UNODC Services & Tools
Practical solutions to global threats to justice, security and health
UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is committed to achieving health, security and justice for all by tackling threats from illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism worldwide.

UNODC is a global leader in the struggle against illicit drugs and organized and serious crime, and the lead United Nations entity for delivering legal and technical assistance to prevent terrorism. Headquartered in Vienna, UNODC operates more than 50 field offices around the world, covering over 150 countries.

Our work is guided by mandates based on the rule of law. Within these mandates, we gather and analyse evidence that identifies trends and serves as a platform for action. This foundation of research undergirds our work and enables us to identify and address critical needs.

Crime, drugs and terrorism are high-priority issues for the United Nations. At a time when these problems without borders are becoming widely recognized as threats to individuals and nations alike, requests for coordinated UNODC initiatives at the national, regional and transnational levels continue to grow. Our work enhances security and improves the everyday lives of people across the globe.
Illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism threaten development, justice and security in countries around the globe. Because the scale of these problems is often too great for States to confront alone, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) encourages regional and transnational approaches, and we offer States many types of practical assistance to address these difficult challenges.

To give States and other partners a concise overview of the specialized assistance and expertise that UNODC can provide, we have produced this compendium of services and tools. In it you will also find examples that demonstrate the impact our efforts can have.

UNODC has adopted an integrated strategy with five clear lines of service that encourage prevention of illicit activities, prosecution of perpetrators and protection of individuals and communities. Our service lines, which support all of the UNODC mandates, focus on putting a stop to organized crime and trafficking; building criminal justice systems; preventing illicit drug use and the spread of HIV among drug users, prisoners and other vulnerable groups; ending corruption; and preventing terrorism. Our work is focused on results, and we strive to ensure that it is efficient and cost-effective.

I invite you to take a good look at what we have to offer. If UNODC provides services that you require, or if you would like to support our work, please call on us. Working together to take action against drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, we can increase security and improve the lives of individuals, families and communities all over the world.

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
The UNODC integrated strategy

Our integrated strategy for confronting crime, drugs and terrorism ensures that our work is proactive, focused and effective.

Organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and terrorism are tightly intertwined. They flourish in unstable countries where law enforcement and border controls are weak, poverty is endemic and corruption is rampant—with a devastating impact on the rule of law, security and development. Instability in one country can easily spill over to neighbouring countries and then to the wider region, becoming a threat to international security.

UNODC mobilizes and promotes regional and transnational cooperation to confront this growing menace. Our efforts target the world’s most vulnerable regions, where the convergence of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism threatens regional and global security. It is precisely at such points of confluence that measures to oppose organized crime, trafficking and corruption dovetail with security and criminal justice initiatives, including counter-terrorism assistance.

UNODC works directly with Governments, international organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society groups to develop and implement programmes that meet the needs of the countries and regions we assist and that are fully coordinated with our core themes.

UNODC service lines

The UNODC strategy for confronting crime, drugs and terrorism integrates both thematic and regional approaches to ensure that our initiatives are proactive, focused and effective. Our work falls into five interrelated thematic areas:

- Organized crime and trafficking
- Corruption
- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform
- Drug prevention and health
- Terrorism prevention

We collect and analyse data within and across all five themes at both the national and international level to help us identify trends and threats and pinpoint where interventions can have the greatest impact. UNODC country and regional programmes draw on our research findings to translate our core themes into action.

Providing a package of assistance

UNODC carries out its work in the field through integrated programmes that are intended to serve as regional and national hubs of action and expertise where the threat from crime, drugs and terrorism is particularly severe or rapidly growing. Integrated field programmes draw on expertise from across our thematic focus areas and take advantage of synergies among our mandates.

Integrated programming provides a strategic framework for delivering capacity-building assistance that addresses urgent national and regional needs. UNODC determines the priorities of our integrated programmes in close consultation with Member States. This facilitates the engagement of Governments in our work, and fosters a strong sense of national and regional ownership of and commitment to regional cooperation. As a result, UNODC is able to be flexible and responsive to local needs, offering a specially tailored package of assistance. This enhances the impact and sustainability of our efforts.

By setting clear goals for our integrated programmes, we can establish a basis for evaluating the impact and effectiveness of our work. We will be able to measure our progress against these benchmarks, identifying where we have been successful and where we need to improve our performance. Ultimately, this will help us maximize the impact of our work.
Services and tools

UNODC is one of the world’s leading providers of assistance to countries confronting threats from drugs, crime and terrorism.

UNODC offers countries in-depth expertise and a broad array of innovative services, tools and resources to counteract the destructive impact of organized crime, corruption, illicit drugs and terrorism. We provide reliable evidence-based research and threat analysis to inform and support policy and operational decisions; a wide range of capacity development assistance to enhance the ability of States to build and sustain stable societies; standards and norms that establish best practices and encourage compliance with international obligations; cross-border cooperation and knowledge-sharing to enhance comprehensive and coordinated efforts to thwart transnational criminal activities; and communications and advocacy services to raise public awareness, foster prevention and mobilize all sectors of society to help bring about change.

Building capacity for change

Central to every kind of assistance UNODC provides is a commitment to building local capacity. We help countries develop and strengthen their own institutions so that they are better able to confront and disrupt criminal organizations and terrorist networks and put a stop to trafficking and other illicit activities.

Strengthening institutional capacity in the areas covered by the UNODC mandate enhances the rule of law, stability and development. In this way, UNODC is helping to build safer, more secure societies in which people can live without fear and work towards a more prosperous future for themselves and their families.

UNODC assistance falls into five broad categories:

- Research and threat analysis
- Capacity-building assistance
- Standards and norms
- Cross-border cooperation and knowledge-sharing
- Communications and advocacy

Research and threat analysis

Drug and crime policies must be firmly based on evidence to be effective. UNODC provides objective data and analysis that can help define drug and crime control priorities, and help States develop appropriate, targeted responses. We collect and analyse data within and across all our areas of work, and our research offers a solid basis for the development of practical tools, manuals, training and other resources for legislators, policymakers and professionals.

- UNODC provides countries with statistical expertise that enables them to collect, process, analyse and disseminate data on drugs and crime.
- We develop criteria and metrics for establishing baselines and measuring and tracking trends.
- UNODC performs global drugs and crime threat assessments and monitors specific transnational drugs and crime problems.
- We analyse quantitative and qualitative trends and conduct cross-sectoral studies on emerging problems and priority topics.
- UNODC publishes authoritative research reports, threat assessments, survey reports and studies on global, regional and national trends in drugs and crime.

Capacity-building assistance

Developing local capacity for change is the only way to ensure that improvements will be sustainable in the long term. UNODC therefore focuses much of its efforts on providing technical assistance that improves the ability of States to tackle the threats posed by illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and terrorism. The capacity-building assistance UNODC provides includes:

- Expert advice to Governments and other actors on drug control, crime prevention and counter-terrorism
- Specialized training for practitioners and policymakers involved in healthcare, law enforcement, criminal justice and other priority areas
- Legal assistance, including support for ratification, implementation and enforcement of international treaties concerning crime, drugs and terrorism, as well as other international obligations such as extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties, and legal advice and legislative assistance on specific issues within our mandate
- A wide array of operational tools, guides and practical resources, including handbooks, manuals, software, databases, case studies, assessment instruments, training modules and other resources and reference tools for policymakers, legislators, non-governmental organizations and practitioners who work in areas covered by our mandate.
Standards and norms

Internationally accepted standards and norms encourage coordinated transnational approaches to address the challenges posed by drugs, crime and terrorism. They also help reinforce compliance with the relevant treaties.

- UNODC collects, disseminates and promotes **best practices and lessons learned**, and develops guidelines based on them.
- We develop **model laws and regulations** addressing issues within our mandate.
- UNODC provides **scientific and forensic services** to improve national capacity in these areas and to ensure worldwide availability and accessibility of internationally accepted standards.

Cross-border cooperation and knowledge-sharing

UNODC develops and supports cross-border cooperation linking practitioners and policymakers, Governments and non-governmental organizations, to encourage them to share knowledge, experience and best practices in dealing with drugs, crime and terrorism.

- UNODC develops **online networks and databases** to support international cooperation and information-sharing.
- We encourage **interagency coordination and cross-border operations**, particularly in efforts to halt trafficking and other forms of transnational crime.
- We also foster **interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge-sharing**, such as between healthcare and criminal justice professionals, encouraging them to work together to protect the human rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, drug users, prisoners and victims of human trafficking.

Communications and advocacy

UNODC engages in communications and advocacy to increase awareness and understanding of drugs, crime and terrorism and to mobilize society to promote change. To extend the reach and impact of our work, UNODC communicates with an ever-expanding global audience to stimulate dialogue and debate on critical issues.

- UNODC helps States develop and organize **awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives** to help garner public support for change. These include the global campaigns centered on World Drug Day, the International Anti-Corruption Day and World AIDS Day, as well as the UN.GIFT initiative and the Blue Heart campaign against human trafficking.
- We also develop **campaign tools, guides and manuals** for use by Governments and non-governmental organizations.
- UNODC provides **media training and seminars** to brief journalists so they can cover key issues effectively and better educate the public.
- We design and build **websites and online portals** for organizations whose goals are aligned with the mandates and priorities of UNODC.
- We also mobilize through **online tools and social media** to raise awareness among stakeholders and the general public and to engage a much larger and more diverse global audience, especially among young people, non-governmental organizations and professionals working in the field.

In 2009, the UNODC Regional Office for Brazil and the Southern Cone facilitated an agreement between the Government of Brazil and the Government of Guinea-Bissau to build a police academy in Guinea-Bissau. Photo: Henrique Santos.
UNODC helps States strengthen their threats from transnational organized crime

Our mandate

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the main international instrument to counter organized crime and a critical force in spurring coordinated international cooperation to that end. Also known as the Palermo Convention, it is supplemented by three protocols that target trafficking in persons, especially women and children; smuggling of migrants; and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms.

In its role as guardian of the Convention, UNODC helps Governments create the domestic legal framework needed to investigate criminal offences and adopt new frameworks for extradition, mutual legal assistance and international law enforcement cooperation, enabling States to tackle organized crime, prosecute and convict offenders, and assist and protect victims and witnesses.
For organized crime, the whole world is one marketplace. Transnational criminal networks are increasingly overlapping and even converging, especially in the world’s most vulnerable regions. They smuggle illicit drugs, weapons, natural resources, counterfeit goods and human beings across borders and between continents for the enrichment of criminals, insurgents and crooked officials. In some cases, they generate economic profits that support terrorist groups. Organized crime feeds on poverty and instability, sows violence and fuels an expanding market for illicit drugs, and grows strong with help from corruption and money-laundering. All of this increases instability and undermines development and security.

National approaches to combating organized crime are not sufficient; today we need to understand justice and the rule of law in ways that transcend borders. To disrupt criminal networks and the links between them, the response must be coordinated, integrated and transnational.

**What we do**

UNODC is spearheading regional and transnational initiatives to confront and halt organized crime. Our capacity-building and technical assistance is geared towards law enforcement agents, prosecutors and judges and other actors in countries and regions where the convergence of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism threatens regional and global security. We are working with States around the world to foster good governance, robust criminal justice systems and socio-economic development—all of which strengthen their capacity to confront and defeat transnational organized crime.

- UNODC supports States in **prosecuting** traffickers and other criminals by providing, for example, legislative assistance to encourage investigation and prosecution, and training, handbooks and other tools for law enforcement and criminal justice officials.
- UNODC provides a range of tools and resources for **protecting** victims of human trafficking, witnesses to crimes and smuggled migrants, who can be endangered by the criminal activities of others.
- We also assist States in **preventing** organized crime, including trafficking in drugs, weapons, natural resources, fraudulent goods and human beings. For example, we provide support for the proper collection and analysis of criminal intelligence, the backbone of effective investigations; container control and border management; training programmes; and software tools and databases to share information and encourage international cooperation in crime prevention.

UNODC strengthens international cooperation and coordination between law enforcement, judicial practitioners and other relevant actors through a variety of mechanisms, including, for example, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, transnational organized crime units in West Africa, and the network of Central American anti-organized crime and narcotics prosecutors.
Selected services we offer

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on trends in organized crime and trafficking
- Research reports and studies on organized crime and trafficking in various countries and regions as well as globally
- Legal advice and assistance to review and draft national legislation and regulations to facilitate ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols
- Strengthening the capacity of all relevant national actors to respond to organized crime in a coordinated and cooperative manner
- Strengthening institutional structures responsible for international cooperation mechanisms in criminal matters, including extradition, mutual legal assistance and cooperation in confiscation of illicit drugs and other forms of contraband and their proceeds
- Promotion and support for the implementation of inter-agency and international cooperation in law enforcement
- Assistance in developing joint anti-trafficking strategies and action plans for countries of origin, transit and destination to combat trafficking in persons, drugs and firearms and smuggling of migrants
- Identification and dissemination of good practices in responding to all forms of organized crime
- Advice and guidance in the implementation and management of witness protection and witness assistance measures and programmes
- Capacity development for police officers to improve accountability and integrity and respond to the needs of victims
- Support for integrated information and case file management to law enforcement and judicial authorities
- Organization of awareness-raising campaigns
- Technical assistance and capacity building to help counter emerging forms of crime such as cyber crime, piracy, environmental crime, etc.
- IT resource development, implementation and support for anti-money-laundering programmes

Sample tools to help counteract organized crime and trafficking

Serious organized crime threat assessment handbook

This publication, produced in cooperation with Interpol, provides guidance to policymakers and senior law enforcement officials on the commissioning, preparation and use of national serious organized crime threat assessments. It presents international best practices and expertise to enable States to conduct their own assessment of the key threats posed by organized crime. The handbook also includes the outline of a training course for participants in the threat assessment process.

International Money-Laundering Information Network (IMoLIN) and Anti-Money-Laundering International Database (AMaLID)

Money-laundering helps organized criminals, traffickers and terrorists stay in business. UNODC strengthens the capacity of States to detect, seize and confiscate the proceeds of crime and corruption and to prevent the financing of terrorism and insurgency. Two important tools we offer include the International Money-Laundering Information Network (IMoLIN), a one-stop web-based research resource that provides information about national laws and regulations to prevent and stop money-laundering and financing of terrorism and contacts for inter-country assistance. Policymakers, lawyers and law enforcement officials around the world regularly use IMoLIN as a key reference point in their daily work. It helps them identify areas for improvement in domestic laws, countermeasures and international cooperation. They also have access to the Anti-Money-Laundering International Database (AMaLID), a secure, multilingual database of analyses of anti-money-laundering laws and regulations that also contains information about national contacts and authorities. AMaLID is particularly useful for law enforcement officials engaged in cross-jurisdictional efforts to stop money-laundering.

International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

Every year, thousands of men, women and children around the world fall victim to traffickers who exploit them for their labour, sex or even their organs. The UNODC International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol is a tool that helps States effectively implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Framework proposes both general measures and practical actions for preventing trafficking, protecting its victims, prosecuting perpetrators and strengthening national and international cooperation and coordination to eradicate this heinous crime. It assists States in identifying gaps and putting in place additional measures they may need to conform with international standards and protect trafficking victims.
Improving port security and stopping maritime smuggling around the world

More than 420 million maritime containers move around the globe each year, accounting for 90 per cent of international trade. Yet only 2 per cent of these containers are inspected, creating opportunities for organized crime syndicates and terrorists to use them for criminal purposes. To address this gap in security, UNODC and the World Customs Organization have created the Container Control Programme. The programme’s innovative approach centres on joint port control units comprising analysts and search teams from different law enforcement agencies (e.g. customs, police) who are trained to work together to systematically inspect containers in a targeted manner. Beyond this focus on capacity-building, the programme also fosters communication as the critical link connecting an expanding international network of law enforcement professionals who work on container profiling, selection and search. The Container Control Programme has achieved spectacular results, intercepting containers carrying illicit drugs and diverted precursor chemicals, as well as containing containers transporting endangered species, hazardous materials and goods intentionally mislabelled for fraud and revenue evasion.

Halting cocaine trafficking in West Africa

West Africa, due to its strategic location, porous borders, weak governance, widespread poverty and extensive corruption, makes an ideal transit point for smuggling cocaine between Latin America and Europe. Already in 2004, UNODC was the first to alert the international community to the menace such trafficking poses to security and development in West Africa, and to global security more broadly. UNODC has initiated programmes to strengthen the capacity of West African States to fight organized crime and corruption, and we have mobilized Governments in the region to work together, with support from other members of the international community, to meet the threat head on. In 2009, UNODC, the United Nations Office for West Africa, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, and INTERPOL launched an initiative to support implementation of the Economic Community of West African States’ Regional action plan to address drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse (2008-2011). The initiative is building national and regional capacities in law enforcement, forensics, intelligence, border management and money-laundering, and strengthening criminal justice systems. It is also establishing specialized transnational crime units, initially in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Campaigning against human trafficking in Mexico

Every year, criminals entrap and exploit millions of men, women and children around the world. Human trafficking is a crime that strips people of their rights, ruins their dreams, and robs them of their dignity. It is a global problem and no country is immune. The UNODC Blue Heart Campaign against human trafficking aims at raising worldwide awareness about this modern form of slavery. Our campaign seeks to encourage involvement and action against this crime, and give people the opportunity to show solidarity with victims of human trafficking by wearing the Blue Heart. In 2010, Mexico launched the first national Blue Heart Campaign, calling on all sectors of Mexican society to help mobilize social conscience against human trafficking. As part of the campaign launch, over a dozen emblematic buildings across Mexico City were lit up in blue in a symbolic act. National and international media coverage was extensive. Mexico’s Blue Heart Campaign offers an inspiring model for raising awareness to help stop human trafficking, and other countries, such as Spain, have followed Mexico’s example.
UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the first legally binding global anti-corruption instrument. It obliges the States that have ratified it to prevent and criminalize corruption, promote international cooperation, cooperate for the recovery of stolen assets and enhance technical assistance and information exchange. The Convention addresses both the public and private sectors, and it provides all national, regional and multinational anti-corruption efforts with a single set of agreed-upon anti-corruption obligations and guidelines.

UNODC facilitates the ratification and implementation of the Convention and supports States in devising coherent responses to prevent and combat corruption in accordance with the Convention. In 2009, the States parties to Convention agreed to establish a mechanism to review the implementation of the Convention; UNODC was mandated to manage the review mechanism.

Review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The Convention’s new monitoring mechanism represents a major breakthrough in the global campaign against corruption. From now on, knowledge on efforts against corruption will be based on facts and not perceptions. Under the new mechanism, all States parties will be reviewed every five years on the fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention. On the basis of self-assessments and peer review, the mechanism will help identify gaps in national anti-corruption laws and practices. To support the monitoring mechanism, UNODC has developed a state-of-the-art software programme for self-assessment that identifies States’ strengths and weaknesses in countering corruption and pinpoints where technical assistance is needed. Identical software has been developed to assess States’ implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.
Corruption is a key obstacle to economic and social development. Although corruption is a global phenomenon, evidence shows that it harms poor people disproportionately. It distorts markets, stifles economic growth and diverts funds from public services, hurting the most vulnerable. But development is not corruption’s only victim. Corruption undermines democracy, impairing the ability of Governments to function effectively and provide the critical services that their citizens need.

As a result, people lose confidence in Government and become less willing to support it. Corruption also weakens the rule of law, enabling groups involved in organized crime and trafficking to thrive. This in turn jeopardizes security. Corruption can also facilitate other criminal activities, such as human trafficking, migrant smuggling and terrorism.

Preventing corruption and building up a culture of integrity and the rule of law are responsibilities shared by every sector of society—not just Governments—and each individual.

What we do

UNODC provides technical assistance to States parties and signatories to the United Nations Convention against Corruption by helping them ensure judicial integrity, improve legislation, share best practices and develop strategies to fight corruption effectively. We also urge businesses to comply with the Convention and support civil society organizations in their role as public watchdogs and promoters of transparency and ethical behaviour in both the public and private sectors.

- UNODC develops, manages, implements and coordinates technical cooperation activities related to the prevention and control of corruption.
- We help States to develop and implement programmes aimed at effective institution-building and skills development to strengthen their capacity to counteract corruption.
- UNODC collects data and develops statistical indicators to provide benchmarks for assessing and monitoring corruption.
- We conduct research and analysis to increase knowledge and understanding of corruption issues and expand the evidence base for normative, policy and operational decisions.
Selected services we offer

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on corruption trends
- Research reports and studies on corruption in various countries and regions
- Corruption risk assessments to acquire knowledge and understanding of the challenges posed by corruption
- Assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by States (laws, institutions and policies) and of their related technical assistance needs
- Support for the development of domestic legislation that fully complies with the provisions of the Convention
- Support for the development of a wide range of policies, rules and procedures to ensure an effective implementation of the prevention provisions of the Convention (such as national anti-corruption strategies and action plans, codes of conduct, asset declaration systems, conflict of interest policies and effective, transparent and objective human resource management systems)
- Support in setting up and strengthening institutional frameworks in the areas of prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption (including anti-corruption bodies, financial intelligence units and anti-corruption practitioners)
- Assistance in enhancing the integrity, accountability and oversight of criminal justice and security institutions
- Reinforcement of the capacities of institutions to effectively cooperate internationally in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption (in particular through mutual legal assistance and extradition)
- Support for the implementation of the Convention’s provisions on the detection, seizure and confiscation of illicit proceeds and on asset recovery
- Support to regional asset recovery and confiscation networks (including through the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa and the Red de Recuperación de Activos del Financial Action Task Force

Sample anti-corruption tools

Legislative and technical guides for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The Legislative Guide assists legislators and policymakers in States seeking to ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption by identifying legislative requirements, issues arising from those requirements and various options available to States as they develop and draft the necessary legislation prior to or at the time the Convention becomes applicable to the State party concerned. The Legislative Guide accommodates different legal traditions and varying levels of institutional development and provides, where available, implementation options. The complementary Technical Guide provides anti-corruption practitioners and authorities with relevant technical advice, tools and examples of good practices to make the articles of the Convention operational. It highlights policy issues, institutional aspects and operational frameworks related to the full and effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

Stolen Asset Recovery: A Good Practices Guide for Non-Conviction Based Asset Forfeiture

Stolen Asset Recovery: A Good Practices Guide for Non-Conviction Based Asset Forfeiture, produced by the UNODC/World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative, is a practical tool for policymakers, legislative drafting groups, investigators and prosecutors to help them recover national assets that have been stolen. The Guide helps States develop and implement laws supporting the forfeiture of stolen assets without the requirement for conviction as outlined in the Convention against Corruption. The Guide also serves as a reference book for training on non-conviction based asset forfeiture, and contains additional reference tools to assist jurisdictions in implementing a non-conviction based asset forfeiture system. It is supplemented by a CD-ROM and online appendix of relevant legal resources.

Anti-Corruption Policies and Measures of the Fortune Global 500

Anti-Corruption Policies and Measures of the Fortune Global 500 collects existing practices used to prevent corruption in some of the world’s biggest companies and underscores the need to promote them so that they are widely respected and applied. The report emphasizes two important lessons: businesses must set the tone from the top by enforcing a zero-tolerance policy and checks and balances must be in place to strengthen integrity and eliminate any wrongdoing.
Force of South America against Money Laundering (GAFISUD)

- Placement of medium- and long-term anti-corruption advisers who provide hands-on, day-to-day technical expertise and operational support to anti-corruption bodies and other institutions, ensuring long-term engagement and sustainability
- Building and sustaining public-private partnerships with a view to promoting the business community’s engagement in preventing corruption

- Support and encouragement to civil society to strengthen the demand for good governance through the International Anti-Corruption Day campaign and awareness-raising about the negative impact that corruption has, on a daily basis, on people’s lives
- Facilitation of the exchange of good practices in the fields covered by the Convention
- IT resource development, implementation and support for anti-corruption programmes

Example of our impact

Combating environmental crime and corruption in Indonesia

Illegal logging undermines the legitimate timber industry by undercutting prices for wood on the global market and represents billions in lost tax revenue. At the community level, it destroys traditional ways of life centred on the forest, even as it makes local people eking out a living in this environment complicit in deforestation. Globally, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that cutting down forests contributes to almost 20 per cent of overall greenhouse gas emissions into the Earth’s atmosphere. Illegal logging depends on the complicity of officials throughout the entire timber production chain from forest to port, including forest rangers, local government, transport authorities, police and customs. UNODC is helping Indonesia—which accounts for 10 per cent of global forest cover and is one of the leading suppliers to the world’s legal timber market, as well as a major source of illegally harvested wood—to break the link between illegal logging and corruption. UNODC is strengthening the capacity of Indonesian law enforcement and criminal justice officials to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate forest crimes and corruption cases linked to them, including targeting money-laundering by the organized crime kingpins behind these illegal activities rather than going after low-level perpetrators. We are also working closely with Indonesian civil society organizations to support “barefoot investigators” who look for and expose forest crimes in their local communities.

For more information and to link directly to many of our tools, please visit the UNODC website www.unodc.org.
UNODC fosters the development of fair, criminal justice systems grounded in the respect for human rights

Our mandate

Since its foundation, the United Nations has been active in the development and promotion of internationally recognized principles in crime prevention and criminal justice. Today, there are over 50 standards and norms covering crime prevention, criminal justice and protection of victims. These instruments guide the work of UNODC in promoting effective action to strengthen national responses in crime prevention and criminal justice and in responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality.
Crime and violence are impediments to human, social and economic development, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable members of society. Crime challenges the rule of law, especially in low-income countries and countries in or emerging from conflict. It flourishes where justice is weak and lawlessness and instability prevail. When countries lack strong institutions of justice—such as forceful criminal legislation, reliable law enforcement, a fair judiciary and a humane prison system—criminals find opportunities to profit.

A malfunctioning or corrupt criminal justice system is not equipped to handle new threats to international peace and security that have emerged on a global scale, including trafficking in drugs, people, weapons and natural resources, corruption and terrorism. It cannot restrain the illegal activities of organized criminal groups infiltrating government and public administration structures, which further undermines security and stability.

Strengthening criminal justice institutions bolsters the rule of law, helps to counteract the spread of transnational organized crime and enhances security for countries and regions, as well as for individuals and communities. A well-functioning criminal justice system fosters sustainable economic and social development and is an essential tool for addressing and preventing human rights violations.

**What we do**

UNODC assists States, particularly developing countries and countries emerging from conflict or with economies in transition, to develop strategies to prevent, investigate and prosecute crime. We build the capacity of their justice systems to operate more effectively within the framework of the rule of law and giving particular attention to vulnerable groups.

Some key components of UNODC’s work in crime and violence prevention and criminal justice reform include **victim and witness assistance and protection**, improving **access to justice** including access to legal aid, promoting **restorative justice**, **preventing gender-based violence** and supporting **prison reform** and alternatives to imprisonment. We also promote **professional standards** of conduct among criminal justice practitioners, including police officers, prosecutors and judges, and we help States improve criminal justice case management and monitoring systems.

UNODC **forensic services** provide tools and resources for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to improve crime scene awareness and protect and preserve evidence to help ensure that the criminal justice process complies with the rule of law. They also support forensic laboratories in countries around the world to ensure that they are able to provide objective data and information in support of a fair and transparent criminal justice system.

Because peace will not hold in a troubled country unless it is rooted in the rule of law, UNODC gives special attention to strengthening criminal justices systems in countries caught up in or emerging from conflict, where we contribute to democratic reconstruction through strengthening the legal framework, administrative reform, rebuilding human and infrastructural capacity, and supporting the development of national policies in areas such as justice and counter-narcotics.
Sample crime prevention and criminal justice tools

CrimeType Scene and Physical Evidence Awareness for Non-forensic Personnel

Adhering to forensic best practices from the crime scene to the courtroom helps ensure that the criminal justice process is fair and effective. This manual raises awareness of the importance of good practices in crime scene investigations and the nature and relevance of physical evidence. It targets first responders and others involved in crime scene investigations to help them understand the importance of their actions and the consequences of not applying basic principles of good practice. The manual also targets policymakers, the judiciary and others who have to assess and take decisions on crime scene evidence.

Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit

This standardized and cross-referenced set of tools provides a practical guide for United Nations agencies, government officials and other individuals and organizations charged with the assessment of criminal justice systems and the implementation of criminal justice reform. Its components cover policing, access to justice, custodial and non-custodial measures, and cross-cutting issues like juvenile justice, victims and witnesses, forensic infrastructure and international cooperation. It is a dynamic tool that is updated and added to on an ongoing basis.

Handbook on Prisoners with Special Needs

This handbook aims to generate a deeper understanding of the situation of prisoners with special needs and to encourage new thinking and the development of appropriate strategies to address their care and supervision requirements within the framework of available resources and possibilities. It is designed for use by criminal justice policymakers, legislators, prison managers and staff, non-governmental organizations and others active in the field of criminal justice and prison reform. The Handbook on Prisoners with Special Needs covers eight particularly vulnerable groups of prisoners, including: prisoners with mental health-care needs; prisoners with disabilities; ethnic and racial minorities and indigenous peoples; foreign national prisoners; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender prisoners; older prisoners; prisoners with terminal illnesses; and prisoners under sentence of death. UNODC offers separate handbooks devoted to the needs of female prisoners and children in conflict with the law.

Selected services we offer

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on trends in crime prevention and criminal justice
- Research reports and studies on crime prevention and criminal justice in various countries and regions as well as globally
- Specialized advice to policymakers and practitioners in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice reform, including high-level technical advice and capacity-building
- Crime prevention and criminal justice system assessments
- Justice reform support to countries in transition and peace operations, including the provision of expertise, training and technical advice
- Capacity-building for staff of ministries of justice and the interior
- Crime prevention support to Governments and civil society (i.e. sector-specific support such as skills programmes for at-risk youth and comprehensive multi-sectoral interventions)
- Facilitation and application of global use of extradition and mutual legal assistance
- Direct on-site operational support to national prosecution and judicial services in ongoing prosecution and asset forfeiture casework
- Judiciary assessments, action plans and assistance to build judicial capacity and integrity and help courts meet international standards
- Development, implementation and support for IT resources related to criminal justice reform
- Capacity development for police officers to improve accountability and integrity and respond to the needs of victims
- Training for judicial officials on the use of non-custodial measures and the appropriate treatment of victims and witnesses
- Promotion of measures to stop violence against women
- Support for improving prison management and the treatment of prisoners, including special categories, in line with United Nations standards and norms
- Support for reducing prison overcrowding, including through improving implementation of alternatives to imprisonment
Building capacity to combat piracy off the Horn of Africa

The absence of the rule of law in Somalia, which has been without an effective central Government since 1991, has provoked a surge of maritime hijackings by Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa. After years of devastating civil war, Somalia does not have the capacity to pursue pirates and bring them to justice. Because piracy affects regional security and international commercial interests, other States in the region, notably Kenya and the Seychelles, are stepping into the breach and arresting and prosecuting alleged pirates. To support the prosecution of piracy suspects, in 2009 UNODC launched a joint programme with the European Commission that enhances criminal justice capacity among Somalia’s neighbours to ensure that piracy trials and detentions are fair, humane and efficient, and that they take place within a sound rule-of-law framework. Piracy prosecutions put a strain on their criminal justice systems, so UNODC focuses its support in four key areas: law enforcement, prosecution, courts and prisons. UNODC provides legislative review and assistance; support to the police, prosecution and judiciary; logistics and information technology; witness and trial support; prison repairs and refurbishments; training of prosecution, police, maritime authorities and prison management and officers; and the development and sharing of regional expertise. By enhancing criminal justice systems in East Africa and the western Indian Ocean, UNODC is helping ensure that suspected and convicted pirates receive fair treatment under the law, while also building sustainable structures to strengthen justice and the rule of law for all citizens in the region.

Prison reform in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

In many of the world’s prisons, conditions are far below minimum international standards, posing major humanitarian, public health and security challenges. Some criminal justice systems are struggling to cope, with repercussions for society at large since most prisoners eventually return to their communities, bringing untreated problems, such as drug dependence and infectious diseases, with them, and often lacking vocational skills that would enable them to earn a living by legitimate means. UNODC supports prison reform as an intrinsic part of criminal justice reform. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, for example, we are helping to build up the capacity of the General Administration of Reform and Rehabilitation Centres (GARRC), including through the joint development of a medium-term strategic plan that provides a comprehensive development road map. UNODC supports leadership capacity development among GARRC prison administrators; general staff training and curriculum development; prisoner rehabilitation; and improved health care for inmates. Our efforts are helping the Palestinian National Authority to create a modern, effective and efficient prison service that respects the human rights of prisoners and meets international standards for health, safety and conduct.

For more information and to link directly to many of our tools, please visit the UNODC website www.unodc.org.
UNODC promotes universal access to support services to prevent and treat drug drug-related HIV infection and HIV in prison settings. UNODC also provides legitimate income-generating opportunities to reduce illicit drug crop cultivation.

UNODC has piloted projects to develop alternative livelihoods for opium farmers in five provinces of Afghanistan. Former opium grower selling nuts and pomegranates.
Illicit drugs threaten public health worldwide. They inflict a heavy toll on users and their families, with the most vulnerable and marginalized groups hit hardest. But the larger community also suffers; illicit drug use can place a burden on health care and criminal justice systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Moreover, in the absence of HIV prevention services, illicit drug use contributes to the spread of HIV.

Investing in prevention, treatment, care and support for drug users lowers health-care costs, improves security and contributes to social cohesion and development. Drug users—including those with HIV—can be helped, their addiction can be treated, and these individuals can recover and become fully contributing members of their community. It is possible to prevent HIV infection among drug users, prisoners and other vulnerable groups by guaranteeing universal access to the full spectrum of prevention, treatment, care and support.

Often closely linked with organized crime, illicit drug production and trafficking damage communities, undermine security and impede development, holding back entire societies. Yet marginalized small farmer families who cultivate illicit drug crops in remote areas are often alienated from national development interventions and need sustainable income from legitimate economic activities. Sustainable alternative income-generating opportunities not only decrease cultivation of illicit drug crops but also reduce poverty, food insecurity and environmental harm.

**What we do**

UNODC encourages and supports evidence-based policies, strategies and interventions that are based on a public health and human rights approach to reducing drug use and the social burden it creates. We promote integrating drug and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support into mainstream health and social welfare systems to ensure that prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation programmes are accessible to all who need them. We operate joint programmes on drug dependence treatment with the World Health Organization, and on drug use prevention with the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). On the supply side, UNODC supports local, national and international efforts to reduce illicit cultivation of crops used to produce narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and we foster viable economic alternatives for both farmers who grow drug-related crops and vulnerable urban youth who might otherwise be drawn into the illicit drug trade.

UNODC also conducts research to better understand what makes people vulnerable to addiction and monitor illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption worldwide.
Drug use prevention and drug dependence treatment and care

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on drug trends
- Research reports and studies on drugs in various countries and regions as well as globally
- Support to Governments and civil society in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating evidence-based interventions for the prevention of drug use in families, schools, the workplace and the broader community
- Support to Governments for the development of treatment systems, expansion of services for drug dependent people and the establishment of drug abuse information systems for monitoring and evaluating demand reduction programmes

HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on HIV trends
- Research reports and studies on HIV in various countries and regions
- Facilitation of the establishment of national technical working groups on HIV prevention and care among drug users, particularly injecting drug users and in prison settings, involving all relevant stakeholders
- Technical assistance to countries in assessing the HIV situation among injecting drug users, prisoners and people vulnerable to human trafficking; developing effective strategies for scaling up HIV prevention, treatment and support among these groups (e.g. through programmes linked to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria); and reviewing and modifying national AIDS policy and implementation plans when needed

Sample tools promoting drug prevention and health

**Guide to Implementing Family Skills Training Programmes for Drug Abuse Prevention**

Research has shown that children who are raised in a cohesive and healthy family environment in which adults provide supervision and effective discipline are much less likely to engage in drug use and other risky behaviours and are better prepared for dealing with hardships and achieving positive outcomes in life. The UNODC Guide to Implementing Family Skills Training Programmes for Drug Abuse Prevention offers guidance on implementing effective drug use prevention programmes through interactive training programmes that teach practical life skills to parents, children and families. Participation in family skills training programmes improves communication, structure and cohesion within families, improves academic performance, reduces depression and aggression among children, and lowers levels of family conflict. This initiative is being implemented in Central America, South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

**HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support in Prison Settings: A Framework for an Effective National Response**

HIV/AIDS is a serious threat to prison populations in many countries and presents significant challenges for prison and public health authorities and national Governments. Worldwide, levels of HIV infection tend to be higher in prisons than in the general population and are often accompanied and exacerbated by high rates of other infectious diseases such as hepatitis and tuberculosis. Yet most prisoners eventually return to the wider community, bringing their health problems with them. UNODC produced this tool together with the World Health Organization and UNAIDS. It provides a framework for mounting an effective national response to HIV/AIDS in prisons that meets international health and human rights standards, prioritizes public health, is grounded in best practices and supports the management of custodial institutions.

**Design and Management of Development-Oriented Drug Control Projects**

This training guide is designed to build knowledge and skills for planning projects and managing sustainable livelihoods and alternative development initiatives among Government stakeholders and project personnel. By providing guidelines for all stages of the project cycle, from project identification and formulation all the way to monitoring, reporting and evaluation, this tool enables users to plan, implement and monitor alternative development interventions more effectively within their national policy frameworks.
• Assistance to States in reviewing laws and policies, assessing training needs and building national capacity that will enhance their ability to develop and implement HIV policies and programmes and to coordinate, monitor and evaluate HIV prevention and care services

Alternative development and sustainable livelihoods

• Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on alternative development and sustainable livelihoods
• Research reports and studies on alternative development and sustainable livelihoods in various countries and regions
• Technical assistance in agricultural and rural development (as well as off-farm employment) for sustainable livelihood opportunities in illicit drug crop cultivation areas
• Drafting of specific components of national development plans and strategies to address illicit drug crop cultivation
• Technical assistance for the establishment of donor consultative groups on alternative livelihoods and alternative development
• Development of marketing strategies for products from alternative development programmes
• Facilitation of the exchange of knowledge and best practices on development interventions among countries affected by illicit drug crop cultivation
• Development, implementation and support of management, strategic information and database systems to manage and monitor project implementation
• Strategic assessments of the impact of drugs, crime and instability on development
• Technical assistance to support workshops on agriculture and rural development
• Technical assistance to support the creation of small farmer-led organizations, cooperatives and associations
• Technical support for skills and vocational training in agriculture-based communities
• Expert advice to Governments and civil society for the improvement of sustainable livelihoods services for drug dependent individuals and marginalized vulnerable groups
• Development of effective sustainable livelihood strategies for national, regional and international initiatives in the field of drug dependence prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

Promoting universal access to drug dependence treatment and care in Serbia

The joint UNODC/WHO programme on drug dependence treatment and care aims to provide humane and accessible care to greater numbers of people with drug dependence and drug-related health problems (particularly HIV and AIDS) in low- and middle-income countries, resulting in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Rooted in an evidence-based understanding of drug dependence as a disease rather than a crime, the programme places prevention, treatment and care of drug use disorders squarely within mainstream health-care systems as part of an integrated continuum of care. For example, in Serbia, this programme is developing drug dependence treatment services that are evidence-based and ethical for drug users in marginalized communities (e.g. Roma) that previously have not been reached by such services.

Example of our impact

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Levels of HIV infection among prison populations globally tend to be much higher than in the general population. In Southern Africa, which HIV has hit particularly hard in recent decades, prisons face significant hurdles in addressing HIV and AIDS comprehensively with very few resources. In prisons in Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia, HIV prevalence is estimated at about 30 per cent (it can reach 65 per cent in women’s prisons) and tuberculosis, particularly linked to HIV, is the leading cause of death. UNDOC is supporting prisons and authorities working on HIV-related issues in these four countries to increase their capacity to address HIV comprehensively in prison settings. At the policy level, we help them address structural issues such as prison rules and regulations, overcrowding, monitoring and improving general conditions. We also support improved health-care management within prisons and raise both the awareness and capacity of prison staff and other service providers to address HIV in prisons comprehensively.

Examples of our impact

Preventing the spread of HIV in prisons in Southern Africa

Prison near Cape Town, South Africa.
Young prisoners paint a banner for World Aids Day.
Photo: Sean Hawkey
Increasing family income and preserving the environment in Colombia and Peru

Improving the social and economic situation of small farmer communities and promoting the rational use of natural resources are effective ways to provide legitimate and sustainable income-generating opportunities to small farmers and their families. This not only decreases cultivation of crops involved in illicit drug production, but also reduces poverty and food insecurity and helps preserve the natural environment. The long-term success of this approach is especially evident in Peru, where cacao, palm oil, coffee and palmito farms have been established with UNODC support. Farmer-led cooperative enterprises and processing facilities generated close to US$ 100 million in Peru in 2009. Meanwhile, in Colombia, the Forest Warden Families programme has made an important contribution to environmental preservation. Forest Warden Families have protected over 330,000 hectares of forest and recovered over 53,000 hectares of forest that had been damaged by illicit activities. The programme empowers families to become active participants in local and regional social and economic development processes, eradicate illicit drug drop cultivation and protect Colombia’s forest, soil and rivers.

For more information and to link directly to many of our tools, please visit the UNODC website www.unodc.org.
Our mandate

UNODC is mandated to assist requesting States in legal and other aspects related to counter-terrorism, especially ratifying and implementing the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism and strengthening the capacity of national criminal justice systems to apply provisions of these instruments in compliance with the rule of law. In recent years, our mandate has been strengthened through resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, including Assembly resolution 60/288 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

UNODC works to unite States behind a comprehensive global response to terrorism within the criminal justice system.
TERRORISM PREVENTION

Terrorism threatens security at every level. Acts of terrorist violence endanger the physical security of individuals and communities, sowing fear and panic. Terrorism undermines the rule of law, destabilizing countries and regions and jeopardizing sustainable peace. It can also have a devastating impact on trade and other economic activities, which in turn harms development. Countries must work together to confront terrorism effectively. Perpetrators must be brought to trial, either in their home countries or through extradition. No country should offer a safe haven to terrorists.

What we do

UNODC provides States with legal and technical assistance to help them prevent terrorism. To respond to the needs of Member States for more specialized counter-terrorism legal expertise in specific thematic areas, we have been enhancing our anti-terrorism capacity-building assistance. We are moving towards a more programmatic approach in cooperation with other core thematic areas of UNODC and developing long-term, customized assistance for criminal justice practitioners involved in the investigation and adjudication of terrorism cases and a range of crimes potentially linked to terrorism.

- UNODC helps States to achieve full ratification of the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism and to develop and apply domestic legislation for their implementation.
- We provide capacity-building assistance to strengthen criminal justice systems.
- We strengthen collaboration on legal aspects of counter-terrorism with relevant regional and international organizations.

UNODC offers custom-tailored counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance related to 10 thematic areas from which States can choose according to their specific needs. These themes include:

- Counter-terrorism and international law
- The universal legal framework against terrorism
- International cooperation in criminal matters—mutual legal assistance and extradition in terrorist cases
- Counter-terrorism and human rights
- Financing of terrorism
- Counter-terrorism and criminal justice proceedings
- Aviation-related terrorism
- Maritime terrorism
- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism
- Use of the Internet for terrorist purposes
Selected services we offer

- Research, analysis and reports on anti-terrorism legislative developments in various countries and regions
- Legal advice and assistance to review and draft national legislation and regulations to facilitate ratification and implementation of the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism
- Expanding the legal knowledge base of criminal justice officials who deal with counter-terrorism issues through different training methods, including intensive short-term workshops, online training courses and study tours for senior officers
- Assistance in implementing measures against the financing of terrorism, including through the provision of research tools and legal analysis
- Building of specialized expertise in areas such as counter-terrorism and human rights, nuclear terrorism, transport-related terrorism and use of the Internet for terrorist purposes through in-depth training courses
- Capacity-building assistance for effective international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to terrorism, including facilitation of direct contacts between officials dealing with extraditions and mutual legal assistance

Sample terrorism prevention tools

Digest of Terrorist Cases

The Digest is a specialized tool that draws upon actual investigations, prosecutions and legal experiences with terrorist cases, and includes reviews and comments by national experts involved in these cases. The digest, which has been translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, covers critical areas of counter-terrorism, such as the relationship between terrorism and other forms of crime, the statutory framework for terrorism-related prosecutions and investigation and adjudication issues.


Every State party to the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols must integrate those instruments’ substantive and procedural requirements in its existing criminal justice system with due regard to relevant Security Council resolutions and human rights treaties. This publication is intended to facilitate the task of advising national authorities, who bear the heavy responsibility of preventing terrorism, by integrating mandatory rule-of-law standards in the implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments.

Terrorism legislation database (www.unodc.org/tldb)

This database contains complete texts of international and regional counter-terrorism conventions, United Nations resolutions, national criminal laws and case law, as well as the status of ratification of conventions.

Online training tools

Online training tools enable UNODC to share its counter-terrorism expertise through distance-learning activities with audiences worldwide. Services include the possibility for continuous training following the initial courses.
UNODC measures its success in countering terrorism by the number of ratifications of the universal legal instruments against terrorism and passage of legislative amendments and new laws, and by the number of Member States we assist and counter-terrorism officials we train. Between 2002 and May 2010, there were 537 new ratifications, and UNODC assisted 168 Member States. Of these, 69 prepared new or revised existing pieces of counter-terrorism legislation. During this same period, UNODC trained over 10,000 criminal justice officials involved in counter-terrorism.

Building counter-terrorism capacity in Yemen

Terrorism poses a serious threat to security in the fragile State of Yemen. UNODC has been working with the Government of Yemen since 2003 to help it strengthen its legal regime against terrorism. We provide Yemen with technical assistance for the ratification of the universal instruments against terrorism and the enactment of counter-terrorism legislation in line with international standards. We also help build the capacity of Yemen’s law enforcement and judicial institutions to put these legal instruments into practice and we provide specialized training on relevant issues such as combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Altogether, these UNODC initiatives are not only strengthening Yemen’s ability to prevent and prosecute terrorism, but also bolstering the rule of law and increasing security for Yemeni citizens.

Building counter-terrorism capacity in Colombia

UNODC has been working with the Government of Colombia for several years to support its efforts to build counter-terrorism capacity. In August 2010, UNODC and Colombia agreed to jointly implement an anti-terrorist work programme. Drawing on international case-experience, the programme will focus on activities, such as effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions, support for victims of terrorism and countering the use of Internet for terrorist purposes. UNODC will also support the establishment by the Government of Colombia of the International Center on Analysis, Monitoring and Prevention of Terrorism (CIAMPT), which will carry out initiatives at the national and regional levels.
Our mandate

Member States have charged UNODC with monitoring drug and crime trends and threats. In fulfilling this mandate, we provide objective data and analysis that can help define drug and crime control priorities and help States develop appropriate, targeted responses.

UNODC provides unbiased data and drug and crime policymaking both nationally and internationally.

Newly established scientific police force in Afghanistan analyses samples of seized narcotics to determine chemical characteristics and trends in production and trafficking.

Photo: Alessandro Scotti.
Drug and crime policies must be firmly based on evidence to be effective. Policymakers and experts need reliable data to identify and analyse trends in crime levels and in drug demand and supply, and to pinpoint areas where interventions are most likely to achieve positive results. Because drugs and crime are often tightly intertwined and have repercussions at the local, regional and transnational levels, research and analysis that take a crosscutting approach offer the firmest foundation for policy and operational responses to counteract these problems.

RESEARCH AND THREAT ANALYSIS

analysis to inform nationally and internationally

What we do

UNODC collects and analyses data within and across all our areas of work. Our research provides a solid basis for the development of practical tools, manuals, training and other resources for legislators, policymakers and professionals. Because our expertise is evidence-based, UNODC is able to serve as an honest broker in policy debates.

• UNODC provides States with statistical expertise that enables them to collect, process, analyse and disseminate data on drugs and crime.

• We develop criteria and metrics for establishing baselines and measuring and tracking trends.

• UNODC provides States with scientific and forensic expertise that enriches policy and trend analysis.

• We perform global drug and crime threat assessments and monitor specific transnational drug and crime problems.

• UNODC also analyses quantitative and qualitative trends, undertakes cross-sectoral studies on emerging problems and priority topics and performs periodic reviews of transnational drug and crime threats.
UNODC publishes a number of authoritative studies on global, regional and national trends and threats in drugs and crime. Our premier publication, the annual World Drug Report, provides comprehensive, balanced information on drug trends and an analysis of drug markets at the global, regional and national levels.

UNODC produces threat assessment reports on particular regions or on issues (such as transnational organized crime, the transnational trade in Afghan heroin or the impact of drug trafficking on security) that provide evidence of and raise awareness about the links between drug trafficking, organized crime, development and security issues.

We also publish survey reports on illicit drug crop cultivation, drug use, crime victimization and corruption. Illicit drug crop monitoring reports include an annual Afghanistan opium poppy survey report and regular updates on coca bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru; opium poppy cultivation in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar; and cannabis plant cultivation in Morocco.

UNODC tracks crime and drug statistics and produces specialized reports on crime, such as the 2009 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. Our data on crime and drugs, such as the annual homicide dataset covering almost all the world’s countries, help track global trends. Gathering and analysing data on crime is particularly challenging and UNODC is working to develop and refine measurements and standards to improve the ability of Governments and international institutions to perform this work.

All of our in-depth research reports and crop surveys can be accessed on the UNODC website. Many are available in more than one language.
World Drug Report

The annual World Drug Report provides UNODC’s assessment of the illicit drug situation, including comprehensive information on drug trends at the global, regional and national levels. As many illicit drug markets have reached global dimensions and require control strategies on a comparable scale, there is a need to better understand how transnational drug markets operate. The World Drug Report thus analyses the markets for heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants and presents the latest statistics and estimates of production, trafficking, prices and consumption for the major drug groups, including cannabis.

Corruption in Afghanistan: Bribery as Reported by Victims

Poverty and violence are usually portrayed as the biggest challenges confronting Afghanistan. But ask the Afghans themselves and you get another answer: corruption is their biggest worry. In 2008 and 2009, UNODC conducted a national survey on corruption based on interviews with 7,600 Afghan citizens in 12 provincial capitals and more than 1,600 villages around the country. The survey’s findings were published in 2010 in the UNODC report Corruption in Afghanistan: Bribery as Reported by Victims. Corruption is part of everyday life in Afghanistan: half of the Afghans interviewed had to pay at least one bribe to a public official. According to the report, Afghan citizens paid approximately US$ 2.5 billion in bribes in 2009, equivalent to 23 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product and, coincidentally, almost equivalent to the 2009 proceeds of the opium trade (US$ 2.8 billion). Corruption is a major impediment to improving security, development and good governance in Afghanistan, in part because it also facilitates other crimes, including drug trafficking and terrorism.

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

Based on data from 155 countries, the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons provides an overview of trafficking patterns, legal responses and country-specific information. The report shows that the number of convictions for human trafficking is increasing but that most convictions still take place in a limited number of countries. Sexual exploitation is by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking, and the victims of this crime are predominantly women and girls. Worldwide, almost one in five trafficking victims are children, and in some regions, children are the majority. Europe is the destination for victims from the widest range of origins, while victims from Asia are trafficked to the widest range of destinations.

For more information and to link directly to many of our tools, please visit the UNODC website www.unodc.org.
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