



# UNODC

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## UNODC in West and Central Asia. *Newsletter Quarterly, Vol 2, October 2015-January 2016.*

*This Newsletter provides information about key UNODC actions, events and partnerships in the region of West and Central Asia (Afghanistan, (I.R. of) Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). The UNODC strategy for West and Central Asia maximizes synergies with existing programmes in the region, primarily the Country Partnership Programme for (I.R. of) Iran, the Country Programmes for Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Programme for Central Asia and the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. This approach enables an integrated and concerted “one-UNODC” response in West and Central Asia focusing on Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice and Legal Cooperation, and Social and Health Aspects, and therefore supports national and regional efforts deployed for international peace, stability and development. UNODC is also promoting the drug control and cooperation platform set-up through the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach and ensures effective linkages with other UNODC Regional Programmes operating in regions affected by Afghan opiates traffic including the trafficking of precursors, notably along the Balkan, Northern and Southern routes.*

## UN TURNS 70



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon recently stated

*“Every day the UN makes a positive difference for millions of people: vaccinating children, distributing food aid, sheltering refugees, deploying peacekeepers, protecting the environment, seeking the peaceful resolution of disputes and supporting democratic elections, gender equality, human rights and rule of law”.*

The United Nations Organization’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 24<sup>th</sup> was a chance to recognize the scope and extent the UN contributes day to day to peace, development, humanitarian issues and human rights as well as a chance to put emphasis on the fact that a more coherent UN is a stronger UN and that we should pledge to work together to make a greater difference to the world. Despite UN’s positive accomplishments, Michael Moller, director-general of the UN Office at Geneva critically reflected on the work of the United Nations Organization and stated that *“after 70 years the organization must change and reform in order to better reply to the realities of today’s world”* and argued 2015 to be a critical year for the UN system.



The new sculpture *“The Rebirth”*, which is an infinity configuration made up of 193 stones, representing every UN member state, is meant to symbolize this *“new start”*. This new start and simultaneously new vision can also be observed in other countries and regions to live up to the saying:

*“We have not inherited the world from our ancestors, we have borrowed the world from our children”.*

## SPECIAL COLUMN

### High Level Meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

14 December 2015, Vienna

A High Level Meeting of Partners for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries was held at UNODC Headquarters in Vienna, Austria on 14 December 2015. It was chaired by the Minister of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan H.E. Mrs. Salamat Azimi and co-chaired by the UNODC Executive Director, Mr. Yuri Fedotov, and the UNAMA (UNDPA) Special Representative for the Secretary-General Mr. Nicholas Haysom.

122 delegations from 28 countries and 7 international organizations attended the meeting, of which 16 regional partners along with international stakeholders, donor community, and regional organizations presented their strategic work aimed to build regional cooperation, combat transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and support sustainable development goals in West and Central Asia. The meeting successfully addressed the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan and generated an opportunity to review status and to provide a platform to agree on effective actions and responses.



In this context, Mr Fedotov, Director General, noted in his welcoming speech that

*“We need to recognize that action against the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international and regional cooperation with a focus on an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach addressing both supply and demand reduction sides”.*

At the meeting’s core of discussion stood Afghanistan, particularly the pivotal function of its new National Drug Control Action Plan, introduced by the Minister of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan H.E. Mrs Salamat Azimi, which features a prominent regional cooperation and cohesive action plan to counter illicit production trafficking and reducing demands as well as supporting sustainable development in Afghanistan and its Neighbouring Countries.

UNODC developed a harmonized approach to support Europe, West and Central Asia with interventions at three distinct yet closely inter-connected levels: country, regional and inter-regional. It remains committed to



supporting Member States, including Country, Regional and Global Programmes, amongst the newly signed Country Programme for Afghanistan (2016-2019) and the Country Partnership Programme for (the I. R. of) Iran (2015-2019).

The main objective for these programmes is to support the enhancement of national capacities, policies, and programmes to respond to the pressing challenges of drugs and crime in their respective countries. The Country Programme for Afghanistan's new vision is to assist with the policy framework and provide accurate data and information to counter the consequences of drugs and crime in the country in line with the new National Unity Government's "Realizing Self-Reliance" strategy put forward in 2014. The Country Partnership Programme goals will be achieved through an integrated and balanced approach based on international cooperation and capacity-building. The Country Programme for Afghanistan as well as the Country Partnership Programme for (I.R. of) Iran both comprise 4 Sub-Programmes, focusing on Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Health and Alternative Livelihood as well as Advocacy, Policy and Research. The Country Partnership Programme for (I.R. of) Iran additionally takes in a cross-cutting component focusing on Research and Analysis.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### **Promoting the Anti-Narcotics Force Academy as a Regional Centre of Excellence in Training.**

**6 October 2015, Islamabad.** At an Anti-Narcotics Force Event, drug liaison officers were briefed on ANF's work. The event was led by the UNODC's Representative Mr. Cesar Guedes who stated that this event is a landmark achievement by the ANF and represents the fruits of its collaboration with the international community and the UNODC. This is particularly true with respect to the capacity building of the ANF Academy as a regional centre of excellence. Major General Khawar Hanif, Director General of the ANF, served as the host and emphasized the importance of counter-narcotics collaboration between the international community and Pakistan in order to effectively combat complex international drug trafficking organizations. He also gave an overview of the ANF's activities over the last three years and applauded the Government of Pakistan for its continued support for anti-narcotics efforts,



particularly as Pakistan faces a difficult situation with respect to its struggle against terrorism and other geopolitical security challenges. This event further seemed to be momentous, as Major General Khawar Hanif announced it to be his final ANF related event.

### **Inter-Governmental Meeting on Cooperation between CARICC and JPC.**

**19 – 20 October 2015, Almaty.** Within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan

and Neighbouring Countries (Sub-Programme 1), an inter-governmental meeting was successfully held in



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Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) with participation of senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as from the Counter Narcotics Police/Anti-Narcotics Forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, senior officials of CARICC, the Permanent Liaison Officers (PLOs) of the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) and senior officials from UNODC. The objective of this meeting was to provide a platform to the senior officials from the relevant countries, CARICC management, and the PLOs to determine possible

means communication and establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CARICC and the Triangular Initiative (TI) countries (Afghanistan-Iran-Pakistan). Based on proposals from the participants, a text for an MOU was drafted by the participants and it was submitted to the relevant Governments further procedures. This MOU is expected to promote the role of CARICC and JPC, as well as to set legal grounds for information sharing between these two centers.

### Workshop on Online Communication Systems Held to Improve Collaboration.

**20-22 October 2015, Vienna.** In collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), UNODC and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), a workshop was held on Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) and Pre-export Notification (PEN) Online Systems. 33 officials from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Joint Planning

Cell (JPC) and CARICC took part in the meeting. The agenda of the workshop included the use and latest features of INCB's automated online system to maximize usage; use of customs data analysis as an additional tool to support regional and international precursor operations and backtracking investigations. It served as an example of collaboration and interlinking the local, regional and global initiatives.

### Combatting Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (HTMS) Nationally and Beyond.

**5 November 2015, Karachi.** A two-day Regional Conference on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (HTMS) culminated in Karachi. The event was jointly hosted by UNODC Country Office Pakistan and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of the Government of Pakistan. The destination countries discussed the challenges emerging out of the HTMS situation in the region and beyond, with the aim of enhancing regional cooperation related to irregular migration attempts. UNODC's Country Representative of Pakistan Mr Cesar Guedes, stated:

*"There are 2.4 million victims of human trafficking around the world at any given time, out of which 70 percent are women and young girls. HTMS remains one of the most lucrative businesses generating over \$32 billion in profits annually".*



In view of this, domestic laws as well as the Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) have been improved, to risk manage and detect illegal movements. The arrest of 23 most wanted

migrant smugglers and 1.310 human traffickers during the year of 2015, proves the successful implementation and reflects Pakistan's national resolve to combat this menace.





### Counteracting the Risk of Shipping Containers Being Illicitly Used.

Several programmes have been implemented under the Global Container Control Programme (CCP) launched by UNODC and the World Customs Organization in 2005, to further decrease the risk



of shipping containers being illicitly used to smuggle various diverse consignments.

**16 November 2015, Karachi.** Jinnah International Airport in Karachi is the country's biggest airport which handles more than 50% of the country's air cargo with an average of 150 tons per year. In addition, given its geopolitical importance in the region's trade, as well as Pakistan's contiguity to Afghanistan, an effective profiling unit at Karachi Airport is indispensable for decreasing illicit smuggle. Consequentially, UNODC Pakistan organized a two weeks theoretical training of the Karachi Airport "Air Cargo Profiling Unit" with the participation of representatives from Denmark, France, Japan, UK, international organizations UNODC, WCO, ICAO as well as officials from Pakistan Federal Board of Revenue, Anti-Narcotics Force and Civil Aviation Authorities. At the launch,

Cesar Guedes, Country Representative, stated that *"the Global Container Control Programme has been one the most successful UNODC initiatives: starting in 2005 as described in 3 countries including Pakistan, and today operational in 28; while another 25 states are in the process of participating therein."*

**November 2015, Poland.** A working study visit has been organised by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia for representatives of the State Customs Committee and the National Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers to the Republic of Poland in October 2015 within the framework of the UNODC - WCO Global Container Control Programme. The Uzbek delegation visited the EU's border crossings, Customs Training Academy and Customs Chamber as well as Customs Border Control Offices. Polish counterparts shared experience in risk profiling for containerized shipments with the Uzbek colleagues who were impressed by the existing automated and electronic systems of customs control.

**26-30 October 2015, Astana.** UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia organized a five-day mentorship programme for officers of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan to enhance sustainability of the programme and equip officers of the CCP Port Control Units of Astrara dry port and Baku seaport with necessary skills and knowledge. Customs officers were trained in profiling and selection of containers in the pre-arrival (imports) and/or pre-departure (exports) phase, using Internet, as a source of information and "ContainerComm" as a secured communication tool.

### Sixth Senior Officials Meeting of Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (AKT).

**16-17 November 2015, Kabul.** The Sixth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) between Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (AKT Tripartite Initiative) was hosted by the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) under the framework of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. The goal of the meeting

was to identify mechanisms to strengthen cooperation in counter narcotics and border management among the AKT partners and to amend the AKT Road Map of Action for 2016-2017 accordingly. Furthermore, delegates were to discuss the efficacy of the AKT platform with a view to expanding this cooperative process to engage with other countries in the region.



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### Third Regional Legislative Review Group Meeting Held.

**19-20 November, 2015, Asghabat.** The Third Legislative Review Group meeting was conducted by the UNODC project on "Strengthening Customs Service and Other Law Enforcement Agencies in the Implementation of Border Trade Control in particular Export/Import Regimes Control". The meeting assisted in bringing the Turkmen national legislation related to trade and border control, in particular export control, in line with international standards. Participants from the Turkmen State Customs Service, State Service to Protect the Security of a Healthy Society, State Border Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Defense and Prosecutor General's Office took part in the meeting. The group continued to work on



developing recommendations for further consideration by the national authorities. The main point of discussion was the compliance of Turkmen national law with the UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

### Sensitisation Sessions for the Police on the Issue of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (HTMS).

**25 November 2015, Islamabad.** Two sessions were organised by the Research and Analysis Centre (RAC), a joint flagship venture between the UNODC and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The FIA is the lead agency to control human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan. The role of the agency is immigration control including human smuggling and external human trafficking. Experts from the FIA, UNODC and civil society delivered their presentations, which included information on some of the latest trends. Mr. Wajid Zia, Additional Director General of Immigration from the FIA, who chaired the event ascribed a vital importance to the police in functional and operational orbs as well as to the civil society in terms of awareness raising and rehabilitation processes. Mr. Nasir Khan from the FIA assured that his agency will continue to



organise these sensitisation and awareness sessions in districts/localities most effected by HTMS in the near future to ensure that the relevant technical aspects of HTMS are covered properly.

### Improving the Capacity of Trainers at the Police Training College Sihala.

**27 November 2015, Islamabad.**

Through a number of "Train the Trainer" (ToT) Courses,



Punjab has for its first time adopted modern training techniques by the College in Sihala, under the leadership of its Commandant Mr. Amir Zulfiqar. The training regime includes continuous monitoring and evaluation of both trainees and trainers. 418 sub-inspectors have been directly recruited through a provincial competitive exam,

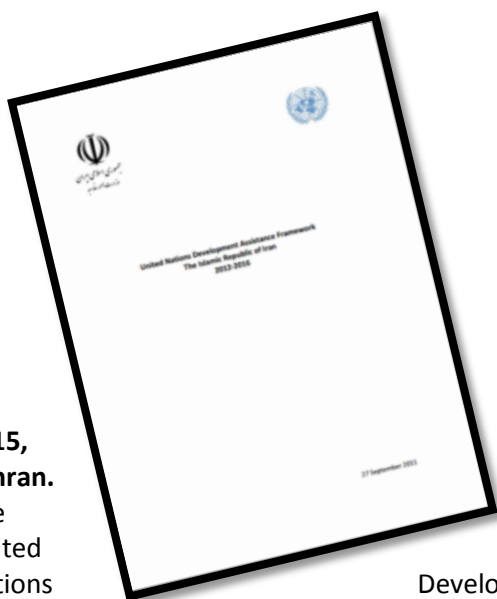


amongst which 76 are pioneer prospective female sub-inspectors in Punjab. UNODC assured it will provide continuous support for the training and capacity building of the new recruits, towards facilitating the police department's evolution into a more responsive and gender equal institution.

**16-27 November 2015, Islamabad.** The UNODC Country Office has organized the 6th "Train the Trainer" session. This training initiative was a direct result of the recommendations agreed upon by the senior training commandants at the UNODC-

organized National Conference in September 2013 to standardize the training curricula across all law enforcement training academies (LEA), in addition to identifying potential master trainers in each institution. The TOT was attended by 16 mid-ranking officers from the Anti Narcotics Force, provincial police departments, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan, Customs, and the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) of KPK.

### United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Signed in Iran.



**2015, Tehran.**

The United Nations Assistance Framework (UNDAF) document for the period 2017-2021 has been signed between the Government of the Islamic

Republic of Iran and the United Nations Country Team by Mr. Peiman Seadat, Director General for Environmental and Sustainable Development from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the I.R. of Iran together with the heads of several UN agencies.

The ceremony took place in the Mirrors Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the presence of H.E. Dr. Abbas Araghchi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Government officials and the UN Heads of Agencies. This is a strategic framework document which will govern the cooperation between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations for the five years following the end of the current UNDAF on 31 December 2016, amongst which the four agreed pillars are (i) Environment, (ii) Health, (iii) Resilient Economy and (iv) Drug Control.

### The Security Council Extended and Adjusted its Sanctions Regime against Taliban Affiliates.

**21 December 2015, Afghanistan.** Individuals and entities affiliated with the Taliban have been confronted with the adoption of text extending and adjustments of sanctions implemented by the Security Council. The Council decided that the travel ban for affiliates will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only permitted when such entry or transit was justified. It further strongly condemned the continuing flow of weapons, military equipment and component for improvised explosive device to the Taliban, expressing serious concern at their





destabilizing impact on Afghanistan’s security. It encouraged States to share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter the devices. Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in

Afghanistan (UNAMA) emphasised that the single development that would allow material progress towards a stable and self-reliant Afghanistan would be an agreement among Afghans as to the arrangements by which they could live together in peace and harmony.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Strengthening the Knowledge and Skills of National Officers Involved in Border Control.

**28 – 2 September/October and 5-9 October 2015, Istanbul.** Under the framework of UNODC’s Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries, two “Cash courier” training course were conducted in Istanbul, Turkey. The training courses sought to strengthen the knowledge and skills of national officers involved in border control on the mechanisms for monitoring cross-border transportation of cash and bearer negotiable instruments (BNIs) and the identification and interdiction of cash couriers. The cash courier training

will enable greater use of the domestic legislation within Regional programme countries to maximise the interdiction and detection of illicit cross border flows. The first course was conducted under the Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative and brought together thirteen senior experts and practitioners from those countries. The second was conducted under the Triangular Initiative and brought together twelve senior experts and practitioners from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

### Successful Inauguration of various ANF Police Stations across Balochistan.

**9 November 2015, Islamabad.** The establishment and operationalization of the ANF’s police stations in Dalbandin, Panjgur, Turbat, Gwadar and Hub in Balochistan are key achievements in the UNODC’s ongoing work under its Pakistan Country Sub-Programme I (2010-2015) “*Illicit Trafficking and Border Management*”. These police stations will improve counter-narcotics and border management procedures, with the aim of facilitating trade while interdicting unwanted flows. This programme effectively addresses counter-narcotics through an inter-agency approach as they will form part of a larger communication network between the ANF and other law enforcement agencies. Major General Khawar Hanif, the Director



General of the ANF claimed *the establishment of the police stations in Balochistan to strengthen Pakistan’s role as the first line of defence against drug trafficking from the western borders, and it will help form a containment ring around the source.*





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### Modern Mobile Crime Scene Investigation Unit Developed for Gujrat Police.

**12 November 2015, Gujrat.** UNODC country representative of Pakistan, Mr. Cesar Guedes together with the Norwegian ambassador, H.E. Mr. Tore Nedrebo, and the Norwegian First Secretary of Development, Mr. Tom Jorgen Martinussen proudly handed over a modern mobile crime scene investigation unit to Mr. Raj Zameer ul Haque, the District Police Officer in Gujrat. The new unit possesses state of the art kits that cover a multitude of functions, including blood collection, finger printing, impressions, lifting pattern prints,

trace evidence collection and analyzing bullet trajectories. In addition, the unit will be utilized to respond to crimes committed in the vicinity of every police station in Gujrat district. The mobile crime scene investigation unit will be further replicated to other areas of Punjab including Gujranwala and Sialkot, complementing other support initiatives related to crime scene investigation, management and police-prosecution cooperation with a particular focus on Gujrat as a model district.

### Regional Workshop on Harmonization of Legislative Frameworks.

**7-8 December 2015, Almaty.** The Regional Workshop on “Harmonization of legislative frameworks to enable international/regional cooperation in Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), Extradition, Confiscation and Transfer of Prisoners” was held in Almaty to present and discuss the draft comparative study (on the above subject matters) and provide a conducive environment for the Regional Programme countries to present their operational challenges in implementing their laws on MLA, Extradition, Confiscation as well as transfer of prisoners. Furthermore, this workshop served to discuss recommendations for further actions to be operationalized at the regional level and also aimed to build the capacity of the judicial

institutions in the region to improve international/regional legal co-operation with a focus on extradition and mutual legal assistance. The comparative study compared existing laws and practical experiences to the requirements of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Another goal of the workshop was to strengthen the legal and operational capacity of the RP countries to better implement UNTOC, UNCAC and the United Nations Drug Conventions and to facilitate harmonization of legislative frameworks among the countries in the region to invigorate cooperation in criminal matters among them.

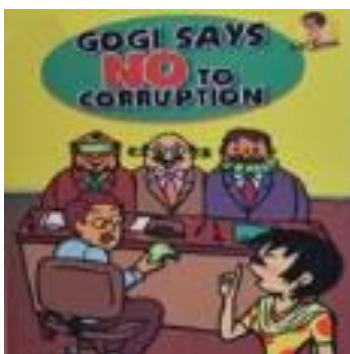
### Cartoon Book "Gogi Says No to Corruption" Launched.

**9 December 2015, Islamabad.** At the International Anti-Corruption Day a ceremony has been organized by the National Accountability Bureau

(NAB) at the President House, during which the a cartoon book illustrated by Ms. Nigar Nazar was launched.

The book addresses the issue of corruption

in Pakistan and teaches families to deal with the menace at the grass root level. The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, presided and hosted the event. During his speech at the event, Mr. Guedes emphasized the Secretary General's call for united efforts to combat corruption and embrace the principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance. Furthermore, the branding of anti-corruption messages on banners and streamers displayed in various locations of the city as well as a National Selfie Campaign further spread the anti-corruption message across Pakistan.

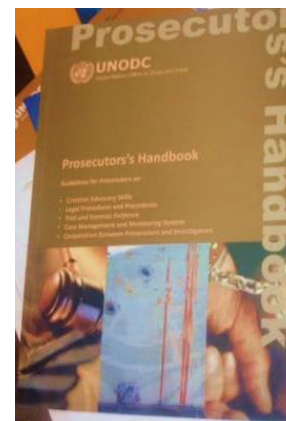




### Prosecutors Handbook Developed.

**11 December 2015, Balochistan.** UNODC in collaboration with the government of the Netherlands provides continuous support to the prosecution service in Pakistan to enhance the capacity of its services. The development of the prosecutors handbook is one of such support activities and are designed to provide highly motivated prosecutors the opportunity to develop trial skills as advocates in the courtroom. The objective is to identify messages for effective courtroom practice, enhance understanding of the different roles in courtroom settings, manage authority and professional roles effectively, develop skills related to giving evidence, and

provide training in cross-examination. The development of effective courtroom skills can require intensive and practical training. Thus, the training must include the theory, practice, and procedure of giving evidence. A professional trainer, who would be an experienced lawyer, will provide the trainees with constructive feedback throughout the programme.



### Breaking the Corruption Chain with Tailored Anti-Corruption Technical Assistance Activities.



**2015, worldwide.** The action against the world's corruption problem remains a common and shared responsibility. Thus it needs to be tackled at all three levels, regionally, nationally and globally. Corruption can pervade different aspects of life and spread across the regions, as a result of which UNODC pursued a holistic approach in delivering its services.

At the strategic level, Regional Office for Central Asia set anti-corruption assistance as one of the priority areas of action for the period 2015-2019. In 2015, specialized national and interregional training events and meetings on financial investigations, money-laundering and asset recovery were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Iran. Those events equipped investigators, prosecutors, financial intelligence unit officers of Central Asia and Southern Caucasus with practical tools and skills to effectively trace suspicious transactions through banking institutions and remittance services, as well as to seize, confiscate and recover the proceeds of crime.

## HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

### UNODC Workshop on Drug Demand Reduction.

**13-15 October 2015, Astana.** The workshop on Drug Demand Reduction was conducted within the framework of UNODC project "Treating Drug Dependence and its Health Consequences: Treatnet II" and facilitated exchange of knowledge of key demand reduction issues. The workshop was attended by high-level policy makers from drug

control agencies, penitentiary departments, criminal justice and health sectors as well as civil society representatives from all Central Asian countries. Dr. Gulnur Kulkayeva, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Control of Medical and Pharmaceutical Activities of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan emphasized the



importance of raising awareness about effective and balanced drug demand reduction policies that will ensure that drug dependent people receive the necessary health and social services. The participants increased their skills to draft, negotiate, advocate and

support drug policies which are in line with the International Drug Conventions as they relate to protecting the life of people affected by substance use disorders whilst ensuring safety and security of the population.

### National Training Seminar Held on National Drug Prevention Interventions.

**4-6 November 2015, Dushanbe.** The seminar was organised in the framework of the "Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low - and middle-income countries" project in collaboration with the UNODC HQ Health Branch in Vienna. Representatives of government agencies, international as well as non-governmental organisations working in the field of drug use prevention took part in the event. The National Training Seminar served to support the drug use prevention programmes, increase their quality and coverage based on the UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and the UNODC draft guidance on the evaluation of prevention



interventions. The coverage and quality of the prevention programmes implemented by the Tajik government were assessed in line with the UNODC International Standards on Drug Use Prevention. The suggested improvements will result in a 'road map' exercise for future prevention interventions.

### "Family and Schools Together" (FAST) Workshop.



**11 November 2015, Ashgabat.** UNODC, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry and the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, conducted the "Family and Schools Together" (FAST) workshop as a follow up to the next round of FAST activities which were launched in Ashgabat in 2011. The training was organized in the framework of the Regional Program for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, Sub-Program 3. Up to 60 families, 24 teachers and psychologists attended the training, which was organized in three selected schools in Ashgabat. The certified national trainers facilitated sessions helping strengthen child protective factors as well as enabling parents to learn how to build a friendly atmosphere in the family.

### World AIDS Day 2015.

**1 December 2015, worldwide.** AIDS has already claimed the lives of more than 34 million people. Today, 36.9 million people are living with HIV, 2.6 of

which are children. The World AIDS Day is an opportunity for the people involved in the field of HIV/AIDS to sensitize the public and raise awareness



in the community. It is also an opportunity for the governments and non-government organizations around the world to educate all walks of life on HIV

prevention and control. UNODC's Secretary General's stated at the World AIDS Day 2016 in Vienna:

*"We will need to build bridges between health, justice and law enforcement. Such bridges are vital. Collective action and determined cooperation can unlock the policy and legal obstacles that hinder access to HIV services. This includes expanding the comprehensive packages of interventions needed to respond to HIV, as well as ensuring equal access to HIV services."*

Several activities took place in the West and Central Asian region between April and October 2015:

In **Kyrgyzstan**, a High Level Meeting on 'Government Funding' of L'Observatoire des sciences et des technologies (OST) as well as on 'the needle and syringe exchange programme' took place. The meeting was attended by the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Director of Health Insurance Fund, senior officials of Drug Control Agency, Prison Department of the Ministry of Interior, AIDS Centre,

2015, which were attended by more than 1000 decision makers from the municipality, representatives from drug control department, penitentiary system, health care service providers, NGOs, clients of methadone maintenance programmes and their family members.

In **Uzbekistan** 300 copies of National Manual on monitoring of human rights with focus on HIV was developed and published in Uzbek and Russian languages in cooperation with the National Human Rights Centre, National AIDS Centre and NHO "Intilish" which works with people who use drugs (PWUD).

In **Tajikistan** an Action Plan on the introduction of OST program in penitentiary system was developed as a result of number of workshops on HIV service provision for people who inject drugs (PWID) for the law enforcement officials.

In (the Islamic Republic of) **Iran**, the Iranian Life Quality Improvement Association (ILIA), an Iranian based NGO, took a rather interesting step in commemorating the World AIDS day through holding of a friendly football match for the vulnerable Iranian and Afghan street children in a gymnasium in Tehran. A number of professional football players took the responsibility of coaching the young football players while the ILIA NGO provided the players with jersey and other necessary football items.



and National Centre for Addiction Disorders, representatives of Global Fund and civil society and international organizations.

In **Kazakhstan** in partnership with NGO Aman-saulyk, Republican AIDS Centre and the Ministry of Health and Social Development UNODC conducted public hearings in 10 regions of Kazakhstan in April-October

**Aftab Drop In - Center: From Shadow to Enlightenment - 5 Years of Support.**

**January 2015, Mashhad.** UNODC Iran, under its Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, has been supporting four

Drop-in Centers (DICs) in Tehran (Shahr-e Rey and Varamin) and in Mashhad, including Aftab DIC, since 2010 to respond to the ever increasing gap between





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the services offered and challenges faced by Afghan drug users in Iran. Aftab provides free treatment and harm reduction services to more than 40 Afghans on a monthly basis, including, MMT, Needle and Syringe Programmes (NSPs), condom distribution, counseling, training, provision of food, refreshments, clean clothes, and shower, HIV and TB testing, wound management and referrals to more advanced medical care and counseling. Since early 2015, Aftab DIC has had more than 240 active clients in the center, among

them 157 on MMT and 19 injecting drug users (IDU). Seventy training sessions on HIV prevention, safer sex and safer injection has been organized for more than 60 individuals. At the end of August 2015, the number of distributed condoms among the beneficiaries reached to 502, syringe to 302 and warm food to 208. Moreover Aftab DIC has provided harm reduction services for more than 40 active outreach clients, including 6 IDUs.