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

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UNODC strengthen partnership in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus

Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia

The last quarter of 2015 marked consolidations of efforts and some new beginnings in preparation of 2016. UNODC has worked closely with member states in the region in advancing technical cooperation in the areas of counter narcotics, transnational crime and terrorism within the frame work of its new Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019. These were complimented by the advancements in the implementation of Regional and Global Programmes.

In September 2015, the UN and the international community adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a set of 17 global goals and 169 targets supersede the Millennium Development Goals MDGs. This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larg-

er freedom. It promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The rule of law is a fundamental requirement for human rights, security, peace and sustainable development. UNODC and partner States in this region have achieved significant progress toward strengthening rule of law. Regional cooperation among States is being facilitated through multiple platforms in which experiences and lessons learned are being shared among states.

The inclusion of drug use prevention on the health Goal 3 of the SDGs is also recognition of the fact that drug use and its consequences have on the precious productive populations and are a public

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health challenge. UNODC has partnered with the Ministries of health in Central Asia to develop and implement programmes that improve access to evidence based quality treatment and HIV prevention services and forging partnerships for bringing together communities,

schools and families to prevent drug use.

Marking International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2015, various events were organized by UNODC Programme offices in Central Asia in partnership with UNDP, civil society organizations, Governments, to raise awareness about corruption. UNODC and UNDP stressed on the imperative to tackle corruption in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. People from the countries region joined UNODC and UNDP for campaign against corruption that encouraged people from all walks of life to take action

against this crime. With the slogan 'Break the Corruption Chain,' people were called to tackle this issue by changing their attitudes towards the crime.

At the 14 December 2015 representatives from West and Central Asia met at a high-level meeting in Vienna and discussed suitable strategies to counter narcotics and transnational organized crime in Afghanistan and neighboring countries. The Heads of Drug Control Agencies from Central Asia presented their perspectives and called for comprehensive strategies and reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation. There is in-

creasing concern over the intensified and ever more sophisticated nexus between global drug trafficking networks and violent extremist terrorism globally including in regions in geographical proximity to Central Asia and the Southern Caucuses. The high level Paris Pact meeting in December 2015 also called for redoubled efforts to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime.

In the coming year UNODC will continue to support the efforts of the countries to further advance their efforts on drugs, crime and terrorism prevention.

Memorandum of Understanding Between CARICC and JPC



An inter-governmental meeting was held in the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) on 19 and 20 October 2015, with the participation of senior officials from the ministries of foreign affairs as well as from the Counter Narcotics Police/Anti-Narcotics Forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, senior officials of CARICC, the Permanent Liaison Officers (PLOs) of the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) and senior officials from UNODC.

The objective of this meeting was to provide a platform to the senior officials from the relevant countries, CARICC management, and the PLOs to determine

the possible means communication and establishment of an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CARICC and Triangle Initiative countries. This

MOU is expected to promote the role of CARICC and JPC, as well as to set legal grounds for information sharing between these two centers.

"Cooperation is always a two-way road"-

Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan regarding the collaboration with UNODC

The relationship between the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia has a quite long history which spans for almost a decade. How would you evaluate our interaction in the field of countering drugs? Which issues, in your opinion, should be included into the agenda in the coming year?

Besides having a multifaceted nature, the cooperation with the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia has a principal importance for the Customs Committee. I have always valued our collaboration very positively, and this due to many reasons.

As an important part of our cooperation, I would like to highlight the Container Control Program, which is jointly implemented by the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In the framework of this Program, very important work is carried out starting from the provision of training and specialized equipment, to the allocation of office premises in Customs points as well as study tours. Sometime ago, UNODC handed over specialized equipment for the detection of precursors in the framework of the regional project on precursors control which was implemented in Azerbaijan and in the Central Asian region. Moreover, very productive cooperation is realized within another project on the standardization and sustainability in the handling and the presentation of data. In this regard, the training on data analysis and the ArcGIS geographic information system has been conducted for analysts from law enforcement agencies.

We are interested in broadening our cooperation with the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia. Likewise, I think that more focus should be made on profiling high-risk consignments, canine service, and drug investigation techniques.

How would you evaluate the implementation of the UNODC/WCO Global Container Control Program in Azerbaijan?

First of all, I would like to underline the

fact that the Government of Azerbaijan welcomed and supported the implementation of the Program as soon as it received the proposal due to its importance for our country.

Cooperation is always a two-way road. We always felt the support from the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia. During the first phase of Program implementation, the Government of Azerbaijan has assigned the State Customs Committee to act as a focal point. The relevant office premises were allocated, while the respective staff trained, in addition to the Baku and Astara Customs Ports selected as project sites and the Internet connection provided to both. Additionally, portable HazMatID 360 detectors which are aimed at identifying chemical substances were handed over to Customs. A special training on using the portable detectors has been conducted for the Customs officers in December 2014. Starting from 2010, various training courses were held in Baku and Astara. Customs representatives, jointly with other relevant competent authorities from different countries were trained on container profiling; containers' inspection technique; container seals and its integrity; rip on/off technique; drug detection; risk indicators; ContainerComm and CEN systems; prevention of illicit strategic goods trafficking; as well as international best practices.

At the same time, the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized study tours to Vienna, Panama, Rotterdam, Ashgabat, Almaty and the port of Poti, Georgia in order to strengthen the professional capacity while introducing the Customs officers to the international best practices.

As you know, the ContainerComm network is actively used by Program implementation team, namely the coordinator and other officers to properly fulfill their obligations. The network enables them to study activities and the best practice of other countries, the exchange of information via a secured channel.



Mr. Aydin Aliyev, Lieutenant General, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The State Customs Committee officers participated in the regional exercise on promoting regional co-operation between Customs and other law enforcement agencies to identify high-risk consignments. The Customs representatives have entered the information on 10 cases related to the seizures of the illicit drugs into the ContainerComm platform.

Combating illicit drug trafficking is a matter of national security. The geographic situation of our country, which is located at the crossroad of Europe and Asia, in addition to the favorable transport arrangements make our country attractive for traffickers.

Combating illicit drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and their precursors is one of the most fundamental tasks of the Customs. Thus, the State Program on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors for 2013 – 2018, which was approved by Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is being implemented in Azerbaijan. A lot of work in this field has been done and will be done by the Customs Committee. Our priority for 2016 is to foster cooperation with international organizations, other country's relevant agencies as well as continue to invest in the capacity building of our staff and enhancement of data collection and sharing between law enforcement agencies inside the country and with our counterparts around the world.

Strengthening the Exchange of Information Between the Central Asian Countries



The annual Steering Committees meeting of the “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in Central Asia” project was held in CARICC (Almaty) in November 2015.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Project Steering Committees of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, representatives of the donor countries, international and regional partners and subject matter experts from the countries of the region.

Mr. Beishenbai Zhunusov, CARICC Director, noted in his welcoming speech that “the intensification of intelligence and information exchange between law enforcement bodies of the neighboring countries in Central Asia is crucial for combatting drug trafficking from Afghanistan”.

In her remarks, Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, noted that “the project has created favorable conditions through infrastructure development, provision of equipment and training of BLO staff for effective cross-border communication and information exchange. The project will focus on BLOs networking which will foster inter-agency and cross-border cooperation in the region”.

Participants discussed the progress in the implementation of the BLO project and exchanged information on seizures made by the BLO officers during conducted operations.

Precursor Incident Communication System

A workshop on the Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) and Pre-export Notification (PEN) online systems was conducted in collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board’s (INCB) project on “Exchange of Intelligence of Acetic Anhydride and Precursors Trafficking in Central and West Asia”, the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries – Law Enforcement Cooperation Sub-programme, and the “Establishment of a Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)” project between 20 and 22 October 2015.

This workshop was planned based on the requests from the law enforcement officials during the meetings of the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors (RIWGP), and coordinated by the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries.

33 officials from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Joint Planning Cell (JPC) and CARICC took part in the meeting.

The agenda of the workshop included the following topics: use

and latest features of INCB’s automated online system for the exchange of pre-export notifications (PEN Online) to maximize the usage of the system in order to prevent precursor diversion; use of customs data analysis as an additional tool to support regional and international precursor operations and backtracking investigations; examples of national approaches and best practices and other issues.

The event was hosted by CARICC, and served as an example of collaboration and interlinking the local, regional and global initiatives.

Liaison Offices Opened on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek Border to Further Promote Cooperation

The first Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border were opened at border crossing points "Dostuk" and "Dustlik," in the framework of the project "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in Central Asia."

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At the opening ceremony, Mr. Takayuki Koike, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed hope that the opening of BLOs "will promote close coopera-



tion in the field of information exchange and contribute to joint actions against drug-related crime, both at bilateral and regional levels." Government of Japan provided \$1.3 million for this project through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Border Liaison Offices were refurbished and equipped with the special equipment, training courses were organized for the BLO officers from National Counter Narcotics Center, Ministries of Interior, Customs and Border Guards Services.

Mr. Bolot Suvaliev, the First Deputy Chairman of the State Service on Drug Control of Kyrgyzstan, said "Implementation of the project is positive step towards coordination of regional measures for solving the problem of drug trafficking, which does not have national borders."

During the inauguration ceremony, Mr.

Katsutoshi Fushimi, the Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) said that the efforts made by the partner-donor agencies will yield results and contribute to achieving the goals put forth by the Central Asian counterparts in countering drugs and other illicit items.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative in Central Asia congratulated the Governments of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on the opening of the first Border Liaison Offices on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border and thanked the Government of Japan for its support and willingness to help the Central Asian countries to fight drug trafficking.

Mr. Azizbek Erkaboev, Head of International Relations Department of National Information and Analytical Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, underlined that the project will enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies in combating transnational organized crime and drug trafficking by combining organizational effort and technical measures.

Mr. Otabek Choriev, Head of Andijan Regional Department of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan said, "Today we are witnessing a joint work to create conditions for inter-agency cooperation at the border crossing points Dostyk and Dustlik." He expressed that this continuing cooperation will strengthen the counter narcotics response.



Third Legislative Review Group Meeting



On 19-20 November 2015, the Third Legislative Review Group meeting on the assistance in bringing the Turkmen national legislation related to trade and border control, in particular export control, in line with international standards, took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

The meeting, which was facilitated by Mr. Martin Wilde, expert, Mr. Arturo Laurent, representative of UNODC's HQs Terrorism Prevention Branch and Dr. Aleksandr Jumayev, national expert, was conducted by the UNODC project on "Strengthening customs service and other law enforcement agencies in implementation of border trade control in particular export/import regimes control". Mr. Anton Martyniuk,

OSCE expert who was invited to the meeting, gave an overview of the legislative situation in Central Asia and briefed the participants on OSCE's work within the UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

Participants from the Turkmen State Customs Service, State Service to Protect the Security of a Healthy Society, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Defense and Prosecutor General's Office took part in the meeting. The group continued to work on developing recommendations for further consideration by the national authorities. The main point of discussion was the compliance of Turkmen national law with the UN Security Council resolution 1540.

During the meeting, examples of international lists of strategic and dual use goods have been studied, in addition participants also getting an opportunity to get acquainted with the international best practice in this field.

"Families and School Together" (FAST) Training in Ashgabat

UNODC, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, conducted the "Family and Schools Together" (FAST) workshop as a follow up to the next round of FAST activities which were launched in Ashgabat in 2011.

The training was organized in the framework of the Regional Program for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, Sub-Program 3. The certified national trainers facilitated sessions helping strengthen child protective factors as well as



enabling parents to learn how to build a friendly atmosphere in the family. Up to 60 families, 24 teachers and psychologists attended the training which was organized in

three selected schools in Ashgabat. "Sometimes we forget the little important issues on family wellbeing. FAST has reminded us about them" mentioned one of parents.

Meeting with Donors in Bishkek

The Donor Coordination Meeting took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Meeting was jointly organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the MFA. Ms. Ashita Mittal, the UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, presented the UNODC Programme for Central Asia, 2015-2019 to the donor community. The Programme was developed in close collaboration with the national counterparts.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Takauki Koike, representatives of diplomatic missions



and embassies, including European Union, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, USA, Germany, India, Turkey and international organizations working in the country, took part in

the meeting. Participants also discussed issues of better coordination and cooperation in the field of countering drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism.

Coordination is Crucial in the Field of Drug Control

Forth meeting of the State Coordination Committee for the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The fourth meeting of the State Coordination Committee for the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors (SCCD) headed by Mr. Abdyrakhman Mamataliev, Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Chairman of the SCCD, was held on 2 October in Bishkek. The meeting, which was supported by the UNODC project "Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic", was attended by government representatives, including deputy ministers and deputy heads of the law enforcement agencies as well as the Soros Foundation and civil society. Mr. Abdyrakhman Mamataliev men-

tioned during the meeting that "one of the main tasks of the Coordination Committee is to consolidate the efforts of law enforcement in countering drug trafficking. Coordination is crucial for the success in this field and might help the government and people to decrease the consequences of drugs".

The SCCD members also discussed the implementation of the Anti-drug program of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and its Action Plan

adopted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan in 2014, as well as the most pressing issues of coordination of activities in the field of drug control, including drug addiction and reduction of negative consequences of drugs.

The Committee set up a mechanism on the early warning of new psychoactive substances and adopted measures which are necessary to include them into the list of controlled substances.



Learning the Best Practices in the Container Control

In order to familiarize recently trained officers of Uzbekistan with the methodologies applied by experienced risk profiling units in the European Union, the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized a working study visit for representatives of the State Customs Committee and the National Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers to the Republic of Poland in October 2015.

Visit was organized in the framework of the UNODC – WCO Global Container Control Programme. The mission was supported by the World Customs Organization and the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Poland.

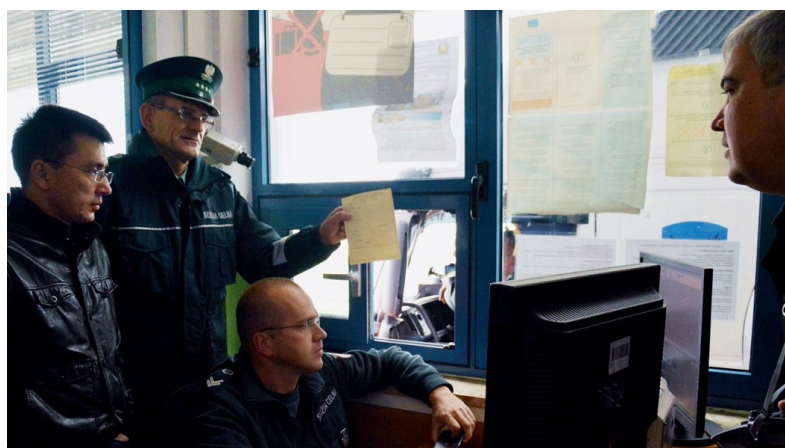
Uzbek delegation visited the European Union's border crossings, the Customs Department in Warsaw, the Customs Training Academy and the Customs Chamber in Biala-Podlaska as well as

Customs border control offices in Malaszewicze (rail control), Koroszczyn (land border control) and Terespol (rail and land border control).

Polish counterparts shared experience in risk profiling for containerized shipments with the Uzbek colleagues. The Uzbek delegation was impressed by the existing automated and electronic systems of customs control, including a new "e-Booking TRUCK" system that enables customers carrying out international road transport

operations to reserve the date and the time of the Customs control services in advance, which greatly contributes to trade facilitation. The Uzbek counterparts learned how the Polish Customs successfully cooperates with the private sector and other stakeholders of the international trade supply chain. It is expected that the mission helps to build good working relations between the Polish and the Uzbek Customs in the field of illicit drug trafficking and smuggling of prohibited and illicit goods.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.



Applying Containers' Profiling and Search Techniques in Practice

UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized a five-day mentorship programme for officers of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan to enhance sustainability of the programme and equip officers of the CCP Port Control Units of Astrara dry port and Baku seaport with necessary skills and knowledge. Programme was conducted on 26-30 October 2015 under the UNODC – World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme (CCP) hosted by Azeri Government at the Astrara Customs Post.

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Customs officers were trained in pro-

filing and selection of containers in the pre-arrival (imports) and/or pre-departure (exports) phase, using Internet, as a source of information and "ContainerComm" as a secured communication tool.

The trainees inspected a high-risk container at Astrara Custom's terminal in real time. During these exercise participants revealed some discrepancies between commercial documentation and actual consignment using modern profiling and search techniques in practice.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.

National Policies in Drug Demand Reduction

How to prevent young people from using new psychoactive substances? Do UN conventions allow providing methadone therapy in prisons? Is mandatory drug dependence treatment effective? – these were some of the questions that policy makers discussed during UNODC workshop in Astana, 13-15 October 2015.

This was the first time, when 3-days training on drug use prevention, treatment of drug use disorders and harm reduction was organised for people representing non-health sectors. The workshop was attended by high-level policy makers from drug control agencies, penitentiary departments, criminal justice and health sectors as well as civil society representatives from all Central Asia countries.

Dr. Gulnur Kulkayeva, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Control of Medical and Pharmaceutical Activities of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan



noted in her opening remarks that many decision makers do not have sufficient information about evidenced informed treatment of drug use disorders. Therefore, it is important to raise awareness about effective and balanced drug demand reduction policies that will ensure that drug dependent people receive the necessary health and social services.

The participants increased their skills to draft, negotiate, advocate and support drug policies which are in line with the International drug Conven-

tions as they relate to protecting the life of people affected by substance use disorders whilst ensuring safety and security of the population. The workshop facilitated exchange of knowledge of key demand reduction issues, as well as raised awareness for the need to address drug related issues using a comprehensive, scientific and human based approach. It was conducted within the framework of UNODC project “Treating drug dependence and its health consequences: Treatnet II”.

Assistance to Policy Makers in Improving the Quality of National Drug Prevention Interventions

In order to support the drug use prevention programmes, increase their quality and coverage based on the UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and the UNODC draft guidance on the evaluation of prevention interventions, a national training seminar on the “Prevention Strategy and Policy Makers” was held on 4-6 November 2015 in Dushanbe.

Representatives of government agencies, international as well as non-governmental organisations working in the field of drug use prevention took part in the event. The seminar was organized upon the government’s request to provide assistance in the evaluation of drug



prevention interventions implemented by the government and to strengthen its effectiveness.

The seminar is continuing UNODC’s efforts in the assistance to the Tajik government with the evaluation of drug use prevention activities and the development of recommenda-

tions through two regional workshops held in the region, including activities implemented under the UNODC global programme on family-based prevention. The coverage and quality of the prevention programmes implemented by the Tajik government were assessed in line with the UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention. The suggested improvements will result in a ‘road map’ exercise for future prevention interventions.

The seminar was organised in the framework of the “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low - and middle-income countries” project in collaboration with the UNODC HQ Health Branch in Vienna.

Drug Use and HIV: Addressing the Specific Needs of Women Who Use Drugs and People in Prisons

Despite HIV transmission decreasing globally over the last decade, HIV incidence continues to increase in Central Asia.

People who inject drugs contribute greatest to the epidemic, with more than a quarter of all HIV cases being in the criminal justice system. The data indicate that HIV prevalence and drug related health problems are high, concentrated and, in some countries, rising in prisons. Only some of the range of HIV prevention interventions recommended by UNODC/UNAIDS/WHO have been implemented in the region with two of the crucial interventions, needle and syringe programs (NSP) and opioid substitution therapy (OST), only available in prisons in Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan is implementing a pilot NSP and preparing for introduction of prison-based OST. Even though one out of three drug users is a woman only one out of five drug users in treatment is a



woman. In order to increase awareness about the specific needs of women and people in prisons, a regional conference was organized in Dushanbe in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health of Tajikistan. It was attended by more than 60 participants, representing senior managers and health care experts from the penitentiary system, researchers, representatives from governmental and non

-governmental organizations providing services to women. The participants reviewed the current situation and shared good practice on effective approaches to addressing HIV risk and vulnerability among women who use drugs as well as people in prison settings. Representatives from the national drug control agencies also informed about the preparations for the UNGASS on world drug problem.

School Girls Choose a Career in the Police



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has launched a unique mentoring programme in Kyrgyzstan which aims at building trust between the communities and the police.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Roza Otunbayeva Foundation, UNODC supports the career guidance work among school graduates in order to encourage youth to consider a career in the police, in order to increase the representation of women, including ethnic minorities.

Out of over 500 applications, 121 participants were selected to take part in the project.

Strengthening the response to trafficking in persons

In November 2015, with the support of the US State Department's International Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Af-

fairs (INL), UNODC organised two workshops for police officers aimed at training relevant law enforcement officers in investigation techniques,

evidence examination and interviewing victims. In total, 40 police officers from all over Kyrgyzstan took part in the training.

The World AIDS Day in the region

"Collective action and cooperation can unlock the policy and legal obstacles that hinder access to HIV services. This includes expanding the comprehensive packages of interventions and ensuring equal access to HIV services" - said the UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yuri Fedotov on the occasion of the World AIDS Day. This year activities in the Central Asian region include inter alia:

In Kazakhstan in partnership with NGO Aman-saulyk, Republican AIDS Centre and the Ministry of Health and Social Development UNODC conducted public hearings in 10 regions of Kazakhstan in April-October 2015. Public hearings in ten cities were attended by more than 1000



decision makers from the municipality, representatives from drug control department, penitentiary system, health care service providers, NGOs, clients of methadone maintenance programmes and their family members. The programme included a brief overview on HIV situation in Kazakhstan, followed by presentations of the clients of methadone therapy about their personal experience. Simultaneously, a competition

for journalists was launched for the best publication about the individual and public benefits of methadone therapy. It also contributed to 26% increase in the overall number of people receiving methadone therapy in Kazakhstan and allocation of additional funds from the regional budget (such as the Municipality of Ak-tobe region decided to allocate 6 million tenge for scaling-up the therapy in 2016).

A high-level meeting in Kyrgyzstan on government funding of OST and Needle and syringe exchange programme was conducted in October 2015 as results of a few-months advocacy work with the main national stakeholders. The meeting was at-

tended by the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Director of Health Insurance Fund, senior officials of Drug Control Agency, Prison Department of the Ministry of Interior, AIDS Centre, and National Centre for Addiction Disorders, representatives of

Global Fund and civil society and international organizations. Government support for national funding mechanism of the OST was discussed. The Vice Prime Minister will lead and oversee the establishment of this mechanism.



In Tajikistan an Action Plan on introduction of OST program in penitentiary system was developed as a result of number of workshops on HIV service

provision for people who inject drugs (PWID) for the law enforcement officials. Manual introducing new training modules for law enforcement was incorpo-

rated into curricula of Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior, Drug Control Agency and National University of Tajikistan.

In Uzbekistan 300 copies of National Manual on monitoring of human rights with focus on HIV was developed and published in Uzbek and Russian languages in cooperation

with the National Human Rights Centre, National AIDS Centre and NGO "Intilish" which works with people who use drugs (PWID). Manual allows monitoring rights of

people who use drugs and people living with HIV/AIDS as well as integrate human rights approach into the respective government agency's work plans.

One UN – A Stronger UN

The Press Conference at the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Organization held on 23th October in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Mass media representatives, UN heads of agencies took part in it. UN Day was a chance to recognize how much the UN contributes day to day to peace, development, humanitarian issues and human rights. In Uzbekistan the main line of work is on development: intricately connected to MDG agenda that is coming to an end this year. Over the last 22 years the UN delivered technical assistance to Uzbekistan of more than



USD 434 million, to support economic, governance, healthcare and education reforms. UN also supports efforts to counter drug trafficking, to protect the cultural heritage and environment and to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

“The UN General Assembly has mandated the UN system to become more coherent, effective and efficient, - said Mr. Stefan Prielsner, UN

Resident Coordinator. - We believe that a more coherent UN is a stronger UN that can deliver on its mandate – hence we will go ahead as one UN. Media is a very important partner for us. Today, while we are commemorating the 70th anniversary of the UN, let us pledge together to live up to our founding ideals and work together for peace, development and human rights”.

The tree planting ceremony was held on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Organization in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

UN family in cooperation with ECO Movement of the Parliament of Uzbekistan and Hokimyat of Tashkent planted the first UN garden in Central Asia.

At the opening ceremony of the Eco Garden tree planting Mr. Stefan

Prielsner, UN Resident Coordinator mentioned that “2015 is the year of a new vision for the next 15 years – the Sustainable Development Goals. There is a stronger recognition than ever before that economic growth cannot happen without taking into

account the environmental dimension. As the saying goes, “we have not inherited the world from our ancestors, we have borrowed the world from our children”, who deserve to get handed over this precious planet in a good shape. In this context what could be more symbolic than planting trees?”

More than 300 trees were planted in the Alisher Navoi park of Tashkent.



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