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REGIONAL PROGRAMME

for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

UNODC's Regional Programme for Afghanistan and
Neighbouring Countries

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2018

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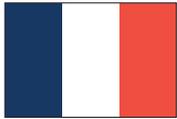
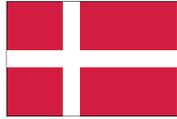
ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Alternative Development
ADNA	Asian Drug Demand Reduction/Harm Reduction NGOs Association
AML	Anti-money laundering
AOTP	Afghan Opiate Trade Project (UNODC)
AKT	Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (Initiative)
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CCP	Container Control Programme
COAFG	Country Officer for Afghanistan (UNODC)
DCA	Drug Control Agency (Tajikistan)
DCHQ	Drug Control Headquarters (Iran)
DLO	Drug Liaison Officer
EU	European Union
EUROJUST	European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit
EUROPOL	European Union's Law Enforcement Agency
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
IRDCA	Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach
FAST	Family and Schools Together
FIU	Financial Investigation Unit
GCIC	Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INTERPOL	International Police Force
JPC	Joint Planning Cell
LE	Law Enforcement
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance

MCN	Ministry of Country Narcotics (Afghanistan)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVTS	Money or Value Transfer Services
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PLO	Permanent Liaison Officer
PPI	Paris Pact Initiative
RWGP	Regional Working Group on Precursors
RWGFD	Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Drugs
RWGT	Regional Working Group on Law Enforcement Training
ROCA	Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA)
RP	Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries
SASS	Statistics and Surveys Section (UNODC)
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SFTs	Suspicious Financial Transactions
SFP	Strengthening Family Programme
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
SRS	Senior Representative of the Secretary General
TI	Triangular Initiative
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (RP) team would like to express its sincere gratitude to counterparts in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan for their unwavering commitment, active engagement and continued partnership in making the Regional Programme that successful. The Programme Steering Committee Meeting was held as part of a joint event between the RP and Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (RPSEE) allowing for networking between the two regions, and our special thanks go to the Government of Croatia, which hosted the Programme Steering Committee in Zagreb in June, 2018. In addition, we would also like to thank colleagues in the UNODC Country Officers in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and the Regional Office for Central Asia for their extensive support in the implementation of the Regional Programme in 2018. Our appreciation is also extended to UNODC Headquarters (HQ), including HQ regional, substantive and thematic sections/units for the support and guidance in moving towards Regional Programme objectives. The generous support of the donors to the Regional Programme provided the necessary impetus to our work. Our appreciation to the Governments of Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States for their past and present contributions. Without the efforts and dedication of all the parties involved in the Regional Programme, the implementation of the achievements presented in this report would not have been possible. We look forward to your continued engagement and partnership working to deliver further success.



FROM THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



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The countries of West and Central Asia face many challenges with respect to security threats, illicit drug trafficking and crime. That being said, progress in countering these threats over the past two years has been significant largely due to steady improvements in the capacity of the countries of the region, but also due to increasing regional cooperation. More than ever before, countries of the region are joining hands and working together to tackle drugs and crime and strengthening prospects for peace and sustainable development, and these processes need to be supported.

The UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries is UNODC's key mechanism to support the countries of West and Central Asia to develop regional and international joint responses to counter the harmful impact of illicit narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crime on security, governance and social and economic development. Since its launch both member and donor countries have shown strong commitment, support and political will to work together to address the region's drug and crime challenges.

Drugs and crime and the illicit economy they create are key factors that need to be addressed in the effort to bring peace, stability, security and economic development to Afghanistan and the wider region. The crime and illicit finances associated with illicit drug production are supporting insurgency and terrorism, fueling corruption and undermining governance, increasing insecurity and vulnerability of societies. The increasing availability of illicit drugs, not only opiates but now synthetic drugs have led to a serious problem of drug addiction in some countries in the region.

But progress has been significant over the past three years, with seizures of drugs and precursors continuing to climb and increasing technical capacity across the region to investigate and prosecute the related offences. Through regional cooperation, not only information, but technical capacity is being shared between countries and it is resulting in breakthroughs in tackling crime, corruption and bringing down trafficking groups.

The Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (RP) has been a timely and important platform to build and strengthen regional cooperation and is now more relevant than ever as momentum for build-

ing cooperation in the region is growing. The RP provides a neutral platform that allows member states to work together to analyse problems and threats, to share information and best practices and to develop integrated multi-national responses to tackle illicit drug cultivation, trafficking, and abuse as well as the related security, crime, development and health issues in the region.

Operationally, 2018 was another very active year in which significant progress took place on many fronts seeing strengthened cooperation on countering illicit drugs and organised crime. The law enforcement working groups were very active, with information on illicit drugs and precursors shared between the states, and operations both planned and conducted. Many regional workshops took place bringing countries together to discuss emerging threats, global best practices and responses in critical areas relating to drug trafficking, illicit financial flows including asset seizure and recovery, as well as the increasing use of the internet for criminal purposes among other areas. The corruption and asset recovery work developed last year, resulted in the formal launch by participating countries in an Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West and Central Asia (ARIN-WCA).

The countries continued to share their experiences on drug prevention, treatment and HIV prevention among vulnerable groups under the framework of the Regional Programme and to strengthen networks and mutual support in this crucial area, notably through the network of drug treatment coordination centres. There was further development and expansion of the FAST and SFP prevention programmes in 2018, with SFP being introduced for the first time in both the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan, which continue to help protect children and strengthen the capacity of families and schools to address potential risks.

The RP continues to work with the various agencies and frameworks tackling drugs and crime in the region including the SCO, OSCE, CSTO, Europol, Interpol, other UN agencies and other major bilateral projects. The Regional Programme coordinates closely with both the Paris Pact Initiative and also the Heart of Asia -Istanbul Process (HoA-IP), to which UNODC is an official observer. Both these initiatives, one more global in nature, while the other brings the states of the region together, are playing an important and active role in addressing the drug problem and the RP supports these in an operational capacity, building synergy between the two initiatives.

I am heartened by the achievements of the RP in 2018 and encouraged by the continued positive feedback UNODC receives from the Member States, donors and other stakeholders. The RP will continue to serve as an important platform to bring the states of the region together to share information and discuss mutual responses to the drug and crime challenges, and will continue to be responsive to address the emerging and shifting challenges in the drug and crime field.

We express our sincere gratitude to the many individuals from the programme states, donors and the RP team over the past year for their dedication, support and hard work, without which the RP would not be the success it is.

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SUB-PROGRAMME 1:
**REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
COOPERATION**

RP Sub-programme1 (SP1) conducted many activities in 2018 to strengthen and provide new impetus for focused regional law enforcement cooperation. SP1 provided counterparts with technical assistance in precursor control, countering narcotics and forensic capacity building activities as well as in law enforcement training. The SP1 framework was designed based on consultations with the Member States, and the activities were planned to meet the needs in the field.

The SP1 activities are carried out through three regional working groups, the Regional Working Group on Precursors (RWGP), the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Illicit Drugs (RWGFD), and the Regional Working Group on Law Enforcement Training (RWGT), which are focused on different aspects of law enforcement, and are composed of senior officials with insights into the policy landscape in their respective countries and the needs and challenges. Through the biannual meetings of these working groups, SP1 not only responded to the needs, but also carried out activities to interlink the national or sub-regional efforts and set a regional response.

During the regional meetings, the situation in the region is analyzed, emerging threats are discussed, important seizures are identified to be the target cases, and remedial actions are recommended to the Governments. In addition to establishing information sharing networks, the working groups promote an operative approach, with two operations being supported in 2018, and target investigations cases are also identified for further follow up.

Under each regional working group, operational case meetings are conducted on an ad hoc basis with participation of states that are directly relevant to the targeted seizures. These operational case meetings bring together investigators from the relevant countries, and the meeting sessions are held in confidentiality. In these case meetings, investigators from different countries share information and prepare a plan for developing the investigations at the regional level.

RP Sub-programme 1 (SP1) also continued efforts to enhance counter-narcotics enforcement capacity through the delivery of several training courses across the region in 2018. It also continued to support Triangular Initiative (TI), which involves the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, and the Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (AKT) Initiative. The AKT and TI bring specific countries together along known trafficking routes to enhance cooperation and coordination on operations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

REGIONAL OPERATIONS AND MEETINGS

2018 saw important work conducted on the region-wide operations “Reflex-2018” (identification and interception of synthetic drugs along with new psycho-active substances) and “Substitute. Phase 2” (interception of precursors including non-controlled chemicals).

The main objective of the operation “Substitute. Phase 2” was the identification and interception of smuggled consignments of acetic anhydride as well as of non-controlled chemicals that are either directly used in the illicit manufacture of heroin or serve as a cover for smuggled consignments of acetic anhydride. In the first quarter of 2018 the operation was conducted under the coordination of the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-





ordination Centre (CARICC) with participation of law enforcement agencies of (I.R. of) Afghanistan, (I.R. of) Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, (I.R. of) Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. According to the preliminary results during the operation over 5,550 kg of precursors and 2,600 kg of various drugs were seized by participating countries.

Operation “Reflex-2018” (REgional Forensic and Law Enforcement Exercise) on countering new psycho-active substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs was conducted under the coordination of CARICC and with participation of law enforcement agencies from (I.R. of) Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, (I.R. of) Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, (I.R. of) Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This operation feeds into the Global NPS Early Warning mechanism and has become an annual exercise conducted through the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC).

In addition to operational case meetings, the RP SP 1 held multilateral coordination working meetings of the TI and AKT Initiative, RWGP, RWGFD and RWGT in 2018.

THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

In 2018, the 4th meeting of the Regional Working Group on Forensic Capacity and Illicit Drugs (RWGFD) was convened in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. During the meeting participants made presentations on the illicit drug situation and major drug seizures in 2017-2018, as well as informed on the capacity of national forensic laboratories. Participants identified common issues faced by the laboratories of the region and made proposals for further strengthening of regional cooperation between law enforcement agencies and forensic laboratories. Participating countries also agreed to run operation “REFLEX-2018” and to strengthen collaboration on sharing information on drug profiling, analysis and seizures. Furthermore, countries highlighted the need for a range of specialized training and expressed their interest in joining the UNODC International Collaborative Exercise (ICE) and Early Warning Advisory on NPS.



The 11th Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Precursors (RWGP) was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During the meeting participants shared information on the precursor trafficking situation in their respective countries as well as discussed new trends such as trade in precursors through the internet. One of the central topics of this RWGP meeting was review of preliminary results of the operation “Substitute.Phase 2” conducted in the first quarter of 2018. All participating countries have acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation in precursors control and expressed their support for conducting the next phase of operation “Substitute”.



In 2018 the 3rd meeting of the Regional Working Group on Law Enforcement Training (RWGT) was held in tandem with the annual conference of the “LE TrainNet – Law Enforcement Training Network” initiative in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This annual global level conference brings together experts and practitioners from all over the world to present new advances, developments and techniques related to Law Enforcement (LEF) training. During the meeting, participants discussed issues related to strengthening partnerships and coordination in the region, improving the efficiency of the law enforcement training, standardization of training curricula, and further intra-regional exchanges on LEF training.

REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING AND JOINT OPERATIONS

On 12 July 2018 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), a Precursor Case Meeting (PCM) was conducted with participation of investigators from (I.R. of) Afghanistan, (I.R. of) Iran, (I.R. of) Pakistan and China as well as representatives from CARICC, UNODC and INCB. During the meeting participants informed on progress made in regional/international backtracking investigations of 7 major cases of precursors seizures since they were presented at PCM meetings conducted on 30 August and 4 December 2017 in the framework of the Regional Programme.

It was acknowledged that information shared, and support provided by INCB and UNODC, lead to the achievement of significant results on some cases that brought to justice in Europe one criminal involved in trafficking of illicit precursors with investigations on several other criminals under process. Participating countries agreed to maintain bilateral communications, share additional information for conducting regional backtracking investigations on 9 major cases of precursors seizures.

TRAINING COURSES TO ENHANCE REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY

Fifteen training courses were conducted in 2018, and a total of 280 officers from both law enforcement agencies and forensic laboratories in the region were trained.

There was a continuation of both basic and advanced training for the police forces of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asian countries under the Domodedovo and Japan-Russia training projects. This effective and enduring cooperation is helping the countries of the region to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement officers to tackle drug trafficking and to counter the threat it poses to security, health and development.

This included mobile training within the countries of the RP and involvement of the relevant national agencies.



Training courses on laboratory identification of illicit drugs were conducted jointly with the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC in Vienna, Austria. These training courses were structured to be practical, ensuring high quality management standards and contained analysis of real drug samples with unspecified content. Over 90% of the participants of these training courses have indicated in the post-training evaluation forms that they have improved their qualifications.





SUB-PROGRAMME 2:
**INTERNATIONAL / REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN LEGAL MATTERS**

Sub-Programme 2 (SP2) was very active in 2018 conducting a range of specialized regional and inter-regional events addressing areas prioritized by Member countries in the effort to counter illicit financial flows and strengthen regional cooperation in legal matters. A total of 15 regional and inter-regional events and activities were undertaken in 2018 under SP2, with more than 400 practitioners trained during the course of the year.

The main focus of SP2 on Regional and International Cooperation in Legal Matters continues to be on strengthening capacities of relevant authorities to better address the legal aspects of drug-related threats and crimes. SP2 facilitates contacts among legal and law enforcement officials and through this is helping to strengthen cooperation at regional and inter-regional level in three thematic areas: crime prevention, anti-corruption/integrity and anti-money laundering/countering financing of terrorism.

FACTS AND FIGURES

More than **400** people representing **37** different countries were involved in SP2 activities in 2018.

This includes participants, observers, experts, UN and participants from other international organizations.

Gender balance and women's empowerment has continued to be prioritized in 2018 and the number of female participants in SP2 events has increased further to

24%

more than doubling the level of representation prior to 2017.

In 2018, SP2 implemented directly or supported the implementation of

15

activities reaching more than 400 direct beneficiaries both in the region and outside.

ASSET RECOVERY INTER-AGENCY NETWORK FOR WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA LAUNCHED

A series of four meetings on Asset Recovery were held in 2018 with a goal of establishing and launching an Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network in West and Central Asia (ARIN-WCA). The first three were consultative practitioners' meetings organised jointly with the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies of the General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan and the General Prosecutor's Office of Turkmenistan. Asset recovery practitioners of all 8 RP countries participated actively in the events. These efforts resulted in the establishment of ARIN-WCA, which was officially launched at the end of November 2018 in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan.



Kazakhstan assumed the first Presidency of ARIN-WCA which aims to strengthen operational contacts among the eight jurisdictions and establish relationships with ARINs of other regions across the world to locate and confiscate criminally obtained assets. Uzbekistan was selected by participating countries to provide a permanent Secretariat to the network, which will be located at the premises of the General Prosecutor's Office (GPO) of Uzbekistan. Representatives of the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP), the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network Southern Africa (ARIN-SA) and the Camden Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) supported the establishment of the network by sharing best practices, challenges faced and case studies.



ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING / COUNTER-FINANCING OF TERRORISM

Billions of dollars flow through the hands of drug trafficking organizations each year, and what they do with that money can have a huge impact on local and wider economies. They might smuggle cash out of their home country, buy or build real estate, invest in restaurants and casinos for money laundering purposes, or stash their profits in offshore financial centres. Depending on the method they choose, property prices can be distorted, unfair competition created, licit businesses crowded out, corruption bolstered and the climate to attract international investment spoilt, ultimately eroding rule of law and economic stability.

In 2018, the RP continued to give high priority to this field with two major training workshops on “The Abuse of Money and Value Transfer Services (MVTs)” held at an inter-regional level in Beijing, China with support of the Peoples Bank of China and another on financial disruptions held at the CARICC premises in Almaty, Kazakhstan in April. These events supported capacity building in tackling illicit financial flows and money laundering and building networks on investigations of financial crimes. The events also contributed to sharing knowledge and best practices and expertise whilst developing closer working relationships, among colleagues from jurisdictions that are or might be impacted upon by investigations.

FIU TO FIU MEETINGS AND THE MOU ON AML / CFT

In 2018, three regional 'FIU to FIU' meetings and one inter-regional meeting with South Eastern Europe countries (in line with the 2016 UNGASS outcome document) were organised to discuss updates on the Regional/Bilateral MoU on AML/CFT, potential exchange of operational information among FIUs in West and Central Asia, updates on exchange of suspicious financial transactions (SFTs), and challenges and prospects for regional and inter-regional cooperation with focus on illicit financial flows. Countries reported on joint operations, namely operation 'Mongoose' conducted with the support of Sub-programme 2 which resulted in a seizure of a large amount of heroin and dismantling an organised crime network operational in Central Asia for many years. The 'FIU to FIU' platform synergized coordinated efforts and further strengthened partnerships between Afghanistan, neighbouring countries and countries beyond the region. In addition, it provided a conducive environment for sharing best practices and challenges faced as well as discussing emerging issues and trends.



WORKING GROUPS: CYBERCRIME, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

Senior experts from the RP countries met to discuss illicit financial flows deriving from trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The informal group meeting provided the opportunity for focal points on these issues from the RP countries to further enhance regional cooperation on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants among West and Central Asian countries. The work of the informal network of focal points is hosted by the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies under the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan.





Day by day, more and more criminals are using the Internet as one of the most convenient and speedy tools for committing transnational crime, therefore, the promotion of capacity building in the fight against cybercrime remains critical. In 2018, two regional training courses were organized on “Investigation on Money Laundering with Cryptocurrency, Darkweb and Open Source Intelligence” to provide a deep insight into the global ecosystem of cryptocurrencies including Bitcoin and Ethereum and develop skills to fight the terrorist propaganda and radicalization threats on the Internet. The courses also provided a good opportunity to West and Central Asian practitioners to become familiar with advanced cryptocurrency investigation techniques and synergies efforts through international casework cooperation.

SUB-PROGRAMME 3:

**PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF
ADDICTION AMONG VULNERABLE
GROUPS**

Sub-Programme 3 (SP3) of the RP supports three outcomes related to the prevention of drug use, treatment and rehabilitation as well as facilitating HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services for high-risk populations. In order to achieve these aims, the RP engages in a diverse variety of initiatives aimed at facilitating education on the dangers of drug use, providing training on evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation, and lastly ensuring that countries provide adequate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services to high-risk segments of the population. These endeavors have included training workshops, youth educational programmes, direct engagement and collaboration with regional government partners (policy-makers, law enforcement and healthcare providers), and the promotion of evidence-based policy, in addition to other measures.

SUB-PROGRAMME 3 PARTNERSHIPS

Sub-Programme 3 has been putting a premium on partnership both within and outside of the UN family, avoiding duplication in planning requirements for national partners, while increasing synergy and complementarity with UN sister agencies WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNHCR. Also, synergies are being pursued with UNODC Global and Regional Initiatives expanding associated activities in the Regional Programme member countries, notably:

- the Global Programme on the prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low and middle-income countries (Under OUTCOME 6);
- the Global Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment (Under OUTCOME 7);
- the Global Programme on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs and people in prison settings (Under OUTCOME 8);

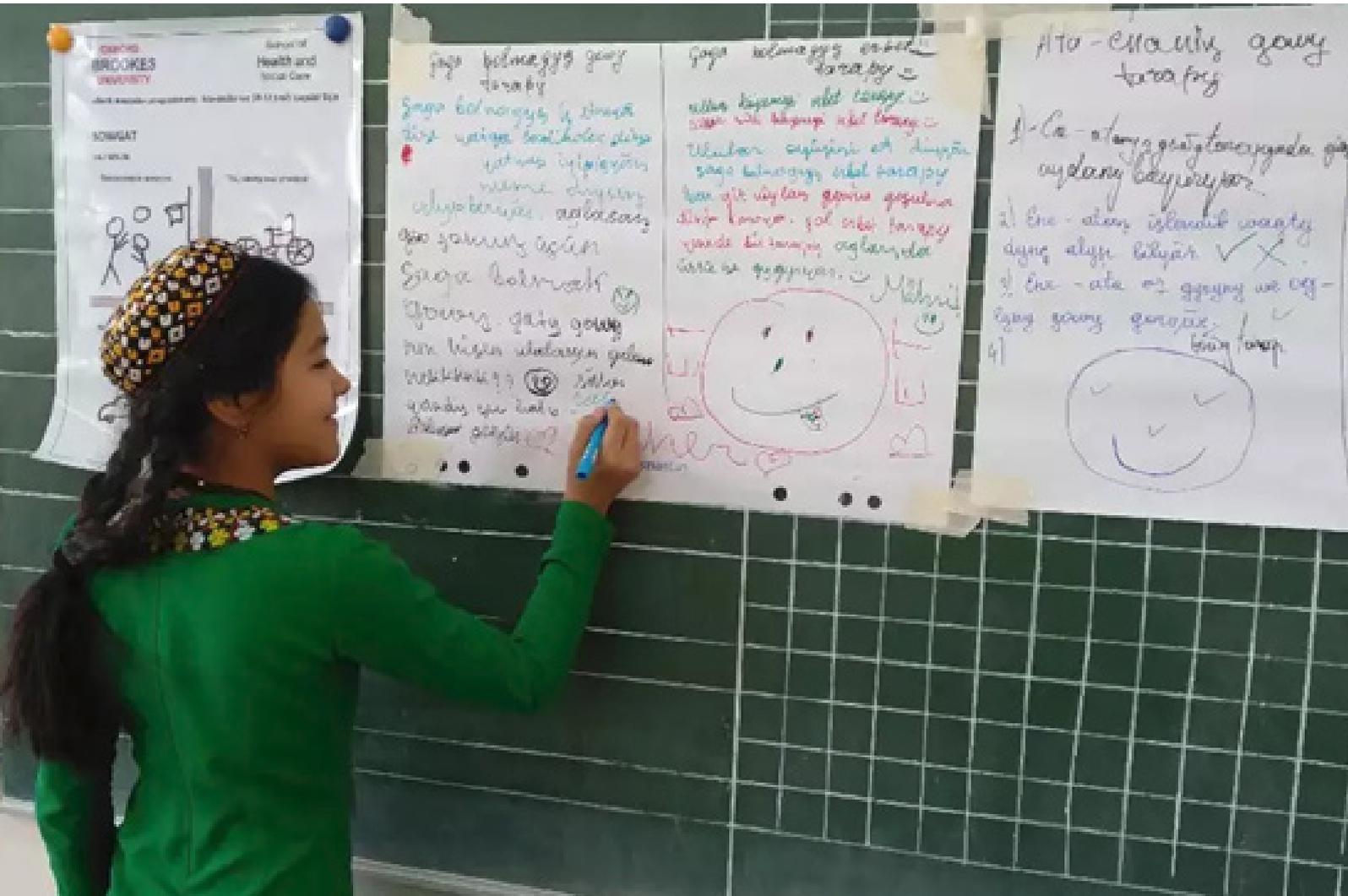
Sub-Programme 3 also coordinates with the Colombo Plan, International Narcotics & Law Enforcements Affairs (INL) USA and the Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP), who are active in the field of drug treatment and rehabilitation in the region.

PREVENTION OF DRUG USE AND OTHER HIGH RISKY BEHAVIOUR

The Regional Programme in partnership Country Programmes in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as ROCA in Central Asia continued efforts in 2018 to expand coverage of evidence based prevention programmes. Responsive and warm parenting and monitoring are among the strongest protective factors for youth and adolescents, even in poor and marginalized communities and family skills-building programmes, run in conjunction with schools, have been shown to be effective and cost-effective in preventing substance abuse and other risky behaviours including violence and crime. The flagship RP programmes in this respect have been the “Families and Schools Together” programme (or FAST) and the “Strengthening Family Programme”(SFP), both of which have targeted young people and their families on the basis that this engagement will have the short-term benefit of improving family cohesion and child behaviour, coupled with the long-term benefit of discouraging drug use and other high-risk behaviours.



Continuing this support, in 2018, SFP was introduced in two new Central Asian countries: Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic and was scaled up in Iran, Afghanistan, and Kazakhstan.



In Turkmenistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Kazakhstan, 108 school teachers and psychologists participated in SFP workshops facilitated by national and international SFP trainers. Six teachers that led the SFP sessions under supervision of international experts received “Training of Facilitators” certificates. A total of 540 family members in three countries attended the seven weekly session of the programme.



In the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, RP in partnership with the Global Programme on Prevention (GLOK01), through two workshops trained 34 teachers/SFP facilitators from 4 girls' schools in Kabul. The trained facilitators in turn conducted SFP sessions for youth, parents and families in Kabul. A total of 180 family members including 60 youth participated in the programme.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, jointly with the Drug Control Headquarter (DCHQ) of Iran, a further training cycle was held, which up to scale up the programme nation-wide. 170 teachers and psychologists attended the SFP workshops at national and international levels and 12 of those facilitators, received formal qualification as facilitators. The programme was then rolled out in six provinces and approximately 1,575 family members participated in the seven weekly sessions focusing on life skills development and covering the risks and consequences of illegal drug use. The culturally adapted SFP DVDs in Farsi language produced by the Government of I.R. of Iran was also shared with Afghanistan, as the other Farsi language speaking country in the region.



DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT AND CARE

The Regional Programme continued to work closely with Member States to strengthen capacity and sharing of best practices in drug dependence treatment, with a focus on networking and sharing best practices in 2018. In drug dependence treatment and care, SP3 continues to: encourage the standardization of protocols, procedures and practices; support law enforcement agencies with guidelines and toolkits; help expand the knowledge and skills of health managers and service providers; and, lastly to help strengthen networking and cooperation between countries of the region on good, evidence-based practices.



In 2018, the RP continued to strengthen the capacity of regional drug treatment policy makers and professionals through convening a range of initiatives including:

Utilizing the regional network of DDR Coordination Centres as a platform for sharing of best practices in drug dependence treatment. Fourteen drug treatment professionals from seven Regional Programme countries attended the 3rd consultative meeting of the regional network of DDR Coordination Centres in order to share progress, experiences and challenges in the fields of drug treatment in the region conducted in Dushanbe.

Conducting a study mission to KETHEA Therapeutic Community in Greece. Sixteen drug dependence treatment experts and policy makers from seven Regional Programme countries visited the KETHEA Therapeutic Community in Thessaloniki, Greece, which is providing one of the world's most comprehensive and sophisticated treatment and rehabilitation programmes. During the mission, the regional drug treatment professionals' skills and knowledge were enhanced with respect to non-pharmacological approaches to drug dependence treatment.

Organizing a 10-day in-service training workshop on drug treatment and rehabilitation based on scientific evidence. Fourteen drug treatment professionals (11 Afghan and 3 Tajik) participated in a 10-day in-service training workshop on "drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation" organized by the Regional Programme in partnership with the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The workshop was facilitated by the School of Behavioral Science and Mental Health (Tehran Institute of Psychiatry), Iran University of Medical Science. The training had both theoretical and practical components in the format of a supervised internship in well-established drug treatment facilities of the Social Welfare Organization and selected national NGOs.



SUB-PROGRAMME 4:
TRENDS AND IMPACTS

Interventions that are aimed at countering the production, trafficking and use of narcotics need to be evidence-based and informed by accurate and up-to-date data. Therefore, the Sub-Programme 4 (SP-4) on Trends and Impacts of the RP addresses critical gaps in trends analysis and impact monitoring capacity to support its member states to form evidence-based and informed decisions and policies.

Under this SP RP also supports high level conferences and meetings to strengthen evidence-based policy making efforts. Working in tandem with partner governments, SP-4 strengthens capacities in data generation, collection, management, analysis, reporting and its use in the region. It reviews indicators on law enforcement, criminal justice and drug demand reduction and reports on trends and institutional capacities.

On a broader level, SP-4 supports studies into the under-researched areas such as linkages between narcotics, socio-economic factors and wider concerns of human security. This evidence-based research plays a vital role in informing and positioning policy responses. As such SP-4 is a cross-cutting sub-programme that is integrated with and supports the three others sub-programmes of the RP.

KEY ACHIEVEMENT IN 2018

SP-4 of the RP in collaboration of the Drug Research Section (DRS) of the Research, Trends and Analysis Branch (RTAB) in UNODC HQ, Vienna supports the development and implementation of national surveys on drug use among youth in Member States. The goal, over the course of the phase 2 of the RP, is to help the Member States, where requested, to update data and understanding on youth drug use and understanding of drug risks among



youth. Currently this work has been completed in Tajikistan and is in final stage of completion in Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. Discussions over initiating the activity with other RP member countries are ongoing. The work is being conducted in partnership with UNICEF in Afghanistan, which has provided co-funding for the exercise to extend the survey to cover children out of school.

Under the SP-4, RP continues to support the Drug Control Agency (DCA) of Tajikistan to produce and publish its annual drug review report. The RP also supported the government of Tajikistan to hold a side event on the presentation of the “Annual Drug Review in the Republic of Tajikistan” in the margins of the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs - CND on 14 March 2018 at UNODC HQ in Vienna, Austria. During the side event, the DCA report on the Review of the Narcotic Drug Situation for 2017 was officially launched and distributed among the participants.

In November 2018, SP4 of the RP in partnership with Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) organised a conference to discuss a “CARICC-developed methodology for assessing the drug situation in the participating countries” in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The event was attended by the Heads of the Information and Analytical Units of the national coordinating bodies, as well as leading experts in drug control of the CARICC member states.

During this workshop, the heads of the analytical units and experts from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan refined as well as agreed on the methodology on conducting regional drug assessments under CARICC. All stakeholders present also agreed to establish a regular working group of analytical units for coordination of future activities to be coordinated by CARICC and the RP. The sessions and presentations conducted reviewed many topics including: the mechanism for collecting and processing data on drug offenses and seizures of drugs; the mechanism of registration and registration of people who use drugs; ways to assess the prevalence of synthetic drugs, including NPS; dynamics of prices for narcotic drugs and probable new routes as well as changing methods of trafficking drugs. As result of the meeting, the methodology for assessing the drug situation in the participating states was reviewed and adopted and this methodology will be used by CARICC for collecting data for 2019.

The Regional Programme posts accounts of all work conducted on its website and more detailed accounts of the work carried out in 2018 can be observed there. www.unodc.org/rpanc.

PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organized crime in West and Central Asia is an immense challenge. The human, technical and financial resources available to counter the scourge are stretched thin as nations work to cope with a complex problem that is constantly evolving. To ensure the most comprehensive and effective coverage, the RP seeks to forge strong partnerships with the various regional and international bodies working in the region.

Within UNODC, the RP continues to play a central role in a three-tier approach to harmonize programmes at the country, regional and global levels. The RP aligns activities with the Country Programmes for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran as well as the Programme for Central Asia to ensure complementarity and economies of scale with regards to efficient programming and sharing of expertise. This is further illustrated by the close cooperation between the RP and the Global Programmes such as the Global Programme on Money Laundering, the Container Control Programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project, among others. The RP connects West and Central Asia with neighbouring regions, through the Networking the Networks Initiative, which supports, among other work, the linking of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) with the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC), and the Gulf Criminal Intelligence Centre (GCIC).

At the strategic level, the RP coordinates closely with the Paris Pact Initiative and also the Heart of Asia (Istanbul) Process. The Paris Pact Initiative has served for many years as a crucial strategic guiding body for UNODC programming in the region and the RP is a primary operational vehicle for the Initiative, helping translate the recommendations of the expert working groups into action. The Heart of Asia Process complements the Paris Pact Initiative, being a partnership of countries more closely neighbouring Afghanistan. The RP has been engaged with the Counter Narcotics Confidence Building Measure of the Heart of Asia Process and is helping deliver the goals and outcomes pursued by that group. UNODC is now an official observer to the Heart of Asia Process and participated and spoke in both the closed door and open sessions of the Senior Officials Meeting held in Istanbul in April 2018, and the high level CN meeting in Moscow.

PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE

On June 28, 2018, the 7th Programme Steering Committee meeting was organized with support of all four Sub-Programmes and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The meeting was hosted in the margins of an inter-regional event between the RP and UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe giving officials from both regions the opportunity to discuss cooperation. The meeting was opened by H.E. Salamat Azimi, Minister of Counter Narcotics of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Mr. Alexandre Schmidt, Chief of the Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia. During the meeting, the participating countries reviewed achievements made under the Programme in 2017, discussed and agreed on operational priorities for 2018 and future strategic direction. Countries gave unanimous support to begin to develop a third phase of the Regional Programme to run from 2020 to 2023.



