



# UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

In partnership with



## UNODC in West and Central Asia. Newsletter Quarterly

### Vol 7, February 2017 – April 2017

*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.*



SESSION

COMMISSION ON  
NARCOTIC DRUGS

Vienna, 2017

*The 60th CND took place in March in Vienna. CND meets every year to evaluate the current state of drug control and plans for the future. Progress on the UN General Assembly special session on the world drug problem was reported and a path for the implementation was set for 2019 (62nd session of the CND).*

*Among the draft decisions and resolutions it was decided to strengthen international cooperation and coordination, improve the financial situation of the UNODC, promote scientific evidence-based community preventative techniques and the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments. It was also decided to enhance promote measures to prevent HIV and other blood-borne diseases associated with drug use also increase the capacity of law enforcement, border control and other related agencies.*

*"Together we have made a commitment under the international drug control conventions to the health and welfare of people and communities everywhere - an enduring promise to millions of children, women and men that we must uphold" - UNODC Chief, Yury Fedotov, during the closing ceremony.*

*Around 100 side events and numerous exhibitions were held during the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which was attended by more than 1,500 people representing Member States, civil society, academia and international organizations.*



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## UNITED NATIONS AND SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION: EFFORTS AGAINST DRUGS

**13 March 2017, Vienna.** A High-level side event on the "United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the fight against drugs: common threats and joint actions" was held within the 60th session of the CND. In his opening remarks the UNODC Executive Director Mr. Fedotov said: "The strong partnership between UNODC and the SCO is rooted in our Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2011. Based on the MOU, we are working together across a range of areas related to global health, safety and security, in particular drug trafficking, drug use, human trafficking and other forms of organized crime, and terrorism.

UNODC is contributing to the objectives of the SCO through its "One UNODC Concerted Approach for Europe, West and Central Asia", which provides support to countries in Europe, West and Central Asia to advance interconnected, integrated and balanced responses. This support includes activities under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries as well as the Programme for Central Asia, among others".

During the event participants discussed cooperation issues including joint efforts to address the world drug

problem, with focus on concrete measures aimed at subsequently eliminating global drug production .

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Secretary-General Mr. Alimov presented the new documentary film on anti-drug cooperation among SCO Member- States and results achieved. In the period of 2011 - the first half of 2016 the SCO Member-States' law enforcement agencies seized 69 tonnes of heroin, 17,5 tonnes of raw opium, 349 tonnes of marijuana and 28 tonnes of hashish.

Heads of delegations of the SCO Member States made presentations on drug situation, national responses and cooperation among SCO countries.



## SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION 2344

**17 March 2017, New York.** Expressing serious concern over the potential growth of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) — also known as Da'esh — the presence of anti-personnel mines and other explosive remnants of war, and the record number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, the Security Council adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission in that country by one year.

The Council extended the mandate until 17 March 2018. It recognized that the Mission's renewed mandate supported Afghanistan's full assumption of leadership and ownership in the areas of security, governance and development, consistent with the Transformation Decade (2015-2024).

The 15-member Council also decided that United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Secretary-General's Special Representative would continue to lead and coordinate international civilian efforts, in full cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan. The tasks covered under that provision included promoting the Government's reform agenda, mobilizing resources, coordinating international donors and entities, organizing future elections, regional cooperation, building capacity, promoting accountability, and

protecting civilians. By other terms of the text, the Council called on UNAMA and the Special Representative to strive for greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in Afghanistan, based on the "One UN" approach. The Council condemned, in the strongest terms, all attacks, including those carried out by use of improvised explosive devices, suicide bombings, assassinations and abductions .

The resolution also empowered and encouraged the work of the UNODC specifically. The resolution encouraged the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach, and recognized the important role played by the UNODC in this regard. Further, it called upon all States to strengthen security cooperation to enhance border controls, law enforcement and criminal justice to better counter the threat. It also welcomed the continued efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in empowering the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics-led implementation of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy.



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## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Strengthening Regional cooperation to Countering Illicit drugs in the West and Central Asia

#### WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA

**6 April 2017, Astana.** The 2nd Steering Committee Meetings of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 and 6th Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries were hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan.

At the meetings senior representatives from the drug control agencies, Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Health, Customs, Border Guards, Justice from the Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, as well as donor, international partners and organizations reviewed the achievements made under the programmes in 2016 and identified the priorities for 2017.

UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia reaffirmed commitment of the UNODC Programme in Central Asia 2015-2019 to ensure that quality technical support in UNODC's niche areas of expertise through capacity development in areas of law enforcement, criminal justice, forensics and health in the Central Asia and the wider region. She thanked the countries, donors and partners for their continuing support and urged them to match their commitment of resources to the complex challenges of drugs, transnational organised crime and terrorism in the region.

UNODC noted that strengthened regional cooperation

and joint responses to countering illicit drugs and transnational organized crime was having a positive impact in the West and Central Asia region. He thanked the Member States, donor countries and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to work together to address the shared challenges.

The Kyrgyz Republic will be chairing the next, third UNODC Programme for Central Asia Steering Committee meeting which will be held in 2018.



### Azerbaijan appreciated UNODC's effort on strengthening Customs cooperation

#### AZERBAIJAN

**25 April 2017, Almaty.** The UNODC Headquarters in Vienna and UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia have been awarded by the breastplates and certificates for "strengthening Customs cooperation" during the fourth regional meeting of the UNODC-World Customs Organization- Global Container Control Programme (CCP).

Azerbaijan has joined the CCP in April 2014 and since then actively works with UNODC under this initiative developed for the purpose of minimizing the risk of maritime containers being exploited for trafficking of various illicit goods.

The CCP assists government in building capacity of relevant law enforcement officers conduct risk-based assessment of trucks and containers on selected sites and key points along the trade routes in the region. Establishing, equipping and training officials in dedicated container profiling units (Port Control Units-PCUs) is at the core of the programme.

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Nar-

cotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program, as well as the Government of Japan are the donors for the CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan.





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## UNODC organizing Air Cargo training for Iranian Customs and Police

I.R. OF IRAN

**29 January to 2 February 2017, Tehran.** UNODC Iran coordinated and organized a joint training with support of the UNODC Global Air Cargo Programme and World Customs Organization (WCO) for 25 Customs and Anti-Narcotics Police Officers on Air Cargo safety and security.

With generous contributions from the government of Japan, UNODC Iran organized the training workshop with support of the Drug Control Headquarters and the Customs Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Aim was to strengthen the capacity of Customs and Anti-Narcotics officers in major Iranian international airports cargo department on a variety of subjects including (i) Interagency cooperation and information exchange; (ii) Risk indicators, profiling and selection of shipments; (iii) Smuggling techniques/concealments; (iv) Controlled deliveries; (v) Aerodrome safety; and (vi) Handling of evidence.

This training included a three-day theoretical session, followed by two days of practical training at the Imam Khomeini International Airport and the Mehrabad airport.

During the first day of the practical session at the post department of the Imam Khomeini International Airport, the customs officer working at the station showed the participants of the workshop a suspicious parcel with all the risk indicators previously taught during the theoretic-

cal sessions. The x-ray of the parcel also added to the findings of the profiling which lead to further inspection of the parcel and seizure of opium concealed in two packs of nuts.

This training workshop was conducted based on the needs assessment of UNODC on Iranian customs training requirements.



*Customs and Police Personnel trained on Air Cargo Security and Safety—Theoretical sessions*

## Enhancing the Port Control Unit in Aktau seaport

KAZAKHSTAN

**19 April 2017, Aktau.** "Mentorship" training aimed to strengthen theoretical and practical skills of the PCU members on "profiling" and searching high-risk containers/consignments as well as utilizing modern tools for Customs control for representatives of the State Revenue Committee under the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan was conducted at Aktau seaport, (Kazakhstan) under the UNODC-WCO Global Container Control Programme.

Kazakhstan has joined the CCP Programme in July 2014 and established PCU at customs post "Morport Aktau" in October 2016. PCU members successfully participated in all capacity building training envisaged by the Programme, including theoretical, practical and advanced training, regional meetings on information exchange, visits exchange and study tours, etc.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of INL and the EXBS Programme as well as the Government of Japan.





## Promoting Inter-Regional Cooperation on Container Control Programme

### AZERBAIJAN

**13 February 2017, Baku.** The delegation of the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and the Drug Control Agency of the Lao People's Democratic Republic visited Azerbaijan to learn container control best practices as well as promote inter-regional cooperation between Azeri-Lao Customs. Recently joining the CCP. The UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia jointly with the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SCC) hosted a study visit.

The delegation headed by the Deputy Director General of the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance the Lao People's Democratic Republic met the Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and visited the SCC's Operations Center.

During the visit, UNODC ROCA handed-over office equipment and various technical means for containers inspection to the State Customs Committee of the Republic

of Azerbaijan to be used by the CCP PCUs in Azerbaijan.

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of INL, the EXBS Program, as well as the Government of Japan are the donors for the CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan.



## Promoting regional cooperation on Container Control Programme: Georgia and Kyrgyzstan

### GEORGIA

**19 April 2017, Tbilisi.** The exchange visit to Georgia for Kyrgyz Customs Officials nominated to work at the Port Control Units in Kyrgyzstan was organized within the framework of the UNODC-WCO Global CCP.

The Kyrgyz delegation have visited Tbilisi dry port and Poti seaport CCP PCUs and became familiar with the work of the units and learned best practices. Kyrgyzstan, as a CCP participating country, is in process of establishment of similar units in its respective dry ports.

The delegation visited Customs clearance zones "Tbilisi-2" and "Poti" as well as border crossing points with Azerbaijan and Turkey. The exchange visit also served as a platform for developing a MOU between Kyrgyz and

Georgian Customs.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of INL and the EXBS Programme as well as the Government of Japan.



## Inter Agency Coordination Meeting on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling

### PAKISTAN

**4 May 2017, Islamabad.** UNODC organized a roundtable meeting for the Law Enforcement Agencies for better coordination and understanding of human trafficking and migrant smuggling issues. The event was jointly supported by the United States Department of State and Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

Participants from the Federal Investigation Agency, Islamabad Police and National Accountability Bureau attended this two days meeting to recommend mechanisms for information sharing and better coordination. The concepts of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants were renewed along with utilization of interna-

tional best practices on Law Enforcement and Narcotics interdictions by both national and international trainers.

It was stressed to review current relationship and coordination between the agencies to develop formal procedures including MOU for referral of cases and other forms of cooperation.





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## UNODC Enhances Capacities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Enforcement Agencies

**PAKISTAN**

**22 March 2017, Peshawar.** A three day training course on Drugs and Precursors Identification was organized by the UNODC COPAK and sponsored by the Embassy of Japan. This training on drugs and precursors identification was one of the many deliverables under a project for 'Strengthening Border Security Against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Transnational Organized Crime' (2016-2019) signed between the Government of Japan, UNODC and the Government of Pakistan in March 2017.

The object of this training was to build the capacity of field officers from the Pakistan Customs, Excise & Taxation, the Narcotics Control Department, KP Police, & Anti-Narcotics Force to identify and interdict drugs and precursors trafficking. The participants were also briefed on the overall and prevalent drug situation in the region, with special emphasis on the diversion of precursor chemicals.

In total 22 officials - mainly from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Excise & Taxation, Pakistan Customs, and Anti Narcotics Force attended the training course.

The participants brought a wealth of experience from their respective fields; thereby making it both practical and innovative.



Drugs and Precursors  
Identification Training  
20 - 22 March 2017  
Peshawar



## UNODC and Kyrgyzstan Government Addresses Gender-Based Violence

**KYRGYZSTAN**



**28 April 2017, Kyrgyzstan.** With UNODC's assistance, during the past month, 200 female police officers from police departments in all regions of Kyrgyzstan received training on criminal legislation, criminal investigations and crime prevention, including the prevention of violent

extremism and gender-based violence. Following the first gathering in Osh in March, a second round of training, which also teaches communication and presentation skills, is taking place in Issyk Kul from 25-28 April 2017.

The introduction of a leadership training program for police officers and initiatives to promote gender sensitive police services in local communities are also being developed. This includes dialogue platforms on gender-based violence in pilot locations and support for the

implementation of measures within the framework of local crime prevention plans, which have been developed and piloted with UNODC support. Expert advice to strengthen data collection and analysis on domestic and other forms of gender-based violence is also part of the project in support of Kyrgyzstan's efforts in monitoring progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

These activities are implemented within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 with support from the United States of America.

These developments help increase the numbers of people seeking help after gender-based violence while also promoting more community based policing.

These activities and trainings took place amidst the President of Kyrgyzstan signing a new Domestic Violence Law on the 27 April, 2017. The law aims to build more capacity and cooperation between the agencies that are tasked with combating and preventing domestic abuse.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Launch of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism Project

#### PAKISTAN

**27 April 2017, Islamabad.** The Government of Pakistan, the European Union and the UNODC, launched a three year technical assistance programme to support Pakistan.

Under the project entitled "Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism with a special reference to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province", skills and knowledge of investigators, prosecutors and judges would be enhanced while the use of forensic evidence in terrorism cases would be institutionalized. The project also aims to promote greater coordination between Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and Counter Terrorism Departments of KP and Islamabad Police.

With the financial support of 7 million euros by the EU, the project was developed by the NACTA on behalf of

Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the UNODC.

The launch ceremony was attended by senior members of NACTA, the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Pakistan, the UNODC Country Representative, and Ambassadors of various countries as well as representatives from the diplomatic community, civil society and media organizations.



### Memorandum of Understanding for Afghanistan and Chinese Financial Intelligence Units

#### AFGHANISTAN

**February 2017, Afghanistan.** The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Afghanistan (FinTRACA) has signed a MOU with the China Anti-Money Laundering Monitoring and Analysis Center (CAMLMAC) on sharing information on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and other Crimes.

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requires each jurisdiction to ensure that their competent authorities can rapidly provide the widest range of international cooperation in relation to money laundering, associated predicate offences and terrorist financing and should do so both spontaneously and upon request, and there should be a lawful basis for providing cooperation.

Article 31 of the "Anti-Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime" Law of Afghanistan already obliges FinTRACA to spontaneously or upon request, share information with any counterpart agency that performs similar func-

tions and is subject to similar secrecy obligations with respect to the information it receives based upon reciprocity or mutual agreement meaning that the MOU will be able to further streamline these obligations and processes.

The MOU will enable cooperation between the two Financial Intelligence Units on the collection, analysis and exchange of financial intelligence spontaneously or upon request. The MOU is signed based on the spirit of cooperation and mutual interest within the framework of national laws of each authority to join international community in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing in the region. FinTRACA is member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units and had signed the Memorandum of Understandings with fourteen Financial Intelligence Units of foreign countries.

### Intelligence Analysis in Support to Criminal Investigations

#### KAZAKHSTAN

**3-4 May 2017, Kazakhstan.** Under the component on "Countering synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances in Central Asia" of Sub-programme 1 of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia, the latest intelligence analysis training has been conducted to enhance interaction between the analytical and operational departments of the Law Enforcement Agencies in Kazakhstan.

It took place in the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), Almaty, for 20 law enforcement officers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and CARICC. The

training was organized in cooperation with the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section and its Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends Programme.

This was a joint initiative organized by the UNODC in cooperation with the Bureau of INL, USA Embassy in Kazakhstan and the Law Enforcement Academy of General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan.



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## The Financial Monitoring Unit launches a new Data Center to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing

PAKISTAN

**10 February 2017, Karachi.** New high tech data centre that was launched by the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, the British High Commissioner, and the Representative of the UNODC at the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU).

The inauguration of the Data Center is the result of the 3 year joint efforts among the UK Department for International Development, FMU, and the UNODC with a vision to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing in Pakistan.

The new Data Center at FMU, fully equipped with the state of art IT equipment, will be the main integrated mechanism to operationalize the goAML system in the future. Developed by the UNODC, the goAML system is an integrated software solution that enables monitoring col-

lecting, analysing any suspicious financial transactions in a speedy, efficient, and intelligent manner and facilitates the rapid exchange information among banks, industries, and law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities.



## UNODC and Partners discuss Programme for Central Asia

UZBEKISTAN

**24 March 2017, Uzbekistan.** The annual Review Meeting of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 and Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries was held on the 24th March at the National Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NCDC). The Director of the NCDC and UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, chaired the meeting. Main Uzbek partners including the Ministry of Interior, Customs, the Ministry of Health, Public Education, the Ministry of Justice took part in it.

After the discussion, the national partners have endorsed the Programme work plan for 2017. Some of the highlights of the planned programme are sub-programme 1 (SP1) numerous training courses on initia-

tives such as countering synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, establishing inter-agency mobile units, better information collection and the procurement of new technologies. SP2 includes the development of a training film on Trafficking in Persons with the support of US INL. SP2 also includes interregional workshops for law enforcement and prosecutors. SP3 Plans to continue and promote the Strengthening Families Together and Families and Schools Together Programmes. Series of national training of trainers will be conducted in order combat drug dependence and improve treatments. SP4 plans to use the newly provided funds by US INL towards strengthening the forensics laboratories of the Ministry of Interior and Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

## Kyrgyzstan debates UNODC-supported new Government Programme against human trafficking

KYRGYZSTAN



UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Regional Office for Central Asia



**16 February 2017, Bishkek.** UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan and the State Migration Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic gathered some 50 Government officials, experts from crisis centres, victim support groups, other civil society and international organisations in Bishkek last week to discuss a draft new Government Programme and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for Kyrgyzstan for 2017-2020 years.

According to the deputy chairman of the Kyrgyz State Migration Service, the previous Action Plan for 2013-2016 carried out a great work in changing legislation. "The Criminal Code has an article, which is aimed at preventing and

punishing organization of human trafficking." "The new action plan foresees work on the further improvement of legislation, the establishment of a national referral mechanism, concerted action to prevent trafficking in persons and raise awareness on the risks of exploitation, as well as efforts to promote inter-agency and international cooperation, more effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, and victim support", said the leading specialist of the labour migration abroad at the Kyrgyz State Migration Service.

Thanks to funding provided by the US State Department's Bureau of INL, UNODC POKYR supports efforts to prevent and prosecute trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants within the framework of its Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019.





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## Training for Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) Officials

### AFGHANISTAN

**March - April 2017, Afghanistan.** The first training course for officials assigned to the recently established Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) was delivered by UNODC's Country Office for Afghanistan. The training was delivered in three sessions over nine days for 91 judges, prosecutors and police officers attached to the centre and focused on Afghanistan's domestic Anti-Corruption and related laws. Training focused on improving the knowledge and skills of ACJC staff in relation to the provisions of the Afghan laws, regulations and procedures under the Centre's jurisdiction.

ACJC was established in 2016 by Afghanistan's National Unity Government as one of its commitments to the international community in addressing corruption in the country. The Center addresses high level corruption cases which are defined as those involving high ranking officials, such as Deputy Ministers and Governors, or which exceed AFN 500,000 (approx. USD 7,360) in value. To pursue these cases, the Centre employs specialized police, prosecutors and courts that are independent from political and other pressures in order to impartially detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption cases.

UNODC delivered this training through funding provided by the Government of Japan.

Also in April, the UNAMA launched a report entitled 'Afghanistan's Fight against Corruption: The Other Battlefield' with the aim to promote greater public understanding of the Government's efforts, and provide a platform to achieve greater policy coherence and coordination among the responsible government institutions, civil society, international community, and public as a whole. The report provides a baseline against which to measure future progress and includes recommendations. UNODC will contribute to the required assistance and be placing an international mentor.



## HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

### Training of Trainers for Strengthening Family Programme

#### I.R. OF IRAN, AFGHANISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN

**April 2017, Tehran, Kabul and Pavlodar.** The first cycle of pilot Strengthening Families Programme (SFP) was launched in two girls schools and one health center in Tehran (30 families participated), two high Schools in Kabul (20 families participated) and two schools in Pavlodar (40 families participated.)

The evaluation of pilot SFP showed that the parents reported significant positive changes in the relations with their children and within the families. In addition, it was also reported that visible changes were witnessed in the relationships among classmates.

During the second cycle that took place in 2017, 14 trained SFP facilitators from Afghanistan, Iran and Kazakhstan were trained by international trainers and became certified SFP trainers. The national certified SFP trainers will conduct training of SFP facilitators at national level during the expansion of SFP programme. SFP programme became an integral part of drug prevention programmes of I.R. Iran and Kazakhstan.

These trainings fall under UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries- Sub-Programme 3: "Prevention and Treatment of Addiction Among Vulnerable Groups" with implemented pilot SFP programme in Afghanistan, Iran and Kazakhstan respectively. Sub-Programme 3 aims to work in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals especially, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."

SFP 10-14 is a parent, youth and family skill-building



curriculum designed to prevent substance abuse and other behavioural problems of teenagers and to strengthen parenting skills.



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## HEALTH AND LIVELIHOOD

### UNODC, Kyrgyz State Penitentiary Service and Japan co-operation to address violent extremism in prisons

KYRGYZSTAN

**March 2017, Vienna.** In the context of managing violent extremism in the prison setting, the Government of Japan provided financial contributions to UNODC to provide technical assistance to the Prison Service of Kyrgyzstan.

Contribution Agreement was signed between the UNODC and Government of Japan in March 2017 in Vienna, Austria and representatives of law-enforcement officials, civil society and international organizations gathered to discuss emerging threats and effective policies on management of violent extremism prisoners, prevention of progression to violent extremism in prisons and interventions aimed at disengaging prisoners from violence and facilitating their social reintegration.

"In order to achieve SDGs and maintain stability on Eurasian continent including Central Asia, the Japanese side is pleased to support the efforts of the State Penitentiary Service of Kyrgyzstan to prevent radicalization and violent extremism in places of detention," said the Japanese Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan.

Chairperson of the Prison Service of Kyrgyzstan and Head of UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan en-

dorsed an Action Plan that includes key areas of UNODC assistance. These will be implemented under the umbrella of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019



### Farmer's Day celebrated in Badam Bagh Kabul

AFGHANISTAN

**21-24 March 2017, Badam Bagh Kabul.** First day of the solar year is called farmers day in Afghanistan. Afghanistan Government on this day organizes an agricultural products exhibition in Badam Bagh Kabul each year. It is a place where not only agriculture products and equipment are displayed and traded, but also new ideas and advanced practices exchanged. New innovations in the field of agricultural, production, advanced irrigation facilities, high quality seeds production and food preservation were exhibited.

UNODC Country Program Afghanistan Sub-program III - Alternative Development Programme sponsored Afghanistan National Saffron Union from Herat and Herbal Plant Growers Association from Nangarhar to participate at the exhibition. These entrepreneurs have been supported by UNODC to enhance their technical and production skills both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Associates, who were invited by UNODC, felt very encouraged by participating at the exhibition and stated that this kind of exhibition is vital and an exceptional opportunity for entrepreneurs to expand and promote their agricultural products and establish market linkages

at national level.

Herbal Plants Growers Association had a sale of 29,000 AFN (approx. USD 430) at the exhibition and signed two contracts of 500,000 AFN (approx. USD 7,360). Likewise, Afghanistan National Saffron Union had over one thousand visitors including Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and other high government officials.

