



Milestones

October–December 2012

Regional Office for Central Asia



CONTINUED SUPPORT TO KYRGYZ DRUG CONTROL AGENCY

UNODC PROGRAMME OFFICE IN KYRGYZSTAN HANDED OVER NINE VEHICLES TO THE KYRGYZ STATE SERVICE ON DRUG CONTROL AND ESTABLISHED TWO COMPUTER BASED TRAINING (CBT) CLASSES IN BISHKEK AND ITS SOUTHERN BRANCH IN OSH

Total value of equipment provided in the framework of UNODC project “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic” is 136,000 US dollars. The event was attended by Government officials, the UN Resident Coordinator, representatives of donor community - embassies of the Russian Federation, United States of America and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as representatives of other international organizations and NGOs. “We express our gratitude to the UNODC and donor countries for the substantive assistance provided, - said Mr. Alimbai Sultanov, Chairman of the State Service on Drug Control. – This allows the increase of efficiency of the State Service on Drug Control, which serves as the lead operational and coordinating

agency for counter-narcotics activities in Kyrgyzstan”. The implementation of UNODC project “Strengthening the State

Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic” aims at strengthening Kyrgyzstan’s capacity on countering illicit drug trafficking and precursors control. Providing technical assistance to national partners is one of the key elements of building the rule of law policy in Kyrgyzstan and the region.





FORENSIC EXPERTS DISCUSSED CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, organised a two-day meeting for forensic experts from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The meeting, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in October 2012, aimed at reviewing the current situation with regard to drug analysis and forensics in Afghanistan and neighbouring states, enhancing information exchange between forensic experts in the region and beyond, including on analysis of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, defining technical assistance required to further enhance the forensic capacity in the region. The agenda of the meeting also included an item on the status of implementation of the International Collaborative Exercise (ICE) - exercises allowing laboratories, from both developing and developed countries, to continuously monitor their performance in drug testing on a truly global scale, including analy-

ses of drugs in seized materials and in biological specimens. Participants of the meeting exchanged their experience, challenges and achievements in drug analysis, reviewed new methods of drug analysis and emerging trends in drug trafficking (types of drugs, type of cutting agents, purity levels etc.). They have also discussed the issues of standardisation of drug testing, quality assurance as well as legal issues and regulations related to drug analysis.



ESTABLISHMENT OF BORDER COOPERATION OFFICES

Officers of law enforcement bodies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan held a discussion in Dushanbe in November about issues related to the establishment of border cooperation offices in Central Asia and Afghanistan.

The three-day seminar on the topic of "The establishment of offices of border cooperation in Central Asia and Afghanistan" opened on 28 November. The seminar is designed to "study advanced experience in the sphere of mechanisms for border control and fighting against illicit drug trafficking" and was organized in the framework of UNODC project "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)" and Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring countries.

PREVENTING PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES' RIGHTS ABUSE THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING

Of the nearly ten million people detained globally, those held in pretrial detention facilities face the most significant risk of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Pretrial detainees are extremely vulnerable to abuse because they are entirely in the power of authorities who have an interest in gaining information or a confession. To contribute to the effective application of the safeguards set in the Code of Criminal Procedure of Uzbekistan through raising awareness of the persons taken into police custody as well as pretrial detainees on their rights, UNODC ROCA/GLO900 project, in cooperation with the National Human Rights Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan has developed and published brochures and booklets on the

detainee's rights, Miranda Rule and the witness' rights. Almost 34,000 copies of brochures and booklets both in Russian and Uzbek have

and places of pre-trial detention in Tashkent and the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Considering that the competence and independence of the judiciary and other stakeholders at habeas corpus proceedings is of vital importance to potential victims of pre-trial detainees' rights abuse, GLO900 as a follow up to the training courses has adapted the Handbook on International Standards and National Legislation Relating to Pretrial Detention for judges, prosecutors and lawyers of Uzbekistan. The present edition includes additional information specific to the legislation of Uzbekistan in the area of pretrial detention. It has also been translated into Uzbek. The publication is intended to be disseminated among judges, prosecutors and lawyers through the Research Centre of the Supreme Court, training centers of the Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



been handed over to the National Human Rights Centre for further dissemination at the police stations

and places of pre-trial detention in Tashkent and the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

PROTECT VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLED MIGRANTS

Recently UNODC has convened the regional train-the-trainers course “International best practices and Standard Operating Procedures in effective identification and protection of victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants” for law enforcement officers in Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan. This event was conducted in the framework of the UNODC regional project “Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and civil society

actors” which is funded by the European Union and the United States. The main participants of the course were the 24 trainers/experts who are currently working at specialized national training centers which provide advanced training for law enforcement officers under the Ministries of Interior, National Security Services and Migration Service Agencies of all Central Asia countries. The course allowed the participants to study the main topics of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual including the inter-

national tools by which law enforcement personnel can provide assistance and protection including the modules on pro-active and re-active investigation techniques, criminal intelligence gathering, analysis, and information exchange.





In the field. Kyrgyzstan

SANITARY CONDITIONS IMPROVED FOR NEARLY 3,000 PRISONERS IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Prison conditions in the Kyrgyz Republic are very poor. Sanitary and heating facilities are in an appalling state in most prison establishments. While organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) have been instrumental in upgrading water supply and sanitation systems in prisons holding TB patients, much still needs to be done to ensure that all prisons have adequate sanitary facilities.

The EU/UNODC project 'Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic' has been supporting construction and refurbishment works in four selected prisons in order to create a healthier living environment and prevent the spread of disease. With new bath and laundry facilities in these prisons, the Prison Service will be able to provide 2,777 prisoners with better sanitary conditions. The refurbishment work has been finished in Prison No. 1 in Moldovanovka, in Prison No. 16 in Belovodsk and in Prison No. 47 in Bishkek. In Prison No. 8 in the village of Petrovka the new showers and laundry rooms will be ready by March 2013.

"As a result of our partnership with the European Union and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, we are now in a much better position to maintain hygiene in these four prisons". (Mr. Kalmurat Baitoloev, Deputy Chairperson of the State Prison Service)

The bath and laundry facilities have been renovated with financial assistance from the European Union.

"The improved sanitary infrastructure is expected to have a positive impact on the standard of living in the four prisons targeted. The European Union fully supports these efforts of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, which contribute to the promotion of the detainees' rights". (Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht of the European Union Delegation to Kyrgyzstan)

In total, nearly 700,000 EUR or 43 million KGS have been allocated for the construction and renovation of the bath and laundry facilities. Water wells, water supply and sewage systems have also been refurbished. In prison No. 47, heating has been installed in one of the prisoner dormitories.



NATO-RUSSIA COUNCIL PROJECT TOOK STOCK OF TRAINING IN 2012



Representatives of the NATO-Russia Council's (NRC) successful counter narcotics training project met in Brussels in October 2012, to take stock of training in 2012, and look to its future work. The project focuses

on providing training to counter narcotics officers from Afghanistan, Central Asia and Pakistan. It has been a key part of NRC cooperation since its inception in 2006, and more than 2500 counter narcotics officers from the region have received training.

UNODC representatives joined the NATO-Russia Council donor nation representatives in hailing the success of training conducted in 2012. The project was focusing on a new scope with the placement of a mentor at the Anti Narcotics Force Academy in Pakistan, and

the introduction of new subjects including forensic training. Looking forward to 2013, the NRC continues to work together against the serious security threat posed by illegal narcotics trafficking. The project is set to continue its valuable work training and national capacity building across the region. The project will further continue to introduce new areas, including training counter narcotics officers in the use of sniffer dogs. Two additional fixed training sites will also be added to the project: a Canine Training School in Rostov on Don, and the Siberian Federal District Law Institute in Krasnoyarsk.

KAZAKHSTAN HAS OPENED MORE SITES FOR OPIOID-AGONIST MAINTENANCE

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan has made a decision to open seven new sites aimed at providing long-term opioid agonist maintenance - a method of opioid dependence treatment more known as opioid substitution treatment (OST)- throughout the country, in addition to the existing three sites in Pavlodar, Temirtau and Ust-Kamenogorsk cities. OST is proven to be not only an effective method of treating drug dependence but also is an effective lever of HIV prevention and other blood-borne infections among injecting drug users. As of November 1, 2012 OST will become available in Aktobe, Zhambyl, Uralsk, Karaganda, Kostanai, Semey and Ekibastuz. The process of OST introduction in Kazakhstan has begun since 2005, when the Government adopted the National HIV/AIDS Programme (2006-2010) based on which the Ministry of Health issued the Order on OST piloting.

To assist Kazakhstan to scale up accessibility of OST, UNODC, through its regional project "Effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable populations in countries of Central Asia and the Republic of Azerbaijan", has intensely advocated for the expansion of OST, while providing technical assistance in the development of an action plan to increase the OST coverage and support a series of trainings on various aspects of OST provision - from legal regulations and human rights to clinical management and monitoring and evaluation of OST effectiveness. UNODC also initiated the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Working Group on OST Expansion that has coordinated the work around OST in Kazakhstan and has been led by the Ministry of Health, with GFATM and UNAIDS as its members. Besides UNODC, GFATM and UNAIDS, a range of major international stakeholders such as WHO, PEPFAR

-funded organizations (CDC, USAID) and EU-funded projects (CADAP) have been partners involved in concerted actions to scale up OST. The inclusion of OST scale-up, including its introduction in the penitentiary system, as a target to achieve within the national programme on health of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Salamatty Kazakhstan"(2011-2014), has been the crucial result of collaboration of national counterparts and international aid organizations. This move has been a clear sign of commitment by the government of Kazakhstan to fulfil the state's obligation for providing drug dependent people with effective treatment by increasing its accessibility throughout the country. It has also been a sign of solidarity and growing trust among national and international stakeholders in their work to curb the spread of HIV and ameliorate other harmful consequences of drug use.



In the field. Azerbaijan

CREATING A CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVIDENCE-INFORMED AND HUMAN-RIGHTS BASED POLICIES FOR HIV PREVENTION

Azerbaijan's proximity to drug trafficking routes is a major factor influencing the country's growing drug problem. The number of drug users registered at narcological service in 2011 was 20,000, with 60% of them being injecting drug users (IDU).

Concentrated HIV epidemics in the country have been driven by unsafe injecting practices with 62% of all HIV cases attributed to injecting drug use.

The prevalence of HIV among injecting drug users reaches up to 20% in urban areas, and HIV prevalence among prisoners has rapidly grown from 2,9% in 2008 to 5,8 % in 2011; the prevalence of Hepatitis C virus among injecting drug users is estimated to be around 60 per cent. HIV prevention is not integrated in the state health care system, there are no professional standards for harm reduction interventions and the effective prevention interventions are not properly reflected in professional educational system.

These reasons were taken into account by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) when the “Effective HIV Prevention and Care Among Vulnerable Population in countries of Central Asia and the Republic of Azerbaijan” project, Phase I (2006-2010) was launched in this country and then continued as its Phase II (2010-2016). This multi-component project was developed in a consultative process with government agencies, UN, bi- and multilateral donors and designed to complement and contribute, through normative work, advocacy and sustainable capacity building, to the existing projects/programmes implemented by other international players with the common goal to prevent generalized HIV epidemics in the region. UNODC provided technical assistance to the revision and amend-

ment of the ten national laws related to health, social protection and law enforcement to include provisions guaranteeing availability and accessibility of preventive and curative interventions comprising the so called comprehensive package for IDUs (WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS, 2009). The UNODC project also supported the development of the National Drug Control Programme for the period of 2013-2017 so that this new programme includes activities aimed at ensuring accessibility to quality health and social protection services for drug users. The Project contributed to a new Law on Social Services for Vulnerable Populations which was adopted by the Milli Meclis (Parliament) in 2011. New occupational standards with the expanded professional competencies required for health care and social protection workers involved in HIV prevention among IDUs were developed based on the UNODC recommendations and currently are in the process of their official endorsement by the respective authorities. Technical assistance was provided to the process of upgrading teaching curricula in higher education institutions such as the State Medical University (2011) and in the Academy of Justice (2012). The upgrade includes integration of socio-medical and legal aspects of HIV prevention among vulnerable population into teaching programmes of these institutions.

The credibility of work of the UNODC project enabled to mobilize decision-makers and technical experts from the various sectors

such as law enforcement, health, education, and civil society and helped create a conducive environment for multi-

sectoral collaboration thereby enabling major stakeholders to perceive various perspectives of and links between drug use, HIV, human rights, and most importantly, to find the “right” solutions and make relevant decisions. To a certain extent it also helped to synchronize activities implemented within HIV-related projects supported by other international and bilateral organizations.

The technical assistance and advocacy at the policy development level proposed by the project and the focus on amending legal and regulatory framework, developing professional and education standards and contributing to the development of a comprehensive package of interventions for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support among drug users and prison inmates appear to be highly relevant and appropriate in the existing national context.

The project results are characterized by a high level of national ownership as each of the outputs was achieved with the active and meaningful involvement of national decision makers and technical officers who fully shared responsibility for the products quality and suitability. Ultimately, the above results contributed to the objective of making policy and legislative environment more conducive for achieving better access of drug users and prisoners to HIV related health and social protection services.



NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FAMILY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME



involved in the project (Kyrgyzstan (Alumudun district), Kazakhstan (Astana), Tajikistan (Dushanbe) and Turkmenistan (Ashgabat)). In each country, 3 national trainers under the supervision of international trainers conducted a training educating 24 team

in the region. Further incorporation of the programme into the education system of each country to great extent depends on the willingness and readiness of the government to take national ownership.

“I have never played with my dad as we did it today. I am looking forward to the next FAST session”. (one of the boys participating in the programme)

In October 2012 the third implementation cycle of the “Families and Schools Together” (FAST) programme has started in Central Asia. The main goal of this series of trainings was certification of national FAST trainers with the potential of carrying through and sustaining the activities nationally.

“The programme is very positive. It teaches understanding, patience and attentive attitude towards others”. (team member (teacher), Kazakhstan)

The trainings were conducted in three pilot schools of each country



members on implementing the FAST programme among families. The training was followed by 8 sessions of the programme for 60 families. As a result of this implementation cycle, 12 trainers were certified as national FAST trainers, 96 team members were trained on conducting FAST sessions to cover 240 families by the family skills training programme. The certified national FAST trainers are eligible for organizing trainings nationally.

The programme received a positive feedback from both: team members and families. FAST sessions in all countries were full of joy, laugh and gratitude from families for the opportunity to spend time with their family members.

The conducted series of trainings laid the ground for successful scaling up and ensuring sustainability of the FAST programme



“I don't have so much time to spend with my kid at home. These 2,5 hours spent together in FAST were great!” (parent, Turkmenistan)

“This programme should be implemented in each school of the country”. (team member, Kyrgyzstan)



A new approach to
training

VICTIMS NOT VILLAINS

A supportive approach to interviewing victims of human trafficking

One of the most significant challenges that law enforcement faces in handling human-trafficking cases all over the world is the negative attitude among law enforcement officers toward human-trafficking victims. At the same time, victims of human trafficking are largely fearful of reporting these crimes and suffer a number of trauma-related conditions that require significant support. Meanwhile, the successful investigation and prosecution of human-trafficking cases is largely dependent on the evidence received from victims of human trafficking.

In response, ROCA in cooperation with the UK Serious Organized Crime Agency produced a training film on interviewing vulnerable victims and witnesses of human trafficking "Victims not Villains". This training tool is based on the UN.GIFT Anti-human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners for the interviewing of victims of

human trafficking. It demonstrates good and bad interviewing techniques with an expert commentary. The script has been drafted by Amanda Feldon, an award winning TV producer/director, who has also directed the film. The film has been presented at several UNODC ROCA training courses/workshops and highly evaluated by the criminal justice practitioners from Central Asia and main transit and destination countries, as well as OSCE,



IOM and Interpol experts. The Demo versions of the film are expected to be available in English and Russian on the UNODC website soon. The film is also available in the

Uzbek language. ROCA plans to translate the film into other national languages of Central Asian countries and disseminate it among law enforcement agencies.



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