The region continues to cope with the impact of multiple security and humanitarian crises. While Libya, Syria, Iraq and Yemen remain the center of attention, neighbours, near and far, suffer the effects. More than ever, it is clear that transnational organized crime and terrorism are shared threats and can only be overcome through international cooperation and joint efforts. Rule of law and good governance are also needed for longer term stability and sustained development. UNODC Regional Programme for Arab States, through partnership with governments and civil society, continues to strengthen national resilience and responses, as well as international cooperation through regionally-owned solutions. A few examples of our impact are highlighted here. Much has been achieved, yet more scaled-up and sustained attention is needed to turn the tide against crime and terrorism. Stay tuned.

UNODC presented a regional training in Amman to address human trafficking victimization of refugees and displaced persons from Syria and Iraq. Participants included law enforcement officers, government officials and civil society actors from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey dealing with refugees. While focusing on the detection and prevention of human trafficking and the provision of adequate victim assistance, the event also provided a platform for information exchange and in-depth training on the crime of human trafficking as well as the causes and effects behind the vulnerability of refugees, the challenges of addressing vulnerability to trafficking and possible ways forward. Project is funded by Japan.

Aiming to support the development of stronger teaching capacity in the field of anti-corruption, UNODC delivered a two-day workshop in September in Tunisia. The workshop, jointly organized with the Doha-based Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre, brought together a diverse range of academics from the region across the fields of law, governance, political science and business studies.

During three capacity-building workshops held in August and September, UNODC, in close cooperation with INTERPOL, provided Egyptian frontline law enforcement officers with basic and advanced criminal intelligence analysis training. The purpose was to support the analysis of risk factors and profile movements of people and goods to more effectively identify illicit trafficking. The training focused on aspects of effective and specialized investigative techniques and best practices in international law enforcement, and provided officers from across the country with a platform to exchange their experiences on the new trends in drug trafficking. The last session witnessed the effective exchange of know-how, challenges and latest trends in drug trafficking between the Anti-Narcotics General Administration and the French Central Office, with a focus on judicial cases and undercover operations. Project is funded by Japan.

To counter child trafficking, UNODC conducted a training in Jordan for Jordanian law enforcement on combating this crime, in close cooperation with the Jordanian Counter-Trafficking Unit. Presented in July, the event introduced to the participants best practices in fighting child trafficking in accordance with international law. The training included aspects of the crime, such as child trafficking and exploitation via the internet. Furthermore the training included an in-depth look into children’s rights, identification of child-trafficking cases and investigation techniques that are child-sensitive when handling child witnesses and victims. The inclusion of national experts ensured a state-oriented approach and paved the way for future discussions regarding forms of trafficking in Jordan.

What We Do

- Promote rule of law and good governance as foundations of peace, security and sustainable development
- Strengthen national policies and practices consistent with international norms, standards, convention obligations and evidence-based best practices
- Strengthen institutional and individual capacities to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, violent extremism and terrorism
- Promote regional and international cooperation and partnerships against shared threats of crime and terrorism
- Provide research, data analysis and expertise on global, regional and national trends on crime and terrorism

Egypt: Combating Illicit Trafficking

Basic and Advanced Crime Intelligence Analysis Training

Crime Intelligence Analysis Workshop

Jordan: Combating Child Trafficking

Strengthening the Capacity of Law Enforcement

More information: www.unodc.org/romena or contact lo.egypt@unodc.org
Jordan: Container Control Programme
Strengthening Safety of Containerized Trade

In July, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the UNODC Container Control Programme (CCP) undertook their first-ever joint activity in Jordan. The air cargo and mail security trainings involved officials from Jordan and Pakistan that are pioneer countries in implementing CCP at their airports. The function of CCP-Air is to facilitate legitimate trade and provide States authorities responsible for border control with the skills to accurately identify and stop air consignments of interest, while confidently releasing the bulk of goods into commerce. Project funded by USA (EXBS)

Libya: HIV/AIDS Prevention
Health Professionals on HIV Study Tour to Lebanon

UNODC, in cooperation with MENAHR, held a workshop and a study tour to Lebanon for 14 Libyan public health professionals in July to build national capacities on HIV prevention, treatment and care. The training focused on the provision of comprehensive harm reduction services for people who use drugs and living in closed settings through community outreach and drop-in center services, and on drafting and submitting harm reduction proposals to donors. The study tour to harm reduction implementation sites, including opioid substitution therapy, provided the participants with first-hand knowledge of the implementation modalities for future replication in Libya. Project is funded by Libya.

Algeria: Terrorism Prevention
International Cooperation against Terrorism

Around 35 Algerian judges and prosecutors participated in the first UNODC train-the-trainers workshop, organized with the Algerian School of Magistrates, on strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters against complex cross-border terrorism cases. Technical discussions focused on current challenges and good practices related to international cooperation in criminal matters, especially cross-border investigation and prosecution of terrorism offences. Programme further focused on the establishment and the role of central authorities, the creation and work of joint investigation teams, and challenges of cooperation among countries with different legal systems in the Maghreb and Sahel regions. Project is funded by Japan.

Tunisia: Forensics
Crime Scene Investigation Capacity Built

A first series of four workshops on crime scene preservation techniques for first responders was provided to non-law-enforcement crime scene professionals (emergency medical response teams, physicians, rangers, etc.). Preservation of crime scenes evidence helps solve crimes. Those workshops were held in August in Tunis, El Kef, Kairouan and Gabès, thus allowing for a wide geographical representation among participants. Positive feedback was received from the institutions represented, and more such sessions will take place before the end of the year. Project is funded by the USA (INL).

Upcoming Events

- Training on Special Investigation Techniques related to the Investigation of Terrorist Offences, Cairo, Egypt, November
- Regional workshop on The Criminal Justice Response to Prevent and Suppress Kidnapping for Ransom, Dead Sea, Jordan, 7-9 November
- Sub-regional workshop on Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons, Dead Sea, Jordan, 8-11 November
- Training on the Protection of and Assistance to Smuggled Migrants, Lebanon, 14-16 November
- Meeting of Steering and Follow-up Committee of the Regional Programme for the Arab States (2016-2021), Cairo, Egypt, 16-17 November
- Regional AICOP meeting on the Typology of Foreign Terrorist Fighters traveling by Air, Tunis, 22-23 November
- Training to Strengthen the Capacity of Social Workers to Protect and Assist Victims of Human Trafficking, Rabat, Morocco, 23-25 November
- First two sessions of the source investigation training on Supporting Measures to Combat Corruption and Money Laundering and to Foster Asset Recovery in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt, December

Iraq: Terrorism Prevention
Fighting Forced Recruitment and Use of Women

With a view to facilitating policy dialogue among the Iraqi authorities to address the legal and practical challenges concerning women allegedly affiliated with ISIL (Daesh), UNODC held a workshop in Egypt for 18 Iraqi delegates in September. Among the delegates were a Member of Parliament, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers. International and regional experts exchanged with the delegates on the challenges faced by the recruitment of women by terrorist groups such as ISIL from societal, human rights, criminal justice and security perspectives. They also discussed good practices in combating this phenomenon. Project is funded by Japan.