical Unit will work closely with Mobile Operational Teams and process the data collected by UAVs to support the operations and provide strategic analysis (identification of new smuggling routes, illegal crops, laboratories, etc.). The Analytical Unit became the core element of the Counter-Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs that integrated and multiplied the results of other counter-narcotics initiatives.

In 2019, UNODC's activities in the region focused on the delivery of training courses on different aspects of countering synthetic drugs and NPS ranging from introductory and theoretical topics to hands-on training, procurement of specialized equipment and promoting regional cooperation through joint activities including meetings, regional workshops and regional operations addressing NPS issues. In the Kyrgyz Republic, UNODC and the Counter-Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs developed a road map for tackling the problem of NPS and use of Dark-Net for smuggling drugs.
UNODC strengthened the institutional and operational capacity of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, which contributed to a seizure of 292 kg of drugs in 2019, including: 142 kg of hashish/cannabis, 76 kg of opium and 67 kg of heroin, as well as three joint operations (at international level), including one with Afghanistan and two with Russian Federation’s law enforcement counterparts, as a result of all joint operations, 53 kg of heroin was seized.

On 4th of August 2019, in Kara-Kul, Jalal-Abad region, officers of the MOI of Kyrgyzstan averted the smuggling of Afghan opiates intended to be delivered through the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation, and beyond to European countries, wherein, 44.8 kg of heroin was expertly concealed in a truck purportedly transporting fruits. The wholesale price of this shipment at illegal market of Central Asia is about 440,000 USD, and at least 1 million USD at its intended destination. Shortly after that, on 10 August 2019, another operation resulted in seizure of over 13 kg of heroin in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (wholesale price at local illegal market is estimated in amount of 200,000.00 USD). This channel of smuggling of heavy drugs from Afghanistan through the Northern Route was also dismantled because of intensive operative and analytical work of the counter-narcotics officers. The Minister of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. K. Dzhunushaliev noted in his letter to Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yuri Fedotov that these two operations became possible due to invaluable support, delivered by UNODC.

Within the initiative on **Strengthening Control along the Tajik-Afghan Border** with financial support of the Government of Japan, the “Paivand” Border Outpost, located along the Tajik-Afghan border, was opened after finalization of the construction works. The Border Outpost “Paivand” is the tenth site constructed with the support of UNODC. Earlier, “Bakhorak”, “Bog”, “Sari Gor”, “Shogun”, “Yol”, “Yakhchi Pun”, “Takhti Sangin” border outposts, and “Tagnob” and ‘Ushturmullo” border posts were rehabilitated and constructed with the support of UNODC, and as a part of national border strengthening concept. Apart of the construction works, the Border Outpost was supplied with office and domestic equipment, furniture and other appliances. And, the officers of the border outposts and posts of this stretch at the Tajik-Afghan border were trained on border control skills, to improve collection and analyses of data, to prevent illegal border crossings, profiling and detection of drug couriers.
Central Asia is experiencing a significant transformation. The pace of interaction among Central Asian States has grown considerably and this provides opportunities for greater regional cooperation, especially in trade, transportation, the resolution of border disputes and regional security. Many of the improvements to transport and border controls provide transnational criminals and terrorists the means to expand their networks. Therefore, UNODC’s assistance to the Central Asian states must be cognizant of both the benefits that greater cooperation brings and the threats that it presents.

To provide the Central Asian States with technical assistance, interlink the national and regional level efforts, UNODC utilizes a mechanism of integrated response to drugs related challenges and border security issues. The organization’s initiatives strengthen both national interagency coordination, and regional cross-border cooperation via establishing Border Liaison Offices, Port Control Units, Border Outposts and Interagency Mobile Teams in the Central Asia States. Additionally, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) serves as the information and coordination platform for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The Border Cooperation Component of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia is designed to counter the trafficking of Afghan opiates through the Northern Route by establishing border liaison offices (BLOs) at the key border crossing points (BCPs) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is the first UNODC initiative to establish BLOs in Central Asia and is considered as a key element for enhanced cross-border communication and intelligence-sharing in order to detect and intercept smuggling, including narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals, while facilitating legitimate international trade.

In 2019, the component held regular training courses at national and regional levels, as well as supported the standardization of information sharing and reporting mechanisms for interagency and cross-border communication at the selected BCPs. The Component activities go in line with and...
pursue the accomplishment of UN Sustainable Development Goals with particular focus on SDG 16 to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. To date, UNODC assisted in establishing 15 BLOs in geographically remote and potentially vulnerable checkpoints on the Kazakh-Kyrgyz (2), Uzbek-Tajik (4), Kyrgyz-Tajik (4), Kyrgyz-Uzbek (2), Uzbek-Afghan (1) and Tajik-Afghan (2) borders. The offices are equipped with the necessary high-tech and specialized analytical software enabling the analysis of the database information. Furthermore, UNODC is working on establishing four additional BLOs that are to be located on the Uzbek-Kazakh border and at railway BCPs on the Uzbek-Tajik borders.

UNODC supported the first bilateral meeting of heads of Operational Departments of Kyrgyz and Tajik border services in 3+1 format, which was held in Karakol, Kyrgyzstan on 17-18 June 2019. The meeting aimed at exchange information on existing challenges and threats in the region and to discuss the current situation on the shared border. It was also agreed to intensify efforts in countering illegal activities at the jointly guarded section of the border and intensify contacts at various levels between the Operational Departments of the Kyrgyz and Tajik border services.

UNODC supported the inauguration of a new BLO located at “Kordai” BCP on the Kazakh-Kyrgyz border on 31 May 2019. Along with BLO, the Project also established a training classroom with a computer-based interactive multimedia training program aligned with UNODC overall drug control and crime prevention strategies in the region, adjusted for legal, procedural, language and cultural aspects of the Central Asian states. The establishment of BLO at BCP “Kordai” contributed to the achievement of the SDG targets 16.A to strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

In 2019, UNODC organized study visits for Customs authorities of Uzbekistan to the Customs Administration of Turkey (on 27-30 January 2019) and Serbian Customs Administration (on 12-14 February 2019) with the purpose to familiarize with the work of the Command Centers established there in order to apply good practices in establishing the Situation Center. Study visits enabled Uzbek counterparts to learn the experiences of their colleagues, including first-hand requirements and procedures for setting up and proper maintenance of the Center and determining the right direction
for the establishment of the Situation Center under the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, namely with regard to the creation of a mechanism for the Center operations and understanding the technical requirements for equipping and staff selection process.

In 2019, the Cross-Border Cooperation Component expanded the scope of its activity to include the railway BCPs “Pakhtaobod” and “Kudukli” located on the Tajik-Uzbek border. The component conducted technical needs assessment missions for considering the establishment the Border Liaison Office (BLO) on the basis of railway BCPs. As a result, a joint coordination meeting of Project working groups was held on 2-3 October 2019 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to discuss a work plan to implement the activities on increasing the capacity of railway BCPs “Pakhtaobod”/“Kudukli” on the Uzbek-Tajik border, which laid a groundwork to start activities on establishment of BLOs at Railway BCPs “Pakhtaobod” and “Kudukli”.

In total, 185 law enforcement officers enhanced their capacity on risks profiling, planning and implementation of joint operative activities at the border, drug interdiction and information sharing at BCPs (43 Kazakhstan (including 5 women), 75 Kyrgyzstan (including 8 women), 28 Tajikistan, 32 from Uzbekistan, and 7 Turkmenistan). UNODC is encouraging increasing participation of women law enforcement officers in programmes. These activities resulted in conducting a series of joint operations on suppression of illicit drug trafficking and violations of other customs and border regulations which resulted in seizures of more than 22,750 kg of hemp, 54.5 kg of narcotic drugs, 3,060 packs of contrafact cigarettes, One unit of firearm, 148 units of service cartridge and 1,645 liters of precursor chemicals.

**Number of Law Enforcement Officers Trained in 2019 as a Part of the Border Cooperation Component**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

185 law enforcement officers enhanced their capacity.
CARICC facilitated and participated in a number of regional counternarcotic operations, such as CSTO, Kanal Operation, SCO Pautina Operation, Reflex on Countering NPS and Substitutes on countering precursors. These operations were successfully implemented by the national competent authorities and resulted in the seizure of drugs, precursors, and arms from illicit trafficking and apprehension of members of transnational drug trafficking groups.

Implementation of the above operations allowed CARICC to improve institutional links with Collective Security Treaty Organization and Shanghai Cooperation Organization and actively use the capacity of the organization in the course of implementation of operational initiatives.

In the field of intelligence analysis, CARICC continued exchanging operative information with CARICC member states competent authorities, other national regional and international counterparts. One of the Center’s main project in this field is exchange of operative information between Afghan CNPA and CARICC Member States national competent authorities on the links of prosecuted Afghan drug traffickers with individuals and organizations in the CARICC countries. This exchange of information resulted in the initiation of investigations by the CARICC member states law enforcement agencies.

CARICC is playing an important role in building capacity of the national competent authorities in the field of intelligence analysis and risks profiling. Partner organizations, such as INL and OSCE use CARICC expertise to conduct training courses in these areas. In total, 185 officers of various national law enforcement agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were trained during the reporting period.

In 2019, three Port Control Units (PCUs) became operational due to support by UNODC Global Container Control Programme, which include Khujand and Khorog in Tajikistan; and Alat in Uzbekistan. Currently, there are 13 well-established PCUs in Central Asian region. With the purpose of monitoring the activities of the PCU, discussing challenges and identifying further needs, CCP staff of the region organized 14 assessment and monitoring visits to PCU on quarterly basis. 373 officials of Law Enforcement Agencies and other competent authorities had an opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge in 37 CCP national, regional and international training activities. Also, CCP provided computer, office and specialized equipment, search and detection tools for the inspection of containers/trucks/railway wagons for the Customs and other Law Enforcement Agencies of Central Asian countries for the total amount of 226,406.00 USD. The expertise developed by PCU staff in
Central Asian region demonstrates the successful application of the Programme’s methodology. Thus, in 2019, PCUs detected 40 seizure cases, including a record seizure of six forty-feet containers of cigarettes in Aktau seaport in Kazakhstan: seizure of various consumer goods for 315,000 USD by the PCU Chukursay in Tashkent, and 12 tons of hookah tobacco seized by the PCU Osh in Kyrgyzstan.

In 2019, **NATO-UNODC Partnership Initiative** on counter narcotics training continued to support the law enforcement agencies involved in countering illicit drug trafficking in the beneficiary countries, including police, customs, national security, border guards, specialized drug control agencies as well as their forensic and K9 units. In 2019, this initiative developed the capacity of 32 law enforcement officers on risk analysis and search techniques through K9 training and training of trainers. The competent training academies and instructors from NATO countries were involved in this process, and the training materials provided during the courses were based on recent counter narcotic cases, which were often investigated by the instructors themselves; therefore, the training combined both theoretical approaches and practical exercises. Another important aspect of the initiative is to provide an opportunity for trainees to establish personal and professional networks with their colleagues at the national, regional and international levels.
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

Combating money laundering, financing terrorism and recovering the proceeds of crime requires the prosecutors, investigators and FIUs specialists to possess appropriate knowledge, competencies, and skills.

In 2019, UNODC continued to partner with OSCE in implementation of multiannual training programme on countering the financing of terrorism (CFT). The training programme on CFT, which includes six modules on Foundation and Analysis Courses, Basic and Enhanced Investigation Courses, Financial Disruption Course, UN Security Council Resolutions Sanctions Course; Train-The-Trainer course, is supported by scenario-based practical exercises reflecting on the topics. All the scenarios and supporting materials are tailored to the country context in consultation with national experts which provides an opportunity to conduct real-life simulation of investigations based on current priority threats.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have already benefited from the wider UNODC-led training programme on CFT, which trained more than 80 FIU and law enforcement officers, and a pool of national trainers (12 national trainers) was created. This programme strengthened the ability to detect, investigate and disrupt terrorist networks while respecting human rights standards, and ensured increased adherence to international standards, in particular UNSCRs and FATF recommendations.
36 FIU and law enforcement specialists were trained on conducting financial investigations and dismantling illicit financial flows in 2019. This training was implemented in close collaboration with national counterparts, OSCE and EAG (Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism) within the frame of preparation of Uzbekistan for mutual assessment of compliance with FATF international standards. This training contributed to improved effective international co-operation in the Central Asian region between FIUs, law enforcement and prosecuting authorities.

UNODC ROCA continued to support Uzbekistan in strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets through the international cooperation in the areas of tracing illicit financial flows, identifying, seizing and confiscating crime proceeds. Within the framework of the ARIN-WCA, launched in 2018, several asset recovery related capacity building activities in the region were conducted.

To solidify the efforts against organized crime, money laundering and illicit drug trafficking in Kazakhstan, localized simulation training “Countering Organized Crime and Drug-related Money Laundering” was conducted in 2019 for law enforcement and other relevant agencies. This training contributed to increasing decision makers’ knowledge of various crimes in the region and the efficiency of law enforcement agencies in tackling these problems.

“Prior to the start of the CFT programme 18 months before, we did not have CFT cases under investigation. Now, we have 15 cases under investigation and have significantly improved an inter-agency cooperation, namely between the FIU, intelligence service, prosecuting authority and law enforcement agencies. The officers in various regions outside the capital are now receiving and sending far more accurate and relevant cases and information reports.”

Anonymous police officer, trainee under the CFT programme
During the simulation training, realistic drug trade and money laundering cases were simulated, and the participants conducted more than 50 operational investigative actions, established a circle of persons involved in the crime, and identified schemes for legalizing income. As a result, a criminal case was formed and considered by judges for the sufficiency of evidence.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with the State Financial Intelligence Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (SFIS) and the law enforcement agencies of Russia and Kazakhstan with the support of UNODC conducted a special operation to counter transnational organized criminal group dispensing illicit drugs using social networks and laundering their criminal proceeds using cryptocurrencies. This operation resulted in the seizure of more than one kilogram of psychoactive substances worth over 3,500,000 Kyrgyz Soms (approximately USD 50,000.00) on a local market.

“**The operation became possible due to invaluable support, delivered by UNODC**”

Mr. M. Kanimetov,
Deputy Minister of MoI, Kyrgyzstan.

UNODC also continued to support the anti-corruption, countering economic crimes, AML/CFT activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. During the implementation period, UNODC (i) strengthened AML/CFT legal framework of the Kyrgyz Republic and provided analyses to compliance with international standards, (ii) conducted training courses for more than 200 law enforcement officers and representatives of private-sector, (iii) increased inter-regional cooperation which resulted in signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Financial Investigation Agency of the British Virgin Islands on 2 July 2019, (iv) as well as supported the development of the SFIS IT Strategy.
In 2019, UNODC broadened the scope of counter-terrorism legal technical assistance and the range and substantive content of the capacity building support provided to Member States in the region.

A new initiative launched on Supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017) - related investigation capacities and cooperation against transnational and cross-border terrorism. The initiative’s objective is to assist the Member States in the region in their efforts to strengthen their criminal justice response against terrorism, pursuant to UNSC resolution 2396 (2017).

Within this initiative, a three-day regional workshop on "Enhancing information sharing and the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR), biometrics and other data for border security and countering FTFs" was held on 16-18 April 2019 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Government officials from five Central Asian States discussed challenges related to cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters as well as enhanced their knowledge and understanding of strategies and measures Member States should develop and implement to strengthen border security and management in accordance with human rights standards.

To increase the capacities of Central Asian states to provide swift and effective mutual legal assistance and support in their efforts to effectively cooperate in combatting terrorism and organized crime; and to enhance knowledge, skills and capacities of central authorities/practitioners in engaging in international cooperation, involving electronic evidence, UNODC organized a regional expert workshop on enhancing cooperation
and strengthening capacity in obtaining digital evidence in cross-border crime and terrorism related investigations. The workshop took place on 17-18 December in Vienna, Austria and was attended by prosecutors, national security and other relevant agencies from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

To prevent violent extremism, UNODC continued to support regional cooperation, which enhanced the networking and sharing of good practices and internationally recognized PVE approaches through its Central Asian PVE Network initiative. Within the Network’s framework, two regional capacity-building workshops were organized in close cooperation with the national and regional counterparts in January and July 2019 in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, respectively. As a platform for regional dialogue on PVE issues, and bringing together over 80 government representatives and civil society actors, both activities promoted the whole of society approach to PVE, showing advantages of engaging communities in PVE initiatives by emphasising the role of strong community partnerships and multi-disciplinary collaboration. UNODC developed Guidelines for the Central Asia PVE Network: Design and Management of Programmes to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism to reflect on the learning and knowledge-sharing that occurred during the project implementation in 2017 – 2018 period. The PVE Network’s website, www.capve.org, continued to serve as resource tool for PVE practitioners in the region, providing access to research, evidence, and data to assess and respond to drivers of radicalization.

PILOTING VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOLS

In 2019, UNODC developed a vulnerability assessment tool to assess the potential vulnerability for an individual to be drawn into violent extremism and to identify safeguarding strategies to mitigate that vulnerability. The methodology was developed in response to a request by national counterparts in the Kyrgyz Republic to assist in identifying early signs of radicalization into violence, as well as in improving organizational development of existing community-based crime prevention groups.

UNODC partnered with the NGO “Foundation for Tolerance International” to pilot the tool in five locations in Kyrgyzstan. The pilot project helped set up or strengthen already existing multiagency community panels, so called mobile groups, consisting of local authorities, police officers, social workers, community leaders, including women, and civil society activists.

Following hands-on training on the use of the vulnerability assessment tool, the mobile groups tailored the tool to local contexts ensuring full compliance with human rights and the “do-no-harm” principle. During a period of six months, safeguarding measures and individualized support programs were developed and implemented for six individuals who participated in the initiative on a voluntary basis.

According to mobile group members, the tool allowed them to provide more targeted social, legal and other support based on a structured assessment of individual vulnerabilities. The pilot demonstrated the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach and community-based social partnerships to respond to the risks of radicalization to violence. The need for further promotion of a culture of lawfulness, improvement of the quality of legal aid, as well development and implementation of tailored capacity-building activities for specialists working with vulnerable groups at community level also became apparent.
To support governments’ efforts in preventing and responding to violence against children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups, UNODC introduced a tailored initiative. This initiative aimed to improve awareness and understanding of the particular international legal framework that applies to children exploited by terrorist groups including children travelling to/back from conflict zones; to increase knowledge of key national authorities on successful and promising practices in the prevention of children’s recruitment and exploitation by violent extremist groups as well as on their reintegration into society; and to enhance institutional capacity of relevant national authorities in these areas.

These issues are critical for the Central Asian region, as in 2019, several countries conducted special humanitarian operations to bring their nationals back from the Syrian conflict zone. In total 609 citizens of Kazakhstan were returned from the conflict zones, including estimated 33 men, 156 women and 420 minors. Tajikistan repatriated 84 children with further repatriations foreseen, including at least another 11 children and 43 women who are currently in Iraq. Uzbekistan has completed 2 repatriation operations, bringing back in total 220 citizens (including 48 women and 172 children).

At the global level, to support Member States’ efforts in developing and implementing comprehensive and tailored rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, in particular for children, that are age and gender-responsive and in compliance with the applicable international law, UNODC introduced guidance on treatment of children affected by terrorism. In 2019, UNODC supplemented its “Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: The Role of the Justice System” with three training manuals on prevention, justice responses, and rehabilitation and reintegration of these children.

In Central Asia, UNODC, used this comprehensive training package to enhance the knowledge and capacities of relevant national authorities from five Central Asian States, Armenia and Azerbaijan in prevention of child recruitment and exploitation as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups. The activity provided a forum for in-depth exchange of knowledge and experiences among participants and experts, facilitating regional dialogue and cooperation. In 2019, the Office also conducted in-depth technical needs assessment missions to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and a scoping mission to the Kyrgyz Republic to identify needs, gaps and opportunities to strengthen laws, practices and the capacity of professionals in preventing and responding to recruitment and violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups that would allow UNODC to better tailor its further technical assistance programmes to the country-specific needs and priorities.
JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW
GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

To support achievement of SDG 5, UNODC supported gender mainstreaming in law enforcement and criminal justice systems, as well as the establishment of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention mechanisms in the Central Asian countries.

To support implementation of the **Law on Protection from Family Violence in the Kyrgyz Republic**, UNODC worked together with other UN agencies to develop the necessary coordination and referral mechanisms for implementation, based on which in 2019, 7,045 cases of domestic violence were registered and 6,145 restraining orders issued to protect victims of violence.

UNODC trained 189 police officers, municipal, social protection, health and education workers and community activists to build their capacity to implement laws and policies on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence.

These activities were accompanied by community-level awareness raising campaigns, including open lessons, theatre forums and other events in schools and universities on prevention of gender-based violence in 12 municipalities around the country. Leaflets, infographics and video spots on domestic violence and other forms of violence against women and girls were widely disseminated among the population.

In 2019, UNODC supported the establishment of new GBV prevention networks in Kyrgyzstan’s capital city Bishkek and surrounding settlements. This involved six territorial councils and local crime prevention centers engaging 96 people, of whom

During the opening ceremony of new legal aid centers, Ms. Tatiana Kuznetsova, Vice Prime Mayor of Bishkek, noted the importance of joint efforts by the Mayor’s Office in partnership with the legal community, the Ministry of Justice and civil society to protect victims of domestic violence, ensure public order and reduce crime. According to her, the protection of women and children, realization of the rights of each citizen, and a safe environment for everyone to live in are core priorities for Kyrgyzstan’s capital city.
76 women. The GBV committees benefit from active coordination and leadership by local women NGOs and the association of crisis centers, which operates nationwide. These NGOs guide vulnerable women to participate in community life and advocate for strengthening the role of women in achieving gender equality in line with SDG 5 and protecting women from violence in line with SDG 16.

Legal aid to women and vulnerable populations in new settlements was provided through four newly established legal aid centers, which provided 1,280 free consultations within a 5-month span. 320 people consulted lawyers going around the settlements on a ‘bus of solidarity’.

In Uzbekistan, UNODC collaborated with the government to promote implementation of newly adopted laws “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” and “On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence”. Some 100 women leaders, academics and teachers benefited from these interventions, which raised awareness on the new laws and made available a series of university modules on “Ending violence against women and girls” and other relevant topics. Through its Global Education for Justice Initiative, UNODC partnered with the Ministry of Public Education to conduct a training for secondary school teachers in the regions of Uzbekistan to familiarize them with the objectives and content of Uzbekistan’s laws and policies to end violence against women. Using E4J tools, these teachers are now better equipped to guide children and parents to a life free from violence.

“Adoption of these Laws is a historical moment in terms of protecting women’s rights and increasing their participation in the socio-political life of our country. This, in turn, has led to international recognition of our efforts to support women in Uzbekistan”

said Ms. Elmira Basithanova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Chairperson of the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan.
UNODC aims to empower youth to become positive agents of change who foster resilience and social inclusion in their schools and communities. To promote a culture of lawfulness among youth and achieve positive impact on crime prevention, UNODC implements sports-based life skills training and education for justice programs with financial support of the State of Qatar. UNODC also supports policy development on crime prevention as parts of efforts to promote gender equality, social inclusion and youth participation in peacebuilding.

Youth crime prevention

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC supported development of a new Law on crime prevention, a draft of which was prepared for public discussion. The law is intended to institutionalize a participatory approach to crime prevention planning at national and local levels, as piloted with UNODC support in recent years. The draft law sets out clear funding, coordination and accountability mechanisms and includes new provisions to increase victim support in Kyrgyzstan.

In parallel with the legislative process, UNODC facilitated dialogue on a related National Crime Prevention Strategy, which will allow for the consolidation and replication of best practices in the area of youth crime prevention and prioritize other key areas for public safety, such as gender-based violence, road safety, theft and other property crimes, as well as corruption.

Participatory crime prevention planning and action based on social partnerships between local authorities, police, schools, social and other services, civil society and communities continued with interventions targeting urban safety in the capital city Bishkek. This resulted in new crime prevention action plans for three districts and ten new settlements and implementation of a wide range of projects and initiatives to support local municipalities in improving public safety related infrastructure (e.g. street lights), upgrading sports and leisure facilities for youth and facilitating different crime prevention awareness raising and activities to build resilience (e.g. sports tournaments, theatre forums, informational campaigns).
UNODC partnered with other UN agencies to promote women and youth leadership initiatives in Bishkek’s new settlements to prevent conflict, address social disparity and support gender equality. Dialogue platforms bringing together community members, local government, healthcare and social workers and police to discuss community issues involved 9,113 people. This resulted in advocacy initiatives involving 3,222 young women and men in efforts to address various social issues affecting their communities. Involved youth improved their self-confidence. Working on solutions jointly with government authorities improved trust among different community groups and local government and enhanced local ownership over issues and solutions.

UNODC supported free legal aid for vulnerable groups of the population and establishment of new local crime prevention centers, which brought services closer to the population. Innovative initiatives included development of a police communication and outreach strategy, including a mobile application "My community policing officer", which makes it easier for young people to report concerns to the police.

**Line Up Live Up**

UNODC’s Line Up Live Up (LULU) initiative builds on the power of sports as a tool for peace, to promote sports and related activities to prevent crime and to effectively build resilience of youth.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNODC partnered with the State Sports Academy to develop an educational module based on the Line Up Live Up manual. The new module was endorsed and included in the curriculum of the Sports Academy. 20 teachers of the academy were trained to use UNODC’s sports-based life skills development tool. Throughout

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**Kyrgyzstan**

93 sport and physical culture trainers were certified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>boys</th>
<th>girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>382</td>
<td>235</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Tajikistan**

37 sport and physical culture trainers were certified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>boys</th>
<th>girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>450</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2000 youth enrolled the Programme

77 schools were covered

**Uzbekistan**

First pilot of the LULU

37 sport and physical culture trainers were certified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>boys</th>
<th>girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>340</td>
<td>270</td>
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</table>

20 schools were covered
the year 93 sports and physical education trainers completed the LULU training program, which was piloted with 382 boys and 235 girls aged 13-18.

Three small grants were completed, which reached 1,270 people through awareness raising campaigns on crime prevention among youth through sports. In Kyrgyzstan, there are 12,487 orphans and 1,716 children in conflict with the law. UNODC worked with such vulnerable children in six orphanages to help them resist negative peer pressure, cope with anxiety and communicate effectively. 80 children completed the LULU program and gained valuable life skills that increase adaptive and positive behavior addressing vulnerabilities that are linked to violence, crime as well as drug use. The LULU program was also piloted in closed religious communities covering 47 girls from religious schools who gained self-confidence and started to participate in public life in their villages.

In Tajikistan, 37 sports coaches and physical education teachers were certified upon completing LULU training of trainers’ sessions. Over 900 youth (450 girls) enrolled in the LULU curriculum and 33 schools received sport inventory within the framework of the Global Doha Declaration Program. In total, 80 trainers have been trained, 2,000 youth enrolled, and 77 schools covered since the launch of the LULU Program in Tajikistan. Two youth sports festivals were conducted in close collaboration with the State Committee for Youth Affairs and Sports of Tajikistan to motivate 1,000 youth and engage them in sports activities (with coverage of about 1,000 young participants).

In Uzbekistan, 37 secondary level educators, including sports coaches, social support workers and psychologists working with students, completed training and initiated a first LULU pilot in 20 secondary schools of Andijan, Fergana, Namangan and Tashkent cities. This initiative engaged more than 600 school students. National counterparts reported a reduced youth crime rate in one of the pilot cities, Andijan, as a result.

**Education for Justice**

The Education for Justice (E4J) initiative seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through education activities designed for primary,
secondary and tertiary levels. These activities help educators teach the next generation to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law and encourage students to actively engage in their communities, future professions and become positive agents of change.

In Central Asia, as a first step, UNODC worked to prepare relevant materials in Russian and local languages. Videos on anticorruption and firearms trafficking were translated into Russian and Uzbek languages along with teachers’ guides, as well as interactive games, such as “Integrity”, which enables students to act with integrity, recognize and challenge corruption, and “Labyrinth”, which strengthens students’ resilience and critical thinking skills. Translation of other online tools aimed at preventing cybercrime, bullying, gender-based and other violence was also launched.

At primary level, UNODC piloted the Russian version of the Zorbs in Uzbekistan’s primary schools. This animated set of videos tells the story of an imaginary planet and its inhabitants who overcome a range of challenges thanks to core values of acceptance, integrity, respect and fairness. The Online Zoo picture book, which encourages children with positive messages about how to deal with the different challenges they face online, has also proved popular in Uzbekistan’s schools with plans to integrate these tools into the primary school curriculum in 2020.

Building on this success, UNODC launched the E4J initiative also in Kazakhstan. All nine episodes of the Zorbs were translated in Kazakh language and are available as an open source for the wider public. The Zorbs and the anticorruption game “Integrity” were presented to 200 educators and pupils during an international conference on the occasion of Anti-corruption Day.

At secondary level, E4J offers a variety of tools for teachers and their students, such as board games and online videos. By using these tools, secondary school students are empowered to identify, prevent and resolve moral, ethical or legal dilemmas they may face in their everyday life, including issues of corruption, radicalization and violence.

In Uzbekistan, 124 secondary level educators and juvenile inspectors participated in three cascaded workshops on the use of the E4J tools. Roll out of the tools benefited more than 7,000 secondary school students in 2019.

Highlights of related interventions were a “Rule of Law” Month conducted by the Ministry of Public Education in Uzbekistan’s secondary schools in December, as well as the first ever Model United Nations for secondary school students with support of E4J.

At tertiary level, UNODC conducted a regional workshop on enhancing capacity to teach cybercrime issues at universities in Europe, West and Central Asia at the Tashkent State University of Law. As a result, 8 universities in Georgian, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, have integrated UNODC’s E4J cybercrime series in their curriculum with over 1500 student taught to date.

In Uzbekistan, 100 women-leaders representing State bodies and higher educational institutions
were engaged through a workshop to raise awareness of newly adopted Laws “On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men” and “On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence”. UNODC promoted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on this occasion and introduced the E4J Tertiary Module “Ending violence against women and girls”, along with a practical session that will allow university teachers to start working with this module in their academic programs.

Based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNODC, the Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), Youth Union of Uzbekistan and State Tourism Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNODC supported the Tashkent International Model United Nations as a platform for youth to discuss issues of corruption and crime and to propose new solutions based on their views and participation in moot diplomatic negotiations. In 2019, 150 students from all over the world joined 250 Uzbek students from 15 universities in the country for this event.

“MUN is a bridge between the United Nations and students, allowing youth to have an open dialogue on a range of complex issues and to propose their own solutions for tackling global problems.”

Komiljon Karimov, WIUT Rector
Ms. Emma Hegay, a teacher for the 9th grade at the School #291 of Bektemir district, Tashkent city, took part in the training of trainers event of the UNODC Education for Justice (E4J) initiative of the Global Programme on Implementation of Doha Declaration, which talked about the “Integrity” board game, on 3 December 2018. Back then, she did not realise that, thanks to the training, she would incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the plan of educational hours for 9-graders.

“Our teachers showed us a lot of interactive methods during the training. We were interested in the process. After the training we ran the game among school students. The students got extremely interested. And I got interested as a teacher.” – started her story Ms. Emma.

Her student, Umida, confessed “the “Integrity” game is very interactive. It is very interesting and exciting. Thanks to the game, I realized that constitution is very interesting, and very useful for my future life.”

Ms. Emma highlighted that the game “forms legal knowledge and the ability to make right decisions in different situations among children.”

Besides the legal knowledge, the “Integrity” board game teaches students the SDGs, telling what the global community is targeting to achieve by joining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“When we work with the plan of educational hours, we plan the work for the entire year. When I was introduced to the SDGs, I saw that the plan has a lot in common with the Goals. For example, our plan has the topic called “Ecology and us”. This, surely, refers to the SDG 15 “Life on Land”. There are also topics on rule of law such as “Constitution and us”, “Law and us”, “Do you know the laws?” And these are about SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”:

“Therefore, I decided to use the SDGs during the educational hours. Children are very interested. They get a lot of new information while being introduced to the SDGs. They work independently in groups preparing multimedia presentations. They work with the official websites of the United Nations. The work gets very exciting as every student is aspired to tell in detail about particular SDG. Sometimes, the presentations turn into the lively discussions.” – tells Ms. Emma about her experience.

“Students from other classes can always stop by our room and watch the presentations. We have a bank of SDG presentations now. We also have visuals. All of them are accessible for other students.” – added Ms. Emma.

At the end, Ms. Emma shared her dream: “Of course, I have a dream to conduct more trainings for classroom teachers so that they are able to conduct extracurricular lessons on SDGs.”

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Goals were endorsed by all UN member states, including Uzbekistan, in September 2015. They comprise 17 goals and 169 targets to be reached by 2030, which will be monitored through more than 200 indicators.
ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS

In 2019, UNODC continued to support the countries in the region to strengthen the rule of law through the prevention of crime and the promotion of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in line with the UN standards and norms. Best practices on crime prevention and criminal justice from Central Asia were presented at the 28th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with a focus on gender in criminal justice and youth crime prevention through sports.

Criminal justice reform processes in Central Asia were facilitated through expert and legal advice contributing to the endorsement of new and revision of existing laws and policies related to judicial/criminal justice reform and anticorruption (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), crime, terrorism and extremism prevention and prison rehabilitation programmes (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan), as well as the fight against gender-based violence and trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

In Kyrgyzstan, new criminal legislation aimed at decriminalization, depenalization and application of increased alternatives to incarceration entered into force. Development and endorsement of at least ten policies and regulations and/or legislative amendments were facilitated, including regulatory acts to support the implementation of the Law on Probation. This resulted in the creation of a fundamentally new Probation Service to promote social reintegration of offenders placed under the Ministry of Justice. UNODC supported the new Probation Service with expert advice and technical assistance resulting in the establishment of eight new offices, training of 45 newly appointed probation officers, development of three methodological tools on rehabilitation of probation clients and probation report drafting methodologies, strengthening of interagency cooperation within the probation system, which allowed successful launch of probation services around the country.

In Uzbekistan, UNODC worked with interagency working groups developing new Criminal, Criminal Procedure and Criminal Executive Codes. As a result of six public consultations and expert discussions and the development of various policy papers and expert commentaries by the end of the year draft new laws were developed to promote humanization, alternatives to incarceration, enhanced judicial control during the pretrial stage and stronger provisions for equality of arms.

To promote access to legal defense and legal aid, in Kyrgyzstan, UNODC conducted a field study of legal aid needs and priority areas of concern for vulnerable populations in new settlements and around
Bishkek. This formed the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding signed between local territorial administrations in Bishkek, the Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice’s Centre on Guaranteed State Legal Aid on provision of legal aid to vulnerable groups and women in the settlements. Four legal aid centers opened in Bishkek based on the signed MOU on the Guaranteed State Legal Aid to vulnerable groups and women.

In Uzbekistan, UNODC cooperated with the Chamber of Advocates and provided advisory support related to access to legal defense and the provision of legal aid as part of the criminal justice reform process, including within the framework of the development of the new Criminal Procedure Code. A draft Law on free legal aid was developed and put up for public discussion with UNODC support.

UNODC facilitated a seminar for some 25 Uzbek defense lawyers on international standards for the work of lawyers, legal defense and the legal profession, which focused on specific issues, such as disciplinary proceedings against lawyers, access to the legal profession, continuous education, professional ethics and disbarment. By the end of the year, Uzbek authorities launched an initiative to develop a new strategic concept for the development of the bar association and a new Law on the Advocacy.

The Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries to Combat Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (CASC Network) continued to promote international judicial cooperation aimed at strengthening inter-regional collaboration to combat transnational organized and serious crime by facilitating contacts between competent authorities of the region with countries outside the region and other judicial cooperation networks.

In 2019, CASC Network supported organization of five capacity building and networking events for more than 127 MLA experts from 17 countries of different regions. The Sustainable Training for MLA Experts Initiative was launched through development of a model training curriculum for prosecutors and law enforcement officers. Development of bilateral agreements on MLA and Extradition between Thailand and Uzbekistan was initiated with support of the CASC Network.

Together with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Commission of Jurists, UNODC facilitated two regional events in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and one national seminar in Uzbekistan on comparative practices in extradition in the Commonwealth of Independent States and European legal systems, including with regard to human rights guarantees in these procedures.

Uzbekistan ratified the CIS Convention on Legal Assistance and Legal Relations in Civil, Family and Criminal Matters (Chisinau Convention), which enshrines several human rights guarantees to protect against extraditions that may breach the human rights of the transferred person, including the prohibition to transfer persons where they risk the death penalty or torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.
In 2019, UNODC continued to support the Central Asian countries in preventing and combating corruption in line with the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

UNODC supported the participation of Central Asian countries in the UNCAC’s Implementation Review Mechanism. This is a peer review process that assists States parties to effectively implement the Convention. The second cycle covers preventive measures and asset recovery.

In Turkmenistan, 15 specialists from the Mejlis (Parliament), the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs increased their knowledge on the UNCAC Review Mechanism, the guidance note on filling out the comprehensive self-assessment checklist and the substantive provisions related to preventive measures and asset recovery. Interactive discussions helped kickstart the preparation of Turkmenistan’s self-assessment checklist.

Uzbekistan approved a 2019-2020 State Anti-Corruption Program based on UNODC expert advice and input. UNODC supported criminalization of corruption through the development of a draft new Criminal Code. Working meetings with members of the Anticorruption Commission and senior management of the Academy of the General Prosecutor’s Office (GPO) advanced the preparation of the self-assessment under the UNCAC review and served to present training materials on ethics and integrity, which can be used to supplement the curriculum of the Academy on anti-corruption.

UNODC facilitated participation of the GPO Academy in the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna and consultations with the International Anti-Corruption Academy with a view to further advancing cooperation on anti-corruption education programs.

Through scaling up the E4J Initiative in Bukhara, Djizak, Navoi and other regions of Uzbekistan, UNODC supported educational events devoted to Constitution Day and an Anticorruption Week in schools in December 2019. 30 teachers and 20 juvenile inspectors facilitated the events using E4J anticorruption videos and the “Integrity” and “Labyrinth” games to raise awareness of the devastating impact of corruption among 1,000 school students.

Scoping missions were conducted with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to explore opportunities for a new joint initiative to enhance capacities of civil society and private sector in anti-corruption.

Anti-corruption day related campaigns and activities were conducted in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In Kazakhstan, UNODC teamed up with the National Anti-Corruption Agency, the Academy for Public Administration under the President and international partners to host a Youth Forum and an International Anti-Corruption Conference. Bringing together over 200 participants, the youth forum was designed to promote public participation and accountability in finding ways to combat corruption. Through a series of interactive sessions involving State representatives, academics, students, and youth organizations, the forum provided a sounding board for Education for Justice activities, in order to adapt and localize materials around national needs.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC partnered with the Parliament and the General Prosecutor’s Office to conduct two national conferences on the implementation of anticorruption strategies and best practices on prevention and countering corruption. In Uzbekistan, UNODC participated in a national forum on anti-corruption with UNDP and other partners.

“Thanks to the games we’ve played, I realize that actually corruption leads nowhere”

said one of the students during one of interactive sessions.
UNODC is the global custodian of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (‘the Nelson Mandela Rules’), the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (‘the Bangkok Rules’) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (‘the Tokyo Rules’). To promote implementation of these standards, UNODC provides advisory services and technical assistance in the Central Asia region.

Key trends in the Central Asia region in 2019 include the establishment of new probation services, the introduction of new prison staff training curricula and implementation of prison-based rehabilitation programs with UNODC support.

UNODC facilitated the development of improved prison security audit frameworks, which involve audits to ensure physical, procedural and dynamic security in prisons and safe and secure custody of all prisoners, including violent extremist and FTF prisoners.

For the first time in the Central Asia context, UNODC supported the introduction of country-specific prisoner risk assessment and classification tools as a basis for individualized sentence planning and tailored social rehabilitation programs for prisoners and probation clients.

In Kazakhstan, UNODC signed a work plan with the authorities to implement a global UN initiative (UNODC-UNCTED-UNOCT) on the management of violent extremist prisoners (VEPs) and prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons.

Over 450 (34% female) Kazakh prison and probation staff, law enforcement officers, representatives from local municipalities, civil society and academia participated in capacity development events and expert meetings to share best practices on prison-based rehabilitation and social reintegration strategies for VEPs after release.

UNODC trained 230 prison and law enforcement staff (36 percent female) in Kazakhstan on prison
security audit procedures, prisoner risk assessment and classification.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan issued a decree to establish a new Prison Staff Training Center. The Ministry allocated for refurbishment works to embed the new center in the Ministry’s Academy in Kostanay for refurbishment.

To support the institutional capacity of the MOI and its new Prison Staff Training Center, UNODC developed three training modules on management of VEPs for prison psychologists, operative and security staff, and prison staff engaged in theological and rehabilitation work. A pool of 16 national trainers (60% women) from the Police Academy was established.

Similarly, in Kyrgyzstan, UNODC published a guidebook on prevention of terrorist and violent extremist recruitment in prisons and 3 training modules on prevention of radicalization to violence and management of violent extremist offenders. These were handed over to the Prison Service Training Centre for institutionalization in the training process.

UNODC’s work on the management of violent extremist prisoners in Kyrgyzstan was based on needs assessment carried out with support from the authorities. Together with the Public Council under the Prison Service, UNODC published a public monitoring report that outlined key recommendations for the implementation of disengagement interventions in the country’s prisons and probation settings within the framework of the UN Peacebuilding Fund.
UNODC worked with other UN agencies to support the Association of Women Judges in conducting an analysis of judicial practice in terrorism and extremism cases. In partnership with USAID a study on pathways into radicalization was conducted. Based on direct interviews with prisoners, the reports concluded that among the various push and pull factors playing a role in radicalization, feelings of injustice and violations of human rights, including ill-treatment, are common.

To implement the recommendations from the various reports, UNODC rolled out a comprehensive package of prisoner rehabilitation programs. These included interventions that facilitate vocational training, employment, psychological support, legal aid and maintenance of family ties.

With support from the State of Qatar and within the framework of the UNODC Global Doha Declaration Implementation Program, UNODC supported refurbishment of a bakery in the women's prison close to Bishkek. Ten women prisoners bake 1,000 loaf of bread daily. Sewing and shoe making production facilities are ready for opening in one of the largest male prisons. In cooperation with DVV International, UNODC trained 277 prisoners on various specializations, including welding, electrics and green house cultivation. 28 prison psychologists, social workers and operational regime staff were trained specifically to facilitate implementation of these rehabilitation programs.

A call center was established at the Prison Service in Bishkek as a communication channel for legal and other assistance to prisoners, their families and the public at large. 175 portable body worn cameras were provided to prison staff to pilot their use as a possible tool to enhance security, deter aggression and violence, and prevent corruption in prisons.

Over 98 professional staff (prison, probation, police, psychologists, local self-government officials, (52 female) were involved in professional training to support prison rehabilitation and reintegration processes.

UNODC worked with the authorities, which placed the Probation Service under the Ministry of Justice, a major step in terms of compliance with international standards and best practices. UNODC supported development of Guidelines for the work of the probation service, which helped launched its work as a civic institution linking up with local authorities and social services to manage non-custodial sanctions and social reintegration of offenders. By the end of 2019, the prison population in Kyrgyzstan had gone down from 10,574 to 9,824 prisoners.

In Tajikistan, UNODC, in partnership with UNDP, provided technical assistance to a Working Group of the Ministry of Justice to develop a new curriculum on training and professional development of prison staff for 2019-2023, approved by the Ministry of Justice in May 2019.

UNODC made new tools available for capacity development of Tajikistan’s criminal justice practitioners, such as the UNODC Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons and the Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups. In partnership with DVV International, a module on management of violent extremist prisoners was published.

In August 2019, UNODC partnered with OSCE to support monitoring of prisons with a view to identifying further needs of the Prison Service. UNODC participated in the monitoring, provided expert support and made available methodological tools on prison security management and other topics. Recommendations were presented during the First Prison Forum in Tajikistan co-organized with PRI, OSCE and other UN agencies in November 2019.

Within the framework of the Global Doha Declaration Implementation Program, UNODC established two new prison-based rehabilitation programs through refurbishment and installation of equipment for wood and metal production in 2 Tajik prisons. Additional funds were allocated to renovate the vocational center in one of the pilot prisons in Khujand.

UNODC provided support to strengthen security in the prison system of Tajikistan. With funding from the Government of Kazakhstan UNODC procured security systems for two prisons.
In Central Asia, UNODC promotes the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its supplementing Protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (TIP), especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

In 2019, Kyrgyzstan took a major step forward with the adoption of identification criteria and a national referral mechanism for victims of human trafficking, led by the State Migration Service. Similarly, Uzbekistan drafted a new anti-human trafficking law slated to create a national referral mechanism. UNODC supported dialogue platforms on the development of the law and provided expert support, including through an international conference in partnership with OSCE/ODIHR.

Uzbekistan established a new position of national rapporteur on combating human trafficking and forced labor to coordinate efforts in this area. Tajikistan and Turkmenistan adopted new national action plans to counter trafficking in persons.

UNODC worked to strengthen investigations of human trafficking. In Kyrgyzstan, at least 100 police investigators and other criminal justice practitioners acquired skills in this area. Two Training-of-Trainers courses were conducted for ten teachers of the Police Academy and 18 judges of the High School of Justice. Four training modules on TIP investigation for police officers, on TIP prosecution and mutual legal assistance for prosecutors, on TIP adjudication for judges and on legal assistance and protection of TIP victims for lawyers were finalized. Training initiatives sought to employ innovative techniques with 20 police officers, prosecutors, judges and lawyers engaged in preparatory work to launch mock trials as a training tool to enhance prosecution of human trafficking cases. 21 lawyers were trained with a view to launching pro-bono cases to hold perpetrators of trafficking in persons to account.
UNODC continued working with the Kyrgyz Republic’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and General Prosecutor’s Office on investigation, prosecution and mutual legal assistance in human trafficking cases. Two official exchange visits to Turkey were undertaken to share practices on mutual legal assistance and support and referral of TIP victims. This resulted in new contacts and channels for coordination on TIP investigations with the Turkish Ministry of Justice and General Prosecutors’ Office. The GPO also created an Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which should serve to improve coordination and provide a rapid law enforcement response to TIP cases.

In Tajikistan, UNODC produced a standardized training concept for criminal justice practitioners on trafficking in persons, as well as two training manuals on investigation and prosecution of human trafficking based on the UNODC Anti-human trafficking training manual for criminal justice practitioners. The training film “Victims not Villains 2” on prosecution and adjudication of TIP cases was dubbed in Tajik and was demonstrated during trainings for prosecutors and trainee judges at the training centers of the General Prosecutor’s Office and the Supreme Court in Dushanbe. UNODC also presented the Russian translation of its Case Digest on evidential issues in trafficking in persons cases at a round table which gathered some 30 representatives of State bodies, international organizations, civil society and victim support providers.

The Case Digest assists criminal justice practitioners in addressing recurring evidential issues that are typical to trafficking in persons cases. The digest helps investigators and prosecutors build a trafficking case and analyzes cases in depth, thus showing how the interplay of different evidential patterns leads to a conviction or an exoneration.

In Turkmenistan, 76 (10 women) police and migration officers, prosecutors and judges improved knowledge on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases. Training materials and the “Victims not Villains” training films were translated and dubbed into Turkmen language and used to support practical training processes of law enforcement training institutions. Issues related to mutual legal assistance and extradition were addressed in a separate workshop for 19 Turkmen law enforcement and judicial officers.

UNODC actively engaged authorities and law enforcement bodies in efforts to coordinate work to prevent and respond to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In Turkmenistan, UNODC trained 15 public sector representatives, youth and civil society organizations and mass media on conducting public awareness raising campaigns on root causes, consequences and indicators of trafficking in persons. This resulted in a concerted public awareness raising campaign targeting Turkmenistan’s capital and provinces to warn against risks of becoming a victim of human trafficking. The campaign engaged over 1000 youth, representatives of government organizations, law enforcement, public organizations and universities, including multiple training interventions, interactive sports and cultural events, quiz nights and concerts.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC worked with 220 national and local stakeholders from the State Migration Service, the Interagency Working Group and TIP Coordination Councils in eight regions to monitor and evaluate implementation of the TIP Government Programme and its Action Plan for 2017-2020. Functional analysis of State bodies responsible for implementation of the Law to prevent and address trafficking in persons helped improve interagency cooperation and clarify the role of each agency. UNODC completed legal analysis with recommendations to bring national legislation in line with international standards on smuggling of migrants.

Results of a nationwide public awareness campaign “100 days against Trafficking in Persons”, were presented at a national conference to advocate for concerted efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons in Kyrgyzstan. The campaign engaged 5,000 youth activists and reached out to over 60,000 people.
GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING
“I became closer to my daughter. She shares her thoughts and her inner world with me now.”

Father, participant of the Strengthening Families Programme

**DRUG USE PREVENTION**

During the reporting period UNODC facilitated concerted action on the prevention of drug use in the region and supported policymakers in the development of comprehensive evidence-based drug use prevention programmes. UNODC strengthened knowledge of drug prevention professionals on applicable International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and built their capacity to implement evidence-based cost-effective family skills training programmes.

UNODC implemented SFP 10-14 in four countries of the region, piloting the program in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan and scaling it up in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. 44,000 families in the region benefited from the programme, delivered by 1,700 facilitators.

Policy makers described the programme as highly beneficial and useful in terms of preventing drug abuse among children/adolescents. Parents and children/youth are quite satisfied with their participation in the programme. Families confirmed that they have experienced significant improvements in their relationships after taking part in the programmes. The demand for participating in the programme from both children/youth and parents is relatively high. The parent survey continues to reflect an increase in enhanced parenting skills, monitoring and support. The survey shows evidence of increased resilience among youth to avoid risky behaviours, substance use and violence. Organized workshops have had immense strategic value on the expansion of the programme at regional level.

### SFP 10-14

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<th># of families</th>
<th># of schools</th>
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### Strong Families

<table>
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Strong Families Programme is a universal/selective prevention intervention designed for families with children aged between 8 and 15 with the aim of improving parenting skills, child well-being and family mental health. The programme is intended for families living in remote rural areas and resource limited settings. It is brief, light, evidence-based, suitable for low resource settings, open source and cost-effective.

In Uzbekistan, the programme was piloted with a group of 50 families in two selected schools of Tashkent city (#240 and #50). UNODC partnered with the Ministry of Public Education to prepare the materials in Uzbek language and monitor and evaluate the pilot. Moreover, in response to the government’s interest in scaling up the programme, UNODC helped create a pool of national trainers who in turn trained 3,689 facilitators. By the end of the year, these facilitators worked with 10,536 families in 238 pilot schools around the country. By promoting the UNODC-WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, these family, school and community centered drug prevention interventions contributed to achievement of SDG Target 3.5.
The children of parents that have a warm parenting style and know where their children are and what they are doing, are five times less likely to use stimulants or opioids (even only once during their lives), says UNODC “Listen First!” campaign. A year after a success of the “Strengthening Families Programme for youth aged 10-14” (SFP 10-14) in Uzbekistan, we went to one of the participating schools to find a family who would prove the statement made by the researchers.

School 240 took part in the SFP 10-14 during 2018. Some 15 families participated in the training. Ms. Nazokat Azimova and her daughter Robiya were among the participants in April 2018.

“My daughter is a 9-grade student. She is 15. She has a very stubborn personality. She used to get irritated very fast and was not very open for communication. She would pick up the pen and paper and write down her thoughts. After school, she would not want to do household chores, would quickly fall asleep. She was a reserved person keeping everything inside.” – started her story Ms. Nazokat.

“After the training, I understood my own mistake in communication. Turns out, one should listen to his/her child and spend more time together. But I did not. I used to spend more time at work than with my children.

We just became friends with my daughter!” – shared her memories Ms. Nazokat.

But young Nargiza was not the only child in the Azimovs family who benefited from the SFP 10-14. While talking to Ms. Nazokat, we realized, her son, Bekhruzbek, got also indirectly involved into the programme.

“During the training, I worked not only with my daughter, but also with my son. As there is a year of age difference between them, I used same methods with my son. I would listen carefully not just to her, but to him also.

My son is 16, he’s a 10-grader. He has no experience of being involved into bad companies. He respects me well. But he used to be very rude. He would snap at every word. I used to talk to school psychologist often and ask what else could be done. The psychologist suggested that I take part in the SFP training and promised that I would be fine.” – continued Ms. Nazokat.
"Before, I used to get back to work as soon as I arrived home from work. And my children used to talk to each other quickly and go outside for a walk. Now, both of them talk to me. I give them advice where necessary. We are friends and, in the same time, we subordinate as child and parent." – told Ms. Nazokat about her son.

Ms. Nazokat works as a teacher in the same school. She raises three children on her own. By the end of our conversation she finally shared the story with us.

"My son was hiding from me that he was smoking. The teachers, my colleagues, saw him smoking at school. It happened a year ago, when he was 9-grader. I was very busy with work and did not pay attention. The habit appeared in 2018 and I did not know about it even while working at the same school. I could smell the smoke, but I would never think that my son was smoking." – Ms. Nazokat confessed.

"During the training, we were taught what to do in this kind of situations. I talked to my son, gave advice. And he changed! He stopped smoking. He promised to stop it. And teachers have not seen him smoking since then."

"This training helped me in this situation. I did not yell, neither I beat my son. Before, I would point at smoking every day. I would annoy him, push him. During the training they showed us a lot of good materials. I analyzed it and made a decision. So, what I did is I talked to him only once and let him decide. He got the responsibility and stopped smoking." – says Ms. Nazokat.

And here we realized that trust and closer relationship made it possible for Bekhrubzek to get rid of the bad habit. His mother and himself have change their attitude and started relationship with trust. They opened up to each other and established strong bonds between each other.

Concluding the conversation, we asked Ms. Nazokat about one final thing: "Has the SFP training affected the children performance at school?"

"My son did not study well. He had conflict with teachers. They would complain about his behavior, about his reluctance to study. He did not even have a notebook to write at the lesson. But he changed after the training. He started keeping the notebook, started reading books. His behavior changed. He stopped arguing with teachers." – she shared with pride.

According to the UNODC research, prevention programmes based on life-skills and social influences delivered at schools can prevent one quarter of the drug use cases occurring year after the intervention.

In Uzbekistan, as the evidence-based and cost-effective intervention aimed at decreasing the use and intention to use tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs, children's behavior problems, and increasing children's social and life skills and family cohesion, the SFP 10-14 went successfully through the analysis and adaptation by the experts. In 2019, the SFP 10-14 served as a basis programme to the "Happy Schools" project of the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Being implemented for three years in Uzbekistan, the UNODC-led family strengthening programme have reached more than 45,000 families and 4,500 schools producing strong results in terms of drug and crime prevention.
At the regional level UNODC ROCA contributed to achievement of the Target 3.5 of the Agenda 2030 by promoting treatment assessments, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, research and development of technical tools and evidence-based policies. Moreover, UNODC ROCA also delivered capacity-building activities in the field of drug dependence treatment and care aimed at enhancing the Member States’ drug use disorders treatment, and reintegration and care, including related infectious diseases, while ensuring consistent development of gender-responsive approaches. As a result, governments have been supported in the development and provision of continued and enhanced access to evidence-based treatment of substance use disorders and sustained recovery services as demonstrated by the increased use of internationally recognized practices and policies in the region.

In 2019, UNODC continued to support a balanced public health-oriented approach to the drug problem by working to end discrimination against people who use drugs; and by increasing access to comprehensive, evidence-based, and gender responsive services for prevention of drug use and treatment of substance use disorders, including as an alternative to conviction or punishment.

**Universal Treatment Curriculum for Substance Use Disorders (UTC) training package** developed through funding from the U.S. Department of State. The overall goal of the training series is to reduce the health, social, and economic problems associated with SUDs by building international treatment capacity through training, professionalizing, and expanding the global treatment workforce. The training prepares addiction specialists for professional certification by providing the latest information about SUDs and treatment and facilitating hands-on activities to develop skills and confidence in a relatively new treatment workforce.
To institutionalize treatment of substance use disorders, UNODC developed the capacity of 630 drug dependence treatment professionals on evidence-based treatment and care using the Universal treatment Training (UTC) package during series of echo-trainings conducted by the team of national trainers. It is estimated that these newly trained 630 professionals reached approximately 3,500 patients in 2019 only.

In 2019, UNODC continued strengthening the capacity of policy makers to draft, promote, advocate and support drug policies, which are in line with the International Drug Conventions. 24 policy makers from Central Asian countries exchanged best practices on the development of national drug demand reduction strategies. During a three-day workshop, the participants discussed the nature of drug use disorders, as well as prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation services. Based on UNODC guidance, each country delegation developed a work plan reflecting priority actions and activities in the next years, responsible entities, resources required and how to mobilize them, expected challenges and how to address them.

UNODC ROCA facilitated National Multi-Task Force Group meetings in all countries of the region to review and adapt the UNODC-WHO International quality standards on drug dependence treatment services for development and institutionalization of a drug treatment services quality assurance mechanism. A team of national assessment experts piloted relevant tools/protocols in selected drug dependence treatment facilities.

In 2019, UNODC successfully advocated for the development and approval of national quality standards of drug dependence treatment services based on the UNODC-WHO standards in Uzbekistan. As a result, this was included as an objective of a new government policy on measures to improve the system of narcological assistance to the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which was adopted in October 2019.

UNODC provided specialized medical equipment, furniture and accessories to improve the quality of emergency narcological aid and specialized reanimation services at selected drug dependence treatment facilities of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. To promote evidence-based and ethical drug dependence treatment interventions, UNODC conducted a regional training on introduction of protocols on treatment for psychostimulants and for co-morbid psychiatric and medical disorders on 4-8 November in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The training was attended by 25 specialists from Central Asian
countries representing narcological and other relevant health system services involved in the development of protocols for the provision of medical services for people with drug dependence and co-occurring mental and medical disorders. During the five-day training, participants had an opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of various categories of disorders caused by drug use, their interaction with mental and medical disorders, as well as the specific effects and medical and social consequences associated with the use of various psychostimulants. As an outcome of the training, each country delegation identified the current needs for the treatment system, reflected barriers/challenges for effective management of somatic comorbidities and psychostimulant dependence and developed work plans on overcoming barriers to managing effective, evidence-based interventions.

The three International Drug Control Conventions highlight the necessity for Member States to ensure access to controlled medicines for medical and scientific purposes. Additionally, the mandate for the work of the UNODC-WHO-Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) Joint Global Program includes the Commission on Narcotic Drugs’ resolution 53/4 and 54/6 on availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes; and a number of recent World Health Assembly resolutions with a focus on palliative care. Over the past years, increased attention and priority has been placed on this area of work, with high level policy frameworks such as the Outcome Document from the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug problem and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development referring to increasing access to controlled medicines as part of SDG 3.8. During reporting period, UNODC ROCA supported a round table meeting on increasing access to controlled medicines for the 20 specialists from the Department for Regulation of the Circulation of Medicines and Medical Devices of the Ministry of Health (MOH) of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Topics of focus were structured around the estimation of essential controlled medicines, rational use of medicines and the fear of patients developing a substance use disorder. It was agreed that the Ministry will develop a strategic plan and the UNODC is willing to provide technical assistance and support upon request.

In Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, UNODC provided technical support to national research partners to launch a multisite study on community management of opioid overdose, including the use of emergency naloxone within the framework of the UNODC-WHO Stop Overdose Safely (S-O-S) Initiative. The study is looking at the availability and accessibility of naloxone and the feasibility and impact of expanding community management of opioid overdose (including training and take-home naloxone) in participating countries/sites. National partners from participating countries were assisted in creation of protective communities by improving opioid prescribing to mitigate the related risks, preventing and treating opioid use disorders as well as providing emergency response to overdose.
Eastern Europe and Central Asia is the only region in the world where annual HIV infection rates continue to grow. Though, the most of the new cases of HIV are sexually transmitted, the share of new HIV infections that result from injecting drugs is declining gradually in Central Asia\(^1\). For example, in Kyrgyzstan, 88% of all the new cases of HIV in 2002 were among injecting drug users, whereas in 2017 the figure was only 23%. There is some anecdotal evidence, which suggests these transmissions are – at least partially – the result of sexual partners who are using psychotropic substances\(^2\).

The increase of HIV infection cases in Tajikistan is quite alarming. According to the UNAIDS 2012 Report on Global AIDS Epidemic, Tajikistan is among of the countries where HIV prevalence has increased by more than 25% over the last 10 years. According to the Republican AIDS Center, the number of PLHIV as of September 2019 stood at 8,613 (5,105 males and 3,508 females). For the first nine months of 2019, there were 1,095 (650 males and 445 females) newly registered PLHIV. 68.5% of these cases are the result of sexual transmission, IDUs - 12.8%, mother to child transmission - 3.5%, unknown - 15.2%.

Kazakhstan has registered an increased HIV incidence of 0.17 in 2018 compared to 0.15 in 2017 with 0.07 in women and 0.11 in men of 15-24 years old. From the epidemiological point of view, Kazakhstan is still having a concentrated HIV epidemic, however, experts are speaking of a shift from PWID to MSM. A decrease in HIV prevalence has been registered in PWID with 8.5% in 2016 and 7.9% in 2018, while HIV prevalence in MSM increased from 3.5% in 2015 to 6.2% in 2018. Additionally, based on the latest evidence, HIV

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1 According to official data from Turkmenistan, there are no cases of HIV in the country, with only one infection reported in 2004
transmission does not occur through injecting drugs, but rather in people who use drug stimulants.

In 2019, UNODC worked closely with the governments of Central Asian countries on HIV prevention, treatment, care and supporting people who use drugs to access to comprehensive HIV services. Moreover, UNODC ROCA conducted high-level advocacy among decision-makers, policymakers and law enforcement agencies to create an enabling environment for harm reduction.

In Kazakhstan, UNODC facilitated policy dialogue with high level decision makers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOI), General Prosecutor’s Office, National Security Committee, MOH and Ombudsman to increase awareness about UN policies, standards and norms regarding HIV prevention among people who use drugs (PWUD) on various platforms and forums including the Country Coordinating Committee on Work with International Organizations on HIV and Tuberculosis chaired by the Minister of Health that enhanced discussion of the most burning issues and finding joint solutions in particular with OST scale-up.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC provided support to the development of an HIV action plan for the MOI for further consideration and adoption. Moreover, UNODC supported public hearings on Draft of the new Law on Drugs and Narcotics substances, with a section that implies to the key populations. To draft the law, at least two focus groups with key populations were organized to discuss the provision of the new law. As a result, the final draft includes the opinion and considerations of these focus group discussions.

In Uzbekistan, UNODC facilitated review and adaptation of national legislation and policies to ensure they are up to date with respect to scientific evidence on drug use, drug dependence and HIV and conform to international human rights obligations.

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In Uzbekistan, UNODC provided technical support for the development of the 2019-2021 National HIV State Programme. With the aim to ultimately increase strategic information about and to improve the availability of the comprehensive package of HIV services for PWID UNODC supported quality assurance monitoring with the Country Coordination Mechanism¹ and several NGOs. Moreover, UNODC supported experts at the National Human Rights Centre (NHRC) to review potentially stigmatizing or discriminatory policies or practices against PWID and PLHIV, monitoring cases of violence of human rights violations to prepare an analysis for national stakeholders.

Increasing access to evidence-based drug dependence treatment and comprehensive HIV prevention services in prisons remained an important priority

³ A special sub-committee of State Commission including government and international organizations responsible for coordination of HIV related activities in the country
during the reporting period. UNODC sensitized representatives of the prison administration and civil society organizations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the importance of continuity of care after release from prison as well as during pre-trial detention. In Kyrgyzstan, the draft UNODC “Technical Guide to ensure the continuity of HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people on admission to, transfer between and release from prisons and other closed settings” was discussed with representatives from the State Prison Service, MOH and Civil Society Organizations. Participants identified gaps in ensuring continuity of care in Kyrgyzstan and developed proposals for improvement. As a result, three instructions on the implementation of Methadone Maintenance Therapy, Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs, and prevention, organization of testing and treatment of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) among prisoners were adopted. In Tajikistan, analysis of the legal framework was conducted to identify challenges and opportunities for police to refer PWID to health and social services. In Uzbekistan, UNODC supported the Police Academy in the design, tailoring, and delivery of a new training curriculum on HIV prevention. With this knowledge, police officers will be better informed and equipped to grasp the unique opportunities their work presents to reach people who inject drugs and people in prisons.
PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
In order to achieve Sustainable development Goals in line with Agenda 2030, all countries in the region are going through the SDG nationalization process and adopting the SDG indicators to country context. UNODC continued to provide close support to the countries in the region throughout this process. Special focus in 2019 was given to adoption of methodologies and tools for measuring the progress against SDG indicators that fall under UNODC custodianship at global level. UNODC actively engaged with government counterparts in discussing the methodologies and tools to collect data to report under SDG 16. This support enabled the countries to identify gaps and develop a plan to address them. In 2019, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan submitted their Voluntary National Reports, where the progress in achieving SDGs were reported. UNODC supported the countries in preparation of these reports, with special focus on SDG 16.

In 2019, UNODC continued to partner with sister UN agencies in supporting the countries in the region through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF). UNODC was represented under relevant UNDAF results groups throughout the region, and actively contributed to relevant outcomes. Considering that UNDAFs in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are reaching their final year of implementation, UNCTs in these countries have initiated the development of new UNSDCF:s for the period of 2021-2025. UNODC closely collaborated with UNCTs and government counterparts in these countries to ensure that common country assessments include comprehensive analysis on drugs, crime, justice and terrorism issues in the region. UNODC also ensured that newly drafted UNSDCF:s in these countries include relevant results to be achieved by 2025 under UNODC mandated areas.

In order to strengthen coherence among UN agencies, and deliver as One UN, UNODC joined several interagency initiatives in each country. The below table provides information on major initiatives that UNODC joined.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and title of the initiative</th>
<th>Objective of the initiative</th>
<th>Participating UN agencies</th>
<th>UNODC’s role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent extremism-Kazakhstan</td>
<td>To identify policy, knowledge and practice gaps and provide recommendations to the Central Asian countries in support of their efforts in rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and their accompanying family members. By the end of the project situational analysis of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on their experience in preparing for, developing and implementing repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes would be developed.</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UNODC contributes to identification of challenges, risks and limitations in implementing repatriation and reintegration programmes. Moreover, is closely involved in determination of areas and ways for improving such returnee repatriation and reintegration programmes, in alignment with relevant UN Guidelines and international best practice. Furthermore, promotes and facilitate regional cooperation among the Central Asian countries on repatriating, rehabilitating and reintegrating returnees and their family members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotlight Initiative - Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>To address all forms of violence against women and girls, and harmful practices through application of comprehensive set of approaches based on social innovation, Human Rights, multi-sectoral inclusive response and survivor-centred principles. Particular emphasis will be placed on integrating the voices and experiences and solutions of women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination, in line with ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle of SDGs.</td>
<td>UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women</td>
<td>UNODC participates to deliver in all six pillars of the SI, capitalizing on best practices made available and on ongoing initiatives implemented in this practice area in Kyrgyzstan, including on increasing access to justice and legal aid; strengthening the rule of law and supporting legal, justice and security sector reform, including capacity development of justice and security institutions in line with international standards; supporting civic engagement in policy and decision-making processes; strengthening the capacity of the General Prosecutor’s Office and National Statistical Committee in generating data on criminal justice; supporting the national women’s rights movement to address SGBV and women’s rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the system of social protection (SDG fund) - Turkmenistan</td>
<td>The project aims to make a transformative change in the current system of social service delivery in Turkmenistan, to reach out to the most deprived and vulnerable population and to address their specific needs. The programme will design a new model of inclusive community-based services for children at risk of separation from parents, children without parental care, children with disabilities, youth at risk, women facing gender-based violence, people with disabilities and older persons in need of support with basic everyday care.</td>
<td>UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC</td>
<td>UNODC leads on provision of services for youth at risk, parents with substance abuse disorder where children are at risk of separation from parents and on models of parent support to reduce risky behaviours in adolescents. UNODC contributes to training packages on co-dependency and social work with families with substance abusing members, which is coordinated closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### UN Peacebuilding Fund-Kyrgyzstan

The project aims to reduce vulnerability to violent extremism in the Kyrgyz Republic by supporting national efforts to:

- Prevent radicalization to violence in prisons
- Improve the governance of the penitentiary system and probation services to manage violent extremist offenders
- Implement community policing and engagement strategies to prevent further progression to violent extremism
- Strengthen forensic services in terrorism and extremism related cases in order to ensure adherence to fair trial standards.

### UN Peacebuilding Fund-Uzbekistan

The project aims to support communities to better adapt to the rapid reform process in Uzbekistan, while enabling local service providers to deliver the reform agenda in an inclusive manner. This project focuses on young people as a fast-growing demographic and the future of the country, and aims to ensure that they are not left behind in the context of the rapid changes linked to the reform process. The project will support community resilience and sustain peace by empowering youth as actors of positive change, increasing their opportunities for self-fulfilment and piloting new models for the government to deliver reform and services inclusively in the Fergana Valley.

### Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) grant

The UBRAF funds aim to support the Member States to achieve global commitments in combating HIV. Political Declaration on Ending AIDS was adopted by the UN Member States in 2016. The Declaration established specific, time-bound targets and commitments that must be reached by 2020. To consolidate support to countries, UNAIDS provides catalytic resource funds, aimed to address gaps, and to accelerate the national responses to HIV, to meet the Political Declaration commitments and targets.

UNODC supports the national capacities to respond to HIV to achieve 90-90-90 goal by 2020: 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. Moreover, drug abuse prevention, drug dependence treatment, and HIV prevention among key populations, especially among IDUs and within the penitentiary system will be addressed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.4.2 Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.5.1 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNODC continued close collaboration with national counterparts to facilitate timely submission of country responses to the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ), Individual Drug Seizures report, Questionnaire on New Psychoactive Substance (NPS), the UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), Questionnaire for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, and Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire (UN-IAFQ). In 2019, UNODC launched an on-line data collection portal to streamline different data collection mechanisms. This portal contains all UNODC questionnaires and provides national focal points with clear guidelines on their completion. In order to enable the countries in the region to provide the required data, UNODC engaged with national counterparts on submission of the questionnaires.

**STATUS OF QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMISSIONS IN 2019 (AS OF 1 JANUARY 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN data collection instrument</th>
<th>KZ</th>
<th>KG</th>
<th>TJ</th>
<th>TM</th>
<th>UZ</th>
<th>UNODC reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report Questionnaire</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>World Drug Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Drug Seizures</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>World Drug Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questionnaire on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Surveys on NPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ongoing Surveys of crime trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Report on Trafficking in Persons</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ongoing Global report on trafficking in persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit Arm Flows Questionnaire</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study on firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16 questionnaires submitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNODC convened the Second Expert Group meeting on strengthening drug data collection through the ARQ in August 2019 in Vienna, Austria. Experts from 59 countries, including from Central Asia, and five international and regional organisations participated in the meeting to review the updated content and structure of the draft ARQ and discussed priorities for capacity building to produce drug related information and increase the response rate to the ARQ.

To initiate a dialogue and foster collaboration between relevant national agencies, UNODC in cooperation with the newly established UNODC-KOSTAT Centre of Excellence convened the Third Regional Meeting on Crime and Criminal Justice statistics on 29-31 October 2019 in Chengdu, China. The meeting brought together 50 international, regional, and national experts, including from the Central Asian region, to review recent progress on crime and criminal justice statistics and identify ways to improve data quality and availability in Asia and the Pacific region. The
In 2019, UNODC continued technical cooperation in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and launched a new initiative in Turkmenistan to work towards international accreditation of forensic services in these countries.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC supports the State Forensic Service (SFS). With furniture and equipment provided by UNODC, the SFS launched a new Training Centre to enhance the scientific and forensic capacity of its experts as well as other criminal justice practitioners.

UNODC facilitated the establishment of cooperation between the SFS and the Samkharauli National Forensic Bureau and the Forensic Criminalistics Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Mentoring by these laboratories is assisting the SFS to put in place a quality management system in line with the ISO 17025 standard and prepare for accreditation of four types of forensic expertise: handwriting analysis, technical expertise of documents, testing of narcotic drugs and chemicals.

UNODC conducted mapping of non-state providers of forensic expertise and assessed their needs. Results were presented at a roundtable to develop the policy agenda for the development of forensic services as an essential human rights safeguard in the administration of criminal justice in the Kyrgyz Republic.

With support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, UNODC completed an analysis of legislation focused on reporting under SDG indicators and discussed the the UN-CTS and implementation of the ICCS. The event also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss regional challenges and priorities, specifically related to monitoring progress towards the SDGs.

UNODC facilitated data collection for the Tenth Quinquennial report on "Capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty" that UNODC is mandated to prepare for the consideration of the CCPCI, the ECOSOC and the Human Rights Council in 2020. The Survey covered the period of 2014-2018 and included information on the current status with regard to capital punishment, possible plans for abolition, restriction or extension of the use of capital punishment and the implementation of the safeguards.

In 2019, UNODC facilitated a training course on "Methods of Information Processing and Analysis using Analytical Software" for 56 participants in Kazakhstan the Border Service of the National Security Committee and Training Center of the State Revenue Committee, Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan. The course focused on data analysis methods, data processing and solving of optimisation tasks using MS Excel. As a result, participants improved their analytical skills, which contributed to enhancement of their work.

UNODC continued to regularly update its Country Fact Sheets on drug situation in the five Central Asian states. Moreover, UNODC ROCA supported production of Information Bulletin on Drug-related Situation for 2018: The Central Asia Region. The Bulletin and Fact Sheets were used to sensitize different partners and donors and attract more attention to specific emerging issues in the region.

UNODC’s "Drugs Monitoring Platform" (DMP), a unique global online tool for collecting, monitoring and sharing a wide range of drug related data and features, continued to be updated with relevant information. By 31 December 2019, the total number of drug seizure cases in the DMP reached 354,374 entries. During the reporting period 150,428 individual drug seizure cases were recorded.

The number of unique visits of registered users reached 1,340 with pageviews increasing to 285,108, and 71 new users registered to the DMP. The current version of the DMP includes a Database on Law Enforcement Trainings that aims at enhancing coordination and sustainability of all law enforcement training activities conducted in Europe, West and Central Asia. As of 31 December 2019, the DMP includes information on 36 trainings provided for 568 Central Asian and Afghan law enforcement officers in the framework of the relevant UNODC programme activities.
governing the provision of forensic expertise in terrorism and extremism-related cases. Findings were presented at two public events, as a result of which amendments to several laws regulating forensic science services were drafted and handed over to the State Forensic Service.

UNODC issued the second edition of a manual on psycho-linguistic and religious expertise, based on which 26 experts were trained. The manual sets out standard operating procedures, which can ensure the provision of credible and objective forensic analysis. This is aimed at ensuring better adherence to fair trial standards in terrorism and extremism related cases and reducing grievances with the criminal justice system that may trigger radicalization to violence.

In Turkmenistan, UNODC provides support to the forensic laboratories of the Ministry of Health and Medical industry (MOH) and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOI) of Turkmenistan. In 2019, UNODC completed a comprehensive needs assessment to analyze the current status of Turkmenistan’s forensic laboratories to apply for international accreditation in line with ISO/IEC 17025.

The needs assessment was followed by a study visit to Lithuania. The visit was an opportunity for Turkmen forensic experts to learn about quality management of Lithuanian forensic laboratories and exchange experiences on preparation for international accreditation. 25 forensic experts from all regions of Turkmenistan passed a 5-day training course on quality management in forensic science in line with ISO/IEC 17025. In addition to learning about quality management, the training helped build skills on metrological traceability, reference materials and control samples and method validation.

In Uzbekistan, UNODC supported forensic laboratories of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop and introduce a quality management system. To share international good practices in forensic science management, UNODC partnered with the Ministry of Justice (MOI) and its National Centre of Forensic Expertise for a round table at the international legal forum "Tashkent Law Spring", held in April 2019 in Tashkent. The round table brought together more than 80 national and international experts and resulted in a compendium of presentations and key recommendations to further strengthen forensic services in Uzbekistan.

UNODC delivered training for 35 MOJ and MOI laboratory staff to improve their knowledge of the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standards and skills to ensure quality management and conduct internal audits. UNODC assisted the DNA laboratory of the MOJ to participate in proficiency testing through the US-based Collaborative Testing Service. This program strengthens the capacity of paternity laboratory examiners and forensic caseworkers working paternity cases.

UNODC provided the DNA laboratory with a set of specialized reagents and consumables to conduct a cycle of molecular genetic studies as part of the validation exercise. The laboratory was supported to undertake a performance check of key laboratory equipment. Regular validation of test methods and related performance checks of equipment are key requirements for international accreditation.

UNODC provided support to all three countries to participate in the UNODC International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) for drug testing laboratories. Participation in the ICE program is another essential element for the implementation of a laboratory quality management system and ultimately accreditation. Scores obtained by Kyrgyz and Uzbek laboratories show the importance of the program to improve the quality of drug tests. The Central Forensic Laboratory under the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan submitted its application and is due to start participating for the first time in 2020.

As a result of technical assistance provided with funding from the US State Department’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), Uzbek laboratories filed an application to the National Centre of Accreditation of Kazakhstan to obtain international accreditation of conformity with the ISO 17025 international standard. Kyrgyz laboratories are expected to submit their application for accreditation in 2020, whilst the action plan for Turkmen laboratories is now in place with strong commitment from the authorities to pursue this in the upcoming year.
DRUG USE STUDY
In response to the lack of accurate, and regularly updated data on the drug situation, drug-related problems and trends on the drugs market, UNODC launched a national survey on prevalence and emerging trends of drug use in Uzbekistan. The project aims to improve understanding of illicit drug use patterns and trends by undertaking a national household survey to look at the extent of drug use among the general population. The study will also focus on high risk or problem drug users to determine the extent and pattern of problematic drug use in the country, identify accessibility and availability of various health and social services for people who have problems with drugs to support and enhance effective drug control policies in the country. Through intense consultations with key national stakeholders, assessment protocols and instruments for the general population survey and the survey among problem drug users were developed. The field work will commence in 2020.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA ANALYSIS
A new crime digest covering the period from 2014-2018 was produced and published in Kyrgyzstan in three languages – Kyrgyz, Russian, and English. The publication contains a comprehensive analysis on crime trends in the country, including separate sections dedicated to gender and trafficking in persons related crimes. A victimological study was initiated by UNODC in Kyrgyzstan and conducted on the basis of an individual survey of citizens in Bishkek and ten pilot settlements on the most typical crimes. The sample size included 1,990 respondents over 18 years old. The survey is based on the international standard questionnaire (developed by UNODC) adapted to the local context. The crime publication and victimological study were facilitated by UNODC in partnership with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and independent research institute “Public Foundation for Research of Democratic Processes”.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC conducted an analysis of judicial practice in terrorism and extremism cases in partnership with the Association of Women Judges and carried out a study on pathways into radicalization in the prisons of Kyrgyzstan. Based on direct interviews with prisoners, the reports concluded that among the various push and pull factors playing a role in radicalization, feelings of injustice and violations of human rights, including ill-treatment, are common.
In 2019, UNODC raised awareness and informed the wider public on UNODC work in the region and conducted advocacy activities on UNODC mandate areas. The Office utilized advocacy, youth empowerment, social media interactions, and cooperation with NGOs as key strategies of communication during the reporting period.

High-Level Advocacy: During the year, UNODC facilitated several high-level regional and sub-regional political platforms to promote greater cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking and address related matters.

During the 54th Session of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, UNODC ROCA created an opportunity for youth and government officials of 19 countries to interact and exchange their views on the matter of combatting drug trafficking and preventing drug use among children. To empower youth and give them a voice, UNODC ROCA conducted the Youth session with participation of over 30 students from local universities. The young activists presented their ideas and views on how to stop drugs from their invasion into the lives of young people in the region. The youth reports were recorded and documented and included into the final report of the Session.

Youth Empowerment: During 2019, UNODC in Central Asia attracted youth to the issue of illicit drugs and organized crime. Preventing drug use among youth and children requires their active participation as peer-educators and advocates for a healthy lifestyle and culture of lawfulness. Furthermore, active and motivated youth is open to express their opinion and generate constructive ideas on how to prevent such crimes as human trafficking, illicit drug use, deviant behaviors and violence.

Over 7,000 youth were involved in awareness and motivation campaigns on effective strategies to counter and prevent negative consequences of deviant and unlawful behavior, to practice sports in order to
build resilience against crime, tobacco, drug and/or alcohol use, and to prevent trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Results of a nationwide public awareness campaign “100 days against Trafficking in Persons”, engaging 5,000 youth activists and reaching out to over 60,000 population were presented at a National Conference in Kyrgyzstan.

One of the biggest UNODC youth-empowerment events took place in Turkmenistan during the observance of which involved over 1,000 children from two provinces and the capital city. It was organized jointly with the government organizations, law enforcement, public organizations and universities. Two youth sports festivals were conducted in close collaboration with the State Committee for Youth Affairs and Sports of Tajikistan to motivate engaging youth in sport activities, which covered about 1,000 young participants.

The campaign, which was led by national and local authorities in partnership with UNODC, USAID, IOM and civil society organizations, such as Junior Achievement and Beyik Eyyam, covered the capital city Ashgabat and 2 provinces: Dashoguz and Lebap. Interventions included multiple trainings for law enforcement and local authorities, as well as a variety of interactive sports and cultural events, quiz nights and concerts.

During the events, UNODC disseminated leaflets and posters prepared by UNODC volunteers with key messages on trafficking in Persons, such as “Have a heart for victims of trafficking”; “Some things should never be for sale. Act to Stop Human Trafficking” and “We must all get on board to Stop Human Trafficking. It is everybody’s business”.

Social Media Outreach: Social Media has become one of the major channels of communication in the digital era. UNODC utilizes Facebook and Twitter to ensure wider visibility, advocacy and awareness raising on the matters related to its mandate among the wider public, especially younger generation. During 2019, UNODC ROCA worked on creating quality content, as well as opportunities for the wider public to interact with the Office through different communication means, including online, electronic and also through introduction of different interaction platforms (youth forums, guest lectures, etc.).

Through social media accounts, UNODC ROCA told human interest stories, produced video content (over 30 videos posted), and shared most important
achievements with the public thus being transparent to its followers.

**Cooperation with NGOs:** UNODC established closer relationship with the local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of HIV prevention to address the most vulnerable group of people with HIV - injecting drug users with HIV status. Numerous round table meetings, discussions, and trainings were organized to improve the capacity of the NGOs, develop joint activities, and implement ongoing initiatives. The most remarkable outcome of the cooperation is a new mobile phone application called “Find out your HIV status”, introduced by the “Tajik Network of Women Living with HIV” NGO with the support of UNODC Programme Office in Tajikistan. The initiative was funded by UBRAF (UNAIDS Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework).

In Kyrgyzstan UNODC partnered with NGOs on crime and gender-based violence prevention. With the support of experts from non-governmental sector the initiative on development of the new law on crime prevention was raised and supported by the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. Other important highlight was establishment of the working group under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on analysis and introduction of amendments to criminal legislation regarding crimes on gender-based violence. With the support of its implementing partners - NGOs, UNODC developed a mobile application “My community policing officer” and interactive map on crimes in Bishkek and to improve police – public partnership.

**Publications:** UNODC in Central Asia continued its cooperation with the local academia in the field of developing knowledge products. Thus, over ten publications were produced during the reporting period, including Information Bulletin on Drug Situation in Central Asia, country specific Factsheets, UNODC ROCA Annual Report 2018, etc. Moreover, to strengthen the national partners capacity to collect, analyze and monitor data, a number publications on crime and public order, victimization survey, public monitoring reports on management of violent extremist prisoners in open-type colonies and probation settings were issued.
FUNDRAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS

UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia expresses its gratitude for the donor contributions provided in 2019 by the Governments of Australia, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United States of America, as well as UNAIDS and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism for the implementation of activities in the region. The Regional Office also expresses its appreciation for the in-kind contribution of the Governments in the region for establishment of infrastructure for ongoing programmes without which it would not have been possible to fully operate.

UNODC maintained regular consultations with national counterparts and the donor community to ensure that financial commitments are honoured in a timely manner and address needs and priorities of beneficiaries and donors. The UNODC team constantly monitored the respective pledge duration dates and implemented activities in line with the donor requirements.

UNODC delivered more than $15.5 million in the region in 2019. The office received pledges totaling around $5.6 million for sustainability of initiatives aimed at countering transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, crime prevention and criminal justice reform, prevention of radicalization of violence in prisons, drug use and HIV prevention, as well as at initiatives aimed at strengthening cybersecurity, urban safety, forensic services, anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

UNODC engaged in joint fundraising initiatives with other UN sister agencies and was confirmed to receive funding on joint projects on Social Cohesion in Uzbekistan funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, Social Protection in Turkmenistan supported by the Joint SDG Fund and the Spotlight Initiative in the Kyrgyz Republic.