

First Training for Measuring Illicit Financial Flows associated with drug trafficking in the Maldives

As custodian agencies of SDG Indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows (IFFs), in 2020 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), inaugurated a new Development Account **project called “Statistics and data for measuring illicit financial flows in the Asia-Pacific region”**¹. The project is aimed at consolidating existing and testing new methodological guidelines for the measurement of this Indicator, as well as to build statistical capacity by providing technical assistance and guidance to pilot countries for the measurement of such indicator using the defined standards and concepts developed by UNCTAD and UNODC. The project is implemented in six countries of Asia, including the Maldives.

In August 2021, a National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)² has been set up among key national stakeholder and data providers to support the project implementation during 2021 and 2022 in the Maldives. After two national workshops held in August and October 2021, data availability assessment and data collection have been launched to map data sources and collect data on drug trafficking and trafficking in persons in the country. Key information was collected also through qualitative interviews with experts from relevant institutions. Status of data collection and early results will be shared to the participants of this training.

A first national training will be held on **Monday 21 February** and will gather representatives from Maldives national institutions on the measurement of illicit financial flows associated with drug trafficking in the country. With the ultimate goal to build capacity of the national authorities to collect data and measure IFFs associated with drug trafficking activities in the country, the training will cover the following activities:

- Present the conceptual framework on measuring illicit financial flows (IFFs) and the methodological guidelines to measure IFFs associated with drug trafficking
- Conduct practical exercises to understand the methodological framework and measure illicit financial flows associated with drug trafficking
- Present the information collected on drug trafficking in the country
- Discuss about the next steps for the project implementation

¹ https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/iff_Asia.html

² The National Coordination Mechanism is composed by the National Bureau of Statistics as national focal point, and representatives of the national focal point institutions appointed for this project which have substantive knowledge on illicit financial flows and in the activities related to drug trafficking in the country and of UNODC staff and consultants assigned to this project.

Agenda

Date	Monday, 21 February 2022
Male´ time	10:45 – 14:00
Modality	Virtual workshop
Link	The link will be shared to the participants by email
Language	The workshop will be conducted in English

Time	Topic	Presenter
10:45 - 10:55	Welcome remarks	Maldives National Bureau of Statistics <i>(name to be confirmed)</i>
10:55 - 11:00	Objectives	David Ravaux, Regional Consultant, UNODC
11:00 - 11:15	Conceptual framework for the statistical measurement of IFFs	Diana Camerini, Project Coordinator, UNODC
11:15 - 11:30	Guidelines on IFFs associated with drug trafficking	Diana Camerini, Project Coordinator, UNODC
11:30 - 11:40	Questions and answers	All participants
11:40 - 12:15	Group exercise 1: Cases studies to understand main illicit financial flows concepts and definitions, with focus on drug trafficking-related IFFs	All participants, guided by UNODC
12:15 – 12:20	Coffee break	All participants
12:20 - 13:20	Group exercise 2: Cases studies to understand the conceptual framework to measure illicit financial flows associated with drug trafficking activities	All participants, guided by UNODC
13:20 - 13:40	Maldives drug situation, data collected and methodology	David Ravaux, Regional Consultant, UNODC
13:40 - 13:50	Comments on data collected and current drug situation	All participants
13:50 - 14:00	Conclusion: missing data and steps forward	David Ravaux, Regional Consultant, UNODC